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Workshop on Creating Report Cards for The Merdeka Curriculum

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Abstract

Changes in the education world, as a result of the development of science and technology, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, include the shift from the 2013 curriculum to the Merdeka curriculum. One notable difference is the assessment of students. Student learning outcomes are assessed using the Learning Achievement Criteria. Many components need to be assessed by teachers, requiring an application to simplify the creation of student report cards. One such application is Microsoft Excel. The method used in this community service activity is Participatory Action Research (PAR), which is a workshop. The goal is for teachers to learn to use Microsoft Excel to create report card applications for the Merdeka Curriculum. The workshop participants were 41 teachers from the MGMP (Subject Teacher Group) of SMP (Junior High School) in Barito Kuala. The training consisted of offline training on the development of mathematics learning media held at SMPN 2 Alalak, Barito Kuala, on Saturday, August 12, 2023, followed by online consultations through WhatsApp groups. A follow-up meeting was held via Zoom on September 29, 2023. The total number of participants was 41 teachers. At the end of the activity, an evaluation was conducted by distributing a questionnaire about the workshop implementation and collecting tasks related to the design of the report card application using Microsoft Excel. As a result of this activity, 30 out of 41 participants were able to create report card applications for the Merdeka curriculum.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the changes in the education sector in Indonesia, resulting from the advancement of science and technology, as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, is the change in the national education curriculum. The shift from the 2013 Curriculum to the Merdeka Curriculum was enacted through the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology's Decree No. 56 of 2022. This change was implemented as an effort to address learning loss, which refers to the crisis in learning and the decline in student competencies due to the cessation of face-to-face learning during the pandemic (Jojor & Sihotang, 2022; Pratycia et al., 2023; Qomariyah & Maghfiroh, 2022; Sikas et al., 2023; Suryana et al., 2023). There are three characteristics of the Merdeka Curriculum believed to help overcome learning loss during the pandemic: (1) Project-based learning to develop soft skills and character in line with the Pancasila student profile; (2) Learning

focused on essential content; and (3) Flexibility in curriculum implementation (Jojor & Sihotang, 2022).

Changes in the curriculum not only affect the learning process but also influence how teachers assess student learning outcomes. Changes in assessment are crucial because they measure the achievement of student learning outcomes. The analysis of differences between the 2013 Curriculum and the Merdeka Curriculum can be categorized into six aspects: basic framework, goals and competencies, curriculum structure, learning, assessment, and curriculum devices. In terms of assessment, the 2013 Curriculum divides assessment into attitude, knowledge, and skills. In contrast, the Merdeka Curriculum does not distinguish assessments in this way. While both curricula use authentic assessment, the Merdeka Curriculum prioritizes assessment focused on forming the Pancasila student profile (Pratycia et al., 2023).

Additionally, there is a difference in assessment between the 2013 and Merdeka Curriculum. The 2013 Curriculum measures student learning outcomes using each subject's minimum completeness criteria (KKM), whereas the Merdeka Curriculum no longer uses KKM. This change reflects the emphasis on formative assessment in the Merdeka Curriculum, where the achievement of learning outcomes is measured using the learning achievement criteria (*Kriteria Ketercapaian Tujuan Pembelajaran*- KKTP). The principle of KKTP is that each educational unit and educator uses a different learning goal flow and teaching module, so KKTP criteria are adjusted to the characteristics of the learning objectives, activities, and assessments. This difference in the characteristics of learning objectives requires KKTP to be created with descriptive criteria, rubrics, and value intervals. While in the 2013 Curriculum, a report card represents a final evaluation of student performance over a semester, in the Merdeka Curriculum, the term "report card" is replaced with "assessment," which includes both formative and summative assessments (Anggraena et al., 2022).

Given the formative assessment system in the Merdeka Curriculum, which accommodates different characteristics of learning objectives tailored to student differences, an application is needed to help teachers create student report cards. One application that can be used is Microsoft Excel. Studies have shown that Microsoft Excel simplifies the creation of report cards and that training is necessary for its use (Mahfudin et al., 2022; Sagita et al., 2022). Additionally, guidance on using Microsoft Excel has been provided for teachers at various educational levels, including elementary, junior high, and senior high schools (Mada et al., 2022; Oktadini et al., 2022; Sagita et al., 2022; Yusfrizal et al., 2022).

Interviews with the Mathematics Subject Teacher Group (MGMP) chairman for junior high schools in Barito Kuala revealed that some teachers were still not using applications to manage Merdeka Curriculum report cards. However, research shows that using Microsoft Excel for grading makes the assessment process more manageable, more effective, and more efficient (Oktadini et al., 2022; Sagita et al., 2022). In the 21st century, the use of technology has been rapidly growing. According to Febrialismanto (Marlina et al., 2023), one measure of the usefulness of technology in society is its ability to support daily activities through technology-based methods and media.

Based on the above explanation, the community service team will guide junior high school teachers in Barito Kuala through the MGMP Mathematics SMP Barito Kuala to create an application using Microsoft Excel to assist teachers in preparing report cards for processing student assessments in the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum in schools.

Based on the situation analysis, it is concluded that the partner's issue is the lack of an application that can accommodate students' varying assessment levels. Therefore, a

workshop on creating Merdeka Curriculum report cards for junior high school teachers in Barito Kuala Regency is needed.

METHODS

The community service activity was a workshop on creating report cards for the Merdeka curriculum for junior high school teachers in Barito Kuala Regency, held from Saturday, August 12, 2023, to November 6, 2023. The workshop was conducted in two sessions: one offline session for material delivery and one online session for presenting the results of the workshop and evaluation. During offline and online sessions, participants were allowed to ask questions or request guidance through a WhatsApp group.

The first training session was held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 09:00 to 14:00 WITA at the hall of SMPN 2 Alalak, Barito Kuala. Forty-one participants, mathematics teachers from junior high schools in Barito Kuala and members of the MGMP (Subject Teacher Group) for SMP Mathematics in Barito Kuala, attended the event. The second session was held online via Zoom on September 29, 2023.

The activity evaluation was conducted online, with the survey available until November 6, 2023. A questionnaire was distributed to measure the implementation of the workshop, which included aspects of the material presented and the workshop's atmosphere. The Google Form questionnaire also included a link for participants to submit their tasks, which consisted of a Merdeka curriculum report card application in Microsoft Excel format. The success of this activity was measured by whether the participants responded positively and whether at least 50% of participants completed their task of creating a report card application for the Merdeka curriculum using Microsoft Excel.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The community service activity conducted by the service team took the form of a workshop on creating report cards for the Merdeka curriculum for junior high school teachers in Barito Kuala Regency. This training occurred from Saturday, August 12, 2023, to November 6, 2023.

The activities included (1) providing material to junior high school teachers in Barito Kuala about how to create a Microsoft Excel application for Merdeka curriculum report cards, (2) guidance sessions, (3) presenting the results of the workshop in the form of a report card application using Microsoft Excel by a representative of the participants; and (4) evaluation.

The first training session was held on Saturday, August 12, 2023, from 09:00 to 14:00 WITA at the hall of SMPN 2 Alalak, Barito Kuala. Forty-one participants attended this session: mathematics teachers from junior high schools in Barito Kuala and MGMP Mathematics SMP Barito Kuala members.

The activities during the first session included: (1) the opening of the community service event by a representative from the Barito Kuala Education Office; (2) the presentation of the material on creating a Merdeka curriculum report card application using Microsoft Excel by the service team; and (3) a Q&A session and assignment.

The event started with an opening speech by the head of the SMP Mathematics MGMP Barito Kuala and the service project partner, Marwiyani, S.Pd. The opening was followed by a speech from the Secretary of the Barito Kuala Education Office, Lulut Widianto Putro, S.Pd, MM, who expressed strong support for the activity, especially because it would help improve the skills of junior high school mathematics teachers in Barito Kuala. The documentation of the opening ceremony is shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Opening speech by the secretary of the barito kuala education office

A group photo was taken as evidence of the activity. The group photo is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 Group photo with the service team, partners, guests, and workshop participants

After the official opening, the event continued with a training session on creating a Merdeka curriculum report card application using Microsoft Excel, presented by the community service team from the Mathematics Education Program. The host and moderator, Juhairiah, M.Pd, guided the event in this session. The material was presented beginning with an introduction to assessment in the Merdeka curriculum by Rizki Amalia, M.Pd, as shown in Figure 3 (a). This was followed by a presentation by Dr. Hidayah Ansori, M.Si, on creating a Microsoft Excel-based report card application for the Merdeka curriculum, as shown in Figure 3 (b).

(a)

(b)

Figure 3 (a) Presentation by Rizki Amalia, M.Pd. and (b) Presentation by Dr. Hidayah Ansori, M.Si.

During the community service team's presentation, the participants, who consisted of 41 teachers, attentively listened and practiced creating the application, as shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4 Participants following the workshop and practicing on their laptops

After the offline session, the workshop continued online. It consisted of 1) guidance via the WhatsApp group, which was flexible and not time-bound; 2) a Zoom meeting for participants to present the application they were developing. The Zoom meeting took place on September 29, 2023. In this session, participants presented their applications and received feedback and suggestions from other participants and the workshop speakers; and 3) an evaluation through distributing a questionnaire and submitting tasks. Participants had until November 6, 2023, to complete the questionnaire and submit their assignments.

Of 46 participants, 30 had submitted their tasks by November 6, 2023, indicating that more than 50% (73%) had completed their assignments. Figure 5 shows one example of an application developed by a participant.

Figure 5 Example of a report card application created by a teacher

When submitting their tasks, participants were also asked to complete a questionnaire regarding the workshop. This questionnaire was used to assess the activity's success and gather suggestions from the participants. The aspects assessed in the questionnaire included the material presented during the workshop and the atmosphere/condition of the event, both offline and online. The scale used in the questionnaire consisted of five levels: strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree, and strongly agree.

Regarding the material related to its usefulness, 66.7% of participants strongly agreed, and 30% agreed that the workshop material on using Microsoft Excel for the Merdeka curriculum report card application was very useful. This aligns with the results of a similar workshop conducted by (Sikas et al., 2023), which found that using e-report cards with Microsoft Excel was more efficient and effective than manually filling out traditional report cards and that they would implement e-report cards in their schools.

30% strongly agreed that the material presented was clear, and 60% agreed. Regarding the completeness of the material, 26.7% strongly agreed, and 63.3% agreed. On aligning the material with participants' expectations and needs, 40% strongly agreed, and 56.7% agreed that the material was in line with teachers' needs. Finally, concerning the participants' understanding of the material, 30% strongly agreed, and 63.3% agreed that the participants understood the material well.

The questionnaire's results on the workshop atmosphere indicated that 80% of participants found the material engaging. Regarding the quality of the examples provided, 40% strongly agreed, and 56.7% agreed that the examples given during the workshop were adequate. According to the survey results, it is clear that this workshop on creating report cards using Excel helped improve the teachers' skills. This is consistent with similar activities conducted by (Effendi et al., 2021), which showed that participants' skills in using Microsoft Excel improved.

According to Harmanto and Kristiana, this has a positive impact on teachers. Digitalizing report cards, as a report on students' learning outcomes, will positively impact students, parents, and the school (Nurullaeli et al., 2023). The system can quickly process data searches, making data processing more efficient (Nurshidqi & Noris, 2023). The results of the questionnaire will be used to improve future community service activities.

CONCLUSION

The community service activity in the form of a workshop on creating a Merdeka curriculum report card application using Microsoft Excel, both offline and online via Zoom, for the Mathematics MGMP teachers of Barito Kuala Regency, has been successfully carried out. This activity greatly facilitated mathematics teachers, especially those in the MGMP Mathematics group in Barito Kuala, in teaching mathematics content and improving their skills in science and technology. Through this activity, 30 out of 41 participants (about 73%) were able to create a Merdeka curriculum report card application based on the assignment given.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest.

AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT

HA is the head of the community service team, liaisons with partners, and is a resource person in workshop activities. HA also monitors and evaluates the final article. RA makes activity plans, financial managers, resource persons in workshop activities, and writes articles. JJ plays a role in making activity plans, making administration related to community service activities, serving as a resource person in workshop activities, writing articles, and liaising with the editor. TM acts as the host in workshop activities and makes media in the form of video documentation of workshop activities. AR plays a role as a prayer reader in workshop activities, takes pictures and videos during activities, and makes media in video documentation of workshop activities.

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