

## The Level of Student Learning Independence: Between the Future Goals and Facts

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<p><i>Article history</i> Received, 21 October 2022 Revised, 1 December 2022 Accepted, 5 December 2022</p>	<p><i>Corresponding author</i> <a href="mailto:dahanikusumawati@yahoo.com">dahanikusumawati@yahoo.com</a> DOI: 10.35316/jpii.v7i1.461</p>

**Abstract:** The level of student learning independence is a representation of the manifestation of various aspects both from internal and external factors of the students. This study aims to look at the level of student learning independence in three SMP Muhammadiyah (Muhammadiyah Junior High School) in Jember, both as a whole and based on the gender of the students. This study uses a quantitative approach which research instrument is in the form of a questionnaire. The form of the answer is a choice using Likert scale which score range is 5-1 meaning positive-negative scale. The research respondents were 491 students of three schools. The data analysis techniques use percentages linked to five tabulation categories. The research results of those three schools illustrate that the level of student learning independence are good. Meanwhile, based on the gender aspect, the female students level of learning independence is higher than male students. Besides, the indicators having the lowest percentage on the aspect of student independence are making question examples and summaries of learning material.

**Keywords:** learning; independence; students; SMP Muhammadiyah

### Introduction

Student learning independence is an ideal and reality to be realized both at home and at school. Parents, teachers, facilities, methods and other aspects have an important

role to realize student learning independence to encourage the success of the education and teaching process (Effendi et al., 2018; Fitriah & Jahada, 2020; Pratiwi & Suyatmini, 2019). On the other hand, aspects of motivation and awareness can be a key and determinant to

realize student learning independence, so that these dimensions need to be grown sustainably (Maulyda et al., 2021; Ismanto, 2019).

Learning independence can be defined as a form of attitude and commitment to the tasks and obligations that must be carried out by students so that learning objectives can be realized either in the form of achievement or learning outcomes (Rahayu, 2019; Amalia et al., 2016; Mulyadi & Syahid, 2020). The term of learning independence can be theoretically linked to the concept of self-regulated learning which focuses on the tendency of students to become independent learners. The students' dependent nature on learning is an aspect that consistently and continuously decreases, so that independent learning is a representation of the results achieved (Karlen et al., 2021; Gaitero, et al., 2016).

Student learning independence is influenced by internal (endogenous) and external (exogenous) factors. Internal (endogenous) factors are related to students themselves both physiologically and psychologically such as mental health, motivation, interest, talent and perseverance. Besides, the external factors (exogenous) are related to the influence of educational milieu, namely the environment, home and school. The area of the environment is related to the condition of the community, the home area is related to the parenting of the parents applied, and the school area is related to the infrastructure and teachers (Mulyadi & Syahid, 2020). According to this description, the researchers' perspective on learning independence is more related to internal dimensions such as motivation, having initiative to determine independent learning strategies and other internal indicators (Rahayu & Aini, 2021; Wibowo, 2021).

The realization of learning independence will be reflected in student learning activities that are independent,

creative, critical and innovative. The creative aspect will be seen in how students find solutions to problems encountered in the learning process. The critical aspect will be found in the student's evaluation of the effectiveness and efficiency of the learning activities that are followed. Meanwhile, innovative aspect is reflected in their efforts to find solutions to problems according to their learning characteristics.

Several studies on the level of student learning independence have been widely studied. The first research is entitled "The Analysis of the Level of Student Learning Independence at SMA Negeri Sumbawa" has the same title, but the places and the school levels are different. On the other hand, the indicators used to analyze the level of independence have only three same aspects in the form of meaning. This study also has not reviewed the level of independence based on gender (Syafuruddin & Ramdhayani, 2019). The second research entitled "The Categorization of Learning Independence Level for Madrasah Aliyah Students" also has same focus, but it analyzes independence based on 3 aspects, namely personal attributes, process, and learning context (Zainwal & Aulia, 2019). Then, the third research entitled "The Independence of VIII Grade Students of SMP 177 Jakarta Selatan" has different scope and coverage of respondents. It focused on the form of the role of counseling guidance as problem solving (Noengsih, 2021).

Based on the background and a review of several studies that have been conducted, the aims of this research are: 1). To look at the level of student learning independence in three schools as a whole, 2). To look the level of student learning independence based on gender, and 3). To analyze the indicators that have the highest and lowest percentages. Based on these three objectives, the research problems are as follows: 1). what is the level of student

learning independence at SMP Muhammadiyah in Jember?, 2). What are the differences between male and female students' learning independence? 3). What kind of indicators of learning independence that have the highest and the lowest percentages?

### Method

This study used a qualitative approach using a questionnaire as an instrument which has 10 positive statements. The choice of answers uses a Likert scale which score range is 5 – 1. Number 5 is the highest score meaning the most positive indicator. Meanwhile, number 1 is the lowest score meaning the most negative indicator. The

location of this research was in three schools, namely SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan (Junior High School of Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan), SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo (Junior High School of Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo), and SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember (Junior High School of Muhammadiyah 1 Jember). The retrieval of research data was conducted during 2020/2021 of the academic year. The number of respondents used was 491 students consisting of the seventh grade to the ninth grade of each school.

The validity test of the instrument used the T test before being analyzed. While for data reliability, this research used product moment. The data analysis techniques used percentages which formula are as follows:

$$= \frac{\text{The acquisition of the number of all student scores in a school}}{\text{The number of students maximum scores in a school}} \times 100$$

Based on these references, it can be determined that the interval score is 16 points. This amount is determined based on the highest percentage – the lowest percentage. The percentage of the highest score is 100 percent, and the lowest score is 20 percent. The percentage of the highest value minus the lowest value is 80 points divided by 5 as the number of answer options given. Referring to these provisions, the tabulated scores on the level of student learning independence can be arranged as follows.

3	53 % - 69 %	Pretty good
4	36 % - 52 %	Bad
5	20 % - 35 %	Very bad

Based on the tabulation above, the research data will be related to the percentage obtained to see the indicators of the level of student learning independence in those three schools where the research is carried out, whether they are in the very good, good, pretty good, bad, or very bad categories.

Table 1. The Percentage Range and Qualitative Criteria

No	Score Range	Criteria
1	86 % - 100 %	Very good
2	70 % - 85 %	Good

### Results and Discussion

The ten statements used in the questionnaire as the research instrument are presented in the following table.

Table 2. The Questionnaire Statements as the Indicator of Student Learning Independence

No	The Statements
1	The willingness and the effort as the key of my success in learning
2	I determine the achievement of learning targets
3	I did a trial run before the exam
4	I will look for other ways if the teacher's teaching/explanation at school is less effective
5	I will ask for help from teachers and friends to explain material that I do not understand
6	I will make examples of questions and summaries to increase understanding
7	I will look for learning materials before the material is given in class
8	I will rewrite the correct answer if the teacher gives correction
9	I will reflect my way of learning if it is less effective and efficient
10	I will understand the definitions and concepts of the material first in learning

Based on the questionnaire, the research data on the results of student answers at three SMP Muhammadiyah in Jember will be showed in the form of percentage of each statement.

#### 1. SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan

The results of student answers at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan toward the ten statement items stated in the questionnaire are presented in the following diagram.

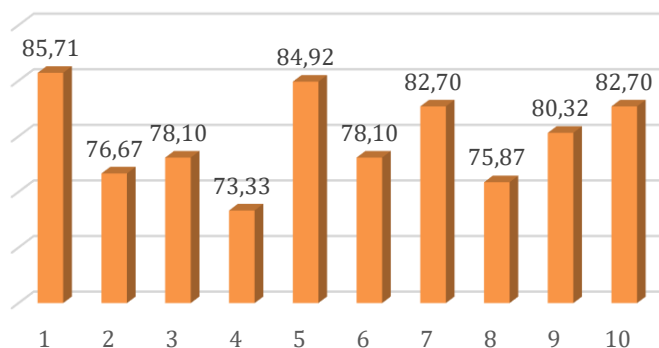


Figure 1. The Diagram of the Percentage of Student Answers at SMP Muh. 6 Wuluhan

Referring to the diagram above, the results of the data in the first statement as an indicator of learning independence, namely the understanding of will and effort as the key to learning success has 85.71 percent which can be categorized as very good. As for the second to tenth statements on the questionnaire, the tendency of students' answers is in the good category. Its lowest percentage is 73.3% lying on the fourth statement. The fourth statement is about student creativity to find alternative methods

or ways to increase the effectiveness of learning carried out by the teacher. The data results on student learning independence at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan as a whole show that the average score of the 10 statements is 79.84 percent which can be categorized qualitatively into good level.

When the results of the research data are reviewed based on the percentage achievement of students' gender, it can be shown as follows.

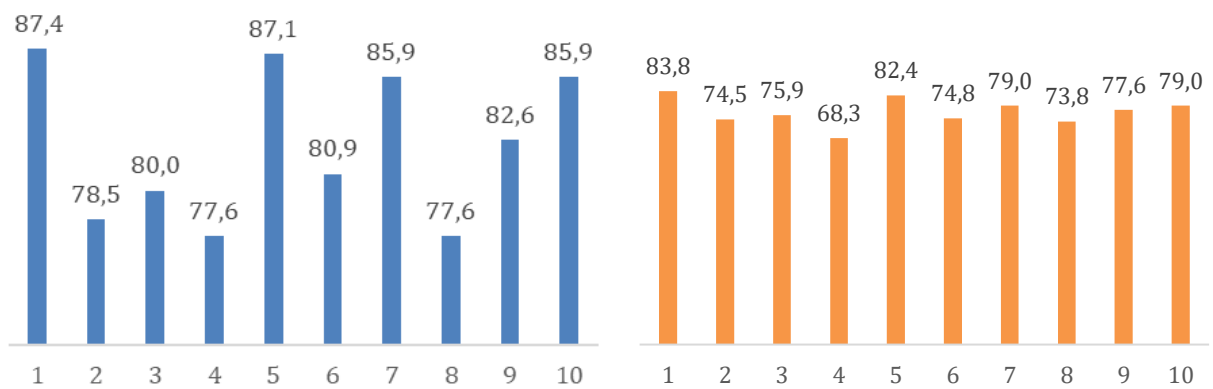


Figure 2. The Percentage of Independence Level of Female (left) and Male (Right) Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan

Referring to the data above, the results between the levels of independence of male and female students, it can be seen that the percentage of female students has a better level of independence compared to male students at SMP Muhammadiyah 6 Wuluhan. The average percentage of female student statements is 82.35 percent, while the percentage of male student statements is 76.9 percent. However, both female and male students learning independence can be categorized as good category.

### 2. SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember

The total amount of students of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember who filled out the questionnaire is 83 people consisting of 52 questionnaire filled out by female students, and 31 questionnaire filled out by male students. Based on the research data, an overview of the level of learning independence of SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember students can be described in the form of a diagram as follows.

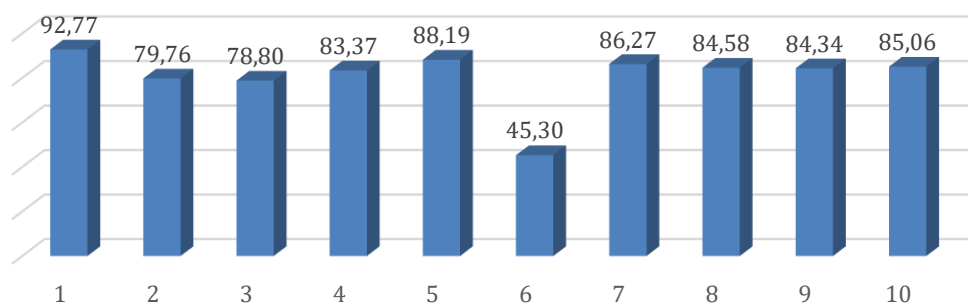


Figure 3. The diagram of the Percentage of Student Answers at SMP Muh. 1 Jember

Based on the results of students' answers at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember on the 10 statement items of the research questionnaire, the first item has the highest percentage reaching 92.77 percent which is categorized as very good. The lowest statement item is at number 6 relating to questions about student initiative to make question examples and a summary of the

material being studied. It only reaches 45.30 percent which is categorized as bad category. Referring to the overall results of the percentage of questionnaire items, the average percentage is 80.84 percent which is in line with the good category.

Based on the overall results of the questionnaire, the independence level of male and female students at SMP

Muhammadiyah 1 Jember can be presented as follows.

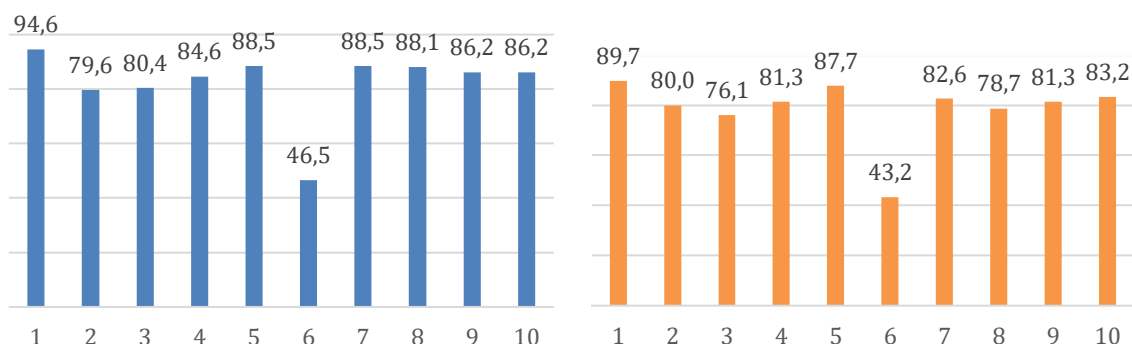


Figure 4. The Percentage of Independence Level of Female (left) and Male (Right) Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember

Based on previous diagram, the percentage of students' independence level at SMP Muhammadiyah 1 Jember shows that female students have a better level of independence than male students. The average percentage for female students is 82.3 percent, while for male students is 78.4 percent. Referring to the qualitative grouping table, these differences are categorically as good level which range is between 70 – 85 percent.

## 2. SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo

The total amount of questionnaires being filled by the students of SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo is 282 questionnaires. They were filled by the students from VII to IX grade. Specifically, based on the gender aspect, there were 116 male students and 166 female students. The data result of the questionnaire given consisting of 10 statement items can be described in the following diagram.

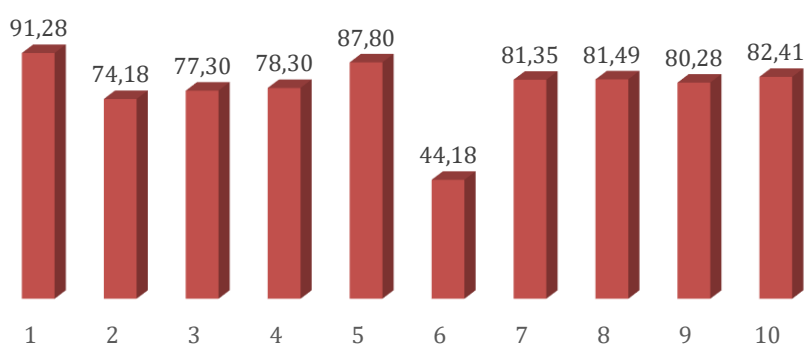


Figure 5. The diagram of the Percentage of Student Answers at SMP Muh. 9 Watukebo

This diagram explicitly describes that the answers of SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo students have the highest percentage in the first statement item, and the lowest percentage is in the sixth item. These results explain that students understand that

learning success is determined by the aspects of their will and independent effort. The data for this component reaches 91.28 percent, which means it is in very good category. On the other hand, regarding to the initiatives to make question examples and summaries of

learning material as an indicator of learning independence, the majority of students have not done it. The percentage achievement for this indicator is 44.18 percent, which means bad.

According to the typology gender, the independence level of students at SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo can be seen in the following diagram.

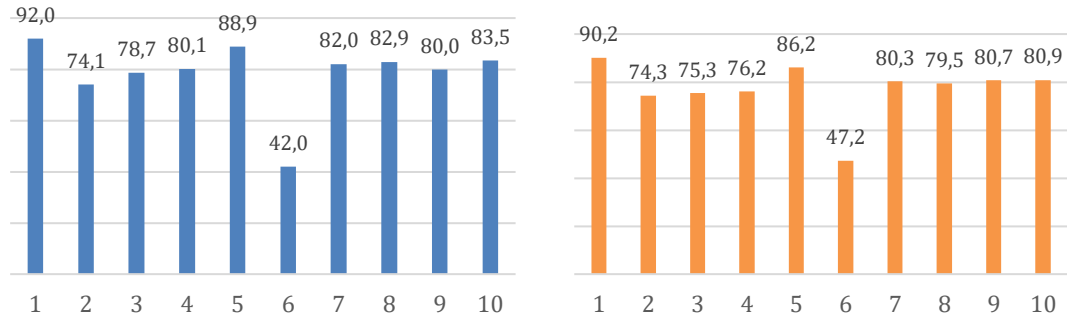


Figure 6. The Percentage of Independence Level of Female (left) and Male (Right) Students at SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo

Having the same tendency towards two previous schools, in terms of gender, female students have a better level of independence than male students. The average percentage of independence level of female students at SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo is 78.4 percent. As for male students, the independence level is in good

category which percentage is 77.08 percent. The different percentage between female and male students at SMP Muhammadiyah 9 Watukebo is only 1.32 percent.

Totally, based on the description of previous data results of this research, the level of student learning independence in each school can be shown below.

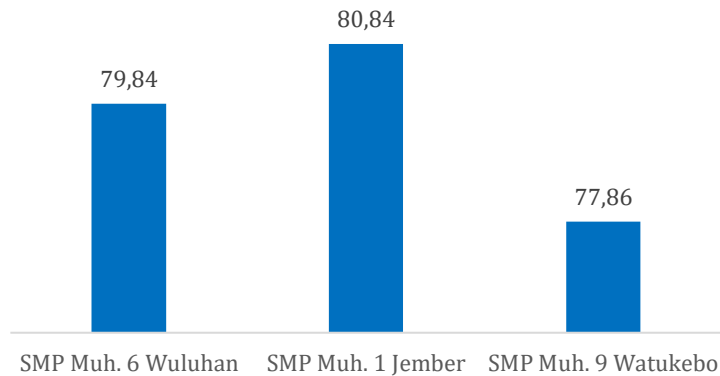


Figure 7. The Percentage Results of Student Learning Independence Levels in Three SMP Muhammadiyah in Jember.

Based on these data, it can be interpreted that the level of student learning independence at the three SMP Muhammadiyah in Jember is included as good category. The percentage is between 70 -85 percent. The different percentage between those schools is only 1.5 – 2 percent. It means that it is not significantly different so that it

can be interpreted that the three schools have the same level of student learning independence.

Based on the ten statement items stated in the questionnaire as a research instrument, there are two items need to be examined, namely student awareness of their will and effort as the keys to successful

learning and the student initiatives to make question examples and summarizing/summarizing learning material. The researcher said that these two aspects have significant differences in percentage and category aspect. One aspect is included in the good category, while the other aspect is included in the bad category.

The level of Learning independence on the indicator of making examples of questions which is included in the bad category means that students do not understand the benefits and functions of these activities. Even though the simple and main benefits of having the activity of making examples of questions can encourage students to more quickly understand the learning material being studied (Foster et al., 2018). It is also in accordance with the initiative to make summaries/summaries of

learning materials. Basically this indicator is very closely related to the profile of students' literacy abilities. A summary is useful for helping students in the thinking process. It can also provide basic and simple information to make them easier to understand learning material (Sirait & Supriyono, 2022;Ismail, 2011).

Referring to the terminology of summary activities above, basically these activities can be linked to strengthening the dimensions of short and long term memory. The nature of the summary which is simple and in accordance with the characteristics of students can be easily embedded and remembered (Ishmael, 2011). This can be described by adapting the concept of memory physiology from Silverthorn's perspective (2014), as follows.

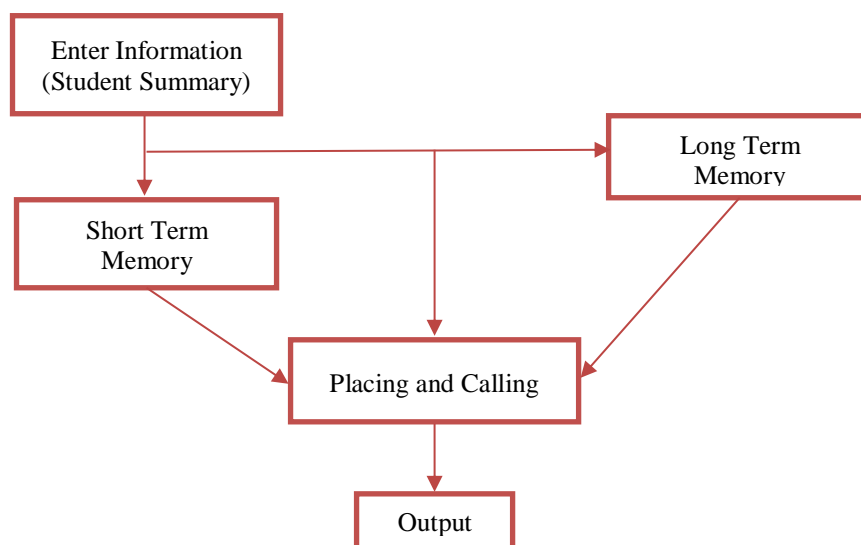


Figure 8. Integrating Summarizing Activities adopted from Physiological Concepts of Memory

Based on the picture, it can be described that student activity in making/summarizing learning material as an indicator of learning independence, is useful to provide input to students' short and long term memory. The concrete impact certainly leads to students' ability to remember and

understand the learning material being studied.

Learning independence having a very good category is in the context of determining the success of learning lying on the willingness and effort of students. It gives a signal that students have understood their main task as learners. The reality shows that



students in those three schools have a high level of awareness as learners. These dimensions describe that student motivation, both intrinsic and extrinsic, has excellent quality and capacity which can encourage the growth of student learning independence.(Ismanto, 2019).

### Conclusion

Based on the description and presentation of the research data results, referring to the objectives and formulation of the research problem, the research conclusions can be formulated as follows: 1). The level of student learning independence at SMP Muhammadiyah in Jember has a good category; 2). The female students at SMP Muhammadiyah in Jember have a better level of learning independence than male students; and 2). The level of student learning independence in the first indicator stated in the first statement of the questionnaire has the highest percentage, meanwhile the sixth indicator relating to student initiative to make questions and summaries/summaries of learning material has the lowest percentage.

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