

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Teaching is one of the exciting things for me. I always get excited when I have an opportunity to teach someone, especially children. In teaching I can share my knowledge and have some fun at the same time. During my internship, I decided to be a teacher assistant and taught the children in Kalam Kudus Kindergarten. In that period, I faced something that I never thought before. I had to deal with a four-year-old autistic child. I felt interested to know more about this child. According to a book entitled Children with Autism, it is said that “Autism is physical disorder of the brain that causes a lifelong development disability” (5). Smith explains autistic children have several characteristics, such as having very little or no eye contact, preferring to be alone, and also having difficulty in

understanding group interactions (par.1). Based on my experience at my internship, I found that when the homeroom teacher said something to her, she often had no eye contact to the teacher; as if she did not listen to what the teacher said. Another condition, when the students made group work and tried to make an exercise, this autistic child did not do her exercise but she played toys alone at the corner of the class. Based on that theory and also the experience that I got, I am sure this child has the characteristics of autism. Besides, I also got a confirmation about this child's condition from the homeroom teacher, Miss Nita. She told me that this child had an autistic syndrome since she was in Nursery class. According to this fact, I am more convinced that she is an autistic child.

Becoming a teacher assistant at a class with the autistic child made me interested to learn more about autism. Handling an autistic child is not an easy job to do. As a teacher assistant I need to teach the lesson and handle the child. It is even more challenging when this child did not give any response or she was just often silent without showing any focus in her eyes. I found out that she also played something by herself, such as playing with her chair in the class when the others were doing their tasks. I really wanted to know more about this child, especially how to teach this child well.

In this term paper, I am interested in analyzing this problem to find the solutions of the problem. Based on my internship experience, I think teaching an autistic child is quite challenging. I am going to analyze this problem systematically to find the best solution in teaching the autistic child. Therefore, I do some research to find the best solutions for this problem.

B. Identification of the Problem

There are some questions that I use in analyzing this problem:

1. Why did I have difficulty in teaching an autistic child at Kalam Kudus Kindergarten?
2. How did this problem influence the teaching and learning process?
3. How could I overcome this problem?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

The objectives of the study are to identify the causes of the problem in teaching an autistic child at Kalam Kudus Kindergarten, to find out how this problem influences the teaching process and to find the best solution to teach the autistic child. In addition, there are several benefits of the study. First, the institution, especially the teachers at Kalam Kudus Kindergarten will know how to handle the autistic students in the classroom when they study in the regular

school. Another benefit is for the readers who face the same problem as I do, so that they will know the solutions to solve the problem. Moreover, for me I can find solutions in teaching the autistic child if I become a teacher in the future.

D. Description of the Institution

Based on the data from Sekolah Kristen Kalam Kudus official website, Kalam Kudus Bandung is a school which has integrity in love and discipline in teaching the students. Kalam Kudus Kindergarten Kopo Permai is established in 1989. It is located in Kopo Permai F-14 number 2-4 Bandung.

This school is under the Foundation of Kalam Kudus formerly led by Ps. Andrew Wusan. Along the time, kindergarten curriculum is constantly evolving. Since 2011, Kalam Kudus kindergarten applied i-learning system designed specifically by Kalam Kudus Indonesia Foundation to develop children's existing potentials. Children will have the freedom to have experiments and also able to enjoy and express their curiosity. There are many facilities in this school such as five general classrooms, one computer lab, one small and big auditorium, outdoor and indoor children playgrounds. Kalam Kudus Kindergarten has ten teachers including one headmaster and one secretary.

Not only have great teachers but this school also have great staff like cleaning service and baby sitter for the children at school.

E. Methods of the Study

The methods applied for the study are library and field research. The data for library research was taken from books and articles on the Internet. Furthermore, the data for field research are taken from my observation. The observation data are written in my internship journal. I wrote the journal based on my teaching experience during my internship at Kalam Kudus Kindergarten from January 20 until 21 February 2014. Last, I also add some interviews with the teacher to get some more information. The data is used to analyze the causes, the effects and to find the best solutions.

F. Limitation of the Study

In this term paper, the subject of the research is I as a teacher assistant at Kalam Kudus Kindergarten. The study focuses on how I teach one autistic girl, aged 4 years old, in TK-A Kalam Kudus Kindergarten.

G. Organization of Term Paper

The term paper is divided into four chapters. Chapter One is the Introduction, which contains of the Background of the Study, Identification of the Problem, Objectives and Benefits of the Study, Description of The Institution, Methods of the Study, Limitation of the Study, and Organization of the Term Paper. Chapter Two is the Problem Analysis, which contains the analysis of the causes of the problem and also the effects of the problem. Chapter Three is the Potential Solution which describes three solutions, with the positive and negative effects of the solutions.

Chapter Four is the conclusion, in which I will give the best solutions and the conclusion of the previous chapters. The last part of this term paper is a Bibliography and Appendices.