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Editorial Page

Utamax is an international journal of education aiming to build bridges between research and policy and address issues of concern to the different levels and types of education, transversal topics and 'big issues' for policy agendas. This includes an active and ongoing discussion of national and international education policy. The journal is also concerned with teaching and teacher education in general and devoted to all concerned with education and moral values.

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Foreword From the Editor in Chief

July 2024, Pekanbaru, Indonesia



Welcome to Volume 6, Issue 2 of the Utamax Journal of Ultimate Research and Trends in Education. As we present the second issue of 2024, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all current Editorial Board members, reviewers, and members of LITA, as well as our contributing authors, for their dedication in creating this edition. A special thanks goes to Dr. David Setiawan, Director of LPPM-Unilak, and his exceptional team, whose inspirational efforts have greatly enriched our journal. This issue features seven insightful papers authored by scholars from various cities in Indonesia.

This edition begins with a comprehensive study on e-learning in sports science education by Boy Indrayana et al. Their research investigates the impact of social media and various other factors on the adoption of e-learning, engaging 922 students and employing PLS-SEM for analysis. The findings underscore the significant role of social media in facilitating e-learning adoption among sports students, revealing critical insights for educational institutions aiming to leverage technology in sports education.

Next, Nanda Safarati et al. explore the enhancement of creative thinking skills through Project-Based Learning (PjBL) in media and learning resource development courses. Conducted at Almuslim University, their research demonstrates substantial improvements in students' creativity and problem-solving abilities. This study underscores the effectiveness of PjBL as an educational approach, offering a practical model for fostering essential 21st-century skills.

Raza Syarif Hidayatullah et al. examine the integration of Gitmind mind mapping in social studies learning at Jakarta State Islamic University. Their study reveals that Gitmind significantly enhances student learning outcomes, highlighting the importance of updating teaching methods to incorporate technological advancements. This research advocates for a transition from traditional to innovative, technology-driven educational practices.

Urip Umayah's paper delves into the integration of local wisdom in Indonesian language learning under the Merdeka Curriculum's P5 project. Through surveys and interviews, this study highlights successful implementations that enhance student competencies and character education. The findings suggest that integrating local cultural values into the curriculum significantly enriches character education, preparing students to navigate and contribute positively to a globalized world while preserving their national identity.

Ali Sadikin et al. investigate the impact of PjBL in microteaching for prospective biology teachers. Their findings indicate significant improvements in communication and collaboration skills, critical for modern educational environments. This research highlights the importance of innovative teaching methodologies in preparing future educators, emphasizing the need for continuous evaluation and targeted training for educators.

Sri Winarsih et al. explore the use of democratic dialogue to enhance intercultural competence among elementary students in Merauke Regency. Their study shows significant improvements in empathy, inclusion, and tolerance, demonstrating the effectiveness of democratic dialogue in fostering a more inclusive classroom environment. These findings contribute to the broader goal of cultivating global citizenship and intercultural understanding among young learners.

Lastly, Shofa Ussamawati et al. present a study on integrating philological methods into Qur'an and Tafsir

education. Their research reveals that incorporating historical manuscripts significantly enriches educational

content, enhancing students' understanding of classical texts. This study also addresses challenges in translating

and adapting manuscript contents into modern pedagogical formats, offering practical solutions for educators.

These papers offer valuable insights into the current challenges and opportunities in education, emphasizing the

importance of technology, innovative teaching methods, and the integration of cultural values. They contribute to

ongoing discussions on improving educational practices in the 21st century, highlighting the necessity for

continuous research and innovation in the field of education.

As the Editor-in-Chief, I am deeply grateful to our authors for their exceptional contributions. Each issue of

Utamax provides valuable reports and articles for educational research. We invite authors worldwide to submit

manuscripts addressing practical and scientific issues in education across all disciplines.

Lastly, I welcome all academics, researchers, and practitioners of teaching and learning to this latest issue of

Utamax: Journal of Ultimate Research and Trends in Education. This international, peer-reviewed, open-access

journal showcases the outstanding achievements of leading researchers in educational research. We remain

committed to the internationalization of our journal.

Best of Luck

Utamax Editorial Team

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Dr. Budianto Hamuddin, M.Esl.

Editor-in-Chief

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