

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Education is essentially a conscious, regular, and systematic effort, which is carried out to foster humans to become adults or reach a higher level of life or life in a mental sense (UU No. 20 of 2003 concerning SISDIKNAS). Education plays a role as assistance given to children in their physical and spiritual growth to reach the adult level and takes place in a place called an educational institution. This institution is an agency or organization that is tasked with systematically organizing in the field of education. The purpose of education is to be a guide in determining educational content, educational methods, educational tools and benchmarks in order to evaluate educational outcomes.

One of the school concepts being developed in Indonesia that is different from formal schools in contrast to the norm, the natural school founded by Lendo Novo. This school uses the natural surroundings as a medium of learning and prioritizes a fun learning experience. Students at this school are invited to interact directly with the natural surroundings and be brought closer to nature through the atmosphere and facilities that are deliberately designed to foster children's natural intelligence. Examples of activities that support learning in natural schools include: playing outbound, farming, raising livestock, playing football, and drawing.

According Perdana and Wahyudi (2004: 22) The natural school is one of the educational models that seeks to develop natural education, such as learning from all creatures in this universe. Furthermore, the natural school is an alternative form of education that uses nature as media, locations, and the primary object of learning. Natural School arose from dissatisfaction with the existing educational system. The natural school was formed to realize the

dream of a dream school, namely a superior school that does not drain the pocket, a school that teaches life lessons instead of pursuing grades, a school that produces leaders who do not create unemployment, and also a school that is fun and not restrictive. School of Nature is an educational model that seeks to adapt what has been proven by the Prophet Muhammad in his time to the present. Schools of Nature are developed to build basic abilities in children that make them proactive and adaptive to environmental changes.

Sasmita Edukasi Blora was established in 2018 and is under the auspices of the Suroya Education Foundation. This school is a pioneer of PAUD *Sasmita Edukasi* with the organizing organization Suroya Edukasi Foundation. The establishment of this school is based on the needs of the community who want the existence of similar secondary schools such as PAUD and TK Sasmita Edukasi. The land used to build the Sasmita Edukasi Elementary School is owned by Mr Edi Purwanto, so the buildings built are still permanent. Based on the decision letter of the Suroya Edukasi Foundation No.027/X/SK.420/1696/2018, a team of drafters for Suroya Edukasi was formed to realize the concept of establishing SD Sasmita Edukasi.

SD Sasmita Edukasi has different aspects of learning, facilities and interiors from formal schools in general. Learning that is carried out is mostly done outside the classroom or can be known as learning while practicing it directly. In addition, on several occasions the school also brought in certain agencies such as the Fire Department, Local Police and many more. This is certainly a new color for students where they get a fun way of learning at the same time the school can also achieve extraordinary learning outcomes.

The available facilities illustrate the concept of a natural school, which is used mainly for land, buildings, and building equipment. While the school buildings are the same as schools in general, there are several facilities which are not found in SD Sasmita Edukasi. There are several things that become obstacles in the implementation of this natural school, namely when children

study outside, the room cannot predict changes in the weather and the infrastructure used when studying outside is incomplete, but all of that can be managed and does not reduce students' enthusiasm for learning. Based on the above background, the authors are interested in studying more deeply the "The Implementation of the Natural School Concept at SD Sasmita Edukasi Blora", which is applied to aspects of learning, facilities, and the impact given to students.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the above background, the researcher formulates the problem statements as follows :

1. How was the implementation of the concept of a natural school at SD Sasmita Edukasi Blora in terms of learning activities?
2. What is the impact of applying the concept of a natural school on students at SD Sasmita Edukasi Blora?

C. Objective of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the researcher chooses the desired goal achieved in this research as follows:

1. To find out how the implementation of the concept of a natural school at SD Sasmita Edukasi, and
2. To find out how the impact is given to students through the concept of a natural school at SD Sasmita Edukasi.

D. Significance of the Study

The benefit of this study is separated into theorithical and practical significance:

1. Theoretical Significance

The results of this study are expected to be useful for providing contribution of knowledge about the concept of a natural school, especially in education and increase knowledge and understanding of the concept of a natural school with an explanation of aspects of facilities, infrastructure and learning related to the curriculum and learning methods applied at SD Sasmita Edukasi Blora.

2. Practical Significance

a. For institutions

The concept of a natural school can be a reference for a school concept that uses nature as a medium of learning and as material for consideration in developing a fun school concept.

b. For schools

This research can be used to improve existing facilities and infrastructure to support the ongoing teaching and learning process at SD Sasmita Edukasi and to further maximize the concept of the Natural School.

c. For students

This research can be used as a reference in enriching knowledge and insight about the concept of a natural school for students majoring in English Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta as a prospective educator.

E. Limitation

Based on the above background, this research focuses on the research problem of how the concept of a natural school at SD Sasmita Edukasi Blora is viewed from the learning activities.