Mastery of Science Concepts Improves Scientific Attitude in Elementary School Students

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ABSTRACT

Many students have low IPA abilities. Previous research stated that there are still many students who get science learning scores below the average. This study analyzes the relationship between students' scientific attitude and mastery of science concepts in fourth-grade elementary school. This type of research is quantitative research with the correlational method. The research design used is to formulate problems and determine research objectives. The subjects in this study were all students totaling 58 respondents who were taken using the cluster random sampling technique. The method used in this study discusses two variables, the independent variable is students' scientific attitude, and the dependent variable is the mastery of science concepts for grade IV elementary school. The data collection instrument in this study used measurement techniques in 15 formative questions on the dependent variable and 30 questionnaire sheets on the independent variable. Data were analyzed by parametric statistics or product-moment correlation. The results showed differences in the results of students' scientific attitude data with mastery of science concepts. The data showed that tcount was 2.431 > ttable was 1.672 at the significance level = 0.05 with the number of respondents 58 students. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that there is a positive relationship between students' scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts. Mastery of science concepts can improve students' scientific attitudes.

1. INTRODUCTION

Natural Sciences is a series of related concepts about objects and natural phenomena obtained from scientific investigations through experiments and observations using scientific methods (Lai et al., 2019; Maison et al., 2020; Subali et al., 2019). Natural Sciences has an essential role in human development regarding the application of concepts, tasks, natural considerations, virtue, hard work, interest, innovation, reliability, harmony, respect, and love for the homeland (Hanif, 2020; Rusli et al., 2020; Yunanto et al.,...
Natural Sciences are subjects at the elementary school level that explain nature developed by specialists through a series of scientific activities (Lai et al., 2019; Subali et al., 2019). Science has explicitly identified characteristics of real natural phenomena based on experiments and developed them based on hypotheses (Anif et al., 2020; Tóman, 2017; Zabolotnaya et al., 2020). Science is seen as a way of thinking that results from the curiosity that makes humans always observe existing natural events. Science is related to science process skills, skills to study natural phenomena through specific ways to acquire knowledge and develop it (Abendroth & Richter, 2021; Changwong et al., 2018; Tóman, 2017). Science process skills are scientific skills aimed at finding a principle or theory, developing pre-existing theories, and carrying out the process of an invention (Lukman et al., 2019).

Science is a subject that has concepts that are interrelated and arranged systematically and theoretically. Learning Natural Sciences is the initial foundation for growing scientific knowledge, skills, and attitudes by systematically finding out about nature (Fartina et al., 2019; Hwang et al., 2012). Science is an essential subject for life with logical values and an efficiently organized collection of knowledge, hypotheses, and interrelated ideas from elementary to college (Fu et al., 2019; Seruni et al., 2020). The purpose of learning Natural Sciences in elementary schools can increase the mastery of practical science concepts and can be applied in everyday life (Darmaji et al., 2019; Sintema, 2020). There are three main components in science: attitudes, processes or methods, and scientific products (Lai et al., 2019; Subali et al., 2019). Scientific attitude or scientific attitude is defined as a situation that has an individual self-meaning accompanied by certain feelings and descriptions in observing an object and doing something about the object being observed (Irwansyah et al., 2017; Maison et al., 2020).

The problem that occurs today is that many students have low science abilities. Previous research stated that many students still get science learning scores below the average (Dewi et al., 2013; Maison et al., 2020; Narayani, 2019). Many factors cause students to have difficulty learning science, one of which is learning media. Previous research has also stated that the lack of learning media impacts students' lack of understanding (Darmaji et al., 2019; Muhamad, 2018; Rosalina & Suhardi, 2020). Learning media will help students with learning difficulties (Anindyajati & Choiri, 2017; Majareen et al., 2018; Saripudin et al., 2018). In addition, another factor is the learning model. The findings of previous research stated that there are still many teachers who use conventional learning models so that students feel bored in learning (Awe & Bengoe, 2017; Dwi Lestari & Putu Parmiti, 2020; Suryani et al., 2019). Inappropriate learning models will affect student learning outcomes (Arisantiani et al., 2017; Handayani et al., 2017; Widani et al., 2019). The teacher must consider this because it can affect students' abilities, especially scientific attitudes in students.

A scientific attitude is one's desire to develop new knowledge and respond to some issues according to scientific thinking (Rubini et al., 2018; Santiasih et al., 2013). Scientific attitudes are closely related to science concepts and science activities that can provide positive reinforcement and develop students' abilities to grow creative, independent, and responsible abilities (Rahayuningsih, 2020; Syahputra et al., 2017). Scientific attitudes in students can be formed through science teachers having a good understanding of the learning process and teaching science appropriately. Scientific attitudes can be used as a person’s assessment of an object related to science to increase students’ knowledge to answer, ask questions, discuss, and respect others (Latipah et al., 2020; Sakliressy et al., 2021; Suryawati & Osman, 2018). There are eight parts of scientific attitude, namely: interest disposition, the mentality of need to get something new, essential reasoning attitude, disposition towards information or reality, open attitude, responsible mentality, persistence mentality, and self-control (Jatmiko et al., 2018; Maison et al., 2020). Scientific attitudes are interrelated with mastery of science concepts that can develop students' abilities and provide positive reinforcement.

Mastery of science concepts is an individual's ability to record and reanalyze information obtained through science subjects and can be used to solve problems (Fartina et al., 2019; Hwang et al., 2012). Mastery of the concept of science has an essential role for students to assist students in solving a problem that occurs in everyday life. Mastery of science concepts can help students to simplify, summarize, and organize the information received (Badu, 2013; Permama & Nourmavita, 2017). In developing the idea of mastering science concepts in elementary schools, educators need to use exciting learning strategies or models to achieve significant learning (Fu et al., 2019; Seruni et al., 2020). Mastery of science concepts in elementary schools is essential for students to master because it will support student success in learning, develop an understanding of various natural phenomena and ideas, and apply them in everyday life (Darmaji et al., 2019). Learning Natural Sciences can guide students to protect the environment and be skilled in managing the environment. The learning interactions of basic education units must be interconnected, inspiring, fun, testing, and motivating students to be dynamic according to students' abilities, interests, and physical development (Lai et al., 2019; Maison et al., 2020; Sintema, 2020). The findings of previous research stated that the benefits for elementary school students studying Natural Sciences could be to foster a scientific attitude, instill belief in God Almighty, and gain the latest insight into
the object being observed (Rusli et al., 2020; Subali et al., 2019). This study aims to analyze the relationship between students’ scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts in grade IV elementary school. It is hoped that IAP learning can improve students’ scientific attitudes.

2. METHOD

This type of research is quantitative research with the type of correlation research. In this study, the sample used was elementary school students as many as 58 respondents. The data collection techniques used by the researchers in this study were formative questions and questionnaires—this study, using formative questions to obtain the desired data. There are 15 forms of dependent variable questions based on Bloom’s taxonomy. The questionnaire has some questions and written statements submitted to respondents, namely to determine the relationship between students’ scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts in grade IV elementary school. The form of the questionnaire consists of 30 respondents with questions and statements of independent variables. In this study, the instrument used was in the form of a questionnaire (questionnaire). The questionnaire is the main instrument that needs to be used in this research. The reason for using a questionnaire is to obtain relevant information from this research. The preparation of the questionnaire uses a Likert scale with positive and negative gradations, which are vulnerable to a scale of 1 to 5 answers. Respondents were asked to choose one of the answers used to measure each indicator.

To find out whether or not the questionnaire instrument used in the research is feasible, the validity of the questionnaire must be tested first. In this case, the review is carried out by 2 experts, namely 2 lecturers. The considerations of the two experts are considered representative and the questions developed have met this validity requirement. Quantitative data will be analyzed with statistics between two variables. Descriptive statistics describe the independent variable (X) students’ scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts as the dependent variable (Y). While the parametric statistics used are Pearson product-moment correlation analysis techniques. The normality test conducted in this study aims to determine whether or not the distribution of the X and Y regression data to be analyzed is normal.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

This research was conducted at SD Negeri 01 Bendungan Hilir. After fulfilling the test requirements, data descriptions and hypothesis testing will be carried out to answer research questions. The data collected through this research are listed according to the data analysis needs listed in the research design to provide an overview of the data distribution. Furthermore, after the summary of the descriptive statistics, then look at the difference in frequency above using a histogram graph. The research results show that the highest frequency of students’ scientific attitude scores is 105, and the lowest value is 71. Then, the distribution of the frequency of mastery of science concepts is presented in a histogram graph.

![Histogram of Student Scientific Attitude](image1)

**Figure 1. Histogram of Student Scientific Attitude**

The research results on mastery of science concepts show the frequency of the highest value of 54 and the lowest value of 20. Normality testing is carried out to determine whether the data is normally distributed or not. In this study, the Lilliefors test was carried out with a significant = 0.05. The analysis of the normality test of the estimated book error obtained Lcount = 0.087 while the Lilliefors test value was significant at = 0.05 and obtained Table of 0.116. So it can be concluded that the data is usually distributed.
After the samples were normally distributed, followed by the linearity test, a linearity test was conducted to determine the relationship between the dependent and independent variables. A linearity test was carried out to confirm whether the linearity between the two identified variables was appropriate or not with the regression results and the linearity of the regression. After each variable has a linear pattern, then the correlation coefficient test is carried out. Calculation of the correlation coefficient in this study uses the product-moment correlation technique. Based on the correlation coefficient test between students’ scientific attitude scores and mastery of science concepts, it was obtained $t_{count} = 1.14$, while $t_{table}$ at significance $= 0.05$, then obtained $t_{table} = 1.90$. Thus, it can be concluded that $t_{count} = 1.14 < 1.90 = t_{table}$, which means that there is a significant relationship between variable X scientific attitude and variable Y mastery of science concepts.

**Discussion**

Based on the results of this study, there is a relationship between scientific attitude and mastery of science concepts. When viewed from the calculation of the correlation coefficient, the higher the scientific attitude of students, the higher the mastery of science concepts (Irwansyah et al., 2017; Novika Auliyan et al., 2018). On the other hand, the lower the students’ scientific attitude, the lower the mastery of science concepts (Santiasih et al., 2013; Utomo et al., 2020). From the research results obtained from these calculations by the theory that Wyne Harlen has put forward, namely the high mastery of science concepts can make students have the ability to conduct experiments or experiments, have a curious attitude towards science learning (Lee & Kim, 2018; Marisda & Handayani, 2020). Based on statistical calculations, it can be concluded that there is a significant positive relationship between students’ scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts owned by fourth-grade elementary school students in the Bendungan Hilir sub-district, Central Jakarta.

A scientific attitude is a desire to develop new knowledge and provide responses by scientific thinking (Rahayuingsih, 2020; Syahputra et al., 2017). Scientific attitudes can provide positive reinforcement and develop students’ abilities to foster creative, independent, and responsible abilities (Rubini et al., 2018; Santiasih et al., 2013). Scientific attitude can be used as a person’s assessment in increasing students’ knowledge to answer, ask questions, discuss, and the ability to respect others (Latipah et al., 2020; Sakiressy et al., 2021; Suryawati & Osman, 2018). Scientific attitudes are interrelated with mastery of science concepts that can develop students’ abilities and provide positive reinforcement in students. Mastery of the concept of science has an essential role for students to assist students in solving a problem that occurs in everyday life. Mastery of science concepts can help students simplify, summarize, and organize the information received (Bahari et al., 2018; Widiartini et al., 2019). In developing mastery of science concepts, educators need to use exciting learning models. Mastery of science concepts is essential for students to master because it will support student success in learning and developing an understanding of various natural phenomena to be applied in everyday life (Darmaji et al., 2019).

**4. CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of research and discussion, it can be concluded that the research results are: the relationship between students’ scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts is categorized as strong enough. Moreover, it is proven that there is a significant relationship between students’ scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts. It can be concluded that there is a significant positive relationship between students’ scientific attitudes and mastery of science concepts owned by fourth-grade elementary school students. Mastery of science concepts can improve students’ scientific attitudes.

**5. REFERENCES**


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