# Mobile games and learning interest: for fifth graders in mathematics

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#### **ABSTRACT**

This study aims to develop a mobile game using the QuizWhizzer application to improve fifth graders' learning interest in mathematics at Kalibata 04 Elementary School, South Jakarta, Indonesia. The contribution of this study is to enhance the interest in mathematics learning for students in all elementary schools in South Jakarta, Indonesia. This research used the analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation (ADDIE) model to develop the product as a systematic approach to instructional development. The experimental design, which helps collect data needed for better decision-making, was utilized for the effectiveness test for fifth graders at Kalibata 04 Elementary School, Jakarta, Indonesia. The results showed that sig (2-tailed) reached 0.000, less than 0.05, meaning there was a significant difference between schooling results in the pretest and posttest data. The N-gain score obtained in this study was 0.49, so the media developed in this research is compelling enough to increase learning interest in mathematics for fifth grade elementary school students.

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#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Education is crucial for human life because, through education, humans can become good individuals and get happiness and a sense of security. At this time, technology has developed rapidly, even in some developed countries that have utilized technological developments to support the success of student learning in the classroom. However, there are still many schools in Indonesia that do not take advantage of technological advances to support the success of student learning.

The use of video games to enlarge decisiveness-building skills and improve thinking abilities, but this study, did not aim to increase students' interest in learning mathematics [1]. Games have also been researched to improve students' motivation for involvement in learning [2]. Games have been used to make learning fun, but more is needed to increase students' interest in learning [3]. Some teachers can also trust the use of video games to improve the learning process in students because usually, students will be more interested in learning with the help of media they often encounter [4]. Games are combined with stories, which later aim to improve students' computing skills [5]. From various kinds of research that relate the use of games to multiple aspects, no one has related the use of fun to the learning interest of elementary school students, especially fifth grade, in learning mathematics.

Therefore, the researcher aims to examine the use of games to increase the learning interest of fifth grade elementary school students in learning mathematics; according to the researcher, this is important to do

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because students' interest in learning mathematics is lacking, so games might be a single of the media that strengthen students' attentiveness in learning elementary school mathematics.

Therefore, this study used mobile-based games to increase fifth grade students' interest in mathematics. The researcher focused on the central question in this study, namely: "Can the use of mobile-based media games increase the learning interest of fifth grade students in learning mathematics?" This research is an attempt to answer the questions as follows: i) how do we develop mobile-based games to increase fifth grade students' interest in learning math? and ii) is there a change in learning mathematics for fifth grade elementary school students after applying mobile-based games to their learning? This study uses mobile-based games to examine the development of the learning interest of grade five elementary school students in learning mathematics. Furthermore, the researcher will describe the benefits experienced after using mobile-based games in elementary school math learning.

Several recent studies [6]–[12] found that game-based learning uses games as a medium to help students achieve these learning goals. Previous research shows that game-based learning helps students increase learning motivation, interest, and achievement inside and outside school. Generally, game-based learning is carried out by teachers with a competitive model in the game so that students' learning motivation will increase because there is competition in the learning [13]. Games for difficult and unpleasant learning, such as mathematics, help students during the learning process [14]. Safitri *et al.* [15] confirmed that with games, students could more easily grasp what is being taught, and learning is more fun than usual.

For some people, studying a subject may be an uninteresting and tedious activity, primarily when the subject being studied is a subject that is difficult to understand [16]. Interest in learning is one of the factors that can help students learn a subject well and achieve their learning goals because, with a high interest in education, students also have curiosity and high enthusiasm when learning a subject. The teacher must create a comfortable learning environment and be liked by students [17]. One way to create a relaxed and enjoyable learning environment is to utilize existing learning media [18].

#### 2. METHOD

#### 2.1. Research design

This study used an experimental design where initially, elementary school students are given a pretest to see how far their interest in learning mathematics is. After that, the students are provided learning with mobile-based media games to see how far their interest is and whether their appeal has increased after being given the media. Finally, the students are given a posttest to measure how effective the media the researcher has provided is on students' learning interests.

#### 2.2. Population and sample

The target population of this research is all elementary school students in the Pancoran District in South Jakarta, Indonesia. Meanwhile, the affordable population is 23 students. This study took a random sample from a population involving 23 students in grade 5B at Kalibata 4 Elementary School in Jakarta, Indonesia.

#### 2.3. Research instruments

The instrument used in this study was a pretest related to students' learning interests, which involved students' tendencies when learning, persistence, and student learning outcomes. After that, students are given media containing mobile-based games; the press serves to increase students' interest in learning mathematics. After the existence of the media, students were given a questionnaire that functioned to assess how much the effectiveness of the media used was to increase students' learning interest in learning mathematics. Then, after the students evaluated the media provided by the researcher, the students were given a posttest, which aimed to allow the researcher to see how effective the media was in increasing students' interest in learning mathematics.

#### 2.4. Data analysis

The Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was undertaken to test the normality of the data distribution. Then, Levene's test is used for data homogeneity. This study uses inferential statistics to test the hypothesis by applying the t-test. The hypothesis decision was made based on criteria with a significance level of 0.05. The null hypothesis is rejected if the statistical test is more extreme than the critical value. Conversely, the null hypothesis is only accepted if the test is less intense.

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#### 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1. Analysis of students' interest in learning mathematics

The first stage with the analysis, design, development, implementation, and evaluation (ADDIE) model was carried out so that researchers could determine what was needed to increase students' interest in learning in grade 5 Kalibata 04 Elementary School. The researcher interviewed the homeroom teacher for class 5B to learn about this. The results of interviews with the homeroom teacher showed that grade 5 students' interest in learning mathematics was quite good. This is because the teacher creates a pleasant learning atmosphere so that students are pretty comfortable learning mathematics with the teacher.

The QuizWhizzer application has templates that make it easier for teachers to determine these elements. At this stage, the researcher also considers the media to be used; the media's provisions are easy to access, there are no obstacles such as bugs or errors, and they are manageable for the electronic device (mobile) used. This planning is also carried out to avoid difficulties for teachers, students, and parents in using the gamification media that will be used. From this plan, the gamification media is considered.

#### 3.2. Mobile-based game design (QuizWhizzer)

Based on the above analysis, the researcher proceeded to the second stage of the ADDIE model, namely design. At this stage, the researcher plans to develop and test mobile-based games (QuizWhizzer) for preparation carried out by researchers, namely determining the material to be set according to the needs of grade 5 students at Kalibata 04 Elementary School. For the material, the researcher chose the measurement of time and angles because the teacher taught the material in the previous semester so that students could understand the material's content in the learning media.

Next, researchers look for more detailed theories regarding learning media through gamification. Then, determine the various elements, structure, audio, images, and typography appropriate for the class and subject; the good news is that the QuizWhizzer application has templates that make it easier for teachers to determine these elements. At this stage, the researcher also considers the media to be used; its provisions are easy to access, there are no obstacles such as bugs or errors, and they are not burdensome for the electronic device (mobile). This planning is also carried out to avoid difficulties for teachers, students, and parents in using the gamification media that will be used. From this plan, the gamification media is considered.

## 3.3. Development of mobile-based games to increase student learning interest

Increasing interest in learning with mobile-based games designed using the QuizWhizzes application, which can be accessed anywhere. QuizWhizzer is an interactive game designed to enhance the teaching and learning experience in the classroom where the user makes a quiz with a race game model or Snakes and Ladders. In this interactive game, there are question numbers on the game board; each time the user answers one question correctly, the user's position will move to the following number, and if the answer is wrong, the user will remain in place. In this mobile-based game, ten questions contain material; when students want to access the game, the teacher will provide an access code so students can join and play the game.

# 3.4. Implementation of mobile-based games to increase student learning interest in learning mathematics

The effectiveness test of mobile-based games in 2023 at Kalibata 04 Elementary School was conducted to enhance the students' learning interest in mathematics. This implementation used a pretest given before the treatment and a posttest after the treatment of applying mobile-based games in mathematics learning. The first step to test the effectiveness of the media used is to do a paired sample t-test, as shown in Tables 1-3. Table 1 shows that the pretest has a mean of 75.7130 from 23 data and a standard deviation of 9.6667 with a standard error mean of 2.0156. The posttest has a mean of 87.9348 from 23 data and a standard deviation of 4.3073 with a standard error mean of 0.8981. Table 2 shows that the correlation value between the two variables in paired samples, pretest, and posttest, arrives at 0.838 with sig (2-tailed) achieving 0.000. Table 3 indicates that based on the output of the independent sample t-test, sig (2-tailed) achieves 0.000<0.05, showing that Ho is rejected, meaning that there is a difference between learning interest in the pretest and post-test data. This method assesses how significant changes in students' pretest scores are with students' posttest scores.

Table 1. Paired samples statistics

Pair 1	Mean	IN	Std. deviation	Std. error mean
Pretest 7	5.7130	23	9.66669	2.01564
Posttest 8	7.9348	23	4.30725	0.89812

Table 2. Paired samples correlation

Pair 1	N	Correlation	Sig.
Pretest and posttest	23	0.838	0.000

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Table 3. Independent samples test

Pair 1	Mean Std	Std. deviation	Std. error mean	95% confidence interval of the difference			df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Stu. deviation		Lower	Upper	ι	uı	Sig. (2-tailed)
Pretest-posttest	-1.22217	6.49545	1.35439	-15.03058	-9.41290	-9.024	22	0.000

#### 3.5. Evaluation of mobile-based games to increase student learning interest in learning mathematics

Based on the assessment of the work accomplished at Kalibata 04 Elementary School, mobile-based games can be used to upgrade the learning interest of grade 5B students at Kalibata 04 Elementary School is good enough so that these students can maximize their ability to learn. Another study found that game-based education should be developed with suitable mobile technology to improve learning effectiveness [19]. The design of educational gamification should depend on the student's age group as users, and the teacher should give feedback directly. Implementing mobile-based gamification can positively influence the students' psychological well-being to a higher level [20]. These behavioral factors include the student's autonomy, flexibility, optimism, social relationships, perseverance to achieve goals, and self-realization. Mobile-based learning can also support the students' academic achievement [21]. The student's cognitive style simplicity can be upgraded, leading to learning effectiveness experienced.

Similar to the study, educational game learning media can raise students' learning outcomes [22], [23]. This media can encourage the students to learn and work together with others. It can assist the students in acquiring their accomplishments in material assimilation. It can also stimulate the students to study creatively and work autonomously. This gamified learning method can make the students vastly energetic and competitive. This is in line with the study that found that the application of game media in the teaching-learning process can boost the students' curiosity about the teaching material delivered [24]. This media can lessen the concept of abstraction so that it will be helpful for students to comprehend the material constructively. Game-based learning can also strengthen students' retention potential towards learning.

Implementation of game-based learning can promote the students' creative thinking skills [25], [26]. Classroom management using gamification can effectively influence a higher level of student engagement in education and raise their higher-order thinking skills. It can stimulate students' divergent thinking, and it leads to increasing student innovativeness. Gamification can also develop students' positive emotional feelings, allowing them to be involved in learning meaningfully. Further, the students can have opportunities to get constructive consciousness to perceive productive thinking in the teaching and learning process.

Game-based learning stimulates elementary school students' motivation [7], [9], [27]–[30]. Educational games can assist elementary school students in learning science-related concepts by increasing students' engagement in the teaching-learning process so that it can improve students' learning achievement. A game-based approach facilitates the students' learning more efficiently and provides entertaining learning practice. Game-based learning programs can integrate formative assessment into teaching-learning without disturbing the class. Further, the students confirmed higher positive attitudes towards learning the subjects they were taught.

## 4. CONCLUSION

Mobile-based games can increase fifth grade elementary school students' learning interest in mathematics. This research implies that elementary school teachers can apply mobile-based game-learning media in mathematics courses so that elementary school students show a higher positive attitude toward the subjects. This research has explored a comprehensive investigation related to the improvement of learning interest with mobile-based games in mathematics learning. However, further and in-depth studies may be needed to confirm the continued learning intention of the students, especially regarding all psychological dimensions. However, the limitation of this research is that this research only covers South Jakarta, a part of one province in Indonesia. It is recommended that further research be applied for a wider area surrounding more locations in other provinces in Indonesia to represent the fifth graders' needs in Indonesia.

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