

UTILIZING CHARTS AS VISUAL MEDIA TO IMPROVE STUDENT UNDERSTANDING

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Abstract : Learning media are tools used by educators to convey information to students so that they can understand it well. With advances in information technology, learning media has evolved from solely print to include a wider range of visual and multimedia media. Using these diverse media can help students access information in different ways and increase their motivation and engagement in learning. Charts are one visual medium that can be used effectively. Media that relies on sight, such as images, graphs, tables and charts, is called visual media. Charts are useful for presenting information in a systematic, concise, and easy-to-understand way, helping students see the relationships between concepts more clearly. This is very relevant for learning in elementary schools because it can simplify complex material and make learning more interesting. The discussion results indicate that charts are crucial for enhancing student understanding, helping them organize information, and encouraging them to actively participate in the learning process. However, charts have several drawbacks: they are time-consuming to create, and not all materials are suitable for this format. Therefore, teachers must use charts appropriately to ensure effective learning.

Keywords: learning media, visual media, charts, students who understand

INTRODUCTION

Learning media is a tool used by educators as a medium to convey learning material so that it reaches the learner correctly and effectively. In its development, learning media today is not only a tool to assist educators in teaching learning materials, but also a powerful learning resource. With the advancement of information technology, the delivery of information through media has become increasingly sophisticated. Not only through print media, but also through visual and multimedia media, as well. Therefore, the process of conveying information

through learning media can be carried out in various ways to provide information in a variety of learning materials. The varied or diverse use of media will be able to accommodate students who have different sensory abilities, both in hearing and sight, as well as in speaking. By using varied media, each student's sensory weaknesses in receiving and processing information can be reduced and can provide stimulation to various students' senses. Teachers who use learning media in teaching and learning activities in the classroom can also create a more lively classroom atmosphere. One reason is because learning media has an important function, namely as a learning motivation generator. Students will be motivated to learn when teachers teach in their class using a variety of appropriate learning media. Visual media is a type of media that relies solely on the sense of sight, such as printed materials like books, journals, maps, pictures, and so on. Well-designed visual learning media that presents tables, graphs, charts, and diagrams can help students organize learning materials more easily. Organizing material in an engaging way will help students understand it more easily and improve their memory.

According to (Ulfah, 2019) visual media itself has the meaning of media that only involves the sense of sight. This type of media includes print-verbal media, print-graphic media, and non-print visual media. First, visual-verbal media is visual media that contains verbal messages (linguistic messages in written form). Second, non-verbal-graphic visual media is visual media that contains non-verbal messages in the form of visual symbols or graphic elements, such as images (sketches, paintings and photos), graphs, diagrams, charts, and maps. Third, three-dimensional non-verbal visual media is visual media that has three dimensions, in the form of models, such as miniatures, mock-ups, specimens, and dioramas.

According to (Prastowo, 2011), learning media is a tool used to convey learning material to clarify the message to be conveyed. By utilizing appropriate learning media, the teaching and learning process can become more interesting and motivate students to be more active in learning.

According to Ulfah and Andi Prastowo, visual media, particularly images, text, graphics, and three-dimensional models, are important ways to convey

information more clearly and structured. Using the right learning media not only makes messages easier to convey but also increases student engagement and interest. If the material is delivered orally without being supported by appropriate learning media, students may have difficulty understanding the concept more clearly and deeply. This is one of the problems that often arises in learning activities.

Charts are learning media that present information through images, lines, or symbols so that the relationship between concepts is clearer. One visual medium that can be used to address this issue is a chart. During the learning process, charts can help students understand material more systematically. Charts make initially complex information easier to understand, making it easier for students to see connections between the material being studied. Thus, charts can be an effective medium to improve students' understanding of the subject matter.

DISCUSSION

A. Definition and Types of Charts

1. Definition of Chart

Charts are a type of visual media that is often used in learning activities to present information systematically and easily understood by students. Charts convey material through lines, symbols, pictures, and writing that are arranged systematically so that students can see the relationships between concepts. Charts serve as a learning aid, helping teachers explain material to students. Material presented using charts is usually easier for students to understand because they can directly see the relationships, sequence, and structure of concepts. In this way, students not only get verbal explanations from the teacher, but they can also understand the material through clearer images.

Charts also help simplify complex information. Long and complicated lesson material can be summarized in chart form, so that students can more easily understand the essence of the topic. With this systematic and concise presentation, students can understand the material without having to read too long explanations. It is very suitable to use charts as a learning medium in elementary school classes because students find it easier to understand material that is presented visually and

concretely. Therefore, using charts as a learning medium can help teachers explain lesson concepts while improving students' understanding of the material.

2. Types of Charts

In the learning process, teachers can use various types of charts to help students understand the material. Each chart has a different role and purpose, depending on the learning objectives and the type of material being taught. The delivery of material can be clearer and easier for students to understand.

a) Organizational Chart

Organizational charts are used to show the structure of an organization and show the relationships between its parts. This helps students understand the positions, tasks, and working relationships between parts in a system.

b) Process Chart

A process chart shows the stages or steps in a particular activity or process. These charts help students understand how a process occurs from start to finish and help them see the sequence of activities more clearly. This diagram shows the steps involved in planting and caring for plants, the water cycle, or rainfall.

c) Flowchart

A flowchart, also known as a flowchart, is a chart used to show a structured sequence of activities in a process. This section typically uses symbols such as arrows, boxes, or other shapes to indicate the steps in a task. Flowcharts help students understand the flow of a process more systematically.

d) Tree Chart

A tree chart shows the hierarchical or hierarchical relationship between the main concept and its subordinate concepts. In most cases, the main concept is at the top or middle and is followed by branches indicating related subconcepts. To explain the classification or grouping of materials, this chart is often used. For example, they can group types of animals, plants, or certain parts of a concept.

3. Characteristics of an Effective Chart

For charts to be used effectively in the learning process, their creation must consider several important features. A well-designed chart will make learning easier, clearer, and more focused for students.

1) The information presented must be clear and simple.

Charts should not contain too much information as this can make it difficult for students to understand. Ideally, the information presented should be focused on the main concepts that the teacher wants to explain so that students can more easily understand the core of the material.

2) Using symbols, pictures, or signs that are easy to understand

Using appropriate symbols or images can help students understand the contents of the chart more quickly. In addition, the use of different colors can help students distinguish parts of the chart, so that the information presented becomes clearer.

3) Shows the relationship between concepts in an orderly and systematic manner

Charts should be structured logically so students can see the relationships between concepts. A systematic arrangement of the material will help students understand the flow of the material more clearly.

4) The chart is created with an attractive and easy to read appearance.

A clear and engaging display can increase student attention during the learning process. Students will be more interested in viewing the chart's contents because it's easier to understand what's being conveyed.

B. The Role of Charts in Improving Student Understanding

Charts are a visual medium that can be used in the learning process to help students understand the material more easily. Using dots, lines, images, writing, or other visual symbols, charts convey content with the aim of summarizing, depicting, and integrating ideas, data, or events occurring in the graphic medium.

Charts can help students organize the information they receive while studying. Material arranged in chart form makes it easier for students to see the relationships between ideas and understand the flow or sequence of the material. This way, students can understand the topic more deeply than simply memorizing the lesson material.

Charts can simplify complex material as well as help understand the relationships between concepts. To make long or difficult-to-understand lesson material easier for students, charts can be used to summarize it. This simple and systematic presentation helps students learn the material more effectively, and the

use of charts can also make the learning process more engaging. If a lecture-only approach is used, material presented with the help of charts will be clearer and less boring. This can increase students' attention and interest in classroom learning activities.

Thus, it can be concluded that charts play an important role in improving student understanding. Charts can increase student interest in the lesson, provide organized and visual information, and help them remember what they learn better.

C. Implementation of Using Charts in Class

In learning, charts can be used as a visual aid to explain topics. Teachers can display charts on the whiteboard, in textbooks, or through presentations to help students understand the relationships between concepts within the material. Charts help students understand information more clearly and systematically because they are presented in a structured manner.

Before beginning a teaching and learning activity, teachers can provide a brief explanation of the topic to be covered. They can then display a diagram related to the material, allowing students to see the relationships or flow between concepts. This makes the lessons easier for students to understand.

Teachers can also use charts as a learning activity. They can assign students to create a simple chart based on a topic they've studied. This activity can help students learn how to organize and group data in an orderly manner.

Charts can help students become more engaged in the lesson. Students can see, talk, and explain the contents of the chart again. By using the right charts, the learning process can be more effective and interesting, and students are encouraged to be more active in understanding the material. In addition, the learning process becomes more interactive. Charts and other visual media can increase student engagement, clarify the delivery of material, and support better understanding of concepts.

D. Steps for Using Charts in Learning

- 1) Determining learning materials: The first step is to determine the learning materials that will be presented using charts. This is important because not all

materials are suitable for presentation in chart form. Charts are typically used to explain relationships between concepts, process sequences, or structures.

- 2) Creating appropriate images: The teacher then creates images tailored to the learning objectives. To ensure students don't have difficulty grasping the concept, the concept must be presented clearly, simply, and easily understood.
- 3) Explaining the contents of the chart: The teacher explains the contents of the chart to students after it has been created. The purpose of this explanation is for students to understand the meaning of each section and their relationship to one another .
- 4) Viewing and understanding the chart: Students are then asked to view the chart presented. At this point, students gain a better understanding of what is in the chart and see the relationships between its components.
- 5) Discussion and strengthening understanding: Finally, the teacher gives students the opportunity to discuss the contents of the chart. They can exchange ideas with each other and deepen their understanding of the material being studied.

Examples of Application in Elementary School Subjects

Able to present information in an easy-to-understand and structured manner , charts can be used in many elementary school subjects. In science, charts can be used to explain the water cycle, giving students an understanding of stages such as evaporation, condensation, and precipitation in sequence. In social studies, government structures, such as the relationship between the president, ministers, governors, and regional heads, can be explained using charts, giving students a better understanding of the relationships between positions within the government.

Teacher Strategies in Utilizing Charts

Teachers need to implement several strategies to ensure the successful use of charts in learning. First, charts must be tailored to the learning material to help students understand the concepts. Second, teachers should use charts that are simple and easy to understand. Students can be confused by charts that are too complicated. Therefore, charts should be presented using clear symbols, lines, or images. Third, teachers should engage students when using charts in the learning process. For example, ask students to observe, provide explanations, or create

simple charts based on the topics they have learned. This student involvement can not only improve student understanding, but can also make learning more active and interesting.

E. Advantages and Disadvantages of Using Charts

1. Advantages of Chart Media

Chart media has many advantages in the learning process because it can make learning easier for students to understand the material.

- a) Helping students understand concepts visually: Charts present material in the form of pictures, lines, or symbols, so students can see it. Presenting material visually makes it easier for students to grasp concepts that might be difficult if explained only verbally.
- b) Presenting information in a structured manner: Charts usually present information in an orderly and sequential manner, which helps students follow the flow of the material more clearly and makes it easier for them to understand the material gradually.
- c) Helping students understand relationships between concepts: Charts help students see the relationships between certain concepts, such as cause and effect, sequence of processes, and certain structures. Therefore, students not only memorize the material but also understand how the materials relate to each other .
- d) Making learning more engaging: Using charts in learning can make learning activities more engaging and less monotonous. Clear visual displays can increase students' attention and interest in the lesson, encouraging them to participate more actively.

2. Disadvantages of Using Charts

Chart media has limitations and advantages.

- a) Time-consuming: Teachers must prepare charts well for easy understanding. Creating a clear, relevant chart usually requires time and careful planning.
- b) Charts are not suitable for all materials because some materials are better explained in other ways , such as discussion or direct explanation.

- c) Overly complex charts can be overwhelming for students due to the sheer volume of information or complexity. Therefore, teachers must choose appropriate materials to present in chart form.

F. Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that charts are one of the most important visual tools for the learning process. Charts have the ability to present information concisely, systematically, and easily understood by students. They also allow students to see the relationships between different concepts, which makes the subject matter clearer. The use of charts in learning can also make learning activities more interesting and effective. Charts can be used by teachers to explain material, help students understand it, and encourage learning activities, such as observing, talking, or making simple charts based on topics that have been studied. Charts also have many advantages, such as helping students understand concepts visually, presenting information in a structured way, and making it easier for them to see relationships between concepts.

Charts, on the other hand, have several limitations: they take time to create, not all material is suitable for presentation in chart form, and charts that are too complex can make them difficult for students to understand.

Therefore, in order for learning to run better, teachers must use charts correctly. Charts can improve student understanding and make classroom learning more interesting and effective if used correctly.

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