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IJORER : International Journal of Recent Educational Research
Homepage : <https://journal.ia-education.com/index.php/ijorer>
Email : ijorer@ia-education.com

p-ISSN : 2721-852X ; e-ISSN : 2721-7965
IJORER, Vol. 5, No. 1, January 2024
Page 88-103
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International Journal of Recent Educational Research

The Use of E-Comics Based on A Realistic Mathematical Approach to Improve Critical and Creative Thinking Skills of Elementary School Students

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DOI: <https://doi.org/10.46245/ijorer.v5i1.497>

Sections Info

Article history:

Submitted: November 25, 2023
Final Revised: December 7, 2023
Accepted: December 20, 2023
Published: January 07, 2024

Keywords:

Creative Abilities;
Critical Thinking Skills;
E-Comic;
Realistic Mathematics.



ABSTRACT

Objective: In the 21st century, critical and creative thinking skills must be nurtured and grown from elementary school. The way to improve this ability can be done by utilizing Mathematics subjects but with a realistic approach that allows students to immediately learn critically and creatively according to the context of everyday life so that students can think organized and creatively in their lives, not limited to subjects. One way to facilitate the learning objectives of Mathematics with a Realistic Approach is to utilize e-comic learning media that allows students to see the context of the lesson using their visual abilities. **Method:** This research uses literature studies by searching relevant journals, books, and articles using the Publish or Perish application. **Results:** The study showed that e-comics improved students' critical thinking skills and creativity. In addition, researchers also found that several factors make mathematics learning with a realistic approach that utilizes e-comics efficient, as well as steps to conduct mathematics learning with a realistic approach that utilizes e-comic learning media. **Novelty:** This research uses an innovative and creative approach to improving students' critical and creative thinking skills through Mathematics learning using e-comic learning media.

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INTRODUCTION

One of the main challenges in Indonesian education in the 21st century is to create a young generation who are always ready, have skills, and can think logically and critically when facing various competitions and challenges in the global society. Paying particular attention to students' learning and mathematical abilities in this era is necessary to achieve this goal. The main focus is the application of mathematical knowledge to overcome problems that arise in the surrounding environment or everyday life (Harmini et al., 2020). Learning mathematics in the 21st century requires the integration of critical, collaborative, communication, and creative skills characteristics. In this context, these characteristics include essential competencies that are the foundation for achieving mathematical literacy skills (Janah et al., 2019; Salim, 2019).

The implementation of mathematics learning still faces several challenges. The learning process is often constrained by conventional methods that tend to be monotonous, as well as the need for more variety and creative use of learning media. These constraints can affect students' perceptions of mathematics learning, leading to the assumption that learning is difficult and tedious. These problems are caused mainly by the learning process in schools that still use conventional methods. This assumption can potentially reduce student learning motivation, affecting learning outcomes (Siregar et al., 2020).

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