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# SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE RIVIEW: THE EFFECT OF PBL LEARNING MODEL ON STUDENT'S CRITICAL THINKING ABILITY

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#### Abstract (English)

Critical thinking is a very important skill for students to address the obstacles faced in this day and age. However, a number of studies show that Indonesian students have low levels of critical thinking, especially in mathematics. The problem-based learning (PBL) model is one method that can be used to overcome this problem. The Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method was used in this study to evaluate the problem-based learning (PBL) approach on improving critical thinking skills. Research published in the time span of 2018 to 2024 with related keywords were investigated. The analysis of 13 articles showed that the use of PBL improved students' critical thinking skills, especially in junior high school. These findings suggest that PBL should be applied as well as possible in the mathematics learning process to develop and improve students' critical thinking skills in Indonesia. Students' inability to explore and develop new ideas is a major obstacle in the application of PBL.

#### **Article History**

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#### **Keywords**

critical thinking, PBL, SLR.

#### INTRODUCTION

A major concern in mathematics education is to improve students' ability to think critically, which is an essential skill to face challenges in the modern era. Critical thinking plays an important role in developing students' cognitive abilities as well as helping them retain information acquired during the learning process (Herzon et al., 2018). Individuals who think critically are people who are able to explain the reasons for their decisions, accept differences in opinions and decisions of others and are able to analyze other people's reasons for their different decisions and opinions (Turmuzi et al., 2021). Critical thinking includes identifying conflicting data, data that is appropriate or not, and being able to express conclusions from the data that has been collected (Arjudin et al., 2022).

The results of the Trends in International Mathematics and science and study (TIMSS) in 2011 showed that the ability of students in Indonesia is still at a low international benchmark and has not been able to think logically well (Sunawan et al., 2021). Students who have good logical thinking skills tend to have good critical thinking skills.

Based on the results of the 2018 PISA study released by the OECD, it shows that the ability of Indonesian students in reading literacy obtained an average score of 371, while the average score of the OECD score is 487. For math skills, Indonesian students recorded a score of 379, while the OECD average score was 487. Meanwhile, in science, the average score of Indonesian students reached 389, while the OECD average score was 489. This means that Indonesia is in the low performance quadrant with high quality (Kemdikbud, 2019). Where Indonesia should still have the opportunity to improve critical thinking skills given the capacity and potential that has not been fully developed.

Based on 2 research results from TIMSS and PISA, it shows that Indonesian students are not accustomed to thinking critically in solving a problem. One of the causes is that the learning applied in the classroom is still dominated by the teacher (teacher centered) so that students' critical thinking skills are not well honed (Fithriyah et al., 2016). Problem-based learning model is one of the learning approaches that can develop students' critical thinking skills. (Afifah et al., 2019)PBL is a learning model that is able to train students' skills to gain new knowledge by solving problems, besides that PBL can also encourage students to develop higher-level thinking. (Steven et al., 2019)The emphasis of learning in the PBL model is



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centered on the specified problem, so that students not only examine concepts related to a problem, but also examine the scientific methods used to solve the problem. Problem-Based Learning is one of the increasingly popular educational approaches (Anwar & Jurotun, 2019).

This learning approach uses contextual problems so that students can learn critical thinking and problem-solving skills, as well as acquire concepts from the material learned (Prihono & Khasanah, 2020). PBL helps understand mathematical concepts through problem solving that is relevant to everyday life. This method allows students to conduct in-depth analysis, explore various problem-solving techniques, and utilize their knowledge more critically (Oktavidiyanti, 2021).

#### **METHODS**

## **Systematic Literature Review**

This research applies the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) method to identify, evaluate, and interpret various relevant research results related to research questions, topics, or phenomena that are the focus of attention (Barbara Kitchenham, 2014). SLR was chosen to analyze previous studies on the effect of PBL learning models on students' critical thinking skills

#### **Inclusion Criteria**

The inclusion criteria used include: (1) The article contains research that focuses on mathematics, (2) The article examines the effect of PBL on students' critical thinking skills, (3) The literature used has a time span between 2018 and 2024, (4) The article contains the secondary school level of the research sample Articles that were obtained, but outside the inclusion criteria, were not used and not analyzed in this literature study

## **Data Analysis**

After further analysis, articles that met all inclusion criteria were categorized based on two characteristics, namely research publication year and study level. Articles were grouped by publication year to analyze the characteristics of the study level, namely SD/MI, SMP/MTS,SMA/SMK/MA

#### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Findings based on the results of literature searches with the help of Google Sclolar and Publish or Perish and based on inclusion qualifications in the 2018-2024 range with the keywords "the effect of PBL learning on students' mathematical critical thinking skills" obtained as much as 13 literatures from journals. In accordance with the results of the review of 13 literatures, the level of education that is relevant to the effect of PBL learning on students' critical thinking skills used in this research can be seen in Figure 1.

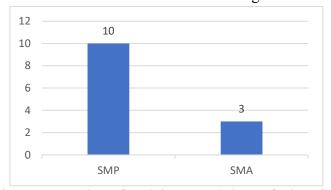


Figure 1. Number of Articles at each leve of education



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Based on Figure 1, the effect of PBL on students' critical thinking skills is mostly focused on the junior/high school level with a total of 10 studies while the high school level only has 3 studies.

Of the 13 literatures taken with the time span 2018-2024, the most was found, namely 4 literatures in 2021. While the least is in 2018 and 2020, namely only 1 article. Figure 2 below shows the number of literature and years of publication related to the effect of the PBL learning model on students' critical thinking skills.

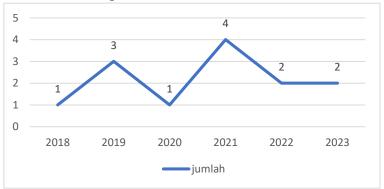


Figure 2. Number of articles and year of publication

Based on the analysis of the 13 literatures, it was found That the findings of the research on the application of PBL learning models were dominated by results Which provided a positive influence on enhancing students' critical thinking skills. Research conducted (Nurfahrani et al., 2023) said there was no significant difference in critical thinking skills between students who followed the PBL model and students who followed the traditional model. This is due to students who are more motivated to the teacher to direct finding answers in detail.

After further analysis, it is known that the obstacles in learning mathematics are when learning takes place still lacking to explore the mathematical critical thinking aspects of students. Where teachers just provide learning without giving students the opportunity to analyze, evaluate, or reflect on the material so that students have difficulty in developing new ideas and ideas(Fannisa Rahmadani & Sudianto Manullang, 2024). Learners often only do problems that are not effective in training their critical thinking skills in learning mathematics. Therefore, in order to create a more meaningful experience, teachers can develop students' critical thinking skills through learning approaches that provide opportunities for participants to build knowledge independently (Susanto, 2013).

Paying attention to the learning model applied is one of the important factors in improving students' critical thinking skills (Amini et al., 2021). In learning mathematics using a problem- based learning approach, students will be divided into several small groups to improve their readiness to understand the material presented. This approach provides space for students to work together in groups, be actively involved in solving the problems given, and encourage independent learning and collaboration in completing tasks. If there are students who have difficulty or do not understand the material, Group members can support each other in providing explanations. Thus creating an active and collaborative learning environment (Halmahera et al., 2019).

The use of a problem-based learning model that is in line with its syntax can have an impact on improving the critical thinking skills of students (Rauf et al., 2022). This is in line with the results of research conducted by (Nurlaeli, n.d.) that there is a significant effect on the level of critical thinking after students are given a problem-based approach (PBL). The



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problem-based learning process involves 5 phases, each of which has an important role in its implementation, including (1) phase 1- Orientation learners to the problem, problem orientation allows learners to improve critical thinking skills including interpretation where students can classify or sort issues or events received in a way that makes it clear. (2) phase 2- Organizing learners. (3) phase 3 Facilitating individual and group investigations, the teacher directs learners so that learners can try independently in creating ideas to solve problems. (4) phase 4-Developing and presenting work, this phase shows the ability of students to communicate and make final conclusions based on the problems they have discussed properly through discussion. (5) phase 5- Reviewing and assessing the problem solving process, in this phase learners express ideas and thinking methods that are applied to solve problems (Ullynuha et al., 2015). PBL model starts begins with a real-world problem that requires student cooperation to solve. Thus, This model can enhance the educational experiences of students. Applying the PBL model in the classroom learning process encourages students to think in groups and individually, actively participate in the learning process, and have the ability to solve problems and make the right conclusion/solution (Steven et al., 2019). The advantages of PBL, namely: (1) train students to think critically, find problem solutions, and build understanding based on their experiences; (2) there is an increase in students' active involvement; (3) support students in evaluating their learning progress; (4) increase the number of relevant references; (5) facilitate students in understanding better concepts(Robin Raja Salomon Sipayung & Sahat Saragih, 2023).

Therefore, based on an in-depth review of 13 journals, the result is that the problem-based learning (PBL) model can improve students' critical thinking skills. Teachers encourage students to be actively involved in the learning process. By applying the PBL learning model, students are encouraged to think actively in identifying problems, expressing problem-solving ideas, designing their own investigations to find answers, and drawing conclusions. The problem-based approach also helps students in learning mathematics, especially helping to understand concepts to solve problems.

#### **CONCLUSION**

Of the 13 research literature on PBL's impact on students' critical thinking skills in the period 2018-2024, the highest was dominated at the junior high school level and the most publications were in 2021. The results of the research are dominated by the results of the research showing that the problem-based learning / PBL model is proven to improve students' critical thinking skills, compared to other mathematics learning models. However, the application of this PBL model does not always present good results, there is a situation where the application of this problem-based learning model has no impact. In PBL, students are required to be actively involved in the learning process so that they can conclude based on the knowledge they have. This has a beneficial effect, because students are more active and eager to find solutions to problems.

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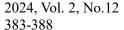
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