

## The Role of Teachers in Supporting Independent Learning

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### Introduction

Today, the Minister of Education and Culture, Nadiem Makarim, has adopted a new policy with the implementation of the Independent Learning Program. In the independence of learning to implement several new policies, the policies include national standard school exams which were originally implemented nationally, are now held internally in accordance with respective school policies, student assessment based on Minimum Skills Assessment and character surveys, simplification of Learning Implementation Plans, and the enactment of a zoning system for new student admissions. Teaching and learning activities that were originally carried out in the classroom have now changed to outside the classroom. Thus changing the pattern of teaching and learning activities both at school and in tertiary institutions. In an independent learning system, students are free to study according to their interests and talents. In this case, the teacher serves to assist their students to grow and develop talents according to their wishes. Students are also free to diplomacy and express their ideas. Merdeka Learning is basically designed as a solution to answer the problems felt by teachers in carrying out their profession. Teachers are burdened with many tasks and responsibilities both related to learning and administration. Teachers often attend a lot of training but do not match their competence. A teacher who is tired and feels that his career has not progressed even though he has taught for many years. Basically, the essence of independent learning is a program that aims to direct teachers and students to gain direction for self-development, freedom to increase creativity, innovation and skills. Thus, independent learning can be interpreted as being independent in exploring one's abilities and expertise according to one's hobbies and talents. So that it is expected to produce students who are intelligent, characterized, independent, brave, and competent, which of course is in accordance with the individual portion.

Teachers are the main key in realizing good teaching and learning activities. Because the teacher is the driving force that turns the wheels of education to prepare the next generation of a great nation. As the front line in educating the nation, teachers are required to always innovate and be creative in realizing good teaching and learning activities. This is a challenge in itself for teachers in an effort to improve the quality of insight, skills and expertise, so that by having adequate competence teachers are able to dedicate themselves well to print the nation's next generation of character and competence in accordance with the development of information technology that is advancing rapidly.

### Discussion

#### 1. Definition of Freedom to Learn

The definition of independent learning comes from two words, namely independence and learning. What is meant by learning in the Big Indonesian Dictionary, originally the word has the meaning of "trying to gain intelligence or knowledge. Learning is a process marked by a change in a person. Changes in the results of the learning process can be shown in various forms such as the addition of knowledge, understanding, attitudes and behavior, skills, habits and changes in other aspects that exist in individuals who learn (Sudjana; 2010). Meanwhile, according to Suprijono (2010) Learning in idealism means psycho-physical-social activities leading to complete personal development. Similarly, according to Trianto (2011): Learning is a change in an individual that occurs through experience and not because of the growth or development of his body or the characteristics of a person from birth. It is different with Slameto (2010): Learning is essentially a process of effort by a person to obtain a new change in behavior as a whole, as a result of his own experience in his interaction with the environment. From the opinion of several experts, it can be concluded that the understanding of learning is an effort made to acquire or increase knowledge, insight, skills and expertise so as to form a person's characteristics. Meanwhile, the definition of independence is according to the Big Indonesian Dictionary is free; stand-alone; unaffected or free from prosecution. From these two understandings, the notion of independent learning is the freedom to increase knowledge according to the will and portion of each.

#### 2. The Essence of Free Learning

Getting a proper education is a human right. Therefore, everyone is free to determine the way to gain knowledge that is suitable for himself. This agrees with Paolo Freire, a Brazilian educator from the University of Recife. As a man with a legal background, he works as a teacher in a secondary school, teaching Portuguese. His popular philosophy is that man is a leader for himself, and therefore human nature must be independent. This is what Freire meant by the form of humanization. Therefore,

humanization also means the independence or freedom of humans from the shackles of oppressive boundaries that they want. "The oppressed must liberate and free themselves from inhumane oppression and at the same time free the oppressor from the prison of a conscience that is not honest and oppresses." Freedom in expressing talents according to character and nature. Because basically every child is a champion, of course with their respective portions. It depends on how we optimize in exploring the potential and opportunities that exist. And how to sharpen our brains to run as much as possible. The more trained our brains will be more skilled in solving all the existing problems. A good education will shape a person's mindset in determining a good future. The concept of independent learning formulated by Mas Minister Nadiem Makariem is expected to develop a personality that is culturally appropriate so that he becomes a man of faith and devoted to God Almighty, healthy, has good morals, is capable, knowledgeable, innovative, creative, independent, and becomes a democratic and responsible society. Freedom to learn is freedom in thinking that can specifically adjust policies to restore the essence of learning assessment. With a good education a person is able to direct himself to good things. So that it will contribute itself to building the nation and state.

Freedom to learn can encourage students to learn and develop themselves, form a caring attitude towards the environment in which students study, encourage students' confidence and skills and easily adapt to the community environment. Because basically in the world of education there is no term smart and stupid child but a diligent and lazy child. So the task of the teacher is to motivate and direct students to become qualified individuals. In this way, efforts have been made to create a generation that is competent and with character. Independent learning is a policy designed by the government to make a big leap in the quality of education in order to produce students and graduates who excel in facing the complex challenges of the future. Because the essence of independent learning is to put free and autonomous education for both teachers and schools to interpret basic competencies in the curriculum into teacher assessments. With the existence of independent learning, student involvement in learning will increase.

Education in independent learning supports the realization of intelligence through various improvements and equity in the quality of education, expansion of access, and relevance in the application of technology so as to be able to realize world-class education based on collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creative skills Steps that need to be prepared in implementing independent learning, including: a) the principal; Implement policies that support the implementation of independent learning, b) Teachers; Become an open figure and create a pleasant learning atmosphere, c) Learners; the psychology of students should be in a state of readiness and in a happy mood, starting to get used to thinking critically and always being curious and able to analyze open questions, d) Guardians of students and the environment; actively involved in monitoring student learning outcomes and supporting continuity between school, home and the environment, e) Education and culture office; provide training to improve the competence of teachers and provide assistance during the implementation of independent learning. Independent learning itself has the essence that students will have the freedom to think either individually or in groups, so that in the future they can give birth to students who are superior, critical, creative, collaborative, innovative, and participating. It is hoped that with the independent learning program there will be an increase in the involvement of students in learning. The essence of independent learning means being free to appreciate all the potential that exists in oneself in order to become a potential self that is able to be competitive.

### **3. The Role of Teachers in Realizing Free Learning**

The teacher is the most important component in the realization of teaching and learning activities. Because the teacher acts as the controller who regulates the flow of ups and downs in the quality of education. According to Djamarah (2015: 280) a teacher is someone who provides knowledge to students or professionals who can make their students plan, analyze and conclude the problems they face. Meanwhile, according to Law no. 14 of 2005 Teachers are professional educators with the main task of educating, teaching, guiding, directing, training, assessing, and evaluating students in early childhood education through formal education, basic education, and secondary education. Therefore, being a teacher is a calling for the soul. Because a teacher devotes all his body and soul to shape the character of his students. Teachers have a moral duty to educate their students to be smart and talented. Therefore, teachers must provide examples that should be imitated by their students. Teachers are also required to have adequate competence in order to carry out their profession well. According to law no. 13 of 2013 competence is something related to a person's ability to do a job, it includes aspects of knowledge, skills, and work attitudes that are in accordance with standards. According to Mc Achsan and Mulyasa, competence has the meaning as knowledge, skills and abilities that a person has mastered that have become part of him so that he can perform cognitive, affective, and psychomotor behaviors as well as possible. By having competencies that follow technological advances, teachers are expected to provide maximum service to educate the nation's children. Teachers must also be lifelong learners who always innovate in developing learning so as not to be crushed by the wheels of time.

## Conclusion

The definition of independent learning is the freedom to increase knowledge according to the wishes and portions of each. Independent learning can be interpreted as freedom in exploring a person's abilities and expertise according to their hobbies and talents. The essence of independent learning means being free to appreciate all the potential that exists in oneself in order to become a potential self that is able to be competitive. The teacher is the most important component in the realization of teaching and learning activities. Because the teacher acts as the controller who regulates the flow of ups and downs in the quality of education. Teachers have a moral duty to educate their students to be smart and talented. Therefore, teachers must provide examples that should be imitated by their students. Teachers are also required to have adequate competence in order to carry out their profession well. By having competencies that follow technological advances, teachers are expected to provide maximum service to educate the nation's children. Teachers must also be lifelong learners who always innovate in developing learning so as not to be crushed by the wheels of time.

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## BRIEF PROFILE



Full name Wuriyanti born in Cirebon, August 7, 1982, married status, last education S1 Open University Library Upbjj Bandung profession librarian and literacy teacher at SMP IT Qur'an Islamic Boarding School Kayuwalang address Jalan Kayuwalang RT 02 RW 07 Kayuwalang, Karya Mulya Village, Kesambi District, Cirebon City Java Barat email address prameswari782@gmail.com mobile number 082338006972 in early January 2014 to December 2018 once worked in the library of the Dharma Husada Nursing Academy Cirebon. Alhamdulillah, along the literacy path that I have traveled, I have produced written works in the form of anthology books including Librarians welcoming the 2045 golden generation published by the Indonesian Librarians Association, Library Memories and memories of librarian stories in the printing process, namely activities from the Indonesian Special Library Forum, Samudera Expression Book. Publisher Ladang Kata Yogyakarta, and the book A Cup of Literacy Activist Coffee was published by GPMB Press

Publisher in collaboration with Aswaja Pressindo Publisher Yogyakarta.