

Student's Level of Understanding of Five Lessons In Elementary School

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Abstract. This study aims to determine the ability of the 2019 of Elementary School Teacher Education, Faculty of Education Universitas Negeri Medan students in understanding and working on test questions with thematic subject matter in elementary schools. This research was conducted from February to April 2022 in the Department of Elementary School Teacher Education Faculty of Education Universitas Negeri Medan. This type of research uses a quantitative descriptive method with a sample of 126 people selected by random sampling. In this study, the research instrument used was in the form of 40 questions which consisted of 30 multiple choice questions and 10 filled-in questions in which the questions contained subject matter for Civics, Indonesian Language, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Cultural Arts and crafts. Which questions are distributed through the Goggle form. The results showed that the ability of the 2019 of Elementary School Teacher Education Faculty of Education Universitas Negeri Medan students in understanding and doing tests was categorized as quite competent. This is indicated by the results of research showing that students who scored in the "competent" category were 18 people (14%), students with a value of "quite competent" were 63 (50%) and students who scored "less competent" were 45. people (36%). Thus, based on the results of the research above, it can be concluded that the 2019 PGSD FIP UNIMED students are quite competent in completing and mastering subject matter in thematic learning.

Keywords: Subject Matters, Elementary Schools, Teacher Education Students.

1 Introduction

Along with the progress of the times, many things have progressed both in the fields of technology, science, social, politics, economics, and education. In the field of education itself, the progress that can be seen is from the development of the curriculum which is always changing along with the progress of the times [1]. At present, both elementary, junior high and high school levels in Indonesia apply the 2013 curriculum. The 2013 curriculum is an education system that emphasizes aspects of attitude and behavior (moral). Curriculum changes were made because the previous curriculum or often called Education Unit Level Curriculum emphasized knowledge rather than skills and attitudes and teacher-centered learning activities so that students were only fixated in class lessons without being able to develop their talents and interests [3].

Learning carried out in elementary schools in the 2013 curriculum system uses a thematic-integrative approach. The thematic-integrative approach is a learning model that combines one subject with other subjects in one theme which aims to facilitate and make learning activities meaningful and close to the real lives of students [2]. Thematic learning models emphasize student involvement in the learning process or direct students to be actively involved in the learning process [5]. Through thematic learning students can gain direct experience and practice to be able to discover for themselves various knowledge that is studied holistically, meaningfully, authentically, and actively. The method of packaging learning experiences designed by the teacher greatly influences the meaningfulness of student learning.

Mastering elementary school subject matter for Elementary school teacher education students is very important because learning material is learning content that will be carried out to achieve learning objectives, mastery of the material itself means one's ability to learn and understand concepts and learning materials that will be used in teaching and learning activities in class [6]. This is also in accordance with the contents of PERMENDIKNAS No. 16 of 2007 regarding teacher competency standards. One of the competencies that must be mastered is the professional competence of teachers. Within the teacher's professional competence there are components that must be mastered, namely: Mastering the subject matter taught, along with its structure, concepts, and scientific mindset, Mastering Competency Standards (SK) lessons, Basic Competence (KD) lessons, and learning objectives of a lesson being taught, Able to develop subject matter creatively so that they can provide broader and deeper knowledge for students, Able to act reflectively in order to continuously develop professionalism, Able to utilize Information and Communication Technology in the learning process as well as self-development. It is very difficult to imagine if teachers and prospective teachers cannot master the material to be taught. In addition, the ability to master the material also has an influence on the achievement of learning objectives [8].

Judging from the current situation where the whole world is being hit by a pandemic which has resulted in teaching and learning activities at all levels of education being carried out online. Online learning itself is a new thing so that it can affect student learning outcomes [7]. Where students can be in a place that has minimal internet access and does not understand technology so that students do not understand and master some of the subject matter contained in the thematic learning that has been taught and explained by the lecturers. So that this affects the quality and ability of elementary school teacher education students at Medan State University as prospective teachers who should be able to understand and master the lessons in thematic learning. Based on the background description above, the author feels interested and important to do this research.

2 Research Methods

The type of research that will be used is quantitative descriptive research with the survey method in the form of a test where the test is in the form of question sheets containing subject matter for class V, Theme 1, Sub-theme 1. According to Sugiyono [13] the quantitative research method is defined as a research method based on the philosophy of positivism, used to examine certain populations or samples, data collection using research instruments, data analysis is quantitative/statistical in nature, with the aim of submitting predetermined hypotension Based on the expert opinion above, it can be concluded that quantitative

descriptive research is research conducted to find out phenomena that occur in the present where the results of the research are presented in the form of statistical data [4]. In this case the researcher found a phenomenon where there was a change in teaching and learning activities from face-to-face learning to online learning. Therefore, researchers will examine the level of mastery of Elementary School Teacher Education Faculty of Education Universitas Negeri Medan students on subject matter in elementary schools based on the 2013 curriculum. Later in the study This is presented in the form of numbers and processed with statistics.

In this study, the authors used a random sampling technique or random sample, which is a sampling method or technique by mixing up all subjects who are considered equal and have the same opportunities and rights in choosing to be a sample. Thus the authors formulate that the population and sample are objects of a study that are part or representative of all these objects to provide valid data (in the proper way) on the problem under study so that it can be tested for its veracity by using data, namely by documentation and questionnaires, The sample is part or representative of the population being studied [14]. In research sampling, if the number of respondents is less than 100, then the sample taken is the entire population or also called population research. Meanwhile, if the number of respondents is more than 100, the sample can be taken as much as 10% -15% or 20% -25% or more according to the ability of the researcher [14]. Based on the opinion above, the researcher chose to take a sample in this study as much as 10% of the population, this can be done because the total population exceeds 100 respondents. thus the sample taken in this study was 10% of the existing population of 42 students. In this study, researchers conducted research at Medan State University which was conducted online. The research procedure is as follows: Formulate research problems and study, literature, Make a research proposal, Develop research instrument grids and develop research instruments, Instrument validation to expert lecturers (expert judgment), Distributing questionnaires to respondents who were used as research samples, Collect data and process research data and research conclusions. The research instrument used in this study The instrument used in this study was in the form of test questions with a total of 40 questions consisting of 30 multiple-choice tests and 10 filled-in test questions which contained material on all subjects contained in thematic learning class V Theme 1 Sub theme 1 and documentation. The data analysis technique used in this study uses quantitative and qualitative analysis in which the data analyzed is in the form of test results.

This analysis is used to describe and present data from research results on the ability level of of Elementary School Teacher Education Faculty of Education Universitas Negeri Medan students on subject matter in elementary schools based on the 2013 curriculum in the implementation of this research is divided into 3 stages, namely the preparation stage, the implementation stage, and the final stage. at the preparation stage the researcher conducts literature studies such as reading books, journals, and some relevant research related to the 2013 curriculum and thematic learning, then carrying out the preparation of research proposals guided by the thesis supervisor, then compiling a grid of questions to be used in research, then Making questions that will be used in research, finally validating questions to expert lecturers. At the implementation stage the researcher distributed the questions through the Google form to several Elementary School Teacher Education students, the Faculty of Education, Medan State University, then the researcher collected answers from students who had worked on the test questions that had been distributed via the G-form, then the researcher tabulated data based on student answers, as well as analyzing and processing data from the value of student answers. then in the final stage the researcher draws conclusions from the results of the research that has been done, and finally compiles a final report.

3 Result and Discussion

This research was conducted from February, 2022 to April, 2022. The samples used in this study were 42 people from 416 students in batch 2019 majoring in Elementary School Teacher Education, Faculty of Education, Universitas negeri Medan. The students are directed to take tests related to thematic learning material in which the test material contained in the test is based on thematic subject matter for class V Theme 1 Sub theme 1 with the lesson content contained in it is Pancasila Education and Citizenship, Language Indonesia, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Cultural Arts and Crafts. This research was conducted online (in a network), this is because lecture activities are carried out online. Researchers use the Google form as a medium for distributing tests.

This research was conducted online and got the results In the subject of Pancasila and Citizenship Education with material on Pancasila values in everyday life, the results were obtained where students who scored in the very competent category were 0 people (0%), students who got scores in the competent category were 1 person (2%) , students who scored in the quite competent category were 18 people (43%), and students who scored in the less competent category were 23 people (55%) based on these results it can be concluded that 2019 Elementary school teacher education students lack mastery of Civics subjects, especially the values Pancasila in everyday life. In the Indonesian language subject with Main Thought material in spoken and written texts, it was found that 2 students (5%) scored in the "very competent" category, 12 students (29%) scored in the "competent" category, 12 students (29%) scored value with category "quite competent" as many as 13 people (31%) and students who get grades in the "incompetent" category as many as 15 people (35%). Based on the data above, it can be concluded that 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students who mastered Indonesian language subjects, especially the Main Thought material in spoken and written texts, were 27 people (65%) competent in mastering the material and 15 people (35%) did not master the material. based on the results of 2019 elementary school teacher education students Competent enough in mastering Indonesian language subjects, especially the Main Thought material in written and spoken texts.

In the Social Sciences subject with the material Characteristics and Geographical Location of Indonesia and its Influence on people's lives, it was found that students who scored in the very competent category were 0 people (0%), students who scored in the competent category were 10 people (24%), There were 18 students (43%) who scored in the fairly competent category, and 14 students (33%) who scored in the incompetent category. Based on these data, it can be concluded that 2019 elementary school teacher education students are quite competent in mastering Social Sciences subjects, especially in the material Characteristics and geographical location of Indonesia and their influence on people's lives. In the subject of Natural Sciences with the subject matter of Movement Systems, Functions, and How to care for locomotion in humans and animals, it was found that students who scored in the "very competent" category 0 students (0%) of students who scored in the "competent" category were 5 people (12 %), students who scored "quite competent" were 16 people (38%), and students who scored "less competent" were 21 people (50%). Based on these results, it can be concluded that 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students are less competent in mastering science subjects specifically on movement system material, functions and how to care for human and animal locomotion devices. In the subject of Cultural Arts and Crafts with Picture Story material, it was found that 3 students (6%) scored in the" very competent" category, 12 students (29%) scored in the "competent" category, and 12 students (29%) scored

in the “fairly competent” category. as many as 12 people (29%), and students who get “less competent” scores are 15 people (36%).

Based on these results, based on these data, it can be concluded that 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students are competent in mastering the subjects of Cultural Arts and Crafts, especially the Story Picture material, based on the overall results obtained results, while for each subject matter there were still 2 subject matter that received less competent results, namely on the subject matter of Pancasila Education and Citizenship and Science Natural Knowledge where in Pancasila and civic education subjects students who get less competent scores, especially in the Pancasila and Citizenship Education subjects are 23 people (55%) and in Natural Sciences subjects students who get less competent scores are 21 people (50%). for more details shown in diagram 1 and diagram 2.

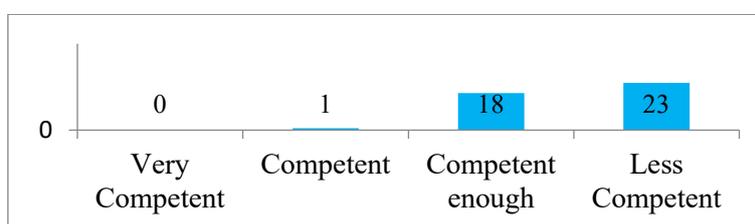


Fig. 1. Elementary School Teacher Education Student Test Results in Civics Subjects (2019)

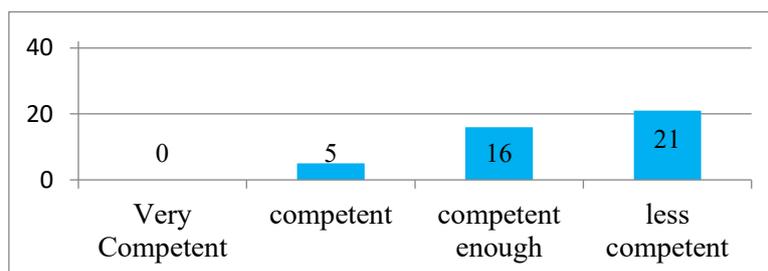


Fig. 2. Elementary School Teacher Education Student Test Results in Science Subjects (2019)

Even though the subject matter of Pancasila Education and Citizenship and Natural Sciences is very important for students to master, especially Elementary School Teacher Education students who after graduation will later become teachers. The lack of student competence in several subjects can be affected by changes in teaching and learning activities where for 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students only carry out face-to-face lectures for approximately 8 months and then attend online lectures following the rector's circular letter No. 00947/UN33/SE/2020. So that Elementary School Teacher Education students in 2019 have to make adjustments in lecture activities from face to face to online, where online lectures are a new thing for students to experience, so this makes Elementary School Teacher Education students encounter obstacles such as having to adjust learning methods, adjust the place learning where sometimes a bad network makes it difficult for students to study, find study materials, it is mandatory to have a laptop which sometimes some students cannot have or have difficulties when going to take online classes [9]. However, this is not an excuse, this is because the ability to master the material for a prospective teacher is very important and greatly affects the quality of the learning process, especially when explaining and providing reinforcement of the subject matter being implemented. This

mastery ability also has an impact on the quality and achievement of predetermined learning objectives. this is due to the lack of the teacher's ability to learn and understand the subject matter, so that the teacher becomes less professional in teaching. Therefore, mastery of the material for students of primary school teacher education should be very high because mastery of the teacher's material and student learning outcomes cannot be separated [10].

The ability to master subject matter is very important, especially for Pancasila and Citizenship Education and Natural Sciences. which for Pancasila and Citizenship Education subjects the material contained in it is about norms that exist in social life, human rights, tolerance and how to behave and make decisions and socialize in everyday life and also in society. As for the Natural Sciences subject, the material contained in it is about the surrounding environment, starting from getting to know the outside and inside of students' bodies and caring for body parts, the types of animals that are around them and natural phenomena that occur around the student's environment [11]. This is very important to teach since elementary school as a guide for students in everyday life and prepare them for living in society [12]. Based on the results of research on the subject of Pancasila Education and Citizenship and Natural Sciences, students get grades that are less competent, meaning that it is necessary to stabilize material for students, especially in the subjects of Pancasila Education and Citizenship and Natural Sciences, besides that it is also necessary to carry out further research to find out the factors that cause students to get less competency scores in the subjects of Pancasila Education and Citizenship and Natural Sciences. This research focuses on students as prospective teachers who must know and understand the curriculum that is being implemented in schools. This is because if students as prospective teachers do not know the material that is available and will be taught, this can lead to not achieving the learning objectives and teacher competency standards, especially in the aspect of teacher professionalism. In addition, by conducting this research we can find out how competent students are in mastering material in thematic learning and the results of this research can be used as reference material to improve the efforts carried out by lecturers and tertiary institutions in improving the ability to master material in student teacher candidates and improve the quality future teachers.

Even though there are 2 subject matter that are less competent, namely Pancasila and civics education material and science, for the whole subject matter for Elementary School Teacher Education students can be said to be quite competent with the results of students getting grades in the Competent category (with a range of scores above 80) of 6 students (14%), who scored quite competent (with a score range of 70-80) as many as 21 people (50%) and students who scored less competent (with a score range of less than 70) as many as 15 people (36%). for more details shown in diagram 3.

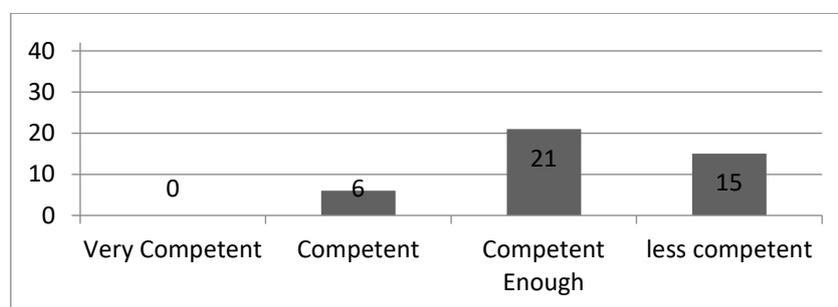


Fig. 3. Final results of the 2019 school teacher education student test

4 Conclusion

Based on the results of the discussion and research above, it can be concluded that the mastery of subject matter in the thematic learning of Elementary School Teacher Education students, the Faculty of Education, Medan State University in 2019 varies. The distribution of values for each subject matter is different where for the Pancasila and Citizenship Education subject matter, Elementary School Teacher Education students in 2019 received the "Less Competent" category. with a distribution of 19 students (45%) scored in the "quite competent" category and 23 students (55%) scored in the "less competent" category. For the Indonesian language subject, the results were that Elementary School Teacher Education students in 2019 received a "Quite Competent" score, with 27 people (65%) getting a "competent enough" score and 15 people (35%) getting a "less competent" score. For the Social Sciences subject, the results were obtained, students scored in the "Quite Competent" category, with 28 students (67%) getting scores in the "quite competent" category, and 14 students (33%) getting scores in the "not competent" category. . For the subject of Natural Sciences, the results obtained were that 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students scored in the "Quite Competent" category with 21 students (50%) in the "competent enough" category, and 21 students (50%) in the "incompetent" category. And for arts and crafts subjects the results were obtained, students scored "Quite Competent", with 27 students (64%) getting the category score "competent enough", and 15 students (36%) getting the score "less competent".

Although the overall score for the mastery level of 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students is included in the Competent Enough category, the results of students getting grades in the "Competent" category (above 80) are 6 people (14%), getting "quite competent" scores (70 - 80) 21 people (50%)) and students who scored in the "less competent" category (less than 70) were 15 people (36%). Even though at the conclusion of each subject there are subjects with less competent results, namely in the subjects of Pancasila Education and Citizenship and Natural Sciences, but for the overall results the score for the mastery level of 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students is included in the Competent Enough category with the results students getting grades with Competent category (above 80) is 6 people (14%), getting quite competent scores (70 - 80) 21 people (50%) and students who get less competent category scores (less than 70) are 15 people (36%) . Based on the conclusions above, it is necessary to carry out further research to find out what factors are causing the inability of 2019 Elementary School Teacher Education students to be less competent in some subject matter and it is necessary to strengthen the material more deeply, especially for Pancasila and Citizenship Education subjects and Natural Education Sciences so that students can later become professional teachers.

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