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## Educational Development In The Independent Learning Program; Study Learning Methods

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**Abstract:** This article examines the learning methods in education development in the Free Learning Program. Merdeka Belajar is a response to the needs of the education system in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. In the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the main need to be achieved in the education system or more specifically in learning methods, namely students or students, namely mastery of new literacy. The new literacy, namely. First, data literacy. Second, technological literacy. Finally, human literacy. In addition, in the Merdeka Belajar system, character education is also emphasized. This article uses library research. With data sources from journals, research reports, scientific magazines, newspapers, relevant books, seminar results, resource persons, library papers, graphic videos, and so on. So in this study, the learning method in the Industrial Revolution 4.0 era can determine the success of learning. The methods used may vary, but in an independent education system, the Blended Learning method is ideal as a learning method. The Blended Learning method combines the advantages of face-to-face and virtual learning. In this research, it strengthens the theory of Peter Fisk about the trend of education trends in the industrial era 4.0.

**Keywords:** Merdeka belajar, teaching methods, blended learning, education

## INTRODUCTION

At this time we are faced with changes and challenges in the education sector in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0. Of course, collaboration and innovation as well as the support of existing resources will determine the progress and development of educational institutions. If you don't innovate and collaborate, you will be left behind. On the contrary, if educational institutions will be able to produce human resources capable of encouraging progress and development in order to realize the ideals of the country, namely human learners. Making human learners is not as easy as turning your palms. Every educational institution must be able to adapt the education system used with the changing times. The education system that developed in the current 4.0 Revolution era is expected to be able to create students who have the skills and abilities to think critically and solve problems creatively and innovatively. In addition, skills are needed in managing and conveying information and using information and technology as well as possible.

In facing competition in the education sector in the era of 4.0, educational institutions not only need old literacy, namely reading, writing and arithmetic, but also need new literacy. There are three new literacies currently needed, namely. First, data literacy is literacy related to the ability to read, analyze and use information and data in the digital world. Second, technological literacy, namely literacy related to the ability to understand how machines work, technology applications. Then the last literacy is human literacy. Human literacy is in the form of strengthening humanities, design and communication. Sharing this literacy can be done by educators and their students.

Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Anwar Makarín in the National Teacher's Day event delivered his speech about the concept of "Free Learning System". This concept is a breakthrough along with the demands of the industrial revolution 4.0 era. It is said that freedom to learn is freedom of thought determined by educators. So educators, be they teachers or lecturers, are the main key to the success and quality of the educational learning process in educational institutions.

Nadiem Makarin (2019) said that the teaching staff had a noble and difficult task. In the current national education system, lecturers are required to shape the future of the nation, but in carrying out their duties too many rules are given compared to help. Teachers want to catch up with their students in class. But time runs out to do administrative activities with no apparent benefit. Teachers who know every ability and potential of their students are not only measured by test results, but teachers are shackled by numbers that are urged by stakeholders in education. The teacher wants to invite his students to study outside the classroom by studying the world around him, but the existing curriculum actually closes the adventure. The teacher also knows that the ability to work and collaborate determines the success of students, not the ability to memorize. The teacher knows that every student has a different level of need but uniformity trumps diversity as a basic principle of bureaucracy. Teachers want each of their students to be inspired, but teachers themselves are not given the confidence to make innovations (Kemendikbud.go.id, 2019).

According to R Suryanto Kusumaryono (2019), he considers that the "Free Learning" which was initiated by the Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud) can be drawn from several points. First, Merdeka Belajar is an answer to the problems faced by teachers in the educational process. Both teachers are less burdened in carrying out their professions through the flexibility and freedom in assessing the learning of their students with various types and forms of assessment instruments, of course freedom from burdensome administration and freedom from various pressures of teacher intimidation, criminalization and exploitation.

Third, make ourselves aware of the more obstacles faced by teachers in carrying out learning in schools. Starting from the problem of admitting new students, teacher administration in teaching preparation including lesson plans, learning processes and evaluation problems. Fourth, teachers are at the forefront of shaping the future of the nation through learning, therefore it is important to create a pleasant learning atmosphere in the classroom. With the initiation of the concept of Free Learning, it is assumed that this will be manifested in a policy that will be implemented.

The concept of Merdeka Learning is an offer in reconstructing the national education system. Hopefully this change in the education sector can bring the nation's progress in welcoming the changing times. By restoring the true nature of education, namely education to humanize humans. In Merdeka Belajar, collaboration between teachers and students will become a necessity in order to create a comfortable and innovative learning process. Teachers and students are both subjects in the learning system. This means that teachers are not only used as a source of truth by students, but teachers and students collaborate in finding the truth together. The teacher is the main key in exploring the truth, reasoning power, and the criticality of students in seeing the world and the phenomena that develop in it.

With the development of technology and the rapid development of the internet, it has become a momentum for freedom of learning. Because it can break a rigid and non-liberating educational model. This includes reforming the workload of teachers and schools devoted to administrative matters. Teachers and students have experiences that are independent from the environment. The experiences that have been gained will be discussed in classrooms and educational institutions.

In the era of the industrial revolution 4.0, students have a lot of experience with the digital or visual world today. The duties of teachers, lecturers and other teaching staff are none other than directing, leading and exploring the critical power and potential of their students. Of course, in the learning process an ecosystem is built that is able to facilitate the growth and development of reason, character, innovation, independence, comfort and expertise of their students. So that with this independent learning, it can form superior or quality human resources in the industrial era 4.0 with the aim of developing the nation and state. Based on the background description described above, it is very necessary to examine more deeply effective learning methods in supporting the development of an independent learning system.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

In analyzing the problems that have been described by the researcher above, the researcher decided to use the theory of social change. The theory of social change was chosen because it supports the trend of education trends in the industrial era 4.0. In the theory of social change the most basic is to explain the role of humans in the occurrence of changes in society. Change will always occur in accordance with the basic nature of humans who always want to make changes, and humans have a nature that is not easily satisfied with what they are achieving now and tries to find something new to change things to better suit their needs (Nur Djazifah ER, 2012: 3).

Humans in living their daily lives really need abilities that include creating, the ability to create, treat, renew, develop and enhance interactions between humans and the environment and human interactions with other humans (Herimanto & Winarno in N Nur Djazifah ER, 2012). These various abilities are one of the

assets possessed by humans to meet their daily needs, namely maintaining and improving their life, developing their human side, by creating culture (Nur Djazifah ER, 2012: 4)

Culture generated through human reason is often the cause of social change. Kingsley Davis (2000) says that social change is part of cultural change. As for PB Harton and CL Hunt (1992), most of the major changes include socio-cultural aspects. Although social and cultural changes are termed different, these differences are not really considered. Most people refer to both as socio-cultural change (sociocultural change). What is clear between the two has the same aspect, namely that both are closely related to an acceptance of new ways or an improvement in a society in meeting their needs. (Nur Djazifah, 2012: 4)

Culture that is produced through human reason is often the trigger for social change. This means that social change cannot be separated from cultural changes. According to Kingsley Davis (200) it is said that social change is part of cultural change. Sometimes the two terms are often equated to be used in describing socio-cultural change (sociocultural change) in order to cover both types of change. In essence, change and culture have one aspect in common, namely that they both relate to an acceptance of new ways of society in order to meet their needs. (Nur Djazifah ER, 2012: 4)

In the current education system which is oriented towards industry 4.0, education requires new methods or requires a new ecosystem to bring about improvements in society. Peter Fisk (2019) says there are nine trends or trends related to education 4.0 (in Delepiter Lase, 2019: 29). First, studying at a different time and place. Students will have more opportunities to learn at different times and places. E-learning facilitates opportunities for distance and independent learning. Second, individual learning. Students will learn with learning tools that are adaptive to their abilities. This illustrates that students at higher levels are challenged with more difficult tasks and questions after passing certain degrees of competence. Any student who has difficulty with the material being taught will have the opportunity to practice more until they reach the required level. This results in a positive learning experience and will reduce the number of students who lose confidence in their academic abilities.

Third, students have choices in determining how they learn. Even though the material being taught is the same, the way to that goal can vary for each student. Each student will be able to modify their learning process with the tools they feel are necessary for them. Students will learn with different tools, programs and techniques based on their own preferences. At this stage, face-to-face learning and distance learning (blended learning), turning the classroom around and bringing your own learning tools (bring your own device) form important terminology in this change.

Fourth, project-based learning. Students today must be able to adapt to project-based learning, as well as in terms of work. They must learn how to apply their skills in the short term to a variety of situations. Students should be acquainted with project-based learning. This is the time when organizational, collaboration and time management skills are taught to students so that each student can then use them in their next academic career.

Five, Field experience. Effective learning is able to provide more space to acquire skills that involve students' knowledge and face-to-face interactions. Field experiences will be deepened through courses or training. Besides, the curriculum design needs to provide more space for students to learn more directly through field experiences such as internships, projects with guidance and collaborative projects.

Six, data interpretation. Technological developments eventually took over the tasks that were originally done manually replaced by statistical analysis, describing and analyzing data and predicting future trends. Students are required to have the skills to apply theoretical knowledge to numbers and use their skills to make inferences based on logic and data trends.

Seven, the assessment is mixed. Measuring students' abilities through conventional assessment techniques is no longer relevant. Assessment must change, students' factual knowledge can be assessed during the learning process and application of knowledge can be tested when they work on their projects in the field.

Eight, student involvement. Student involvement in determining learning material will be very important. Input from students can be taken into consideration in preparing and improving the curriculum. Their input is able to produce a contemporary and highly useful curriculum. Last mentoring. Mentoring or providing guidance to students is important to build learning independence. This requires educators to become facilitators in guiding students through the learning process.

## METHOD

In this study the authors use library research (library research). Library research is research that uses data collection techniques carried out by reading literature related to or having relevance to the research topic

(Sukardi, 2010). The approach used by the author in this study is a sociological approach. This approach is used to solve actual problems by collecting, analyzing and clarifying data. Sources of data can be obtained from journals, research reports, newspapers, and so on.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

### Learning Discourse In Independent Learning Education

Merdeka Belajar education applied in the learning process is a form of response to the needs of the industrial revolution 4.0 in the present. Given that independent learning is a response to this new era, it is very relevant to see up-to-date data and discourses on learning methods. In the 4.0 industrial revolution the main goal to be achieved in the education system for free learning is that students are able to master new literacy. The new literacy includes: First, data literacy. This literacy is related to the ability to read, analyze and use information (big data) in the digital world. Second, technological literacy. This literacy understands how machines work and the application of technology. Finally, human literacy. Literacy is in the form of strengthening humanities, communication and design. These various literacies can be carried out by students and teachers. The learning method in independent learning education has the same target. With students mastering this new literacy, it will create superior and quality human resources in the future. But more than that this literacy will not run well if human resources are not supported by character building such as honesty, religious work, hard work, responsibility, fairness and discipline.

There are several studies that have been conducted to see the learning system in response to the industrial era 4.0 in Indonesia. Hamidulloh Ibda and E Rahmadi (2018) say that the era of industrial revolution 4.0 educational institutions are not sufficient to apply old literacy (reading, writing, counting, but must apply new literacy (data literacy, technological literacy, and human resource literacy or humanism). This new literacy is the key to change in revitalizing the curriculum. The role of the teacher is very important in building a generation of competence, character, and high thinking skills. Educational institutions must strengthen new literacy and revitalize curriculum. Curriculum revitalization refers to the five basic values of students good namely resilience, adaptability, integrity, competence and continuous improvement.

Muhammad Alfarizqi Nizamuddin Ghiffar, Eliza Nurisma, Cucu Kurniasih, and Caraka Putra Bhakti (2018) answered the shortcomings of Hamidulloh Ibda and E Rahmadi's research. They offer a learning model or method based on Blended Learning in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. The Blended Learning model is a combination of offline learning methods (face to face, etc.) with online learning methods (e-learning). In this article, the emphasis is on technological literacy. However, this article only emphasizes the new literacy dimensions, namely technology, data, and human literacy in the Blended Learning learning method. The complex problems that will come to humans in the future are related to skills in mastery of technology, cyberspace, and big data. Even though moral and ethical issues remain a major problem in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 or problems in the development of critical thinking. So the shortcomings in this written article override aspects or dimensions of character development in the learning model.

After the discourse on developing learning methods in education in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, Aprilia Riyana Putri and Muhammad Alie Muzakki (2019) perfected them by offering learning media. In the learning method, instructional media makes it easier for students to understand what the teacher explains in the learning process both inside and outside the classroom. There are various types of media, such as print media, namely; books, modules, lks as well as electronic media, namely: video, audio, multimedia presentations and can also use online or online content. At the end of the learning process, each educator conducts a learning evaluation to measure the extent to which the student's ability to understand what has been explained in various ways, by giving quizzes, group presentations, written tests and also using kahoot media, namely by entering selected questions double to the kahoot application which does use internet facilities so that student cellphones can be connected directly to answer quiz questions presented by educators through the kahoot media. Students can view the results in real time in order of rank. There are two types of using kahoot, namely classic and modern.

The use of kahoot media to face the industrial revolution 4.0 in the world of education is appropriate because almost all educators and students can use kahoot media and in its realization they also use the internet as a tool to find additional references in the learning and teaching process both to find material information, audio and learning videos and take advantage of educational applications available for free on the play store which are used in the learning process to improve the learning process that is easy to understand and interesting and fun (Aprilia Riyana Putri and Muhammad Alie Muzakki, 2019). So this research actually concludes the learning method in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, namely using the

E-Learning method. Although he did not mention e-learning directly, the application and the kahoot method were used as an implementation of the e-learning method (online learning).

The methods used are various, and in this article the stakeholders determine where possible the learning methods that can achieve the goals of the independent learning education system. Therefore, this article is a reference in perfecting the education system for independent learning, which will become the new education system in Indonesia. The government's move to continue the education policy of independent learning will overhaul the education curriculum by emphasizing the STEAM concept (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics), aligning the national education curriculum with industry needs in the future. Of course, the learning method must be able to represent the diversity that exists in Indonesia. In order to achieve the objectives of the educational unit, namely creating quality and superior human resources. If independent learning education is really a good program, then it takes assertiveness and courage to realize and run the program properly. Do not let a program that is well structured but in its implementation is only a formality (Eko Rusdianto, 2019: 4).

### **Blended Learning and Educational Orientation**

Based on nine trends or trends related to education in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, among others. First, studying at a different time and place. Second, individual learning. Third, students have choices in determining how they learn. Four, project-based learning. Five, field experience. Six, data interpretation. Seven, multiple assessments. Eight, student involvement. Lastly, mentoring. Blended Learning is a learning method used in the independent learning education system. Blended learning is also concluded from various research in response to learning systems and methods in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0.

Applying the concept of an active, innovative, and comfortable way of learning must be able to realize students according to the needs of the era or industrial era 4.0. In order to achieve the goals of education, namely to create students or learners who think critically and solve problems, are creative and innovate, are skilled at communicating and collaborating, and have character. Therefore, the plan for implementing learning activities must be able to pass through challenges and take advantage of educational opportunities in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. Teachers are the key to the success of the education system, therefore teachers must be able to adapt to the new education system in order to have competence and skills.

Strengthening new literacy in teachers is the key to change, including revitalizing literacy-based curricula and strengthening the role of teachers with digital competencies. So the Blended Learning method is ideal as a learning method in the independent learning education system. Because between the mastery of new literacy competencies, the teaching system must continue to build character by combining conventional teaching methods, such as face-to-face or those offered by Ayik Wulandari, Putri Handayani, and Dody Rahayu Prasetyo (2019), namely the Education Mini Club (EMC) method. in response to the monotonous learning process.

Blended Learning is basically a combination of the advantages of learning that is done face-to-face and virtually (Sevima.com: 2018). Blended learning is an ease of learning that combines various ways of delivery, teaching models, and learning styles, introducing various choices of dialogue media between teachers and students or students. Blended learning is also a combination of face-to-face teaching and online teaching, but more than that as an element of social interaction. Blended learning is learning that is supported by an effective combination of ways of delivery, different ways of teaching and learning styles and is found in open communication between all parts involved in education. As for the benefits of using blended learning as a combination of direct (face-to-face) teaching and online teaching, and as an element of social interaction, namely: (1) the interaction between teachers and students; (2) teaching can also be online or face to face (Sevima.com: 2018).

The benefit of using e-learning and blended learning in today's education world is that e-learning provides flexibility in choosing the time and place to access learning material. Teachers and students in the implementation of teaching later do not need to travel to school, e-learning can be done from anywhere, whether they have access to the Internet or not. E-learning provides opportunities for teachers and students to independently take control of the success of educational goals. Students are free to decide when to start, when to finish, and which part of the module they want to study first. If, after being repeated there are still things that they do not understand, the learner can contact the teacher via email, chat or participate in interactive dialogue at certain times. You can also read the results of lessons on the message board available on the LMS (Learning Management System) which will be created in the e-learning system.

So the Blended Learning method will accelerate the occurrence of social and cultural changes in the education system. Because this learning method will meet the needs of teaching in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. In the Blended Learning method of educational transformation, where there is acceptance of



new ways or an improvement in the way a society meets the needs in the world of education. Such as teachers can play a role in building a generation of competence, character, new literacy abilities, and higher order thinking skills. In a free way to innovate with students, and be more comfortable in life's attitude, actions, decisions, and approaches to all kinds of knowledge based on joy.

Including free and independent in using all learning media. Both print media, namely; books, modules, worksheets. As well as electronic media, namely; video, audio, multimedia presentations and can also use online or online content. The learning media fulfills the educational trend in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0 mentioned by Peter Fisk. Then the acceleration of completing the main competencies in learning, namely new literacy can be fulfilled immediately. In the Blended Learning method, it can still build character education. This means in addition to realizing students or learners who are able to think critically or solve problems, be creative and innovative, can communicate and collaborate, and have character.

## CONCLUSIONS

The development of independent learning education in the study of learning methods, namely the system and its teaching must meet the trends in education in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. In the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0, the main need to be achieved in the education system or more specifically in learning methods, namely students or students, namely mastery of new literacy. The new literacy, namely. First, data literacy. Second, technological literacy. Finally, human literacy. The learning system or method in independent learning education has the same target. If students can master this new literacy, they will become qualified and superior human resources in building Indonesia's future. However, apart from new literacy, the free learning education system continues to develop character in students, such as honesty, religion, hard work, diligence, responsibility, fairness, discipline, tolerance, and others.

The goal is of course to achieve educational goals, namely to create students who think critically and solve problems, are creative and innovate, are skilled at communicating and collaborating, and have character. Therefore, the plan for implementing learning activities must be able to pass through challenges and take advantage of educational opportunities in the era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. Educators are the key to the success of the independent learning education system, therefore educators must be able to adapt to the new education system in order to have competence and skills. Strengthening new literacy in teachers is the key to change, including revitalizing literacy-based curricula and strengthening the role of teachers with digital competencies. Then the Blended Learning method.

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