

## **ICE BREAKING IN BUILDING A LEARNING ENVIRONMENT ACTIVE AND COLLABORATIVE AT NUR SYAFI'IL UMMAH VOCATIONAL SCHOOL**

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### **Abstract**

An active and collaborative learning environment has been proven to have benefits in increasing student motivation, participation and engagement. This article aims to analyze the use of ice breaking in building an active and collaborative learning environment. The approach used in writing this article is a descriptive qualitative approach using literature study methods through journals, scientific articles and book sources. Data analysis techniques involve data reduction, data visualization and inference steps. The results of this research on ice breaking show that ice breaking is effective in building an active and collaborative learning environment. In the studies and research reviewed, ice breaking has been proven to reduce students' initial anxiety and tension, create a relaxed atmosphere in the classroom, and increase communication and student involvement in the learning process.

**Keywords:** ice breaking, active learning environment, collaborative

### **Introduction**

In Law of the Republic of Indonesia number 14 of 2005 Regarding Teachers and Lecturers, states that a teacher is a professional educator whose main task is to educate, guide, teach, assess, train and evaluate students starting from early childhood education, basic education, secondary education and formal education. This means that a teacher should ideally carry out learning preparation which includes planning, implementation, and evaluation, by focusing on learning objectives, the material to be delivered, and the characteristics of students.

In implementing learning, teachers often use the lecture method (Baka et al., 2018; Febriyanti & Ain, 2021; Suryawati et al., 2020; Anisa Algivari et al., 2022). This will create a less conducive learning environment because it will cause a lack of student concentration which is characterized by students chatting, students being sleepy or students being bored. (Dini, 2021; Rejeki et al., 2020; Anisa Algivari et al., 2022)

In the era of increasingly developing education, the traditional learning approach with an emphasis on the teacher as the sole authority has shifted to a paradigm that is more inclusive and collaborative. An active and collaborative learning environment plays an important role in enhancing learning effectiveness and facilitating students' intellectual and social growth.

One strategy used to create an active and collaborative learning environment is to use the ice breaking method. According to Syam Mahfud, *ice breaking* is a small activity in an event that aims to make participants get to know other participants and feel comfortable in their environment. Ice breaking activities will usually be led by one or several people and participants need to follow the instructions of the leader. Ice breaking not only provides an opportunity for students to get to know each other, but also creates a fun, open, and friendly climate in the classroom.

From these problems, the author needs to analyze the use of ice breaking in creating an active and collaborative learning environment. It is hoped that writing this article can show the benefits of ice breaking in facilitating effective communication, building positive interpersonal relationships, stimulating problem solving, increasing active participation, and stimulating student creativity. In addition, this article will also explore effective ice breaking strategies that can be applied in educational contexts.

## Method

This research uses a literature study method which is a type of qualitative research. There are several stages in literature study research, namely topic selection, information search, data presentation, and process evaluation. The data collection techniques used were observation, interviews and documentation as well as looking for sources in books, journals and scientific articles that were relevant to the research title. The data analysis technique used refers to the Miles and Huberman theory as explained by Sustiyono, 2013. Data analysis techniques involve data reduction, data visualization and inference steps.

## Results

### Understanding Ice Breaking

M. Said (2010, p. 15) states that what is meant by ice breaking is a game or activity that functions to change the atmosphere of ice in the group. *Ice breaking designed* to eliminate initial awkwardness, build a sense of comfort and familiarity among participants, and encourage interaction and collaboration within the group. By doing ice breaking, it is hoped that students can be more open, participate actively, and communicate more easily with fellow group members.

This activity usually takes the form of something funny, sometimes embarrassing, sometimes just information and sometimes enlightening (Devi et al., 2022; Huw et al., 2021). Ice breaking activities come in a wide variety, and can include different types of humor, surprise, or enlightenment. The main purpose of ice breaking activities is to break the initial atmosphere of ice or tension in the group, so that participants feel more relaxed and comfortable with each other. Some ice breaking activities can take the form of simple games that involve humor or silliness to produce a humorous and entertaining effect.

According to Mr. Ridwan Taufik, S. Pd as a Mathematics teacher at Nur Syafi'il Ummah Vocational School, Ice Breaking can train students' focus before carrying

out learning, apart from that, this activity also makes the mathematics learning class more active and collaborative.

### **Discussion**

#### **Active and Collaborative Learning Environment**

The learning environment is all conditions that influence the behavior of subjects involved in learning, especially teachers and students as the spearhead of the learning process in school (Zaturrahmi, 2019). Classroom management has a significant role in shaping the learning environment. How the class is managed by the teacher or facilitator can influence whether the learning environment will be active or passive. According to Mr. Ade Purnama, S. T, M. Pd as Head of Nur Syafi'il Ummah Vocational School, there are several ways in which classroom management can influence the learning environment:

1. Involvement and participation: Good classroom management encourages active involvement and participation of participants in the learning process. Facilitators who provide opportunities for all participants to contribute, encourage discussion, and provide challenging challenges will foster an active learning environment. Participants will feel more involved and have a sense of ownership of the learning.
2. Organization of tasks and activities Effective classroom management involves planning and organizing tasks and activities that are interesting and relevant. Teachers or facilitators can design collaborative assignments, group-based projects, or activities that encourage interaction and cooperation between participants. This will help create an active learning environment, where participants interact with each other, share knowledge and learn together.
3. Open communication: Good classroom management involves open communication between teachers and students, as well as between students and each other. Teachers who listen well, respect students' ideas and opinions, and provide constructive feedback, will create an open and supportive learning environment.
4. Division of roles and responsibilities, Effective classroom management involves dividing roles and responsibilities among participants. This can encourage a sense of belonging and active participation in the group. For example, teachers can allow students to be discussion leaders, note takers, or observers. This will provide an opportunity for every student to contribute and feel responsible for their learning.
5. Consistency and fairness Consistent and fair classroom management will help create a safe and comfortable learning environment. students will feel valued and acknowledged, and this will encourage them to participate actively. Class rules that are clear and applied consistently will also help maintain discipline and focus on learning.

Good classroom management plays a significant role in creating an active and collaborative learning environment. With the right strategy, clear rules, good time management, and effective communication, classroom management can influence student motivation, participation, and involvement in the learning process.

### ***Ice Breaking***In Building a Collaborative Active Learning Environment at Nur Syafi'il Ummah Vocational School

Through direct observation in other subject classes, namely the Basic Programming class which was observed on Monday 29 May 2023, Mrs. Titin R. Hidayah, ST as the teacher of this subject was seen carrying out Ice Breaking activities in the middle of learning by giving students guesses, he did this so that the learning environment in the class became active and collaborative.



Figure  
Breaking Activity (source: personal documentation)

1. Ice

It was proven that all students in the class expressed their thoughts quickly and in turn. With Ice Breaking in the form of guessing, students will think laterally and creatively. Students will be encouraged to think, looking for unexpected answers or unique solutions. This stimulates creative thinking and helps actively engage participants in the activity. He did not hesitate to appreciate it by giving chocolate to students who could answer their guesses correctly.

Based on these observations, it is proven that by carrying out Ice Breaking, an active and collaborative learning environment can be built. Ice breaking activities help break up the initial stiffness in the group, introduce group members to each other, and stimulate communication and creativity. This helps create a positive atmosphere, increases participation, and strengthens collaboration between participants. Therefore, ice breaking is an effective strategy in building an active and collaborative learning environment.

### **Conclusion**

In order to build an active and collaborative learning environment, it is important for teachers to integrate ice breaking activities in the learning process. Ice breaking helps increase participation, strengthen social connections, and open space for more effective collaboration among participants. Through ice breaking activities, students can learn to work together in teams, appreciate differences, and develop communication skills. This activity also stimulates creative and collaborative thinking in finding solutions or answers. Thus, ice breaking plays an important role in creating an active learning environment and supporting collaboration between students.

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