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## **The Role of Inspirational Teachers in Increasing Students' Learning Motivation**

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### **Abstract**

The role of teachers in increasing students' motivation is an essential aspect of the learning process that cannot be overlooked. The method used in this study is qualitative research design. Data was collected through interviews, classroom observations, and document studies. This study found that teachers are essential in increasing students' motivation. Teachers use various strategies, such as creating a stimulating classroom environment, using variable learning methods, providing feedback, and developing emotional bonds with students. A teacher who can instill enthusiasm and hope in students is capable of creating a fun and motivating learning environment. Moreover, this study found that active teacher involvement significantly impacts students' satisfaction and optimal learning outcomes. This study implies that teachers should continually improve students' motivation to make learning activities more effective.

**Keywords:** Role, teachers, students, learning, motivation

### **Introduction**

In the world of education, especially in learning activities, the continuity and success of the teaching and learning process are not only influenced by intellectual factors but also by other non-intellectual factors, which are no less important in determining a person's learning outcomes, one of which is a student's ability to motivate himself. So, learning motivation is a series of encouragements or driving forces that come from within oneself or from outside to carry out learning activities so that it causes changes in the goals desired by the learning subject so that they can be achieved. Learning is essential because motivation drives us to be diligent or enthusiastic to achieve the desired goals immediately (Mantra, 2024).

Education is a conscious effort to develop the potential of human resources through teaching activities. Learning motivation is an internal factor determining success or failure in the teaching and learning process (Redecker & Punie, 2013). In learning activities, motivation

is the overall driving force within oneself that gives rise to learning activities, which ensures the continuity of learning activities. Motivation to learn is a psychological factor that is non-intellectual. Someone with high enough intelligence can fail because of a lack of motivation to learn (Widiastuti & Mantra, 2024). Motivation to learn is also one solution to dealing with feelings of laziness. Of course, feelings of laziness sometimes still come, but motivation to learn will prevent us from continuing to be lulled by that feeling of laziness (Mantra et al., 2022).

Lack of motivation to learn has several impacts, which can influence and hinder education progress in Indonesia. Motivation is essential in learning activities because motivation encourages enthusiasm for learning; conversely, a lack of motivation will weaken enthusiasm for learning (Ruziyevna, 2025). Motivation is an absolute requirement for learning; a student who studies without motivation will not succeed optimally. Procrastination is a signal that our motivation has begun to decline. There will be reasons why we procrastinate, follow our desires to relax, or are reluctant to face something difficult. These are signs that we must maintain motivation at the best level (Mantra et al., 2022).

Motivation is essential in the teaching and learning process for teachers and students. Knowing students' learning motivation is necessary for teachers to maintain and increase students' enthusiasm for learning (Mayangsari et al., 2025). Motivation to learn can foster enthusiasm for learning so that students are encouraged to carry out learning actions. Students carry out learning activities happily because they are driven by motivation. Currently, many students are less motivated to study. It can be seen from the attitude of students who are indifferent to the learning process, ignore the teacher when explaining the material, and do not carry out the tasks given by the teacher (Widiastuti et al., 2022).

Strengthening and instilling motivation to learn is in the hands of the teachers. Because apart from students, the most crucial element in learning activities is the teacher (Fatima, 2023). Teachers are educators who play a role in pedagogical engineering. Teachers prepare learning designs and implement them in the teaching and learning process. Teachers also act as educators who teach values, morals, and social values, and to carry out this role, a teacher must have extensive knowledge and insight, which will later be taught to students (Widiastuti et al., 2022).

Teachers must create conditions in the classroom that encourage optimal learning motivation for students because most of the students' learning time takes place in the school (Pelletier & Rocchi, 2016). It is necessary to manage and organize the class so students do not get bored during the learning process to ensure student motivation. A professional teacher is characterized by his ability to manage the class effectively. Teachers are responsible for organizing the classroom, equipment, and social and emotional environment to ensure successful learning and encourage active participation from students (Maba et al., 2023).

There are various methods that teachers can apply to ensure students' learning motivation remains high (Zakaria, 2025). This study aims to emphasize the critical role of teachers in increasing students' learning motivation in elementary schools. The focus is on teachers' strategies and practices to create a conducive learning environment and increase

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student participation. This study explores how teachers can be agents of change in creating positive learning experiences, strengthening students' academic foundations, and preparing them for future success (Maba et al., 2024).

A previous study by Pratiwi et al. (2025) found that effective learning begins with creating interesting subject matter and a class atmosphere that generates enjoyable learning motivation. This pleasant atmosphere can increase students' motivation and encourage them to learn actively. Furthermore, Kamberi (2025) found that learning motivation is an internal drive that raises enthusiasm for learning. A student with high learning motivation will study well and without feeling forced. However, not a few students have low learning motivation. Therefore, the role of teachers is vital to maintain and increase student learning motivation.

Despite this, there is a significant gap in previous research that is attributed to a decrease in learning or an internal factor of the student as a source of motivation, and there is little evidence of a link between the teacher's role and the student's practice in the classroom. Most studies are also theoretical and do not address the role of specific teachers in increasing students' motivation to learn from various backgrounds and learning conditions. As a result, there is a need for more contextualized and detailed information about the strategies used by teachers and the impact on student motivation.

This study is significant because it highlights the critical role of teachers in the educational process. In today's world of technology and external disruptions, teachers are expected to be more creative and adaptable to improve student learning experiences. This study is hoped to significantly contribute to the development of classroom practice, particularly in identifying effective strategies for increasing student motivation. The findings of this study are also expected to serve as a resource for teachers, administrators, and other educators to improve motivation and participation in learning.

### **Literature Review**

#### **Motivation to learn**

Motivation is one of the most important psychological aspects of the learning process. Some people believe that motivation is an internal condition or situation that allows someone to persevere in achieving a specific goal. This inherent condition is frequently described as a need, desire, or desire that provides direction and energy to human beings. In other words, motivation is a state of mind that causes someone to undertake a task to achieve a desired goal. Motivation is a psychological state that encourages individuals to behave actively, directed, and planned to achieve the expected results (Reeve, 2024).

In the learning process, the teacher's role is critical in developing and motivating students. Teachers are not only transmitters and distributors of knowledge but also motivators who can raise students' enthusiasm for learning. Each student has a unique level of learning motivation (Boyd et al., 2025). Moreover, Reeve (2024) emphasizes that teachers must provide guidance, encouragement, and appropriate feedback to motivate students to learn. When a student's motivation to learn is high, the learning process becomes more efficient, and the

learning outcome improves. Similarly, a lack of motivation to learn will impede student growth and lower learning quality. As a result, the role of the teacher in developing and increasing motivation to learn has become a critical factor that cannot be overlooked to achieve complete educational success.

### **The Role of Teachers in Increasing Learning Motivation**

Motivation to learn is one of the most critical factors influencing students' success in learning. In this case, the teacher has a strategy for developing and maintaining student motivation. One of the teacher's primary responsibilities is encouraging students to participate actively in the learning process. Teachers can help students by delivering material, asking questions, and creating assignments that enable students to think critically and complete assignments. Students' active participation in this process will increase their self-awareness and learning ability (Boyd et al., 2025).

Aside from that, Sihombing (2025) describes that the teacher must provide a conducive learning environment that is safe, enjoyable, and facilitates the learning process. A well-designed classroom and a comfortable environment will give students a sense of security, allowing them to focus and be more motivated to learn. Not only that, but the teacher must be able to implement various learning methods. Using a monotonous method will cause students to become quickly bored and frustrated. Because of this, variations in learning techniques might help students maintain their calm and motivation while the learning process is ongoing.

Teacher enthusiasm and dedication to learning also significantly impact student motivation to learn. A teacher who instills calm, confidence, and active participation in all learning processes will positively impact students' psychology. It causes frustration and disappointment, eventually increasing internal motivation for students to learn more. Providing awards, such as grades, praise, or prizes, can also increase students' learning motivation. This lesson is a positive reinforcement, encouraging students to be confident and continue improving themselves (Egitim, 2025).

Furthermore, García-López et al. (2023) emphasize that activities encouraging student interactivity, such as group discussions, teamwork, and idea sharing, will result in a more enjoyable and enjoyable education. This interaction helps students become more involved in learning and improves their attitude toward the tasks. Based on the findings, it can be concluded that the teacher's role is critical in motivating students to learn. Without an active teacher, students become passive, less creative, and lack the motivation to learn. Because of this, the teacher's role is critical in achieving performance and improving the overall learning process.

### **Research Method**

The research applies descriptive qualitative methods with data collection techniques through literature review, observation, and interviews (Cohen et al., 2002). In this study, researchers use data from various sources and the results of previous research to build a theoretical basis related to the problem to be studied. Observations are carried out in class while learning is taking place. Data analysis includes data reduction activities, data presentation, and

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conclusions. The data was analyzed and presented in a comprehensive, systematic, and critical narrative format.

### **Result and Discussion**

The primary goal of this research is to determine how teachers can improve student motivation to learn in school and identify strategies and techniques that teachers may use to create effective learning environments. This research also aims to fill a gap in the literature by examining teachers' practices practically and contextually. The findings of this study are hoped to provide new perspectives and inspiration for developing more meaningful learning experiences centered on students' overall development.

**The Role and Function of Teachers in the Learning Process** Teachers are professional educators with the main task of educating, teaching, guiding, directing, training, assessing, and evaluating students in education. In the world of education, the term teacher is not something strange. According to the old view, teachers are human figures who should be admired and imitated. The following are excerpts from an interview about the role of teachers in increasing learning motivation.

"I believe the most effective way to motivate students is to emphasize that we care about them. When students are happy and motivated, they learn more effectively. I always greet them individually before the lesson starts; it's simple, and the impact is extraordinary." (Teacher A)

"I consider using a variable learning method so students do not get bored. Sometimes, I ask them to discuss a group project, give a presentation, or play an educational game. When they find learning enjoyable, their learning motivation increases without my intervention." (Teacher B)

"Small rewards, such as praise and extra points, are very influential. When students are discouraged, they are less motivated to learn. No matter how small, every effort is worth hoping for, so they remain enthusiastic." (Teacher C)

"I've realized that sharing my learning experience with others can also help them. When I arrive at school with a lot of enthusiasm, I find that they are also enthusiastic in joining the activities" (Teacher D)

"It's important for me to understand students' backgrounds and interests. I chat casually with them outside class hours. From this point, I understand how to personalize their learning and motivate them based on their needs." (Teacher E)

The excerpts show that all teachers employ various ways to motivate their students. Moreover, they also experience many things dealing with their students. New developments in teaching and learning have consequences for teachers to increase their role and competence because the role and competence of the teacher primarily determine the teaching and learning process and student learning outcomes. Competent teachers will be better able to manage their classes so that student learning outcomes are optimal. The role of a teacher is very significant in the teaching and learning process. The teacher's role in the teaching and learning process includes many things, such as teacher, class manager, supervisor, motivator, consular, and explorer.

The role considered the most dominant and classified as a teacher is the teacher as a demonstrator. Through the role as a demonstrator, lecturer, or teacher, the teacher should always master the material or subject matter that the teacher should teach and continuously develop it in the sense of improving the teacher's abilities in terms of the knowledge the teacher has because this will significantly determine the learning outcomes achieved by students. One thing that teachers must pay attention to is that they are students. It means that teachers must learn continuously.

Teaching successfully means there must be active involvement of students in learning. The two go hand in hand; there is no precedence between teaching and learning because each has a role that influences the other. The teacher's success in teaching is determined by students' activities in learning, as well as students' success in education is also determined by the teacher's role in teaching. Teaching means conveying or transmitting knowledge and views. Teaching is an effort to provide students with stimulus, guidance, direction, and encouragement so that the learning process occurs. In this case, the role of the teacher is vital in managing the class so that the process can run well (Rindu & Ariyanti, 2017).

In the world of education, every type of education or form of education at certain times during an educational period will be evaluated, meaning that at certain times during an academic period, people always assess the results achieved, both by the educated and by educators. Assessment needs to be carried out because teachers can determine the success of achieving goals, students' mastery of lessons, and the accuracy or effectiveness of teaching methods. In line with the shift in the meaning of learning from teacher-oriented learning to student-oriented learning, the role of teachers in the learning process has also shifted, one of which is strengthening the role of teachers as motivators.

The learning process will be successful when students have the motivation to learn. Therefore, teachers must foster students' learning motivation to obtain optimal learning results; teachers must be creative in generating students' motivation so that effective student learning behavior is formed. Class planning must be made as well as possible, adapted to class needs, and clear in the steps for implementing learning and classroom design. This article highlights three main aspects of these strategies: physical, non-physical, and organizational factors. Teachers listen to students, create a safe and comfortable environment, and help students who experience difficulties (Gujjar & Choudhry, 2009).

Teachers are central to learning, determining patterns, methods, and learning success. Teachers' role is vital in education and can influence how students understand learning according to the goals set. Teachers must create conducive conditions before starting learning, both in terms of teacher and student preparation. Teachers can create a dynamic and enthusiastic classroom atmosphere as facilitators and motivators. With a lively classroom atmosphere and high student enthusiasm for learning, the learning paradigm can change, where students become the main subject of learning. Well-organized and managed classrooms play an essential role in increasing student motivation and learning outcomes (Ibrahim, 2016).

Classroom management fosters a learning environment that empowers students to maximize their potential, overcome obstacles in teaching and learning interactions, and

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optimally use facilities. It makes classroom management an essential tool in motivating students individually and in groups. Based on interviews, it was found that good classroom management is a dynamic and continuous process of creating a safe, comfortable, and supportive learning environment for all students.

Teachers should be able to teach classes to improve students' ability to use learning tools, and they need to know how to use media to communicate effectively. Class management is essential so that students do not lose enthusiasm for learning, and teachers must be creative in eliminating the lack of information in various ways so that learning continues to run smoothly. Implementing Effective classroom management cannot be denied as a challenge in practice (Chandra, 2015).

Many obstacles may arise throughout the learning process, originating from various sources such as teachers, students, family dynamics, and educational resources. One of the main obstacles educators face is a monotonous teaching style, which can easily cause students to feel bored. Various methods teachers use to influence students' attitudes toward ongoing learning efforts. The main obstacle that comes from students is their lack of awareness regarding their rights and responsibilities as members of the school or class. Therefore, students must know their rights and obligations when participating in teaching and learning activities (Abbas & Abbas, 2022).

Teachers face many problems that originate from the family environment. Students violate in class because of bad family habits, such as being disorganized, not obeying the rules, having too much freedom, or being too restrained. Another important aspect involves the teacher's efforts to optimize the educational curriculum. Insufficient facilities can hinder teachers in carrying out activities and maximizing the learning curriculum. Teachers must design interesting educational programs and strive to maintain students' enthusiasm for learning. Even though there are deficiencies in school facilities, this should not be an obstacle to student achievement.

To overcome this challenge, educators can use diverse and inclusive teaching approaches, listen to students' needs, provide appropriate support, communicate with parents about how children learn, and create a learning environment that encourages student motivation and participation. Educators can effectively increase students' learning motivation with a holistic and student-focused approach. On the other hand, students must be aware that the teaching and learning process will benefit them so they can remain enthusiastic even if the lessons are monotonous. Meanwhile, teachers must create a pleasant classroom atmosphere so students do not get bored.

To ensure that students are not noisy and engrossed in themselves during lessons, teachers can give strict sanctions to students who are not paying attention; the aim is to prevent them from making mistakes again and prevent other students from copying their mistakes. Teachers with a monotonous learning style can start changing it to make it more challenging and varied. It will increase students' enthusiasm and motivation to be actively involved in the learning process in the classroom. Teachers can use various methods to teach students, for

example, by holding a game in class that simulates snakes and ladders to increase students' understanding.

Based on observations made by teachers in classroom management, physical classroom management includes classroom arrangements to ensure students can carry out teaching and learning activities effectively and efficiently. Managing student activities and behavior involves teachers creating an atmosphere that encourages students' full participation and involvement in teaching. Teachers need to understand the differences in the characteristics of various students because these differences affect the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process.

Based on the discussion above, it is clear that to be successful in teaching, teachers must create an optimal classroom atmosphere to increase students' learning motivation. It involves the teacher's ability to develop new interactive conditions, which motivate students to learn. Therefore, a teacher must be responsive, provide attention, and pay attention to the needs of student groups.

## **Conclusion**

Motivation to learn is one of the key factors in students' success in achieving optimal academic performance. Motivation is the primary motivator in classroom learning, encouraging students to participate actively in the learning process. Many studies have found that students with high motivation are more enthusiastic, energetic, and consistent in completing learning tasks. However, the evidence suggests that not all students have the same motivation to learn. Some students experience difficulties with learning, lack of motivation, and lack of initiative in academic pursuits.

One factor identified as significantly impacting student motivation to learn is the teachers. Teachers are responsible for transferring knowledge, creating a fun learning environment, and inspiring students to learn. The role of the teacher as a facilitator, motivator, and inspiration is critical in assisting students in staying focused and motivated to achieve their learning goals. The teacher has developed various techniques to increase student motivation, such as the use of active learning methods, the use of homework, and the development of positive interactions between teacher and student.

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