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## Application of Collage Method with Corn Husk Media to Improve Children's Fine Motor Skills in Group a at RA Manda Ngaliyan Semarang

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### Abstract:

Fine motor development in early childhood is an important aspect that needs to be stimulated through various creative learning methods. This study aims to apply and analyze the effectiveness of the collage method with corn husk media in improving the fine motor skills of Group A children at RA Manda Ngaliyan, Semarang. This study uses the classroom action research method (PTK) which is carried out in two cycles. Each cycle consists of planning, implementation, observation, and reflection stages. Data was collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. The results of the study showed an increase in children's fine motor skills after the application of the collage method with corn husks. This improvement is shown through improved hand-eye coordination, precision, and skills in cutting, pasting, and arranging collage materials. In the first cycle, some children still have difficulty in manipulating corn husks, but in the second cycle there is significant development. Thus, the collage method using corn husks has been proven to be effective in developing children's fine motor skills. This method can be used as an alternative in learning activities in early childhood education to train children's hand skills and creativity in a fun way.

**Keywords:** collage method, corn husk, fine motor, early childhood

### INTRODUCTION

The development of kindergarten-age children is an important stage that greatly determines the development of personality in the future. During this time, the child experiences the peak of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor development. Therefore, children need to be equipped with various creative experiences that include emotional, intellectual, aesthetic, and perceptual intelligence through various forms of expressive language, such as visual language, sound language, and movement, according to the character of children's artistic development at preschool age.

One of the important aspects in early childhood development is fine motor development. Fine motor is concerned with the coordination of small muscles, especially finger and hand movements, which play a role in various activities such as writing, drawing, and scissors (Sari & Putri, 2021). Proper stimulation is needed for these skills to develop optimally. One method that can be used to stimulate fine motor skills is the collage method using corn husk media.

This study aims to apply the collage method with corn husk media in improving the fine motor skills of Group A children in RA Manda Ngaliyan, Semarang. The collage method is an art technique that involves cutting, arranging, and pasting various materials to create works (Fitriani et al., 2022). Through this method, children are expected to

improve hand-eye coordination, train precision, and hone manipulative skills that support their fine motor development.

The use of corn husks as the main medium is expected to provide a unique and useful learning experience. In addition to introducing natural ingredients, corn husks also provide different sensory stimulation compared to paper or other materials (Rahmawati & Lestari, 2023). Thus, this method not only improves fine motor skills but also trains children's creativity and patience in completing tasks.

However, the reality is that there are still many early childhood children who have difficulty developing their fine motor skills. According to research by Susanto and Widyaningsih (2021), most children face challenges in activities that involve hand skills, such as holding scissors correctly or attaching materials neatly. This shows the need for a more interesting learning method and in accordance with the needs of children's development.

The application of the collage method with corn husks has the potential to be an effective alternative in improving fine motor skills. A study conducted by Nugroho et al. (2022) shows that collage activities can stimulate children's hand skills as well as help them focus more on completing tasks. Unique media such as corn husks can also increase children's interest in the learning process so that they are more active and motivated.

In addition to improving fine motor skills, this method also contributes to the development of children's cognitive and social aspects. When working on collages, children learn to recognize textures, colors, and patterns that support cognitive development (Handayani & Pratiwi, 2023). From the social side, collage activities carried out in groups help children learn to interact and cooperate with peers, so that their social skills also develop.

Although this method has many benefits, there are some challenges in its implementation. Some children may have difficulty managing stiffer materials such as corn husks compared to regular paper (Ananda et al., 2023). Therefore, assistance from teachers and parents is needed so that children can adjust to this media and get the maximum benefit from collage activities.

Based on this background, this study will examine the effectiveness of the application of the collage method using corn husks in improving children's fine motor skills. It is hoped that the results of this research can be one of the innovative learning strategies that can be widely applied in the early childhood education environment.

## **METHODS**

This study uses a classroom action research (PTK) approach which is carried out in two cycles. The main source of data in this study is Group A children at RA Manda Ngaliyan, Semarang, who are the subject of the study. Data was collected through direct observation of children's activities when participating in collage activities using corn husk media. In addition, data was also obtained from interviews with teachers and documentation of children's works to assess the development of their fine motor skills.

Secondary data in this study were obtained from various literature related to fine motor development in early childhood and the application of the collage method in learning. Literature sources include journals, books, and previous research relevant to the topic. This reference is used to strengthen the analysis of research results and compare findings with previous studies.

The data collected was analyzed using qualitative and quantitative descriptive methods. Qualitative analysis was carried out by interpreting the results of observations and interviews to describe how the collage method with corn husk media affected children's fine motor development. Meanwhile, quantitative analysis was carried out by comparing the improvement of children's fine motor skills from the first cycle to the second cycle based on predetermined indicators.

The indicators used in the analysis include children's ability to cut, paste, arrange collage materials, as well as the accuracy and neatness of their works. Each indicator is assessed using a rating scale to observe changes that occur during the study. The results of the analysis were then interpreted to evaluate the effectiveness of the collage method with corn husk media in improving children's fine motor skills.

## RESULTS

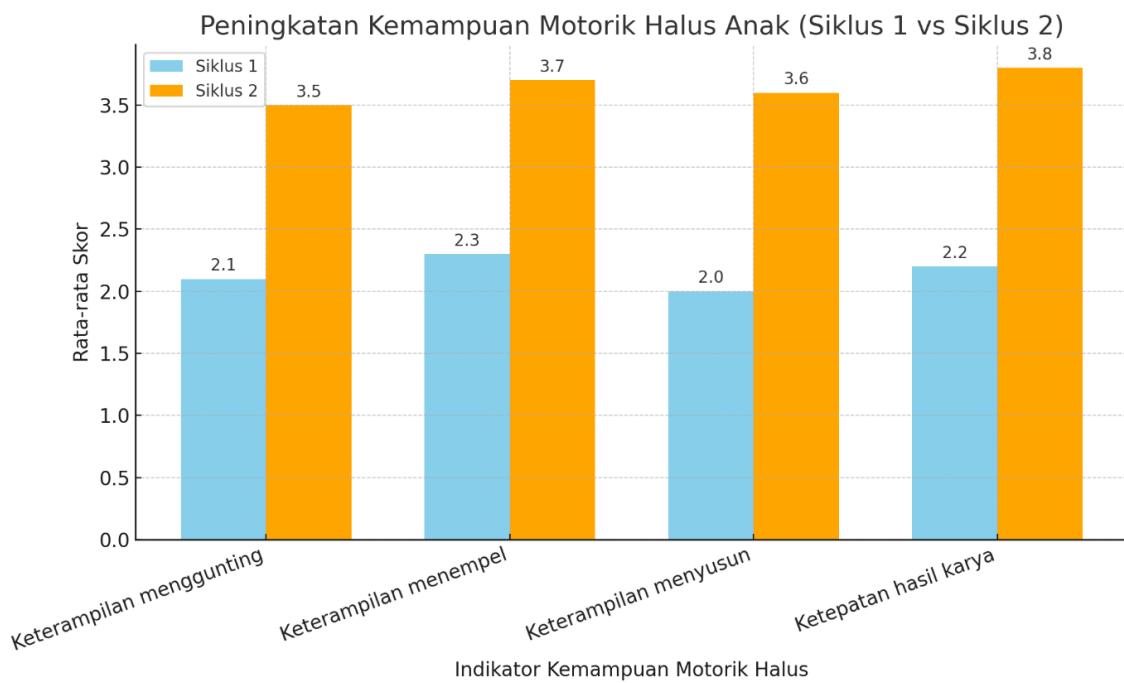
This study revealed that the application of the collage method with corn husk media had a positive impact on improving the fine motor skills of Group A children at RA Manda Ngaliyan, Semarang. Data obtained through observation showed an improvement in children's hand-eye coordination, precision in cutting and pasting, and creativity in compiling collages. In the first cycle, many children still have difficulty processing corn husks because of their stiffer texture compared to ordinary paper. However, after receiving guidance and getting used to this medium, their abilities improved significantly in the second cycle. This finding is in line with the research of Handayani and Pratiwi (2021) who stated that art-based activities such as collages can gradually improve children's fine motor skills.

The improvement of children's fine motor skills is measured based on four main indicators, namely skills in cutting, pasting, arranging collages, and the accuracy of the work. Each indicator is rated using a scale of 1 to 4, with criteria: 1 (less), 2 (adequate), 3 (good), and 4 (excellent).

The following are the results of measuring children's fine motor skills from the first and second cycles:

Indicator	Cycle 1 (Average Score)	Cycle 2 (Average Score)	Increase (%)
Scissor skills	2.1	3.5	66.7%
Sticking skills	2.3	3.7	60.9%
Compose skills	2.0	3.6	80.0%
Accuracy of work	2.2	3.8	72.7%

From the table above, it can be seen that there is a significant improvement in every aspect of children's fine motor skills. The highest improvement occurred in collage compilation skills, which rose by 80% from the first cycle to the second cycle. This shows that with proper practice and guidance, children can adapt to the use of corn husk media as collage material.



Here is a graph showing the improvement of children's fine motor skills from the first cycle to the second cycle. This graph depicts the average score for each skill indicator, with significant improvements seen in all aspects.

### Data Verification

To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses a triangulation technique that involves observation, interviews with teachers, and analysis of children's works. Observation data is compared with the results of interviews to find out the extent of children's development during the learning process. In addition, the documentation of the children's collage results was analyzed to see the change in skills from the first cycle to the second cycle.

The teacher who accompanied the children during this activity stated that at first, some children had difficulty in cutting corn husks because of the different texture of ordinary paper. However, with repeated practice and motivational encouragement, children begin to get used to and become more confident in processing this material. Interviews with teachers also showed that the collage method with corn husks not only improves fine motor skills but also trains children's patience and creativity.

Documentation of children's works shows a significant improvement in the quality of the collages produced. In the first cycle, most of the collage results are still untidy, with irregular cuts and imprecise pasting. However, in the second cycle, children begin to produce more organized and aesthetic works. This shows that with the right guidance and practice, children can develop their fine motor skills optimally.

In addition to fine motor aspects, this method also contributes to the cognitive and social development of children. When children work with collages, they learn to recognize textures, colors, and patterns, which play a role in their cognitive development (Rahmawati & Lestari, 2023). Socially, collage activities carried out in groups also help children in interacting and working together with peers, so that their social skills also develop.

Although this method has proven to be effective, there are several challenges faced in its implementation. Some children still have difficulty processing stiffer materials such as corn husks compared to ordinary paper (Ananda et al., 2023). Therefore, assistance from teachers and parents is very necessary so that children can adjust to the media used and get the maximum benefit from this activity.

Overall, the findings of this study show that the collage method with corn husk media can be an innovative learning strategy in improving children's fine motor skills. With significant improvements in the skills of cutting, pasting, composing, and producing better collages, this method is feasible to be applied more widely in early childhood education settings.

Data validation in this study is carried out to ensure that the findings obtained are accurate and reliable. The triangulation technique is used by combining three main methods, namely direct observation of children when carrying out collage activities, interviews with teachers related to child development, and analysis of documentation of children's works. This approach aims to improve the accuracy of research results and minimize bias in data collection (Handayani & Pratiwi, 2021).

In addition, the data collected was analyzed using quantitative and qualitative descriptive methods. Quantitative data is in the form of an increase in children's fine motor skills scores from the first cycle to the second cycle, as shown in the previous table. Meanwhile, qualitative data was analyzed based on the description of the results of interviews with teachers and observations of the learning process. With this approach, data validation is carried out through comparison of results from various sources to ensure consistency of research findings.

The validation results showed that there was a significant improvement in children's fine motor skills after participating in collage activities with corn husk media. A comparison of observation data and interviews showed that children who initially had difficulty in cutting and sticking began to show improvement after getting repeated exercises. In addition, the documentation of children's works confirms that in the second cycle, the resulting collage is neater, more detailed, and aesthetically pleasing than the first cycle.

The teachers involved in the study also stated that the collage method with corn husks not only helps improve children's fine motor skills, but also trains their patience, concentration, and creativity. This is in line with the findings of Rahmawati and Lestari (2023) who stated that art-based activities can provide multiple benefits for early childhood development. Therefore, this method is considered valid and feasible to be applied as one of the innovative learning strategies in early childhood education.

## CONCLUSION

This study shows that the application of the collage method with corn husk media has a significant positive impact on improving the fine motor skills of Group A children at RA Manda Ngaliyan, Semarang. The results of the data analysis showed an increase in scores on four main indicators, namely cutting skills, pasting, collage compilation, and accuracy of the work. The most significant improvement occurred in the skill of compiling collages with an increase of 80% from the first cycle to the second cycle. The results of observation and documentation also show that children are able to adapt to the texture of corn husks and produce neater and more creative works as the learning process progresses.

In addition to the improvement in fine motor aspects, the collage method with corn husks also contributes to the cognitive and social development of children. Children learn to recognize new colors, patterns, and textures, which can support the development of their visual perception. In addition, collage activities carried out in groups provide opportunities for children to interact, work together, and help each other, so that their social skills develop significantly.

Academically, this study enriches the study of art-based learning strategies in early childhood education. The results of this study can be a reference for educators in developing innovative and fun learning methods to improve children's fine motor skills. By using alternative media such as corn husks, learning can become more varied and interesting, so that children are more motivated to learn. In addition, this study also

emphasizes that the use of natural materials as a learning medium can support an exploration-based approach and creativity in early childhood education.

In terms of social contribution, the use of corn husks in the collage method can be a small step in educating children about the use of natural materials and organic waste in creative activities. This approach can also be applied in various educational institutions to increase children's awareness of the concept of recycling and environmental friendliness from an early age. In addition, the results of this study can be an inspiration for parents to develop similar activities at home, so that children can continue to practice their fine motor skills in a more flexible and fun environment. Thus, this method has the potential to be widely applied in various educational contexts and social environments.

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