This study aims to investigate how PjBL via traditional games impact students' critical thinking, creative thinking, and collaborative skills. The research sample is a local school in Semarang. The research design was a quantitative study using the pre-experimental design type one group pretest-posttest method. There is only one predetermined group in this design. The theme of the game that the project will create was revealed following the pre-test. The research results show students' creative thinking skills in applying the PjBL model via game techniques are 61.53% in high criteria and 38.46% in medium criteria. The study results also show a fair increase in the N-Gain value for the four indicators of creative thinking skills: improvisation, elaboration, creativity, vision, effectiveness, and efficiency. The results show it is effective for six students (25%), fairly effective for 13 students (54.16%), and less effective for five students (20.83%). The study’s results also show that the Mann-Whitney U statistical test is 69. It means that the PjBL model impacts students' collaborative skills. This research has a big impact on increasing students’ creative thinking skills and collaboration.

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Keywords: creative thinking; critical thinking; collaboration; PjBL; traditional games

INTRODUCTION

Physics is a part of science that explains natural phenomena and how these natural phenomena can occur. The purpose of learning physics in schools is to improve creative thinking, critical thinking, and collaboration skills so that students are capable and skilled in the cognitive field. To face challenges in the 21st century requires creative thinking skills (Gu et al., 2019; Apriwanda & Hanri, 2022). For students to make decisions when presented with a variety of options, they need to possess both creative and critical thinking skills (Fields & Bisschoff, 2014; Sumarni & Kadarwati, 2020). To succeed in 21st-century learning, students must think critically and creatively (OECD, 2017; Triyatma et al., 2017; Bybee, 2020; Pramasdyahsari et al., 2021). Physics learning will provide optimal results if students can build knowledge and find answers to a problem through the learning process that is carried out. However, Indonesian students still lack creative and critical thinking skills (OECD, 2017).

The current physics learning process often uses a teacher-centric learning approach. But given the existing curriculum, it is essential to switch from a teacher-centric to a student-centric learning strategy. Teacher-centric learning significantly reduces students' responsibility in carrying out learning tasks. Teacher-centric learning does not improve but reduces students' learning abilities. The use of suboptimal learning models is
one of the problems in the physics learning process. Learning models that do not match the characteristics of students create a monotonous and boring learning atmosphere. It can limit students’ abilities to discover and try new things and cannot hone communication skills.

Many studies have been conducted to answer the previous questions (Kurniawati & Diantoro, 2014; Gu et al., 2019; Sumarni & Kadarwati, 2020; Bereczki & Kárpáti, 2021; Apriwanda & Hanri, 2022; Calavia et al., 2023; Chen et al., 2023). According to Kurniawati and Diantoro (2014), the process of learning physics should emphasize direct experience to develop students’ conceptual skills and enable them to better scientifically comprehend a variety of natural phenomena in their immediate environment. In addition, Kemendikbud (2016) states that students should be encouraged to actively participate in the learning process and that there should be room for them to develop their creativity in an interactive, fun, and challenging environment. In line with this, students are more successful when directly involved in class because they can actively build ideas and connect physics concepts with everyday life. With these activities, students are expected to understand the facts.

Changes in demands on people’s lives have changed the paradigm of learning physics from a result-oriented to a process-oriented one. According to Longworth and Davies (1996), we need to change our focus from looking for what needs to be learned and how to learn it. Learning how to learn something becomes more important than looking for the results of the facts and concepts learned. Badan Standar Nasional Pendidikan (2010) reports that the characterization of a shift in the learning paradigm is the view of teacher-centric learning to student-centric. Learning following this paradigm is learning that can create a sense of responsibility for learning in students, while the teacher is responsible for creating situations that encourage students’ motivation, creativity, and responsibility for learning (Listyani, 2007; Dunbar & Yadav, 2022; Dada et al., 2023). In line with that, one of the efforts that the teacher can make is to plan and use a learning model that can make students active and creative. However, there is a limitation in employing the learning model that could foster these crucial skills for the 21st century.

Developing learning strategies is a method to help students develop critical and creative thinking abilities. The project-based learning (PjBL) approach to education allows students to organize their learning activities, complete group projects, and create original works (Wang et al., 2015). In the PjBL paradigm, which employs a contextual approach, students actively participate in problem-solving, decision-making, research, and presentation (Guo & Yang (2012). The project-based learning model is student-centric, allowing students to learn and try new things. This project-based learning model emphasizes the creativity and skills of students to work in teams to solve problems (Pradita et al., 2015; Gomez-del Rio & Rodriguez, 2022; Eroğlu & Bektas, 2022; Stolz et al., 2022). The Project-Based Learning (PjBL) model encourages students to work independently in producing a product (Susilawati et al., 2018).

Digital literacy is equally crucial for learning in the twenty-first century (OECD, 2017). Students must be knowledgeable about computers and tools in order to learn. Information and communication technology impacts every aspect of society, including education (Kong, 2014). Additionally, multimedia in the classroom contributes to developing critical thinking abilities and concept understanding (Rosida et al., 2017).

The learning while playing method is another approach that places an emphasis on learning and draws students into the learning center through dynamic activities. The development of creative and collaborative skills is positively impacted when games are used in learning that involves the fundamentals of life. It also makes a fun and meaningful learning.

The game is very interesting, especially for children. Students are generally more enthusiastic about participating in the learning process that involves games. Students’ success be improved and learning made easier through the use of games (Bottino et al., 2007; Brezovszky et al., 2019; Lee et al., 2022). If this engaging activity is carried out in a setting that takes into account the characteristics of the students, it may assist them in achieving success in subjects like physics where students are more likely to be intimidated and suspicious of their complexity. However, not much was said about how this game of PjBL helped students develop their creative and critical thinking skills. There is a limitation in research that mainly focuses on implementing PjBL using games.

Students can improve their critical thinking, creative thinking, and collaborative thinking skills with PjBL via games. This study aims to investigate how PjBL via traditional games might impact students’ critical thinking, creative thinking, and collaborative skills, which are essential for 21st-century learning.
METHODS

The study sample was a local school in Semarang which was selected based on the direction and objectives of this research. This quantitative research uses the pre-experimental design type one group pretest-posttest method (Arikunto, 2010; Sugiyono, 2013; Creswell, 2014). There is only one predetermined group in this one-group pretest-posttest design. The test was administered twice in this design: once before the treatment (pre-test) and once after the treatment (post-test).

The research procedures began by conducting the test before implementing the treatment, called the pre-test. It was given to the experimental class (O1). After completing the pre-test, the next step is implementing project-based learning by creating the game. The last stage was carried out the post-test. The test results were analyzed to know the impact of the treatment by seeing the gain number as the indicator of effectiveness.

The research instruments consist of the creative and critical thinking skills tests instrument. The test method was used to measure students’ creative and critical thinking skills. The test items are open-ended questions focusing on metacognitive aspects and the question content (Sumarni et al., 2018). Coşkun (2018) states that metacognitive can lead to higher-order thinking skills. The test items refer to the developed measurement of creative and critical thinking skills by Yoon (2017), Sumarni et al. (2018), and Gelerstein et al. (2016).

Sugiyono (2013) describes the one-group pretest-posttest design research pattern as follows:

\[ O_1 \times O_2 \]

- \( O_1 \) = pre-test score
- \( O_2 \) = post-test score
- \( X \) = project-based learning model

Equation 1 is used to determine the rise in students’ critical thinking skills under their N-gain score.

\[
N - gain (\%) = \frac{\text{score of post test} - \text{score pre test}}{\text{maximum score - score of pre test}} \times 100\%
\]

The N-gain score obtained by each student and per each skill criterion is categorized using the criteria presented in Table 1.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of N-Gain (%)</th>
<th>Students’ Critical Thinking Skill Criteria</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70 &lt; N-Gain &lt; 100</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29 &lt; N-Gain ≤ 70</td>
<td>Medium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N-Gain ≤ 29</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The design of applying the PjBL model via game begins with good goal setting, planning learning through lesson plans using the PjBL method via game, and planning assessments in the form of assessments before and after treatment.

Figure 1 shows the percentage of each class’s pre-test, post-test, and N-gain scores.

![Figure 1. Percentage of Pre-test Scores, Post-test Scores, Gain of Each Class](image)

Various studies have been conducted in the last five years on increasing students’ creativity. In these studies, there are many treatments to increase students’ creativity. These treatments include reading and writing in cooperative learning classes (Marcos et al., 2020), playful design jams (Tang et al., 2020), English language course design for junior high school students (Bağ & Gürsoy, 2021), through mathematics and music (Azaryahu et al., 2023), STEM (Yalçın & Erdener, 2021; Eroğlu & Bektaş, 2022), mathematical games based on the learning environment (Brezovszky et al., 2019), entrepreneurial skills (Durnali et al., 2023), 5-I training program (Gu et al., 2019). Figure 1 shows the percentage of
the pre-test, post-test, and N-gain scores of 26 tenth-grade MAN 2 Semarang students. The data in Figure 1 and Table 1 shows that students’ creative thinking skills in applying the PjBL model via game are 16 students in high criteria (61.53%) and ten people in medium criteria (38.46%). This result differs from Sumarni and Kadarwati (2020) and Apriwanda and Hanri (2022). Ethno-STEM Project-Based Learning for high school students improved creative thinking skills, according to Sumarni and Kadarwati (2020). The N-Gain value indicates that this study improves creative thinking skills. 27.3 percent of students fall into the high category, 47.4 percent into the medium category, and 25.2 percent into the low category. Meanwhile, Apriwanda and Hanri (2022) show that prospective chemistry teachers’ creative thinking level is at a medium level (35.43%).

Different samples cause the difference. The research sample used a sample of 26 students of tenth grade in MAN 2 Semarang. Sumarni and Kadarwati (2020) used a sample of 230 students from seven high schools in Central Java. The research sample by Apriwanda and Hanri (2022) was 92 prospective chemistry teachers in Pekanbaru, Sumatra, Indonesia. The sample quantity, heterogeneity and homogeneity, geographic location, and research method greatly influence the results. The percentage of pre-, post-, and N-gain scores for each creative thinking skill indicator is shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2 also shows an increase in the N-Gain value with medium criteria for the four indicators of creative thinking skills: improvisation, elaboration, creativity and vision, effectiveness, and efficiency. The PjBL model via game effectively impacts students’ creative thinking skills on four indicators. Using the PjBL model with game techniques makes students happy and enjoy learning, increasing students’ creativity significantly in four indicators. The results of this study are slightly different from the research conducted by Sumarni and Kadarwati (2020) and Han et al. (2016). The two studies show that students achieve N-gain in the medium category on two indicators: simple explanations and building essential skills. In comparison, N-gains in the low criteria are achieved by making inferences and advanced explanations. This study shows that the scores achieved by students when using the PjBL model with game techniques are higher than those who do not use the PjBL model with game techniques (Figure 2). Sumarni and Kadarwati (2020) and Han et al. (2016) also show the same trend. Both studies state that higher scores are achieved by students when STEM PjBL is used compared to non-STEM PjBL.

Table 2. Mean Rank Student Collaboration Skills of the PjBL Model and the Conventional Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ranks</th>
<th>Learning model</th>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean Rank</th>
<th>Sum of Ranks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration skills</td>
<td>PjBL model</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>45.85</td>
<td>1192.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conventional model</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>19.97</td>
<td>699.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>61</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 2 compares the mean rank of students’ collaboration skills. The first group consisted of 26 students. The learning model used by the first group is the PjBL learning model using traditional games. The second group of 35 students uses a conventional learning model. The mean rank of the first group is 45.85, while the mean rank of the second group is 19.97. It shows that the PjBL model could improve collaboration skills compared to the conventional model, which aligns with Pramasdyahsari et al. (2023) that students’ collaboration and communication abilities improved while the STEM-PjBL was implemented.

Table 3. Mann-Whitney U Test Results for Students’ Collaboration Skills

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test Statistics</th>
<th>Collaboration skills</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mann-Whitney U</td>
<td>69.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wilcoxon W</td>
<td>699.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z</td>
<td>-5.687</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Grouping Variable: learning model

Table 3 shows the result of students’ collaboration skills using a statistical test using the Mann-Whitney U is 69. This result shows that the score represents the impact of PjBL-assisted traditional games that could positively affect collaboration skills. It is supported by Rojas et al. (2021), showing that the proposed instrument effectively measures students’ collaborative problem-solving skills in the age range of 10-13 years. Christwardana et al. (2022) also show increased chemical engineering students’ competence through collaboration and PjBL. The field of game design also shows a similar trend. Sjöberg and Brooks (2022) explains that school students can develop digital game designs via smart mobile technology by collaborating in problem-solving activities. In addition, Laakso et al. (2021) also demonstrates an increase in the digital competence of elementary and middle school students via collaborative game design.

Albar and Southcott (2021) assert that creativity transcends any one field or activity. However, most Australian research on creativity focuses on art, dance, and music education. In both the international and Australian contexts, there is scant research linking creative endeavors to curriculum areas. Albar and Southcott (2021) reveal that problem-based learning strategies (PBL) and projects (PjBL) used in learning have an impact on arousing children’s creative processes. PjBL also has an impact on increasing creativity (fluency, flexibility, originality, and elaboration) and learning motivation in social sciences (history) for high school students (Pan et al., 2023).

CONCLUSION

This study indicates that the PjBL model via traditional game impacts the increase of students’ creative and critical thinking skills on all criteria in various categories (low, medium, high) and impacts students’ collaboration skills. The “improvised” criterion shows the lowest result. In this research, some of the impacts of Project-Based Learning via traditional games are emphasized. This study demonstrates how collaborative skills and critical and creative thinking strategies can be continuously developed.

REFERENCES


