

Progressivism in the implementation of the MBKM curriculum as a digital transformation of islamic elementary education institutions

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ABSTRACT

Education is a process to humanize humans. The development of education is undergoing rapid changes in Indonesia due to the impact of COVID-19 and MBKM policies. It is at this time that digital transformation in education is running fast, it requires the readiness of educational institutions, teachers, students, and parents. This study aims to analyze the digital transformation of Islamic educational institutions in responding to the MBKM curriculum with the paradigm of Progressivism. This study uses a literature review as a method. Data was obtained from observations and interviews of researchers with several managers of Islamic higher education institutions in Ponorogo. The data that has been obtained were analyzed with the perspective of John Dewey's Progressivism education theory in his book Education of democracy. The results showed that Islamic educational institutions in Ponorogo quickly responded to changes in the education model with digital transformation so that they could implement the MBKM curriculum implemented in Islamic educational institutions under the Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia. From the perspective of the educational flow of John Dewey's progressivism in education, the learning process of students must be given the freedom to express opinions. Students must be active and not just accept the knowledge given by the teacher. Likewise, the teacher must create an atmosphere so that students always feel thirsty for knowledge. Managers of educational institutions must also understand how education is carried out. Education managed by people who do not understand the problem of education will hinder education itself and the manager of educational institutions must be progressive in making policies because the development of education is always dynamic.

KEYWORDS

Education; Progressivism
Philosophy; MBKM

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Introduction

Education is responsible for fostering students to be mature, independent, and self-employed. Thus, the nuances of education should be strived to provide opportunities for students to always think independently and critically (independent critical thinking) to find their identity. In this context, the most important thing is how to teach students to have the power of reasoning. One of the efforts to get there is by using a participatory educational process approach (participatory education), an educational model that provides a large portion of students in developing their knowledge and way of thinking. Here, it is assumed that participatory education is contained in the concept of educational progressivism.

Progressivism is an understanding based on the assumption that humans have reasonable abilities and can overcome various problems that threaten humans themselves. In line with that progressivism (Dewey, 1916). Reject the authoritarian style of education that has occurred in the past and present. Authoritarian education is assumed to be able to hinder itself in achieving good goals because it does not appreciate the abilities possessed by humans in the educational process.

Talking about philosophy will not be separated from the activities of human thinking. Someone who studies philosophy is expected to grow a tradition of thinking that is critical, speculative rationally, and deeply rooted. Such a tradition of thinking will be able to direct humans to solve the problems of life that are essential and abstract in a targeted manner and can reach the essence of its essence. Through philosophical thought and reflection, a person will be able to follow and implement advanced ways of thinking and have a higher complexity than general ways of thinking (Heen, 2006). Education is a process to mature students, both in the family, school, and community. Lately, various educational problems have arisen as a result of the results of education itself which are not in line with expectations, resulting in many deviations caused (Budiwan, 2016). For example, the negative impact of technological

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developments sometimes triggers pornography and promiscuity among teenagers and even children. To overcome this, one solution that can be offered is to dissect the meaning of education through a philosophical approach (Suriasumantri, 2005). Why choose the philosophy of education, the philosophy of education as a normative science in the field of education formulates the rules, norms, and or measures of behavior or actions that are carried out by humans in life and life (Ebersohn & Eloff, 2004).

Methods

This study uses a literature review as a method. Data was obtained from observations and interviews of researchers with several managers of Islamic higher education institutions in Ponorogo. The data that has been obtained were analyzed with the perspective of John Dewey's Progressivism education theory in his book *Education of democracy*. This research was conducted by taking literature studies from literature, and books. Then conducted studies and studies that are relevant to the research (Silva, 2016). To discuss the results of the study, a description was carried out by linking from the literature, and books. Next, conclude from the results of the research that have been pursued by the objectives of this study. This research was conducted through a literature study by collecting several books, papers, and journals, relating to the issue of progressivism education. Collecting data by identifying discourses from books, papers or articles, journals, newspapers, the internet (web), or other information related to the flow of progressivism education.

Results and Discussion

The flow of Progressivism

Progressivism comes from the word "progress" which means progress. Progressivism can be interpreted as a flow that wants to progress quickly (Rahimah, 2019). In the context of educational philosophy, progressivism is a school that emphasizes that education is not just an effort to provide a collection of knowledge to students, but should contain a variety of activities that lead to the training of their thinking skills as a whole so that they can think systematically through scientific methods such as providing a variety of empirical data and theoretical information, providing analysis, consideration, and making conclusions towards the selection of the most likely alternative for solving the problems at hand. By having good thinking skills, students will be skilled at making the best decisions for themselves and their communities and can easily adapt to their environment (Nichols, 2017).

Progressivism is a movement in the field of education pioneered by (Dewey, 1916) Since its inception, this school has tried to reach positively the influences that exist in science and technology. In addition, changes that occur in society are viewed optimistically and returned to human capabilities. Humans throughout their history have created culture and civilization as a result of the advancement of science and technology. All of this is seen as something that is progressing so this flow is known as progressivism. For progressivism, everything is looked forward to. Everything on the back just notes that are useful to study and when needed can be displayed again in today's era. Thus humans are seen as dynamic and creative creatures. Therefore, humans are creatures who have freedom, all of which are important for the progress needed by humans themselves (Lee, 2021). Progressivism sees that thinking with intelligence is the main handle in education, this is a significant thing. This will become more significant when understood in the context of a wider intelligence, such as the multiple intelligences that are known today; which means that it is not only intelligence that is developed that is linear mathematically (Cherniss et al., 2006).

Progressivism also sees that the existing environment, both regarding humans and others, is not the same or static, but is always changing. Even though what humans experience is sometimes disappointment, it will be processed positively for future success. The proof is that various advances in science and technology have succeeded in uncovering the secrets of the universe that humans can use themselves. Progressivism also views that students can experiment in the course of their lives because of the knowledge and skills they have learned and possessed. What is meant by experimenting is being able to search for and find problems and alternative solutions (Klement & Dostál, 2016)?

The task of education is to train students' abilities in solving various life problems that lead to the development of knowledge that is useful for life in society. Education also functions as the development of human resources, namely the process of increasing the knowledge, skills, and abilities of community members. The main way to improve human quality is to increase knowledge (Chen et al., 2018). This flow views the real as everything that can be experienced and practiced in real life. Humans are physical creatures that evolve biologically, socially, and psychologically and because of that humans will continuously develop towards a better and perfect. Human life always shows a process of development, because indeed it is an active organism, which continuously reconstructs, interprets, and reorganizes various experiences so that humans will always find new knowledge for their continuous progress.

This school is anti-authoritarianism and absolutism in all its forms. This is because for him this attitude does not appreciate the basic human abilities which naturally will always be able to face and solve various difficulties in life. Humans are always active and always want to find out and research, so it is not easy to accept a view or opinion before it proves the truth empirically. Science was born based on experimental evidence in the empirical world (Bloxham & Boyd, 2007).

The flow of Progressivism in Education in Indonesia

The flow of progressivism assumes that learning is a process that relies on the advantages of human reason which is creative and dynamic as a basic human potential in solving various problems of life. Because children's lives always move from experiences in the surrounding environment, education according to this school must be seen as a process of socialization, namely a process of growth and development of children's intellectual potential through various experiences in the surrounding environment. This process must continue

throughout human life because humans are always in the process of becoming. Therefore, the ideal school according to its flow is a school that emphasizes the content of its education on the problems that exist in the community (Arifin, 2020). According to Dewey (1916) progressivism is based on the following six assumptions: a) Curriculum content should be derived from student interests rather than from academic disciplines; b) Teaching is said to be effective if it considers the child as a whole and his interests and needs in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor areas; c) Learning is active, not passive. Effective teachers/teachers provide students with experiences that enable them to learn by doing activities; d) Education aims to teach students to think rationally so that they become intelligent, which contributes to members of society; e) At school, students learn personal values as well as social values; f) Humanity exists in a state of constant change, and education allows for a better future than the past (Lee, 2021).

In the book Iswanti (2017), the basic principles of progressivism are as follows: a) Education should be "life" itself, not preparation for life. b) Learning must be directly related to children's interests. c) Learning through problem-solving must take precedence over rigorous repetition of subjects. d) The role of the teacher is not to show, but to guide. e) Schools must increase efforts to cooperate, not compete. f) Only democratic approval, can increase the role of children's ideas and personality freely, even though it is necessary for the right conditions for children's growth.

In the view of progressivism, education is a means or tool that is prepared to develop the ability of students to survive against all the challenges of life which practically will always progress (Gholtash & Yarmohammadian, 2011). In addition, the educational process is carried out based on pragmatic principles. That is, education must be able to provide benefits for students, especially in dealing with problems that exist in the community. The book *Philosophical Alternatives in Education*, states that progressive education emphasizes several things; a) progressive education should provide the freedom that encourages children to develop and grow naturally through activities that can instill initiative, creativity, and self-expression in children; b) all kinds of teaching should refer to children's interests, which are stimulated through contact with the real world; c) progressive teachers act as children's mentors who are directed to control research activities, not just to train or give many assignments; d) student achievement is measured in terms of mental, physical, moral and also social development; e) in meeting the needs of children in the phase of development and growth, it is necessary to cooperate between teachers, schools, homes, and the child's family; f) progressive schools that act as laboratories containing innovative educational ideas and exercises (Lee, 2021).

Progressivism recognizes that education should follow the developments and changes of the times and the new society formed by educators (Owens, 2019). In addition, in this context, education must be more student-centered, rather than centered on educators and teaching materials. Because students are learning subjects that are required to be able to face various life problems in the future. Therefore, several educational principles are emphasized in the flow of progressivism, including a. The educational process begins and ends with the child. b. The subject of students is active, not passive. c. The teacher's role is only as a facilitator, mentor, or director. d. Schools must be cooperative and democratic. e. Activities are more focused on problem-solving, not on teaching study material. When it comes to education in Indonesia today, progressivism has a big enough share, especially in understanding and implementing real education. Where education should be held by taking into account the various abilities possessed by students, as well as trying to prepare students to be able to face and solve every problem faced in their social environment. This is in line with the notion of education in Indonesia, which is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills they need, society, nation, and state. In this sense, education is not only interpreted as a transfer of knowledge. Education means the process of developing various kinds of potential that exist in humans, such as academic, relational, talent, talents, physical abilities, and artistic abilities (Thorburn, 2018).

Thus, it can be understood that the flow of progressivism has made a major contribution to the world of education in Indonesia. This flow has laid the foundations of independence and freedom for students. Students are given kindness, both physically and in a way of thinking, to develop the talents and abilities that are hidden within themselves without being hampered by obstacles made by others.

According to Bernadib (2002), progressivism requires progressive education. In this case, the purpose of education should be interpreted as a continuous reconstruction of experience. Education is not only conveying knowledge to students but most importantly training the ability to think (González, 2018). In the context of education in Indonesia, the goals of education according to progressivism are in line with the goals of national education in Indonesia. According to Law no 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, it is stated that education aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and are devoted to God Almighty, have a noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. So based on this understanding, the flow of progressivism is very much in line with the goals of education in Indonesia.

Conclusion

Progressivism is a movement in the field of education that, among other things, was pioneered by John Dewey. For progressivism, everything is looked forward to. Everything on the back just notes that are useful to study and when needed can be displayed again in today's era. Thus humans are seen as dynamic and creative creatures. Therefore, humans are creatures who have freedom, all of which are important for the progress needed by humans themselves. The flow of progressivism considers education not only to be interpreted as a transfer of knowledge, but education also means a process of developing various kinds of potential that exist in students. Thus, it can be understood that the flow of progressivism has made a major contribution to the world of education in Indonesia. This flow frees every student who is diverse and develops every potential he has.

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