

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

For centuries, music has become an important aspect for every nation in the world. Every nation has its own music styles, even almost all nations have their national anthem and the songs are arranged with music.

Unfortunately, people often do not realize that music is very important for everyone, especially for students. Michael Budiman, graduated from Yayasan Pendidikan Musik Indonesia, says that music education in Indonesia has not been projected to become an important element; consequently, music is often forgotten (par. 7). This statement proves that some people consider music as one element that is not important to learn.

On the other hand, based on a research in the United States, it is stated that “Music uses both sides of the brain and affects the growth of a child’s brain academically, emotionally, physically and spiritually” (“Music and Young Minds”). Furthermore, Steven Demorest and Steven Morrison have conducted a research and the result is “On the 1999 SAT, music

students continued to outperform their non-arts peers, scoring 61 points higher on the verbal portion and 42 points higher on the math portion of the exam” (10). This research proves that music is truly influential in the development of student’s brain.

Since 2006, I have been teaching music for 7th-12th grade students at Anak Indonesia School (AIS). AIS applies a homeschooling model for its curriculum and the teachers and the staff use English as the medium of instruction at school. Homeschooling model means teachers bring the home atmosphere to school, so the students feel like they are at their home. In terms of educating the students in the process of learning, the teachers take the role as parents. As an example, caring parents do not force their child to understand one material as quickly as their siblings at home. They will try to understand each child deeply and solve the problems patiently. Therefore, at school it is expected that each student can make individual progress based on his / her potential. The characteristics of Homeschooling method, as stated by Yayah Komariah, a leader of the homeschooling community in Jakarta, are as follow:

- Your child gets the teacher's full attention.
- Your child learns at his or her own pace.
- Your child gets to practice what he or she has missed and skip what has been mastered.
- Your child will be in a safe environment with no bullies and conflicts with teachers.
- The cost is lower than that for private school.

- Children who have been home schooling usually appear more confident than those who attend public schools and some private schools. They are unlikely to have problems expressing their opinion to adults on an intelligent and equal basis.
- If your child does not understand a lesson, he or she is more likely to admit to it and want it gone over until he or she understands it.

(48)

It is stated in the above explanation that each child will learn at his/her own pace. I believe this is important because not all students have the same ability. Some of them can have a very fast progress, but some of them cannot. It makes teachers have to pay attention on them individually because their academic developments are different. It means the teachers have to give different material that is suitable with the students' abilities. In terms of using English in the classroom, there are only two students who get used to communicate in English because they come from international schools. The rest of them come from other schools which do not use English as the medium of instruction.

At AIS, music is a necessary subject for every student. Students get this lesson once a week. In music lesson they have to learn musical theory. It means they have to be able to read music score. It does not mean that they have to be musical and skilful in playing piano, but this can make them understand the music theory. Playing piano becomes an application of the theory that the students have learnt. In addition, the

students in Grade 7-12 learn how to perform and they get more knowledge about music.

Considering the application of the homeschooling model at AIS, there were several problems that I faced during my apprenticeship program from January to February 2008. Music is one of the subjects which is not easy to understand because students might not be familiar with music and music would be difficult to learn by the students with low musical intelligence. That is why, the music teacher has to think creatively to make students understand the lesson.

Based on my experience when I was in Junior and Senior High School, I learn that teaching music theory without the application of the theory to the actual music practice will not be effective for the students. I realize that it is important to let the students experience how to link the theory and the practice. I want my students to fully understand and enjoy the music lesson. Owing to that fact, I choose to discuss the strategies for teaching music to students in Grade 7-12.

B. Identification of the Problem

I propose to analyze the problems which are described as follows:

1. What are the causes and effects of the difficulties that I faced in teaching music to students in Grade 7-12?
2. What are the possible solutions to solve the problem?
3. What are the positive and negative effects for each potential possible solution?

4. What is the best solution to solve the problem based on the relevant context?

C. Objectives and Benefits of the Study

Objectives of this term paper are described as follows:

1. To analyze the causes and effects of the difficulties that I faced in teaching music to students in Grade 7-12.
2. To find out the possible solutions to solve the difficulties.
3. To present the positive and negative effects for each potential possible solution.
4. To figure out the best solution to solve the problem based on the relevant context.

The benefit of the study will be explained as follows:

- a. For the institution

The content of this term paper can be useful for teacher training in the future, especially for music teachers.

- b. For readers

The result of this term paper hopefully can become a good input for every reader who has the same problem in teaching music. It helps readers to understand the difficulties of teaching music and the strategies to solve the problem. Moreover, it can improve the readers' teaching style in the future.

c. For me as the writer

This term paper is useful for knowing what I should do in the future to make music teaching of grade 7-12 better, so the students can understand the music lesson which is not easy to be learnt.

D. Description of the Institution

Anak Indonesia School (AIS) is a private Christian school which was established in 2005 to serve Indonesian people. AIS aims at transforming education by providing not only a day care, but also early childhood education program that promote a lifetime of learning, which is directed toward intellectual, physical, ethic, spiritual and social aspects. AIS adopts the homeschooling model and uses international curriculum which is adapted into the Indonesian culture. AIS has a vision which is "Giving Birth the New Leaders" and the mission is "Excellent Personality". Also, AIS has goals to be achieved, which are 4B (Blessed, Brain, Behavior, And Beauty).

AIS provides programs of Elementary, Junior High, and Senior High School. It has 19 students which are divided into three classes. Those are grade 1-3, 4-6, and 7-12. Small classroom sizes ensure that children will receive guidance tailored to their individual styles and abilities. AIS classrooms consist of 10 students or less with a teacher and one class-attendant. A small class encourages close student-teacher relationship, which is further enhanced by teachers' commitment to be involved in the students' learning problem.

E. Limitation of the Study

The Term Paper covers the analysis of the causes and the effects of the problem at AIS. The data for supporting the analysis is taken from eBooks, articles on the internet, some references at apprenticeship journal and my teaching experience. At the end of this term paper, there is one best solution based on the relevant context at AIS.

F. Organization of the Term Paper

This term paper starts with the Abstract, Declaration of Originality, Acknowledgements, and Table of Contents. The content consists of four chapters. Chapter One contains the Introduction. Chapter Two explains the Problem Analysis in which every cause and effect of the problem will be stated specifically. Based on the analysis of the problem that is discussed in Chapter Two, there are three possible solutions that I analyze in the Chapter Three. The positive and negative effects will be analyzed systematically. Chapter Four, as the last chapter in this term paper, will state the chosen solution after I analyze all the possible solutions in the previous chapter. In the final part, I put the Bibliography and Appendices.