

Analysis of Educational Problems in Indonesia from the perspective of literary studies

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Abstract: *Education is the primary foundation for human resource development in Indonesia. However, to date, various problems remain obstacles to achieving equitable and globally competitive quality education. This study aims to analyze four key issues in the Indonesian education system: low literacy rates, unequal distribution of educational facilities, environmental influences on learning motivation, and the impact of the development of artificial intelligence (AI) on students' mindsets. The objective of this study is to identify the main factors influencing the quality of education in Indonesia. The research method used is a literature review with a qualitative descriptive approach, through analysis of various academic sources and educational institution reports. The study results indicate that low literacy is caused by low interest in reading and a lack of access to quality reading materials. Inequality in educational facilities arises from economic and geographical differences between regions. Meanwhile, the social environment has been shown to play a significant role in shaping students' learning motivation. Furthermore, the advent of AI-based technology has a dual impact: on the one hand, it increases learning efficiency, but on the other hand, it has the potential to reduce critical thinking skills if not balanced with supervision and guidance. By comprehensively understanding these four aspects, it is hoped that the government and educational institutions can formulate more adaptive and sustainable policies to improve the quality of national education.*

Keywords: *Indonesian education, literacy, educational facilities, artificial intelligence (AI), student mindset.*

Abstrak: Pendidikan merupakan fondasi utama dalam pembangunan sumber daya manusia di Indonesia. Namun, hingga saat ini, berbagai permasalahan masih menjadi penghambat tercapainya mutu pendidikan yang merata dan berdaya saing global. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis empat permasalahan utama dalam sistem pendidikan Indonesia, yaitu rendahnya tingkat literasi, ketidakmerataan fasilitas pendidikan, pengaruh lingkungan terhadap motivasi belajar, serta dampak perkembangan kecerdasan buatan (AI) terhadap pola pikir siswa. Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor utama yang memengaruhi kualitas pendidikan di Indonesia. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah studi literatur dengan pendekatan deskriptif kualitatif, melalui analisis berbagai sumber akademik, dan laporan lembaga pendidikan. Hasil kajian menunjukkan bahwa rendahnya literasi disebabkan oleh rendahnya minat baca dan kurangnya akses terhadap bahan bacaan berkualitas. Ketimpangan fasilitas pendidikan muncul akibat perbedaan ekonomi dan geografis antarwilayah. Sementara itu, lingkungan sosial terbukti memiliki peran besar dalam membentuk motivasi belajar siswa. Selain itu, hadirnya teknologi berbasis AI membawa dampak ganda: di satu sisi meningkatkan efisiensi belajar, namun di sisi lain berpotensi menurunkan kemampuan berpikir kritis jika tidak diimbangi

dengan pengawasan dan bimbingan. Dengan memahami keempat aspek tersebut secara komprehensif, diharapkan pemerintah dan lembaga pendidikan dapat merumuskan kebijakan yang lebih adaptif dan berkelanjutan untuk meningkatkan kualitas pendidikan nasional.

Kata Kunci: pendidikan Indonesia, literasi, fasilitas pendidikan, kecerdasan buatan (AI), pola pikir siswa.

Introduction

Education is a crucial field and will significantly impact the welfare of the Indonesian nation. (Nurchotimah 2021:14). In Indonesia, education plays a strategic role in creating a superior, intelligent, productive, and qualified society and generation. However, the quality of education in Indonesia still faces several serious challenges. Based on the results of the 2022 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), only around 25% of Indonesian students achieved a reading literacy level of at least Level 2, far below the OECD average of 74% (OECD, 2023:3). This condition aligns with the 2023 National Assessment report, which noted that most educational units still fall below the minimum literacy standard (Kemendikbudristek, 2023:12). Literacy is a crucial activity to implement from an early age, particularly in education, as literacy at the elementary school level can improve reading skills. (Sholihah, Wardatussa'idah, & Yudha 2025: 1).

Efforts to improve the quality of education are inseparable from various factors. In some regions, school facilities and infrastructure are still inadequate, preventing students from achieving an optimal learning experience. Limited classroom space, a lack of learning equipment, and inadequate supporting facilities often hinder the learning process. This aligns with Kurniawati's (2022) findings: "Many students cannot fully utilize school facilities due to inadequate facilities and infrastructure" (page 8). This situation demonstrates that schools, as formal educational institutions, still require significant improvements to become safe, comfortable, and effective learning environments for all students.

However, the quality of student learning is not solely determined by school conditions. The family environment, as a child's first learning environment, also plays a significant role in determining their motivation and attitudes toward education. As Yusak Ratunguri (2022) explains, "The family, as the primary environment, makes a significant contribution to motivating children to learn" (page 13). The study results show that a conducive school environment has a positive influence on student achievement.

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) in education has a significant impact on students' mindsets and learning habits. On the one hand, AI can help accelerate material comprehension and provide a more interactive learning experience. However, on the other hand, this technology also poses certain risks to how students process information and make decisions. This is reinforced by findings in the journal *Empathy* by Nathasya Easter Sinaga (2024), who stated that

"AI has limitations such as low flexibility, risks of misuse and excessive dependency, and privacy risks."

This statement suggests that the use of AI without guidance can cause students to become overly dependent on instant answers, thus reducing critical thinking skills, creativity, and independence in learning. Therefore, the use of AI in education needs to be directed wisely so that it can provide benefits, rather than fostering passive and less reflective mindsets in students.

Research Method

This research method uses a qualitative approach using literature study techniques. Literature study is a research method conducted by collecting books, magazines, and other relevant sources to serve as a theoretical basis for the research (Danial & Warsiah, 2009: 67). The literature study process is intended to gain a comprehensive understanding of the issues being studied, including conceptual definitions, causal factors, and a description of the actual conditions in each topic discussed. In this study, the researcher focused on four main issues: low literacy rates, limited educational facilities and infrastructure, the influence of the environment on student learning motivation, and the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology on student mindsets. All collected literature was systematically analyzed to compile a structured description of educational problems in Indonesia.

Results and Discussion

Low Literacy in Indonesia

According to the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, a nation with a high literacy culture is reflected in its ability to collaborate, think critically, creatively, and communicate effectively in order to compete globally (Kemendikbud, 2022). This means that a literate nation plays a crucial role in advancing a country. Therefore, a nation with a high level of civilization and a willingness to actively participate in advancing its country is needed.

Inadequate Facilities and Infrastructure

As a developing country, Indonesia still needs much to be developed and improved, including improvements to educational facilities and infrastructure. To date, it is still common to find schools in certain regions with inadequate, or even nonexistent, facilities. The problem of low-quality educational facilities and infrastructure can be caused by various factors, such as delayed funding distribution, misuse of school funds, poor maintenance of facilities and infrastructure, indifference from school oversight, and other factors (Agustang, Mutiara, and Asrifan 2021).

The Impact of AI on Mindset

The application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in education in Indonesia has great potential to improve the quality of learning through personalized materials, efficient evaluation, and data-driven management. However, challenges such as the digital divide, low technological literacy, and ethical and data privacy issues hinder optimal implementation (Harmilawati et al., 2024). Passive and instant use of AI, such as simply copying answers without understanding the context or conducting in-depth analysis, actually risks diminishing critical thinking skills. Students who rely on AI as a substitute for thinking processes miss out on the opportunity to develop interpretation, evaluation, and synthesis skills essential to academic learning (Muhammad Aryo Ramadhan, 2025).

Environmental Influence on Learning Motivation

According to Kurniawan, the determining factors for the success of an education system can also be influenced by the students, the role of the teacher, economic conditions, facilities and infrastructure, the environment, and many other factors. According to Arfani, this view implies that education encompasses all life situations that can influence human growth as a learning experience that occurs in all environmental conditions throughout life (Fitria Nur Auliah Kurniawati, 2022). Because the family is the smallest unit where the majority of time is spent, the family environment has a significant responsibility to students to continuously motivate them to learn (Yusak Ratunguri, 2022).

Conclusion

Based on the analysis of the various literature and data presented, it can be concluded that education issues in Indonesia are complex issues involving various interrelated aspects. Low literacy rates indicate that students' ability to read, understand, and process information remains below national and international standards, influenced by a low reading culture and limited access to quality reading materials. The disparity in educational facilities between developed and underdeveloped regions further widens the gap in learning quality, primarily due to a lack of supervision, unequal budget distribution, and poor management of infrastructure.

Furthermore, the learning environment, both family and community, has a significant influence on students' motivation to learn. An unsupportive family environment tends to diminish children's interest and enthusiasm for learning, while a positive environment encourages the development of student motivation and achievement. On the other hand, technological developments, particularly Artificial Intelligence (AI), bring both opportunities and challenges. AI can improve learning efficiency, but passive use without guidance can diminish critical thinking skills and increase dependency.

Therefore, improving the quality of Indonesian education requires comprehensive measures, starting with strengthening a culture of literacy, equitable

distribution of facilities, involving families and communities as key supporters, and the targeted and supervised implementation of AI. Collaboration between the government, schools, families, and the community is key to realizing a quality, adaptive, and sustainable education system.

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