

## ANALYSIS OF THE IMPACT OF THE MONTESSORI MODEL IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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### Abstract

*Success in teaching and learning activities cannot be separated from the contribution of educators in determining models and methods that are appropriate to the needs of children. The Montessori model is a child-centered learning model. This study aims to examine the steps taken by the author in analyzing the Impact of the Montessori method in learning in early childhood. The author uses a research method in the form of literature studies. The Montessori model is designed to create independence in children. Children are given the opportunity to explore with several activities then children are free to choose those that have been prepared by the educator. The Montessori model has a significant positive impact, especially the attitude of independence and responsibility in children. The negative impact of the Montessori model is its high cost and for APE in supporting its learning is also relatively expensive.*

**Keywords:** *Montessori model; impact analysis; early childhood of education.*

### Abstrak

Keberhasilan dalam kegiatan belajar mengajar tidak terlepas dari kontribusi pendidik dalam menentukan model maupun metode yang sesuai dengan kebutuhan anak. Model montessori merupakan model pembelajaran yang berpusat pada anak. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji langkah-langkah yang diambil oleh penulis dalam menganalisis Dampak dari metode montessori dalam pembelajaran pada anak usia dini. Penulis menggunakan metode penelitian berupa studi literatur. Model montessori dirancang untuk menciptakan kemandirian pada anak. Anak diberikan kesempatan untuk bereksplorasi dengan beberapa kegiatan kemudian anak dibebaskan untuk memilih yang sudah disiapkan oleh pendidik. Model montessori memberikan dampak positif yang signifikan terutama sikap kemandirian dan bertanggung jawab pada anak. Dampak negatif dari model montessori adalah biayanya yang tinggi dan untuk APE dalam menunjang pembelajarannya juga terbilang mahal.

**Kata Kunci:** model montessori; analisis dampak; pendidikan anak usia dini.

## INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education is the first foundation for a child's formal educational journey. Childhood, often referred to as the golden age, is a very important time to provide a good education from an early age. Awareness of the importance of education in early childhood can be realized through the implementation of PAUD as a form of effort to support the progress of children's

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education in the future (Nurachadijat & Selvia, 2023). Children must receive education that includes their physical and spiritual growth and development. This is in line with (Patria & Zulkarnaen, 2023) that There are six developments in early childhood education that must be the main focus in the growth process, namely: 1. Motor Skills; 2. Cognitive Development; 3. Social-emotional Aspects; 4. Moral Values and religious understanding; 5. Language skills (Linguistics); and 6. Expression and creativity in art (Artistics). All areas of child development must be developed according to their age of growth and development. This development is explained in Law Number 20 of 2003 (Anjani & Mashudi, 2024) concerning the National Education System, there are three educational pathways, namely the formal pathway (such as TK and RA), non-formal pathways (such as KB, TPA, and SPS), and informal pathways that take place within the family environment.

Early childhood learning is essentially game-based learning designed to meet the developmental tasks and potential of children, enabling them to achieve competencies appropriate to their developmental stage (Lailan, 2017). Effective early childhood education requires support from a conducive learning environment. In this context, teachers design learning with the goal of stimulating and optimally developing children's potential through an active, innovative, and enjoyable approach (Azainil, Susilowati, & Norizal, 2024). One factor that can achieve active, creative, and enjoyable learning is the implementation of an appropriate learning model (Angkur, Bora, Imbus, & Taran, 2023).

The success of a learning process is inseparable from the model implemented by the educator. A learning model is a design that describes an environment that supports children to interact actively in the learning process (Hijriati, 2017). The Montessori learning method is a learning model that provides opportunities to foster children's independence in learning, educators only act as facilitators by preparing materials and tools for child-centered learning (Nasution, 2017). Based on the background that has been explained, this paper is about the Analysis of the Impact of the Montessori Model in Early Childhood Education. With this paper, we hope that in implementing a learning model in schools, especially in early childhood education, it is necessary to understand the positive and negative impacts of a learning model. In connection with what we write, it is certainly necessary to understand the positive and negative impacts of the Montessori learning model.

## **METHOD**

This research was conducted using a qualitative literature study method that discusses the impact analysis of the Montessori model in early childhood education. To obtain conclusions about the benefits and challenges that arise from the implementation of the Montessori model in PAUD. The data obtained will be collected, verified, and analyzed. In the analysis process, the researcher used articles from national and international journals that are globally recognized and relevant to the research topic. In the initial search in the database, the author used the terms early childhood education, Montessori model, and the impact of the Montessori model. Of approximately 200 articles published between 2014 and 2024, 29 articles were selected, verified, and analyzed because they were considered relevant to the research problem, the analysis of the impact of the Montessori model in early childhood education.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Early Childhood Education**

Early childhood education is a development process aimed at children from birth to six years of age. This is implemented through educational stimulation that supports children's physical and mental growth and development, while preparing them for the next level of education (Saputra, 2018). In this regard, parents play a crucial role in providing education to children, while teachers are tasked with guiding their students well (Etivali & Alaika M, 2019). According to Ita Loka & Aan Listiana in their journal, early childhood education plays a crucial role in shaping children's character and independence. Independent children are able to manage themselves, make wise decisions, take responsibility for their actions, and possess good social skills (Loka & Listiana, 2023). The learning process in early childhood education is designed through play-based learning activities where children engage in play activities that contain learning values with the aim of stimulating aspects of child development (Handayani, 2020). Based on the above opinion, it can be understood that early childhood education plays a crucial role in supporting optimal child growth and development. In addition, the role of parents in providing appropriate and proper education from an early age is important.

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## **Model Montessori**

The Montessori learning model is a learning model based on the stages of child development during the sensitive period (Yusshinta, Maryani, & Rosidah, 2023). Maria Montessori, the founder of Montessori, sees children as active and creative individuals in learning and developing themselves. Each child is seen as a subject with unique potential and talents, so they need to be given the opportunity to explore their environment freely (Fatricea, 2013). This is in line with Sitti Anugrah Nur, Herman, and Rika Kurnia in their journal that Montessori education allows children to be active, explore, touch, and manipulate freely in the activity designs provided by educators (Anugrah Nur, Kurnia, & FIP Makassar State University, 2024). Several schools in Indonesia that apply the Montessori Model in their learning, namely: a. Padi Playhouse; b. Safa Islamic Preschool Yogyakarta; c. Budi Mulia Dua Islamic Montessori Kindergarten; d. Paud Kalyca Montessori School Yogyakarta (Farih, Fardana, & Surabaya, 2023).

The Montessori model is designed to foster children's interest in learning and develop their potential and abilities. Furthermore, the Montessori model creates a fun environment that allows children to explore and discover knowledge independently (Damayanti, 2019). Based on the statement above, it can be understood that the Montessori method is child-centered, where children regulate their own learning, and educators only monitor their learning.

## **Implementation of the Montessori Model in Early Childhood Education**

The application of Montessori learning emphasizes the importance of children's freedom in learning through a child-centered approach, where the environment and materials are designed to support the development of children's independence, responsibility, and initiative (Azhari et al., 2024). This method emphasizes learning with freedom as the forefront. This means freedom to choose activities and freedom to play so that children can grow and develop according to their own abilities (Fauziah, Nirwana, & Sukma, 2024). In line with Hainstock in (Indriasih, Widuroyekti, Haryati, & Sumaji, 2021), the Montessori model adopts an individualized approach, where children adjust their own learning using learning media that they can monitor and correct when they make mistakes. The Montessori learning model has five activities divided into five areas: life skills activities, sensory stimulation activities, language activities, mathematics activities, science and culture activities (Abad Badruzaman. Hosaini2, 2021).

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A study revealed that the implementation of the Montessori model can be done through Montessori games using buttons, pompom collections, blocks, and bottle caps. Montessori games are quite effective in improving children's logical thinking skills (Sumiati, 2024). In addition, other studies state that the use of ball and number media, more precisely media such as baskets containing letters and numbers and then baskets containing balls can make it easier for children with special needs to count the number of balls in counting materials. This is related to their developmental stage which requires children with special needs when learning to use objects because they cannot think abstractly, they must think concretely (Miftahul, Lestari, Aminie, & Ila, 2024).

The implementation of the Montessori model in a school requires an environment that supports individuals to develop optimally. The Montessori model has characteristics in its own learning environment, namely, it is recommended to have an open play area; and preferably equipped with a covered play area, to avoid rain; freedom of choice and freedom of movement, so that educators must give trust to children and not limit any of their activities; full personal responsibility, training responsibility to children but not free from educator supervision; use of real and interesting media; beautiful and harmonious, ornaments used in Montessori schools are simple and not excessive in decoration (Ismail et al., 2019). The success of the Montessori learning model is highly dependent on environmental support, collaboration between teachers and parents, and the availability of special tools (Muarifah Ngewa & Kamariah Hasis, 2020). Thus, the implementation of the Montessori model emphasizes the freedom of children to learn independently with an individual approach. Children are free to choose activities and correct their own mistakes, while educators act as observers.

### **Impact Analysis of the Montessori Model in Early Childhood Education**

The Montessori model, developed by Dr. Maria Montessori, emphasizes child-centered education. The advantage of this model lies in its flexible application to children from various backgrounds (Masyrofah, 2017). The Montessori model provides a new perspective for parents and educators in implementing the learning process for early childhood, enabling them to experience positive values and teachings from those around them (Afidah et al., 2022). Despite the advantages and benefits provided by the Montessori Model, there are several positive and negative impacts that can encourage educators to continuously evaluate and improve

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learning practices to provide more optimal and effective learning experiences for children.

### **The Positive Impact of the Montessori Model in Early Childhood Education**

The Montessori learning model has a positive impact, according to Yuni Cahnia and Muhammad Nofan Zulfahmi in their research that Montessori has a significant impact in a positive direction in early childhood education, especially in terms of independence, self-confidence, responsibility, discipline, and even on children's social skills (Cahnia & Zulfahmi, 2024). In line with Oktani Haloho, the Montessori Model provides learning opportunities and freedom for children to choose activities according to their interests, this fosters children's motivation to acquire new skills in children's learning experiences (Haloho, 2022). In addition, the Montessori Model has a positive impact on academic achievement, especially in the fields of mathematics and literacy (Mutmainna, Rizqi, Halim, & Astuti, 2024). The Montessori Model teaches children in life skills activities called Practical Life Montessori, by having a positive impact, namely being able to shape children's character well and good personalities are instilled in children's daily habits and have an impact on aspects of children's religious and moral values (Fadyah & Permanik, 2022).

Based on the above opinion, it can be understood that the Montessori Model has a positive impact on early childhood education, especially in learning. Children have the opportunity to choose the learning activities they want. Furthermore, children also have a fun learning experience while exploring new skills at school.

### **Negative Impacts of the Montessori Model in Early Childhood Education**

The Montessori model has weaknesses. These include a low teacher-to-student ratio, high costs for learning media and teacher training, and difficulties in assessing child development due to age differences within a class (Widiati, Suryani, Emiliana, Sari, & Hariyani, 2023). This is in line with Durrotun Mumtazah and Lailatu Rohmah's research, which states that the negative impacts of implementing Montessori include the need for Montessori Educational Play Equipment (APE) to be age-appropriate for children, and the high cost of Montessori Educational Play Equipment (APE), which results in suboptimal learning outcomes because each Montessori Educational Play Equipment (APE) is designed with varying levels of success and developmental milestones (Mumtazah & Romah, 2019).

## CONCLUSION

The Montessori learning model has had a significant impact on early childhood education, particularly in fostering independence, self-confidence, and responsibility. This approach positions children as active learners, empowered to choose activities aligned with their interests and abilities. However, implementing this model requires addressing several challenges, such as the high cost of learning tools and the need for an ideal teacher-student ratio. Therefore, it is crucial for educators and early childhood education administrators to consider these aspects to maximize the benefits of the Montessori approach in early childhood education.

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