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## A Preliminary Survey in Improving Learning Space Facilities and Environment in "Tunas Bangsa" Early Childhood Education

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### ABSTRACT

A learning environment will greatly affect the learning outcomes, therefore every school should be provided with sufficient basic facilities. This study aims to present preliminary survey results on the educational facilities in PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02. Data collection was carried out by field observation and direct interviews. The collected qualitative data are sorted by content analysis, displayed using the data display method and presented in data grouping. This qualitative research stage was only limited to the Preliminary Survey. The research will only focus on obtaining data at this preliminary stage include regional conditions, spatial, and physical and social characteristics data. These three types of data will be used as initial data in determining the next research process in the future.

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### INTRODUCTION

Harjokuncaran is a village located in Southern Malang Regency. One of the main factors to improve the standard of living in Harjokuncaran Village is through education, starting with early childhood education. The goal is that the younger generation are better prepared to pursue further education, while at the same time having exemplary character and good morals (Suryana, 2014). Directorate of Early Childhood Education Development (2014), Early childhood education (PAUD) is one of the coaching efforts aimed at children from birth to six years of age, which is carried out by providing educational stimuli to assist physical and spiritual growth and development to enter further education. By studying at PAUD schools, children can learn more to socialize with peers of their age, respect teachers and parents, and think creatively with various games and mentoring while at school.

In Harjokuncaran village, awareness to send children to early childhood education schools such as PAUD and kindergarten has increased every year (Dapodikbud). This is evidenced by the increase in the number of students attending six early childhood schools, including PAUD and

kindergarten in Harjokuncaran area. This trend is a positive contribution to improving the quality of human resources in Harjokuncaran village. However, this positive trend has not been matched by an increase in the quality of facilities and environment at PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02. The school is a private school, which seeks and manages its own finances. Improvements to infrastructure and teaching resources have been carried out independently by foundations, private funds, donations, or assistance from the government. The financial condition made the lack of facilities as a significant problem. This is a common issue, especially in PAUD in small villages. As a result, students cannot enjoy the same facilities and infrastructure as students in the city. Such condition proves that the government is lack of attention to existing facilities in remote areas. Whereas Prihatmi (2019) argued that class management is important in the creation of a fun teaching-learning process and learning achievement. Winzer (in Winataputra, 2003: 9-21) states that the proper arrangement of the classroom environment will affect the level of student involvement and participation in the learning process. Therefore, every school should be provided with sufficient basic facilities as stated in Early Childhood Education Infrastructure Guidelines 2014.

In line with these problems, the researchers tried to explore the obstacles in PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 to help plan and design learning facilities. In planning and designing the learning facility, the researcher conducted preliminary study by doing a survey to explore and search for data, both qualitative and quantitative. This data will provide a detailed description of the case study. Detailed descriptions of this case study are in the form of primary and secondary data that appear in analysis and conclusions. The data collected from this initial study will be used as a reference for determining future research. This data includes: Data Related to Regional Conditions, Data Related to Spatial Physical Characteristics, Data Related to Social Characteristics. The three data were obtained from the preliminary study process in case studies. Getting this data will provide a detailed description of the condition of educational facilities to determine the next steps for further research that focuses on planning and designing learning facilities PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02.

## **METHODS**

### **Methodology in Qualitative Research**

The research method is generally understood as a scientific activity carried out in stages from with topic determination, data collection and analysis data to obtain an understanding of a particular topic, symptom or issue (Rado, 2010). While qualitative method is a research approach used in qualitative research to obtain a fundamental and in-depth understanding of the case study's scope, which is the focus of the thematic research.

### **Preliminary Survey**

The preliminary survey is useful for exploring the situation in the field, whether it is feasible and important to research (Gunawan, 2013). This survey aims to obtain initial data as an essential part of technical study materials and further work materials. This survey is expected to be able to provide suggestions and material for consideration of further detailed surveys.

### **Data Analysis**

The data analysis in this study was conducted qualitatively. Qualitative methods are inductive in nature, starting from facts, reality, symptoms, problems obtained through special observations (Rado, 2010). Qualitative data is in the form of non numerical data (Pathak, et al, 2013). The preliminary survey results are carried out by collecting and grouping based on structured content and variables before the data display (Gunawan, 2013).

### **Data Display**

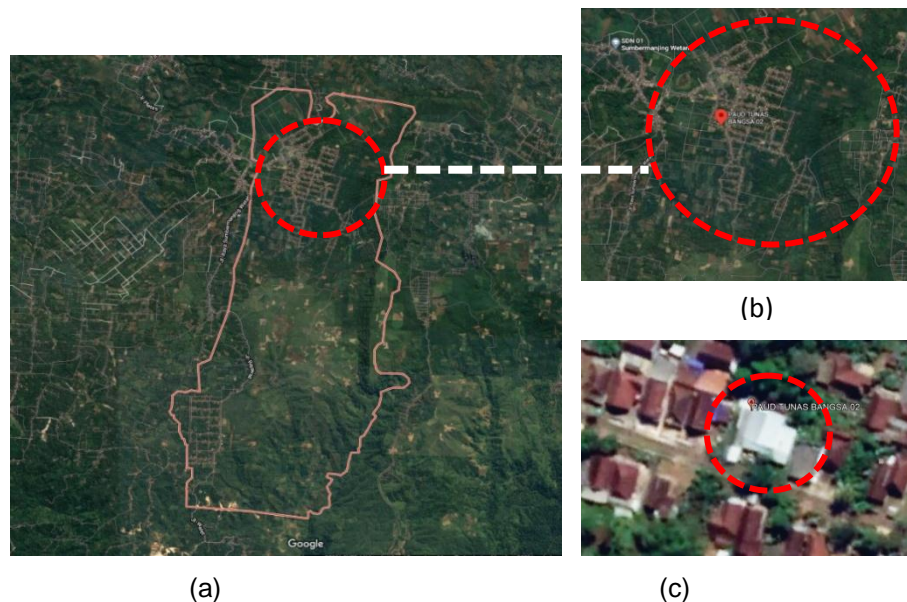
According to Miles & Huberman(1992), that the data has been reduced, the next step is to describe the data. Exposing data as a set of structured information, and giving the possibility of drawing conclusions and taking action from presenting data is used to increase case understanding and as a reference for taking action based on the understanding and analysis of the data presented. Presentation of data is a set of structured information that allows concluding and taking action. The form of data presentation is in matrices, graphs, networks, began, and others. Information is arranged in a form to facilitate analysis.



## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Situation analysis aims to explore the potential and existing constraints as a reference for formulating programs. This analysis can also be classified into a Preliminary Survey because it still provides an overview of the case study at the beginning of the study. Situation analysis is an analysis that describes the situation of a case study. The situation analysis is divided into three types of data, including:

### 1. Data Related to Regional Conditions



**Figure 1. Analysis of Regional Conditions**

- Messo (a)  
The case study of PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 is located in Harjokuncaran Village. This village is 3 km to the east from Sumbermanjing Wetan District's capital and 42 km from the capital of Malang Regency. Harjokuncaran Village. Consists of 2 hamlets, namely Krajan and Mulyosari.
- Macro (b)  
The case study of PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 is located in a densely populated area including various educational facilities such as SDN Sumbermanjing Wetan.
- Micro (c).  
The case study of PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 is located in a densely populated area with relatively poor physical road facilities.
- Based on the Preliminary Survey, the researcher collected data on the condition of the area related to case studies, include:
  - Population-related data  
Harjokuncaran village has a population of 11,200 people, with 3250 families, 600 families.
  - Education related data  
Harjokuncaran Village has five elementary schools, three junior schools, four kindergarten, and two PAUD. The researchers selected PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 as the case study object.
  - Health related data  
Harjokuncaran village has some programs related to health, including: Supplementary Food for Elementary Schools Students, Alert Village, Pregnant Women-Infants-Toddlers, Family Planning, Immunization, Postpartum and Breastfeeding, and Nutrition.
  - Religious related data  
Harjokuncaran village has seven mosques, eighty-six units of small mosque, thirty-nine units of teaching Qur'an units, and one unit of church. In addition, Harjokuncaran Village is also supported by a variety of regular recitation for children and girls every

week in each neighborhood association, Mosque youth, Diba'an, and other various religious and social activities including donations for orphans every year.

## 2. Data Related to Spatial Physical Characteristics

Putra (2002) describes physical characteristics as the first dimensions of the spatial form and social characteristics which may relate to the third dimensions of the spatial form, where physical characteristics can be described in the form of the material qualities of an object that is 3D solid. In this study it can be concluded that analyzing spatial physical characteristics can be done by visual analysis which must be done by direct observation of the selected case study.

From these preliminary observations, researchers in this initial study can take various points of observation related to spatial physical characteristics, among others, include:



**Figure 2. Spatial Physical Characteristics of PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02**

- Initial conditions in 2016 showed that PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 lacked physical qualities and not very representative for teaching and learning activities. This was due to some disturbing visual elements such as firewood, cloth covering (tarpaulin), stones, etc. (a)
- The spatial physical characteristics of PAUD Tunas Bangsa in this initial survey can be categorized into spatial physical characteristics with low visual conditions.
- According to the owner, at the beginning of 2017 PAUD was started independently by the owner until he received consecutive assistance every year. (b)
- Until mid-2018 assistance from the government and some independent donations from the local community PAUD Tunas Bangsa experienced significant improvements. These various improvements include the addition of a common hall, the addition of ceramics to the teaching room, bathroom improvements, children's play equipment such as seesaw, and slides to colorful signs. (C)
- Until the initial survey that was carried out previously, the condition of PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 still needs improvement.

## 3. Data Related to Social Characteristics

Zahroh (2019) argued that social characteristics in spatial terms can be interpreted as socio-culture from the local social dimension. Whereas what is meant by the local social dimension itself can be interpreted by spatial users in case studies. This analysis of social characteristics has been examined in community service-based research which took the case study of the thematic village of Sumbersari Malang. Researchers found that passive and active user activities can form a strong socio-culture between space users.



**Figure 3. PAUD Tunas Bangsa 02 Social Characteristic**

As with previous studies, this initial survey found various data analyzes related to social characteristics, including:

- Early childhood education is carried out to provide meaningful concepts to children through real and meaningful experiences. Only through real and meaningful experiences do children show optimal activity and curiosity and place educators's position as companions, mentors, and facilitators for children, avoiding forms of learning that are only oriented to the teacher's will, which places the child passively and the teacher becomes dominant. (a)
- Prihatmi (2019) stated that the classroom environment supports creating a fun teaching-learning process and learning achievement. However, the survey results revealed that facilities and infrastructure in the PAUD TUNAS BANGSA 02 are inadequate, as can be seen from the lack of educational play tools (APE) for children. (c)
- From various interviews with the owner of the PAUD TUNAS BANGSA 02, various data obtained from interviews and literature collection include:
  1. Solutions in dealing with these problems are: Educators must prepare a learning environment even though the means are limited. For APE, educators can make various tools that are indeed safe for children and can foster children's intelligence.
  2. Educators have guidelines in preparing learning plans, namely the Regulation of the Indonesian Ministry of National Education Number 58 of 2009. According to existing guidelines, early childhood education standards format used is a format that is easy and understandable by educators.
  3. In learning activities problems always arise, educators must have a strategy to deal with them and discuss with other educators and very notably with parents.
  4. According to (UNESCO, 2005), the objectives of PAUD are based on several reasons:
    - a. Educational Rationale: PAUD is the initial foundation in increasing children's ability to complete higher education, reducing grade repetition rates and dropout rates.
    - b. Economic Reasons: PAUD is a profitable investment for both the family and the government
    - c. Social reasons: PAUD is an effort to stop the wheels of poverty
    - d. Rights / Legal Reasons: PAUD is the right of every child to obtain education guaranteed by law.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the situation analysis, preliminary survey in improving learning space facilities and environment can be classified into three types of data, including the data related to Regional Conditions, Spatial Physical Characteristics, and Social Characteristics. Each of these data can be either increasing or decreasing based on the time and update of the data. The three types of data in this initial survey will be used as a database in determining the next research process in the



future, probably focus on processing these three data, especially on planning and designing learning facilities in the case study of Tunas Bangsa 02 Early Childhood Institution.

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