

SETS-BASED GUIDED EXPERIMENT BOOK: EMPOWERING SCIENCE PROCESS SKILLS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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ABSTRACT

In this 21st-century, students are expected to have current competencies in which one of them is science process skills. The aim of this research was to empower science process skills through the SETS-based guided experiment book. This Posttest Only Control Group Design study involved 50 students of fifth grade which divided into two groups i.e. 25 students as the experimental group and 25 students as the control group. The activities were carried out for three months outside of school. The empowerment of science process skills was measured from the increasing scores before and after the implementation of the SETS Guided Experiment Book. The results showed that there was a significant different between experimental group and control group as the significancy value was 0.000 (sig. < 0.05). This means that the SETS-based guided experiment book can empower Science process skill of elementary school students.

Keywords: *Guided experiment book, SETS, science process skill*

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INTRODUCTION

The proliferation of scientific knowledge has been enabling learners to improve their competences in understanding the problems faced by modern society which highly dependent on technology (Kalolo, 2014). Along with the domination of globalization in almost all aspects; economics, politics, social life, culture values transfer, as well as education; this era been bringing challenges for nowadays generations to deal with it (Goryakin, Lobstein, James, & Suhrcke, 2015; Jonnalagedda, 2011). Thus, in turn, bears a certain context for school curriculums in general as significant as science learning (Blankenburg, Höffler, & Parchmann, 2016; Durib, 2014; Martín, Pozo, Mateos, Martín, & del Puy Pérez Echeverria, 2014). Consequently, schools and the all attributes are 'forced' to be ready to provide the most proper education circumstances which enable the learners to optimize their higher order thinking skills to face complex issues surround them (Husamah, Fatmawati, & Setyawan, 2018).

In 2015, PISA (Programme for International Student Assessment) reported that Indonesian science literacy did not meet satisfactory results. Indonesian students has been considered

to have low understanding of basic concept. It was found that more than 50% of the students (61.6%) had very limited scientific knowledge (below level 1). While the remaining percentage was divided into level 2 (able to do simple research), level 3 (able to identify scientific problems), level 4 (are able to utilize science for life), and level 5 i.e. 27.5%, 9.5%, and 1.4% respectively. The worst condition was there was no student mastering in the fifth and sixth levels.

Scientific literacy empowerment can be done through the process of learning skills (Holbrook & Rannikmae, 2009). The process of learning skills is directed to set formation of the Science Process Skills (SPS) i.e. performance skill. SPS contains of two aspects namely cognitive skill as the basic knowledge in mastering SPS and skills of sensorimotor. SPS is the key point of the scientific literacy development through an applied process (Prasasti, 2017). Scientific literacy means being able to apply the concepts, obtained in school, to the natural phenomena occur in everyday life (Chiappetta & Koballa, 2010; Hobson, 2012).

The nature of learning science is not enough to merely remember and understand the concepts discovered by scientists. However, the

most important point is the habituation of the scientists behavior in finding the concepts that are carried out through experiments/practicum and scientific researches. Ergul et al. (2011) stated that the process of concepts discovery involves fundamental skills through scientific experiments can be carried out and improved through practical activities in the laboratory. The main purpose of the practicum is to train students to work according to scientific procedures in order to obtain scientific knowledge, skills and values.

Practicum activities or experiments become mandatory in teaching science (Dimopoulos, Paraskevopoulos, & Pantis, 2009), with this activity, students are expected to be: 1) able to learn science through direct observation of symptoms and scientific processes 2) able to practice scientific thinking skills, 3) able to instill and develop scientific attitudes, 4) able to find and solve new problems through scientific methods and so forth. The results of the survey and need analysis in the field conducted in 12 primary schools in Madiun City showed that the average of learning outcomes was of 7.26; meanwhile, the learning process carried out by teachers was 78% led to minds-on learning and only 22% led to hands-on data routines. The experimental activities in science learning were carried out one to three times in each semester. Ideally, the experimental activities carried out on each Basic Competence (or *Kompetensi Dasar/KD*) which are adjusted to the characteristics of the learning material.

The other survey results related to student interest in practical activities were inversely proportional to 210 elementary school students, almost 95% liked practicum activities and were very enthusiastic about the activity. This shows the gap which needs to be examined if the student interest in practical activities is very good. One of the vital practical facility is a practicum guide (Bigbee, Curtiss, Litwin, & Harkin, 2010). The practical guide aims to help and guide students' activities so that they can work in a directed manner and as a reference for the stages of practical work for students as well as for the teachers. Besides that, guided experiment helps students to understand the practicum materials.

One of the alternative approach aimed to cultivate students' understanding is SETS (Science, Environment, Technology, and Society). This approach integrates science and technology by considering human and

environmental system in teaching and learning process. Thus, the students' learning outcome resulted by this approach is expected to be able to develop themselves as an individual and as a part of society.

The results of the feasibility of SETS-based guided experiments book products were carried out through the initial field testing phase, which included a series of expert and practitioner validation tests consisting of expert presentation of learning books, validation of science experts, and expert validation in term of its readability.

SETS-based guided experiment book approach is expected to have a positive impact. According to Yörük, Morgil, and Seçken (2010), the experimental guide book is addressed for some goals: (1) students are accustomed to having a comprehensive mindset in viewing science that is integrated with the environment, technology, and society; (2) SETS will inform students that technology affects the science growth rate, as well as its impact on the environment and society; (3) students are expected to be able to unite the concepts of science that are found through the activities of science process skills, namely practicum activities, and apply the concept based on the environment and technology so that it can be widely used by the community.

METHOD

This research was conducted at *Sekolah Dasar Negeri* (SDN) or State Elementary School (SES) 01 of Manisrejo, Madiun, at the East Java Province, Academic Year 2018-2019. The research design used was Posttest Only Control Group Design. It was comprised of two groups: the experimental group, which was treated with the use of SETS-based guided experiment book, and the control group, which was treated with the lecture and discussion methods. The population in the study were all elementary school students in grade V SES at the Madiun, Academic Year 2018-2019 with 106 students. The sampling technique was cluster random sampling. As many as 25 students of class VA were the Control Group (CG) and 25 students of class VB as the Experiment Group (EG).

Data collection techniques used were test, documentation, observation, interview and questionnaire. The data were obtained from the results of scientific literacy and students' cognitive learning outcome. Meanwhile, the

documentation was obtained from preliminary studies, needs analysis and at the time of the research activities, the observation was used for needs analysis and field-testing addition, the interview and questionnaire were used at the time of needs analysis. The data obtained was analyzed using independent sample t-test, which was aided using SPSS 21 with the significance level of 5%.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the SETS-based guided experiment book approach in empowering SPS can be seen in Table 1. Based on the results (Table 1), it can be seen that the CG has a lower mean value on the posttest result (73.72) compared to EG (81.72). This, generally, proves that the use of the book developed has given positive trend in students' understanding in which marked by the score they achieved. Even though it still need to be tested by using t test to determine whether the improvement is significant or not.

Table 1. SPS description data

Statistic	CG		EG	
	Pretest	Posttest	Pretest	Posttest
Mean	60.56	73.72	61.26	81.72
SD	10.266	8.860	11.231	6.64
Variance	105.39	103.50	101.21	82.50
Minimum	52.00	56.00	56.00	74.00
Maximum	80.00	80.00	82.00	98.00
Median	60.00	72.00	62.00	85.00
N	25	25	25	25

The results (Table 2) show that there was a significant difference between Class A and Class B. The test used was t-test for two independent groups, namely class A and class B. The results showed that the significance value was 0.000. In the other words, there was a significance different of SPS between students who were taught by using SETS-based guided experiment book they who were taught without the book mentioned (CG).

Table 2. SPS test analysis results

		t-test for Equality of Means						
		95% Confidence Interval of the Difference						
		t	Df	Sig. (2-tailed)	Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	Lower	Upper
Prestasi	Equal variances assumed	-3.121	82	.000	-8.405	2.614	-6.605	3.795
	Equal variances not assumed	-3.121	81.963	.000	-8.405	2.614	-6.605	3.795

The highest achievement obtained from the application of SETS-based guided experiment book was that it has provided training for students to experiencing scientific process. The book helped the students in emphasizing the application of science so that the students' interests in science were explored. Moreover, the concept application encompassed by students helps them to work in scientific method frame, which means that their scientific literacy were also improved in the same time.

Septiani and Rustaman (2017) stated that the aspects covered by SPS are observing, interpreting, classifying, predicting, formulating problems, making hypothesis, asking questions, planning experiments, using tools and materials, communicating the results of the experiment and applying the concept. Some of these aspects become the indicators, which were used as references in constructing questions in SPS tests. The main SPS test contains a number of information, which can be in form of table or the students must process

graphs. This type of question guides the students to think systematically and held their endeavour to analyse as serious as to interpret the data served and making conclusion in the right manner.

In the other words, SPS is developed through practicum activities. Practicum is one of the best means for developing SPS, because in practicum students are trained to develop all of their senses. Ergul et al. (2011) found that inquiry-based teaching plays its role as an enhancer for students' science process skills. Learning science requires experimental activities, which led students to have the better understanding about the concepts they are learning. This activity enables the students to share their ideas with the class members during discussion process as possible as to fulfil the gaps may arise. Thus, they will also learn to build a productive networking with their friends as well as create a good competition circumstances, which plays as enhancer to optimize the all potentials they have.

The investigation process as part of SETS stages which related to SPS is considered an open process which let students have their own questions and seek the answers themselves (Durmaz & Mutlu, 2017; Özgelen, 2012). Gradually, student groups communicate more effectively and enhance their ability to reason and solve task-based problems together (Ismaili, 2000; J. Brame & Biel, 2015; O'Daniel & Rosenstein, 2008).

Learning directs students to deal with problems that need to be tested through experimental activities. Trained students think like scientists benefits them to sharpen their skills in determining concepts through systematic activities such as formulating problems, hypothesizing, designing experiments, implementing the design they made in lab, and trying to be able to communicate their research results as the solution for the problems found. The learning activities will naturally lead students to be more accustomed and skilled in science processing so that SPS has optimized students' score in experimental class compare to the control class. Thus, elarning process will be more effective (Artayasa, Susilo, Lestari, & Indriwati, 2017). By aided with the use of SETS-based guided experiments book, students were invited to be more active in developing hands on activities as considerable as optimize their thinking skills in utilizing tools and materials.

By considering many aspects must be integrated in SETS, the teachers are also required to have a good comprehension of the approach. They must possess broaden and deep knowledge so that they will be able to decide the way to bridging many concepts in term of science, environment, technology, and society. The better the understanding possessed by teachers, the more creative and innovative teaching method served in the classroom (Fiksl, Flogie, & Aberšek, 2017) as well as in conducting the assessment used such as performance assessment (Septiani & Rustaman, 2017) to measure the students' achievement. As the students are educated to be care to their environment, to have a high ability in sensing the environmental phenomena is a must for teachers. Thus, teachers and students have the same beliefs that science and technology contribute in the environment changes (Hoferichter, Raufelder, & Eid, 2015; Oscarsson, Jidesjö, Strömdahl, & Karlsson, 2012).

In addition, the proliferation of technology advancement must also be mastered by teachers (Brooks-Young, 2007) to serve the students' well as well as managing the learning activities (Pukdeewut, Chantarasombat, & Satapornwong, 2013). Therefore, teachers must be active in gaining the most up-to-date knowledge not only in their core science field, but also in technology utilization.

Moreover, to implement SETS approach in teaching and learning, the school must also facilitate the program. The school system must be set as compatible as possible to support learning process as the approach obligs adequate facilities and time. The necessity of technology can be presented in form of computerization, internet access, and so forth.

In addition, a good environment can be formed in gardening, a small green house, and so on. It can be more interesting as the school environment is designed to meet SETS application such as the digitalization of the all database of sources related to the all species planted in school garden. Thus, not only the do the teachers can access the materials, but the students as well as school's gardeners are able to access it. This will make the learning environment more interesting which, in turn, motivates the students to be engaged in learning through enunciating the stimulating surrounding around them.

CONCLUSION

The results of this study showed that there was a significant difference between SPS in CG and EG. The average yield obtained by IG shows an increase. In contrast, there was no significant changes between pretest and posttest scores of CG. This proves that the use of SETS-based experimental guide book is effective in empowering SPS.

It is suggested that before using the SETS-based guided experiment book, the teacher must have a good understanding of the book and look for references about the implementation of the SETS model so that learning can be effectively conducted.

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