



## **INSPIRATION IN LEARNING: EFFORTS TO BUILD LEARNING ENTHUSIASM IN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL**

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### **Abstract:**

This research explores and analyzes the learning strategies and approaches used at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso to form students' enthusiasm for learning. In the context of education in an era that continues to develop, it is essential to understand how a school can inspire and motivate students to excel academically and develop their potential. Researchers collected data through several stages, such as observation and direct observation at the research site. Interview interviewing several informants at the research location. This research methodology involved classroom observations, interviews with teachers, and analysis of documents related to the curriculum and learning programs at SMP NU 07. The data collected was then analyzed qualitatively to identify critical factors that support the formation of enthusiasm for learning at school. The research results show that SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso carries a learning approach that applies Islamic values and Nahdlatul Ulama (NU) traditions on a moral and ethical basis. In addition, this school actively applies innovative and technology-based learning methods to increase student engagement. This learning program is designed to arouse interest in learning, increase creativity, and foster a spirit of leadership and entrepreneurship among students.

**Keywords:** *Inspiration for Learning, Building, Student Learning*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Education plays an undeniable role in shaping character and opening doors to a bright future for every young generation (Sandiko et al., 2022). Amidst the dynamics of educational development, Junior High School (SMP) holds a significant responsibility as the primary foundation in building the knowledge base and positive attitudes of students. In this context, learning inspiration becomes the key to fostering high learning spirit among junior high school students (Z. Abidin, 2020). Inspired learning goes beyond mere information transfer, involving the development of students' potential, stimulating curiosity, and opening doors to creativity and critical thinking.

A motivating and inspirational learning environment creates a strong foundation for the personal and academic development of students, building a desire to continue learning and growing. This introduction will explore the concept of learning inspiration at the junior high school level, emphasizing the importance of creating a deep and meaningful learning atmosphere. We will explore how schools can act as catalysts for students' enthusiasm for learning, creating an environment where knowledge is not only understood but also applied with enthusiasm (Sunarto, 2018).

Through collaborative efforts among teachers, students, and stakeholders, it is expected that an inspirational approach to learning can create a generation that is not only academically competent but also possesses a strong learning spirit and resilience to face various challenges. Thus, junior high schools become more than just information channels but stages where students' talents and potentials are discovered and

strengthened to realize a brighter future (A.Rusdiana, 2019).

Education's crucial role in character formation and paving the way for a bright future for each individual is evident. Junior High School NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso, as an educational institution, holds a significant responsibility in creating an inspirational learning environment. Learning inspiration is the primary key to shaping students' learning spirit, creating a positive atmosphere, and stimulating the desire for continuous growth (Khulel & Wibowo, 2021).

In this study, learning goes beyond knowledge transfer; it also involves aspects of creativity, motivation, and character development. Learning inspiration at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso must be capable of creating memorable learning experiences, encouraging students to explore their potential, and providing positive encouragement to achieve higher achievements. Through this approach, students are expected not only to be recipients of information but also active, creative, and independent learners. By creating an inspirational learning environment, the school becomes a place where students experience joy in learning, develop their interests, and pursue future dreams (Sutianah, 2022).

This introduction explores various aspects of learning inspiration at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso, delving into collaborative potential between teachers and students, and identifying concrete efforts made by the school in creating an empowering and motivating learning environment. Thus, the primary goal of education—to shape intelligent, creative, and competitive generations—can be achieved through joint efforts in building a high learning spirit among SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso students.

In previous research, some findings can serve as references for this study. Firstly, Leny Lince (2022) highlighted the implementation of independent learning, emphasizing planned and comprehensive student involvement in active learning. Secondly, Nafala Mufti Naimi (2022) indicated that the use of facilities and infrastructure could boost students' learning motivation during the pandemic. Lastly, Hermawati, Fitri (2023) emphasized the creativity of PAI teachers in enhancing students' learning motivation in SMPN 1 Babelan.

The novelty of this study lies in the application of creativity and innovation-based teaching methods at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso. This approach likely incorporates teaching methods that not only rely on knowledge transfer but also emphasize creativity and innovation. For example, the use of project-based approaches, problem-based learning, or the integration of technology in everyday learning. Additionally, active student involvement in the learning process is evident in how the school engages students in designing and implementing parts of their curriculum, involving collaborative projects, self-development programs, or extracurricular activities designed by students for students (Suhermanto, 2022).

## **RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is a qualitative descriptive study of the case study type (Harahap, 2020). It involves examining individuals, a single group, an organization, a program of activities, and so on within a specific time frame. This type of descriptive research aims to explore and describe social realities, depicting various variables related to the issue and the researched unit. The purpose of this research is to explore and analyze the learning strategies and approaches used at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso in shaping students' learning enthusiasm. In the context of education in this continuously evolving era, it is crucial to understand how a school can inspire and motivate students to achieve academic excellence and develop their potential.

Information sources were obtained from several informants with connections to the research location. The informant sources include the school principal (AS), four teachers (K, S, W, P), three school administrative staff (H, F, S), and the school association chairman (JL). In interviews, researchers used open-ended questions to explore and analyze the learning strategies and approaches used at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso in shaping students' learning enthusiasm.

Data collection techniques in this research were conducted in a circular manner using three approaches: 1) participant observation; 2) in-depth interviews; and 3) documentation. Data analysis in this study used Miles and Huberman's data analysis model with stages of data reduction, data display, and drawing conclusions. The collected data were initially compiled, then analyzed through data reduction, followed by displaying the data and, finally, drawing conclusions from the examined data (Rukajat, 2018). In the initial stage of data collection, data reduction was performed by sorting the information into notes. Subsequently, data display was conducted to comprehend the data, followed by drawing conclusions from the analyzed data.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Results from the interview with the school principal (AS) reveal that education at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso is not just about knowledge transfer but an inspirational journey to build students' learning spirit (Suhermanto, 2023). We believe that learning inspiration creates a space where each student experiences joy in exploring knowledge and honing their skills. Furthermore, the uniqueness of our approach lies in the application of teaching methods that stimulate creativity and innovation. We encourage students not only to be recipients of information but also to be creators and problem solvers. Through collaborative projects and problem-based learning, our students learn to connect knowledge with the real world.

Other points conveyed by several teachers at the school, which can be concluded from their interviews, include a commitment to providing holistic education. Beyond academic achievements, we also focus on shaping students' characters. Character education programs involve moral values, leadership, and social skills to ensure that students not only excel academically but also develop as responsible individuals who care for others (Suhermanto, 2017).

### **Implementation of Innovative Learning Methods**

The application of innovative learning methods at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso reflects the school's determination to advance education and shape creative, active, and enthusiastic learners. SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso is recognized for implementing project-based learning approaches (Widyana, 2021). In this context, students not only learn from textbooks but are involved in projects that require creative thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. This approach not only facilitates the understanding of concepts but also develops practical skills needed in the real world. The school may adopt teaching methods that promote active student engagement. Group discussions, simulations, and collaborative activities can be integral parts of the learning process. This approach not only builds deeper understanding but also helps students learn from each other and develop social skills (Suharjo, S., Tabrani, T., Shabri, A., & Maspan, 2022).

The use of technology can be a key element of innovative learning methods. SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso may leverage educational software, online learning platforms, or smart applications that support learning. Integrating technology can enhance the appeal of learning and prepare students for the demands of an increasingly digital world. Innovative learning methods may include problem-based approaches where students face real situations or challenges that require solutions. Through problem-solving, students not only understand academic concepts but also develop analytical and critical skills. The implementation of innovative learning methods may involve variations in assessment methods. Besides written exams, students may be evaluated through project portfolios, presentations, or other creative assignments. This provides a more comprehensive picture of students' abilities and motivates them to demonstrate success in various ways (Ilyasin, 2020).

The success of implementing innovative learning methods also relies on continuous training and development for teachers. Teachers need to gain a deep understanding of new teaching methods and the ability to integrate them effectively into everyday learning processes. The application of innovative learning methods at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso reflects the school's commitment to enriching students' learning

experiences, stimulating creativity, and preparing them to face the challenges of the future with confidence and courage. The success of this implementation can be seen in increased learning enthusiasm, academic achievements, and students' readiness to face the ever-changing world (Elmurod, E., & Urolovich, 2023).

### **Focus on Creativity and Innovation Development**

In reality, the implementation of innovative learning methods at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso reflects the school's commitment to advancing education and shaping creative, active, and enthusiastic learners. SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso is recognized for adopting a project-based learning approach. In this context, students don't just learn from textbooks; they engage in projects that require creative thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration. This approach not only facilitates the understanding of concepts but also develops practical skills needed in the real world (Ganis Aliefiani Mulya Putri & Nisrina, 2022).

The school may implement teaching methods that promote active student engagement. Group discussions, simulations, and collaborative activities can be integral parts of the learning process. This approach not only builds deeper understanding but also helps students learn from each other and develop social skills. The use of technology can be a key element of innovative learning methods. SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso may leverage educational software, online learning platforms, or smart applications that support learning. Integrating technology can enhance the appeal of learning and prepare students for the demands of an increasingly digital world (Zellatifanny & Mudjiyanto, 2018).

Innovative learning methods may include problem-based approaches where students face real situations or challenges that require solutions. Through problem-solving, students not only understand academic concepts but also develop analytical and critical skills. The implementation of innovative learning methods may involve variations in assessment methods. Besides written exams, students may be evaluated through project portfolios, presentations, or other creative assignments. This provides a more comprehensive picture of students' abilities and motivates them to demonstrate success in various ways (Muliandi, W. O., & Sulisworo, 2023).

The success of implementing innovative learning methods also depends on continuous training and development for teachers. Teachers need to gain a deep understanding of new teaching methods and the ability to integrate them effectively into everyday learning processes. The implementation of innovative learning methods at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso reflects the school's commitment to enriching students' learning experiences, stimulating creativity, and preparing them to face the challenges of the future with confidence and courage. The success of this implementation can be seen in increased learning enthusiasm, academic achievements, and students' readiness to face the ever-changing world (Çobanoğlu, R., & KUMLU, 2020).

### **Formation of Character and Ethics**

The formation of character and ethics at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso reflects the school's commitment not only to produce academically successful students but also individuals who are responsible, possess strong moral values, and can contribute positively to society. SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso may adopt a holistic approach to shaping students' characters. This approach includes the development of personality aspects such as honesty, responsibility, empathy, and a positive attitude towards others, in addition to focusing on academic achievements. The school may have specific programs designed to shape students' characters. This could involve character education activities inside and outside the classroom, including moral lessons, ethical discussions, and simulations of real-life situations to address moral dilemmas (Ballenger, 2021).

Given the affiliation with NU (Nahdlatul Ulama), the character formation at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso may be based on Islamic values and national values. Students are taught to internalize the values of truth, justice, and caring for others as an integral part of the school's identity. The school may provide leadership training and social skills to students. This not only builds leadership character but also helps students interact positively with others, understand differences, and contribute to teamwork

involving all teachers, school staff, and parents (Rubini, 2019).

Mentoring and personal guidance programs can provide direct support to students in character development. Teachers or support staff can act as mentors, providing moral guidance and assisting students in overcoming personal conflicts and challenges. Extracurricular activities such as religious groups, community service, or social clubs can be effective means to shape students' character and ethics outside the classroom environment. This gives students the opportunity to apply the values they learn in real-life situations. The school can encourage students to participate in social care projects that bring positive benefits to the surrounding community (Alnaji, 2022). Through direct experiences, students can develop empathy, social responsibility, and a sense of involvement in shaping their characters.

The importance of the role of parents in character formation is emphasized through collaboration with families. Regular communication programs between the school and parents, as well as parental involvement in school activities, can help create a supportive environment for shaping students' characters. The formation of character and ethics at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso is not just about imparting knowledge but also building a strong moral foundation for students (Pananrangi, 2017). With this approach, the school plays a role in shaping individuals who are not only academically successful but also have integrity and make positive contributions to society.

### **Parent and Community Involvement**

Parent and community involvement at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso is a key factor in shaping an empowering and supportive educational environment for the holistic development of students. The school may have active programs that encourage collaboration between parents and teachers. Regular meetings, both in-person and virtual, provide opportunities for parents to discuss the academic progress and character development of their children (Baharun, 2017). This creates an open channel of communication between home and school. Parents are invited to participate in various school activities, such as school performances, sports events, or general meetings. This provides opportunities to strengthen the bonds among parents, students, and school staff, fostering a sense of community in the educational environment (Sugiharto, F. B., Supriyono, A., Rasyad, R. A. A., & Sari, 2023).

Schools can organize open classes and field visits involving the presence of parents. This gives parents a direct understanding of their children's learning process and enhances their involvement in supporting their children's education. Collaborative projects between parents and students can be an effective way to engage parents in their children's education. These projects may involve parental support for extracurricular activities or special learning projects that tap into the parents' competencies. Schools may provide counseling or guidance sessions for parents, assisting them in understanding the needs and development of their children. This may include parent education and providing resources to support student development at home (N. F. Abidin, 2020).

Community involvement can be enhanced through joint community service projects between the school and the local community. This creates opportunities for parents, students, and community members to collaborate in beneficial activities and strengthen social ties. Schools can establish regular discussion forums between parents and teachers to address educational issues, child growth, and changes in school policies. This creates a platform for the exchange of ideas and gives parents a sense of ownership of their children's educational process.

Encouraging the formation of a parent association at the school can be a positive step. This association can serve as a platform for sharing experiences, voicing common needs, and collectively contributing to the improvement of education at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso (Bukit, S., Marcela, E. D., & Ernawati, 2023). Through parent and community involvement, SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso becomes not only a center for formal education but also a hub for social interaction and the exchange of intergenerational values. This involvement creates a solid foundation for the character development of students and strengthens the bonds among the school, parents, and the

community.

## CONCLUSION

The pursuit of learning enthusiasm in junior high school is a multifaceted endeavor that encompasses various innovative teaching methods, character development initiatives, and active involvement of parents and the community. The focus on qualitative descriptive research, specifically a case study approach, provides a comprehensive exploration and analysis of the strategies and learning approaches employed at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso. The school's commitment to not only transferring knowledge but also embarking on an inspirational journey to nurture students' learning spirit is evident. The application of innovative teaching methods, such as project-based learning and problem-solving approaches, reflects the school's dedication to advancing education and fostering creative, active, and passionate learners. The integration of technology plays a pivotal role, utilizing educational software, online learning platforms, and smart applications to enhance the appeal of learning and prepare students for the demands of a digitally evolving world.

Character and ethics formation emerge as fundamental aspects of education at SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso, extending beyond academic achievements. The holistic approach to character development includes moral values, leadership, and social skills, contributing to the cultivation of responsible and compassionate individuals. The school's affiliation with NU underscores a foundation in Islamic values, emphasizing truth, justice, and care for others as integral components of the school's identity. Parent and community engagement prove to be key factors in creating an empowering educational environment. The success of these efforts is evident in the increased learning spirit, academic achievements, and readiness of students to face the ever-changing world. The commitment of SMP NU 07 Wringin Bondowoso to inspire and motivate students to excel academically while developing their full potential is a testament to its dedication to shaping well-rounded individuals poised for success and positive contributions to society.

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