

# The Strategic Role of Teachers and Innovation in Learning Media in Early Childhood Education

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## Keywords:

Teacher's strategic, Learning Media

**Abstract:** Early childhood education is a critical phase in development that requires special attention from educators, especially teachers. In this context, the role of teachers is very important in creating effective and meaningful learning experiences, where teacher ethics and learning media innovation are inseparable aspects. This article identifies challenges in early childhood education, including the lack of innovation in learning media and the importance of ethics in interactions between teachers and students. The research method used is literature study, by collecting and analyzing various relevant literature sources regarding the role of teachers, teaching ethics, and the use of learning media. The results of the discussion show that teacher ethics functions as a moral foundation that influences the quality of interactions in education, while learning media innovation is proven to increase children's involvement and motivation. This article concludes that a combination of strong ethics and a creative learning media approach is the key to achieving quality education for early childhood.

## Kata Kunci:

Strategi guru, Media Pembelajaran

**Abstrak:** Pendidikan anak usia dini merupakan fase kritis dalam perkembangan yang membutuhkan perhatian khusus dari para pendidik, terutama guru. Dalam konteks ini, peran guru sangat penting dalam menciptakan pengalaman belajar yang efektif dan bermakna, di mana etika guru dan inovasi media pembelajaran menjadi aspek yang tidak dapat dipisahkan. Artikel ini mengidentifikasi tantangan dalam pendidikan anak usia dini, termasuk kurangnya inovasi dalam media pembelajaran dan pentingnya etika dalam interaksi antara guru dan siswa. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah studi literatur, dengan mengumpulkan dan menganalisis berbagai sumber literatur yang relevan mengenai peran guru, etika mengajar, dan penggunaan media pembelajaran. Hasil pembahasan menunjukkan bahwa etika guru berfungsi sebagai landasan moral yang mempengaruhi kualitas interaksi dalam pendidikan, sedangkan inovasi media pembelajaran terbukti dapat meningkatkan keterlibatan dan motivasi anak. Artikel ini menyimpulkan bahwa kombinasi antara etika yang kuat dan pendekatan media pembelajaran yang kreatif merupakan kunci untuk mencapai pendidikan yang berkualitas bagi anak usia dini.

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## INTRODUCTION

In the world of education, the role of a teacher in creating effective and meaningful learning experiences for students is very important. Teachers have ethics that become a standard of proficiency in carrying out their duties. Teacher ethics is a moral foundation that every teacher must have in carrying out their profession. Ethics play an important role in determining the quality of interaction between teachers, students and society. As educators, teachers are not only responsible for transmitting knowledge, but also shaping students' character and values. Quality education depends not only on the curriculum taught, but also on the attitude and behavior of the teacher.



Especially for early childhood, the early childhood education unit is a very valuable place to stimulate their development and learning process. At this critical age stage in the development of cognitive, social, emotional and physical abilities, the role of the teacher in stimulating is very important because this is the foundation for the child's growth and development. An ethical teacher will be able to create a safe and inclusive learning environment, so that children will feel valued and supported in their learning process (Sultani et al., 2023). Then, the ethics that teachers must have include the responsibility to continue to develop themselves, both in knowledge and skills to meet the demands of the times and the diverse needs of early childhood. The teacher is fundamental because the perception will determine the teacher's knowledge, understanding, and actions in an effort to create a quality learning process and output (Jannah, 2023).

Amidst the challenges of modern education, such as technological developments and social changes, it is important for teachers to stick to ethical principles. Likewise, along with technological developments, traditional learning methods and tools are no longer sufficient to meet the needs and characteristics of today's children. It is clear that in early childhood, learning through play is not only fun but also learning for them. Furthermore, children today grow up in a technology-rich environment, so they tend to be more interested in interactive and engaging media. Learning media innovations for early childhood are very important in supporting their development and learning process, such as the use of educational applications, interactive games and multimedia-based teaching materials, can help bridge the gap between the world of learning at school and their daily lives (Farida, 2018).

Learning media innovation for early childhood is an important aspect in creating a fun and effective learning experience. However, there are still many problems related to the lack of innovation in learning media used by teachers at this level. The lack of variety and creativity in teaching methods can result in a boring and even monotonous learning process, potentially reducing children's interest and motivation to learn. In fact, innovative learning media can help stimulate children's imagination and creativity as well as their skill development.

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

The research method used in this article is library research. This method was chosen because it allows researchers to explore relevant information and

data regarding the role of teachers, teacher ethics, and the use of learning media in the context of early childhood education. The research process begins with a search for tested and reliable literature sources, such as books, scientific journals, articles, and official documents.

The researcher conducted searches in various libraries, academic databases, as well as credible online sources. In selecting sources, we set certain criteria, including relevance to the topic under study, author credibility, and year of publication. Analysis was carried out by collecting and evaluating information from the sources that had been found, then compiling the findings in a systematic framework.

Through this approach, researchers can gain a broader and deeper perspective on the topic under study, and present arguments supported by existing literature. The results of this literature study are expected to contribute significantly to the understanding of the importance of teacher ethics and innovation in learning media in early childhood education (Pakpahan, 2021).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Early childhood education is an institution with efforts to stimulate early childhood in its golden age which is done by providing educational stimuli to help children's growth and development. (Hadijah, 2023)(Adiyanti & Purnamasari, 2022). Early childhood education plays a role in fostering, growing and developing all potential in children optimally which will later form behavior in children and basic abilities in accordance with their stage of development in order to have readiness to enter further education.

Education is needed by every child in their life for optimal development of aspects in children. Teachers play an important role in this development because teachers are adults around children who provide stimulation to develop children's abilities(Syahida & Purnamasari, 2024) . Not apart from the role of the teacher, learning media also plays a role in the development of children's abilities. This is in accordance with the development of learning technology, the media has a very important role. Media in the learning process can improve the learning process of children in learning so as to improve learning outcomes in order to achieve

educational goals. So actually the role of the teacher and learning media are related to each other in early childhood education units.

Education for early childhood is an effort to serve and direct children according to their age and abilities. Efforts to maximize the potential of children from an early age are given by PAUD institutions through educators, namely teachers (Komala, 2015). Someone who is teaching knowledge, training and assessing the results of evaluations in education is the role and designation of a teacher. Of course, teachers must have skills including planning, conducting and carrying out various activities in a learning process is also a role with a good impact on students that must be well understood by teachers such as skills in terms of explaining, mastery of materials and skills when using learning media, and skills when opening or closing a lesson that is fun for early childhood. In learning and teaching activities, skills that are no less important for teachers to master are skills in using or applying learning media when learning activities are being carried out in the classroom. This is certainly the responsibility of the teacher as a professional and ethical competence that must be carried out by the teacher as an educator.

### **The Strategic Role of Teachers in Early Childhood Education**

Teachers have a very important responsibility in creating effective and meaningful learning experiences. Their function is not only as teachers, but also as mentors who shape character and values in students. This is certainly the realm of the teacher in creating a supportive learning environment. For early childhood, teachers must be able to stimulate various aspects of development in children including cognitive, social emotional, physical motor, language.

A positive learning environment is obtained from the role of the teacher by preparing various ways for the continuity of interesting learning for children. It is necessary for a teacher to observe and be sensitive to the needs and abilities of each child. Each child is unique in the way they learn and develop. So teachers need to adapt their teaching approach to suit children's characteristics and interests to create a learning environment that encourages children to feel safe, comfortable and motivated to learn. For

example, when teaching lessons, teachers can use various methods, such as games, stories or art activities that can attract children's attention and interest.

### **The Importance of Learning Media Innovation**

Early childhood education is a constantly evolving field, with new research and innovative teaching methods. Teachers need to be committed to training and updating their knowledge to stay relevant in educational practice so that they can provide the best learning experiences for young children.

With the advancement of technology, traditional learning methods are often insufficient to capture children's attention. Learning media is a learning resource that can assist teachers in enriching children's insights. The use of learning media for children can foster interest in learning new things in the learning material delivered by the teacher and can be easily understood by children because it is a stimulus for children in the learning process. Management of learning aids is needed in formal educational institutions. Learning media can be used as a tool in teaching and learning activities.

For early childhood, delivering learning only with lectures is certainly a problem. So the use of learning media is the answer to the continuity of teaching and learning activities in early childhood to be more meaningful. According to Wina Sanjaya, there are several functions of using learning media, one of which is the motivational function. Learning media can motivate children in learning. With the development of learning media, it not only contains artistic elements but also facilitates the delivery of learning materials so that it can increase students' passion for learning. Then with different student backgrounds, including experience, learning styles, student abilities, learning media can serve every need of every child whose interests and learning styles are different (Sanjaya, 2016).

Teachers' responsibilities in teacher ethics include many aspects related to the use of learning media. Learning media not only functions as a tool to deliver material, but also as a resource that supports teachers in designing effective learning experiences. The benefits of learning media can

be felt not only for early childhood who are in the learning process, but also for teachers. The benefits of learning media for teachers are to provide guidelines for teachers to achieve learning objectives so that they can explain learning material in a systematic order and assist in presenting interesting material to improve the quality of learning (Nurrita, 2018).

Learning media innovation plays a very important role in creating a fun and effective learning experience. One form of innovative learning media is educational apps. These apps are specifically designed for children, offering a variety of interactive activities that can improve cognitive, motor and social skills (Suryani, 2024). For example, apps that combine games with learning can introduce basic concepts such as numbers, letters and colors in a fun way. With attractive graphics and easy-to-understand interactions, children can learn while playing, thus increasing their motivation to learn.

Multimedia-based teaching materials are also an important innovation that can be used in early childhood education. They combine text, images, audio and video to create a richer learning experience (Dilla, 2024). For example, digital storybooks that include sound and animation can make the story more vivid and engaging for children. This not only helps in improving their understanding of the material, but also keeps them more engaged in the learning process.

In addition, the use of interactive teaching aids, such as digital whiteboards and interactive projectors, can facilitate more dynamic learning. Digital whiteboards allow teachers to teach materials in a more visual and interactive way, while interactive projectors can be used to display learning materials that children can access and manipulate. This changes the traditional way of teaching and provides opportunities for children to be directly involved in the learning process. (Iksan, 2024).

Furthermore, innovative learning media does not always have to use technology but it requires the role of teachers to develop media from various tools and approaches that stimulate active and creative learning in early childhood. One of them is educational game tools, such as puzzles, building blocks, and board games. These tools are not only fun, but also help children

develop cognitive, fine motor and cooperation skills. Interactive printed storybooks, where children can participate in reading or discussing the story, are also an effective medium. These books usually come with interesting illustrations and questions that encourage discussion, thus increasing children's engagement in the learning process.

Arts and crafts activities, such as drawing, painting, or making crafts from recycled materials, are also very innovative learning media (Sari, 2023). Through art, children can express themselves, practice fine motor skills and learn about colors, shapes and textures. It can also strengthen creative thinking and problem-solving skills.

Finally, the use of simple musical instruments, such as maracas, tambourines or wind instruments, can be a fun learning medium. Through music, children not only learn about rhythm and pitch, but also improve their listening and collaboration skills as they play together. (Pratiwi, 2021).

Teachers also have the responsibility to ensure that the media used has a relationship and is appropriate to the needs and characteristics of early childhood. (Ulfadilah, 2023). Of course, teachers must choose media that are not only interesting but also able to contribute to stimulating children's curiosity and involvement. In addition, in teacher ethics, teachers are expected to always strive to improve the quality of learning. The use of varied and innovative learning media is one way to achieve this goal. When teachers use appropriate media, they are not only conveying learning but encouraging children to engage in the ongoing activities. This is part of the teacher's responsibility to prepare children not only to understand the explanation but also to develop skills that children will use in the future.

### **Challenges and Implementation of Learning Media**

The implementation of learning media in education, especially at the early childhood level, faces various challenges that need to be overcome to achieve optimal results. The use of learning media must be realized by teachers regarding the impact of the media choices they use. They are responsible for ensuring that the media should be educational and in line with the value of developing aspects in early childhood.

One of the main challenges for teachers in learning media is limited resources, both in terms of technological devices and accessibility of quality learning media. (Asmara, 2023). Furthermore, the lack of teacher training and understanding of how to use learning media effectively is also an obstacle. This makes it difficult to select and apply media that are appropriate to the learning objectives without a good understanding. Clearly, investment in training and professional development for teachers is crucial so that they can make good use of learning media.

Early childhood has a short attention span and prefers to learn through direct experience. (Cahyaningtyas, 2020). So teachers must consider adjusting learning media to the characteristics of early childhood. This requires creativity from teachers in creating activities that utilize the media so that it can stimulate children's interest and involvement. In addition, evaluating the effectiveness of the learning media used is also a challenge. Teachers need to have tools and methods to evaluate the extent to which learning media contributes to children's understanding and developmental stimulation.

By addressing these challenges, implementation of learning media can be more effective. A commitment to providing adequate resources, ongoing training for teachers, and adapting media to children's needs are important steps to improve the quality of learning. Ultimately, the ultimate goal of using learning media is to create a rich, interactive learning environment that supports children's holistic development. (Simatupang, 2024). Thus, teachers' responsibilities in teacher ethics related to learning media include selecting, using, and evaluating appropriate media to support the learning process.

## **CONCLUSION**

The role of teachers in early childhood education is crucial in creating effective and meaningful learning experiences. Teacher ethics is the moral foundation that every teacher must have, as it affects the quality of interactions between teachers, students and society. Teachers are not only responsible for imparting knowledge, but also for shaping students' character and values.



Innovation in learning media is also a crucial aspect in supporting the learning process. With the development of technology and the increasingly diverse characteristics of children, teachers need to use creative and interactive media to attract children's attention and interest. Innovative learning media can stimulate children's imagination and creativity, and increase their engagement in the learning process.

However, challenges in implementing learning media still exist, such as limited resources and lack of training for teachers. Therefore, it is important that teachers continue to develop themselves and adapt to changing times, and are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment that supports children's holistic development.

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