

Improving Mathematical Critical Thinking Skill through STEM-PjBL: A Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract

Critical thinking is one of the important competencies in the twenty-first century that should be acquired. Therefore, there is a need to facilitate the students with the teaching approach and learning model that could improve this skill. One of the learning approaches that provide the students with the opportunity to think creatively is STEM-PjBL. Therefore, the purpose of the study is to describe the application of STEM-PjBL able to increase the critical thinking skills of the student. The SLR or Systematic Literature Review method was chosen to present a comprehensive and balanced summary of primary research results. The literature review was conducted through Google Scholar, Crossref, and Scopus. From 100 works of literature, 15 articles showed that PjBL STEM learning was able to improve critical thinking skills. This study examined 15 articles that were analyzed based on research methods, and the findings revealed that the application of STEM-PjBL could enhance the critical thinking skills of the student with the literature review method. Based on the existing data collection, it is analyzed through case studies that are the subject of discussion. The findings of the study revealed that: 1) the use of STEM-PjBL had a positive and significant impact on the critical thinking skills of students in each educational unit, including primary school, secondary schools, and high school; 2) the use of STEM-PjBL can help students improve their mathematical critical thinking skills; 3) interpretation, analysis, inference, evaluation, explanation, and self-regulation are among the indicators recommended for use as a reference for students' mathematical critical thinking skills.

Keywords: *Critical Thinking Skills; Improving; STEM-PjBL*



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INTRODUCTION

The learning process is expected to meet 21st-century competencies, namely 4C consisting of creative thinking skills, critical thinking skills, collaboration, and communication. These competencies are integrated into the independent curriculum which has been implemented by the schools. Risdianto (2019) said that the implementation of the independent learning curriculum aims to follow education's challenges in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0. The realization of this curriculum supports the skills that students should have, such as critical thinking in solving problems, being creative and innovative, and being skilled in communicating and collaborating. Critical thinking is the basic skill that individuals must possess in the learning proses (Özyurt, 2015).

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However, students critical thinking ability is still low (Nuryanti, 2018). At the same time, the students have the potential to master concepts and thinking skills. As stated by Yustyan et al. (2016), basically, students have skills in mastering concepts, good thinking skills, as well as critical thinking skills in learning, but sometimes these skills are not can develop well.

The interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, explanation, and self-regulation serve as guidelines for critical thinking ability tests to be analyzed (Fithriyah et al., 2016). The findings revealed that students' critical thinking abilities remain low. This is because students are not able to understand the problem well. These findings indicate that these studies can provide information to teachers about the critical thinking skills of students so that teachers are expected to improve the critical thinking skills of each student by designing the learning activities. Susilowati et al. (2017) also stated that the student's critical thinking skill profile is low; therefore, it is expected that teachers will be able to design learning activities that empower students' critical thinking skills. The selection of appropriate learning strategies can improve the critical thinking skills of students. One of the choice strategies that can be implemented is STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics)- Project-based Learning (PJBL) which is integrated into the learning process.

STEM is a multidisciplinary learning approach that all students can apply in real-life contexts that connect school, their own work, and the world. As a consequence, using STEM literacy helps prepare all students to participate in a new and original knowledge-based economy era. Furthermore, STEM allows students to engage as objects in higher cognitive activities. STEM has an implementation in the classroom that enables the students to comprehend the significance of integrating different disciplines along with their own applications (Anwari et al. 2015, in Murnawianto, et al. 2017).

Project Based Learning is a knowledge approach that strives to be project-based and student-centered during in the learning process. The PjBL model allows students to plan their own many learning activities, collaborate on projects, and generate quality work products that can be presented to others (Kemendikbud, 2017). According to Suranti et al. (2016), PjBL is one of the motivation factors for students to take part in investigations, collaborate on research, and create projects that apply their own knowledge to continue to innovate, master the application of technology, and solve difficulties in the form of innovative learning. Considering the important role of STEM and PJBL learning models in stimulating students' critical thinking; therefore, there is a need to know how the implementation of STEM-PjBL could improve the students' mathematical critical thinking.

LITERATURE REVIEW

What exactly is STEM? STEM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (Reeve, 2013 in Yanuar, 2018; Devi et al., 2018; and Toto, 2019). STEM is a multidisciplinary research learning approach in which the students utilize STEM in a meaningful context that completely integrates at school, work, and the world, allowing students to compete in a unique knowledge economy era. Students' logical thinking skills can benefit from the STEM approach. According to Anwari et al. (2015, in Murnawianto et al., 2017), STEM allows students to engage in metacognitive tasks. This metacognitive activity encompasses the steps of selecting, searching, asking, sharing, hypothesizing, and making decisions (Sularmi, et al., 2018).

STEM provides opportunities for learners to comprehend the significance of integrating various areas of study and their personal applications in learning through its implementation. As a consequence of the implementation, students can enhance their own logical thinking. In line with it though, STEM can assist students in increasing their capacity to address any problem which is presented and overcome it using critical thinking. According to a different viewpoint expressed by Murnawianto et al. (2017), STEM education seems to have a comprehensive character (critical analysis and problem-solving) in providing opportunities for many students to demonstrate their possess thinking skills. Through the characteristics of its approach, STEM education has a wonderful chance to develop students' thinking skills.

The STEM framework does have objectives that correspond with the characteristics of 21st-century education, among which are critical thinking skills, or thinking that is always curious about the information available in order to achieve a thorough understanding. As a result, learning using the STEM approach can assist students in enhancing their ability to think critically. According to Yanuar (2018), 21st-century competencies that can be established through STEM learning encompass critical thinking, creative thinking, communication, and collaboration. Using the PjBL or Project Based Learning model in combination with the STEM approach (the term used by researchers is STEM-based) should improve students' critical thinking skills. This could occur as a result of activities pressured out in learning which are more oriented to students' participation, which could also encourage students to reflect critically. Thus, using the PjBL STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) model can assist students in enhancing their critical thinking skills. It motivates students while also demanding them, according to Capraro et al. (2013, in Afriana et al., 2016), because it trains them to analyze, think critically, and strengthening higher-level thinking skills.

Thinking abilities are necessary for dealing with life's challenges. That includes critical thinking abilities, creative thinking skills, and skills for problem-solving (Kalelioglu & Gulbahar, 2014). Critical thinking is one of the skills required to deal with personal and social problems. Here are some examples of critical thinking definitions. According to Facione (2011), critical thinking is the ability to organize and generate evaluations, interpretations, inferences, and analyses, as well as reveal concepts, criteria, evidence, methodologies, and or contextual considerations as the basis for making decisions.

According to Choy and Cheah (2009), critical thinking is required to process cognitive information at a high level and to define complex processes. Critical thinking, according to Ennis (2011), is one of the skills of reflective reasoning and thinking that is concentrated on what has been believed or completed. Critical thinking skills involve original clarification, basic decision-making process, inference, providing an extra explanation, estimation, and incorporation, in addition to other abilities. Critical thinkers could indeed evaluate and analyze such data that is presented to them. According to Duron et al. (2006), becoming able to evaluate data and analyze, inform crucial questions and problems, formulate hypotheses and problems until they are clear, and collect and evaluate relevant information. Moreover, a critical thinker can use abstract ideas to find relevant information, be open-minded, and effectively communicate with others.

RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, a Systematic Literature Review (SLR) is used, which is a thorough and balanced mixed research method that is encapsulated from the primary research results. The Systematic Literature Review method could indeed recognize journal articles in a structured manner, for each process following the sequence that has been established (Thovawira et al., 2021). SLR aims to locate and synthesize studies comprehensively. This also refers to particular questions, utilizing procedures that are structured, straightforward, and repeatable throughout every stage of the process (Juandi, 2021).

SLR was employed in STEM to recognise, critically assess, and synthesize research results from across all relevant research, in addition, to describing learning and instruction in integrated STEM (Thibaut et al., 2018). Developing research questions (formulating research questions), developing the search strategy (looking for articles or literature which match the research topic), selection process (applying integration method to identify articles), evaluating and analyzing data, and interpreting (reporting research findings) are all steps in the SLR (Andani et al., 2021). Data were gathered from articles in the databases Semantic Scholar, Google Scholar, Education ERIC or Resources Information Center, and Directory Open Access Journal. The articles chosen are those that are relevant to the research question. The keywords used in the search for articles are "STEM PjBL to improve critical thinking skills".

The inclusion criteria for this study were figured out in figure 1 as follows: articles related to the theme, that is, STEM in Mathematics learning, articles variety of different settings used in the STEM approach, or articles containing the integration of STEM into learning models, articles published between 2018 and 2022, articles from national journals and international indexed or proceedings, and articles from national journals and international indexed or proceedings. The following step is to choose and evaluate articles. The selection of articles that meet the inclusion criteria is pushed out at this stage. Only articles that are both relevant and fulfill the inclusion criteria will be analyzed (Juandi, 2021). Articles that do not meet the inclusion requirements are not taken into account for the following stage. Articles and journals that meet the inclusion criteria are then coded and sorted for subsequent review based on their relevance to the theme. The final step is to present the research findings. In this step, the research results are summarized in a systematic and clear manner.

The article search results are depicted in the chart below

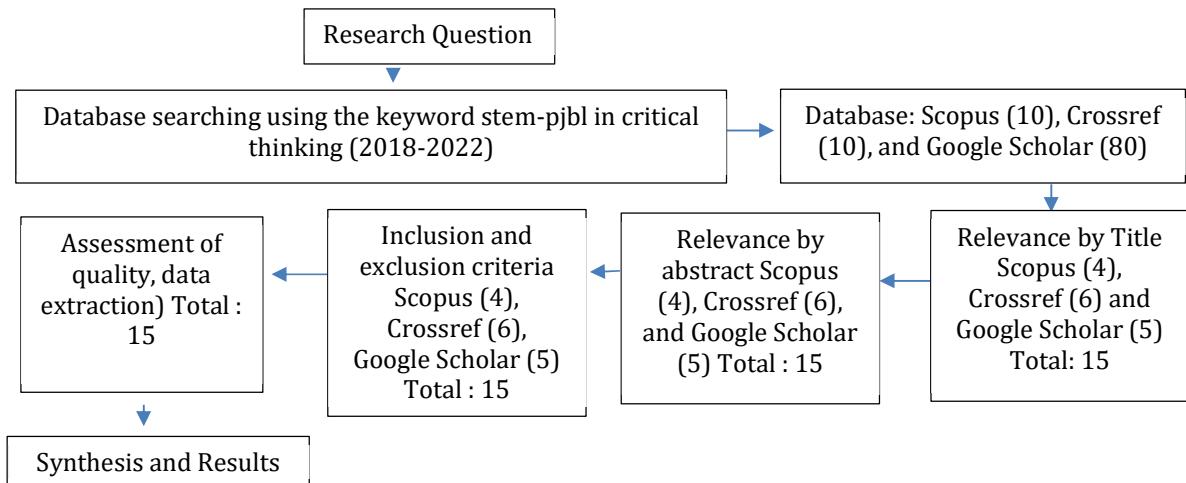


Figure 1. The Protocol of Systematic Review

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the protocol of systematic literature review, the data was gathered as described in Table 1. Table 1 elaborates on the calculation of STEM PjBL in critical thinking skill effect size.

Table 1. The Calculation of STEM PjBL in Critical Thinking Skills Effect Size

No	Author	Journal/ Proceeding	Research Subject	Research Method	Indicator Critical Thinking Skill	Result
1	Afifah, Afni Nur Ilmiyati, Nur Toto, Toto (Afifah et al., 2019)	Quagga: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Biologi Google Scholar		pre eksperiment al method	- There are several aspects of inference, analysis, explanation, self-regulation, and evaluation of critical thinking indicators.	The study shows that PJBL STEM could improve the student's grasping of the concept and improve critical thinking.
2	Eja Ramalis, T. R. Suwarma, I. R. (Eja et al., 2020)	Journal of Physics: Conference Series Scopus	of 34 students	This study involved the quantitative descriptive research method.	This study uses critical thinking skill indicators consisting analysis, inference, explanation,	To process information in terms of cognition at a high level and to define a process at a complex

No	Author	Journal/ Proceeding	Research Subject	Research Method	Indicator Critical Thinking Skill	Result
3	Parno Nur'aini, D. A. Kusairi, S. Ali, M.(Parno, 2022)	Journal of Physics: Conference Series Scopus	class XI in Malang, Indonesia	quasy experimenm ethode	evaluation, and interpretation	level requires critical thinking
4	Bulu, Vera Rosalina Tanggur, Femberianus(Bulu & Tanggur, 2021)	Al-Jabar : Jurnal Pendidikan Matematika Crossreff	This study was conducted in the first semester of the 2020/2021 academic year in PGSD (Primary School Teacher Education Program) of Citra Bangsa Universit y, Kupang. This	Descriptive method and quantitative research were used in this study.	In learning mathematics, students should have critical thinking skills because it can help them to analyze a problem, provide critical responses, and find solutions.	PjBl with STEM Effectively improves critical and collaborative thinking ability
5	Rosyidah, Nur Diana Kusairi, Sentot Taufiq, Ahmad(Rosyidah et al., 2021)	Jurnal Pendidikan: Teori, Penelitian, Pengembangan Google Scholar	siswa kelas XI MIPA 6 dan SMAN 1 (N=32 siswa).	Research design used mixed methods	As the previous study, this research also employ indicator such as Analysis, interpretation, explanation, Evaluation and inference	This study shows that students' critical thinking ability improves at all of the indicators.
6	Rahmawati, Yuli	AIP Conference Proceedings	year 10 students a multimed	A qualitative methodology	Criteria for critical thinking include the rights	The analysis of the critical thinking ability

No	Author	Journal/ Proceeding	Research Subject	Research Method	Indicator Critical Thinking Skill	Result	
	Hadinugrahan ingsih, Tritiyatma Ridwan, Achmad Palimbunga, Uyun Sugiarti Mardiah, Alin(Rahmaw ati et al., 2021)	Scopus	ia major at a vocationa l high school in Banten Province.		used to identify the question in question, students' conceptual understanding, and their ability to relate and create ideas, assumptions, and conclusions.	assessment guide shows that students can identify the questions asked and make conclusions at a good level, while at a sufficient level at the conceptual- based understanding step, the connection of basic ideas.	
7	Rahmania, Ika(Rahmania , 2021)	Budapest International Research and Critics Institute (BIRCI- Journal): Humanities and Social Sciences	-	Literatur review	Critical skills emerged in this study which was measured consisting of five things, namely interpretation, analysis, evaluation, explanation, and inference	Pjbl and STEM can bring up the ability to think critically and creatively, systematically and logically	
8	Khotimah, Rita Pramujiyanti Adnan, Mazlini Ahmad, Che Nidzam Che Murtiyasa, Budi(Khotima h et al., 2021)	Journal of Physics: Conference Series	crossref	-	Literatur review	Five aspects are used to determine the critical skill item; there are interpretation, analysis, evaluation, explanation, and inference	STEM education in Indonesia is one of the most effective in student learning outcomes.
9	Isro, Abda Lail Anggraito, Yustinus Ulung Bintari, Siti Harnina (Isro et al., 2021)	Journal of Innovative Science Education	MA Tahfizhul Qur'an As Surkati Salatiga	a mix- method	to demonstrate critical thinking skills such as basic clarification inference, basic support, advanced clarification, and	This study demonstrates that students in PjBL STEM already have high critical thinking skills.	

No	Author	Journal/ Proceeding	Research Subject	Research Method	Indicator Critical Thinking Skill	Result
10	Setyowati*, Yeni Kaniawati, Ida Sriyati, Siti Nurlaelah, Elah Hernani, Hernani (Setyowati et al., 2020)	Jurnal Pembelajaran IPA & IPA	of junior high school students in class VII.	Research and development (R&D)	strategic and tactical aspects. An essay test is used to collect information.	This study shows that the teaching materials developed were valid and suitable for use in learning.
11	Dywan, Almahida Aureola Airlanda, Gamaliel Septian (2020)	Jurnal Basicedu Crossref	SD Negeri Dukuh 01 Salatiga	Quasi Eksperiment al method dan SD Negeri Kecandra n 01 Salatiga		STEM-PjBL is used because it is felt that it can improve critical thinking skills in terms of effectiveness
12	Sulisworo, Dwi Kaliappen, Narentheren History, Article Winarti, W Sulisworo, D Kaliappen, N (Sulisworo et al., 2021)	Indones. Rev. Phys Crossref	-	Literatur review	This study demonstrates that students in PjBL STEM already have high critical thinking skills.	This study aims to improve students' critical thinking skills.
13	Fithriyah, Inayatul Sa'dijah, Cholis Sisworo (Fithriyah et al., 2016)	Prosiding Konferensi Nasional Penelitian Matematika dan Pembelajaran	26 siswa kelas IX-D SMPN 17 Malang pada semester ganjil tahun pelajaran 2014/2015	a qualitative descriptive		The student lacked critical thinking skills. Students' critical thinking abilities still need to be developed.

No	Author	Journal/ Proceeding	Research Subject	Research Method	Indicator Critical Thinking Skill	Result
14	Kurniasih, Rini Hakim, Dori Lukman (Kurniasih et al., 2019)	Prosiding Seminar Nasional Matematika dan Pendidikan Matematika Google Scholar	-	literature review containing relevant scientific studies to the problem studied.	Critical thinking skills help students interpret, analyze, discover, and conclude.	Students in the ability to think critically on quadrilateral material.
15	Edi, Sarwo Rosnawati, Raden (2021)	JNPM (Jurnal Nasional Pendidikan Matematika) Crossref	peserta didik kelas XI MIPA 2 di SMA Negeri 1 Tempel	Model ADDIE	The activities of interpretation, inference, analysis, and evaluation demonstrate students' critical thinking skills.	Critical thinking skills that are integrated into lesson plans and LKPD are used as learning tools.

Afifah et al. (2019) discovered the STEM PjBL model for program enhancement in terms of concept mastery and critical thinking skills through students. This study's population consisted of students in grade 10 from Madrasah Aliyah Negeri in Ciamis Regency, split into four classes. The study employed the purposive sampling method on one class. The pre-experimental method was used in this study. A multiple choice test and a critical thinking skill test in the form of critical thinking skills test questions adapted for concept mastery in students are used as instruments. The research data were statistically analyzed. Based on the findings of the study, it is possible to enhance conceptual knowledge and understanding (medium) and critical thinking skills (high) by using the STEM-based PJBL model.

Fitriyah and Ramadani (2021) found that PjBL-based STEAM learning has a significant effect on students' creative thinking skills with a sig. of 0.000 less than 0.05 and a Fcount of 35.551 and that PjBL-based STEAM learning has a significant effect on student's critical thinking skills with a sig. of 0.003 less than 0.05 and a Fcount of 9.401. This is due to the fact that combining PjBL and STEAM can be a learning innovation that generates creative and critical ideas and solutions, making it easier to solve a problem. As a result, educators are strongly advised to use the STEAM PjBL learning model as an innovative learning model in schools.

Dywan and Airlanda (2020) investigate the impact of PJBL models or STEM-based projects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) on critical thinking skills. The population of the Gajah Mada cluster, Sidomukti District, Salatiga city, and use a sample of 32 students from SD Negeri Dukuh 01 Salatiga as the experimental group and 33 students from SD Negeri Kecandran 01 Salatiga as the control group. This research employed a semi-experimental research design with a non-equivalent control group design to determine which experimental studies should be performed before and after the others. The results of the study were collected using the independent t-test in SPSS 20 for Windows with a significance level of 0.038 & lt; 0.05, indicating that there is a significant

effect in which H₀ is rejected, and H₁ is accepted and that the average pre-test for the post-test in the experimental group increases by 13.38 while it increases by 7.51 in the control group. The STEM PJBL-based learning model is the most effective in improving the critical thinking skills of 4th-grade elementary school students about science learning content.

According to Eja et al. (2020), 25% of students' critical thinking abilities were in the low category, 34% of students' critical thinking abilities were in the medium category, and 41% of students' critical thinking abilities were in the high category. Peer assessment backs up this result, which shows 12% in the low category, 41% in the medium category, and 47% in the high category. As a result, the study's conclusion is that students' critical thinking processes during PjBL-STEM learning produce excellent results.

Parno (2022) reported that his effect size is 1.13 (Very Large Typeshows), indicating the need for AF STEM PjBL learning to be carried out more frequently in the field. Students in the comparison group had no more positive learning responses than students in the experimental group. In future studies, "Art" is highly recommended to be incorporated into the STEM approach in order to further develop students' CTS. Bulu and Tanggur (2021) The purpose of this study is to determine how the PjBL STEM model affects students' cooperative attitudes and critical thinking skills. This study is a quantitative study using a descriptive method. Data was gathered using critical thinking skills tests, collaborative attitude questionnaires, and observational learning guides. The researcher must perform a preliminary test consisting of the normality test, the homogeneity test, the covariance-matrix homogeneity test, and the N-test before analyzing the data. Gain and efficiency testing The results of the basic hypothesis test indicate that the MANOVA test can be used. MANOVA results indicate that PjBL STEM is an effective learning model for improving students' critical thinking skills and cooperative attitudes.

According to Rosyidah et al. (2021), the integrated experimental design was used in mixed methods research, and the sample size was 32 students. According to the findings of the analysis, the activities carried out can help students improve their critical thinking skills. Overall, students improved in all critical thinking indicators. The STEM approach is adopted by incorporating a project-based learning model. When students reach a sufficient level of conceptual understanding, connecting assumptions and ideas as demonstrated by the critical thinking skills rubric analysis, they are able to identify problems and draw conclusions at a high level. Time management, a lack of student participation, and project development that must be relevant to the subject of study are all issues.

According to Rahmania (2021), the findings of this research demonstrate that a number of the initial skills in junior secondary school could be integrated into a STEM approach to learning to provide projects for students. As a result, STEM can be utilized in scientific learning in junior high school students to prepare them for the twenty-first century's signature. Human resources, which could really think critically and creatively, systemically and logically, can be oriented in PJBL and STEM approaches to satisfy human standards in the twenty-first century and investigate challenging issues.

Khotimah et al. (2021) findings indicate that: 1) Project-Based Learning (PjBL) within STEM in Indonesia as a Carry outer, 6E, Assessment-Based Learning HOTS, Inquiry, Paired Thinking (TPS), Problem-Based Learning (PBL), PjBL is the most widely used learning model in the implementation of STEM education in Indonesia, with Android games, digital learning, and student

books. 2) STEM education is implemented in elementary, middle, and high schools in Indonesia but is very limited at the university level. 3) In Indonesia, STEM education has a significant impact on student learning outcomes such as scientific knowledge, creative thinking, critical thinking, attitude, HOTS, personality, achievement, problem-solving, and 21st-century skills. According to research, 1) work STEM-PjBL implementation has a significant and positive impact on student's critical thinking skills at all educational levels, including elementary, middle, and high school. 2) STEM-PjBL can help students improve their mathematical critical thinking skills. 3) The following indicators are recommended as benchmarks for assessing students' critical thinking skills in math: interpret, analyze, draw a conclusion, evaluate, interpret, and self-correct.

Isro and colleagues (2021) revealed that students could demonstrate diversity in their critical thinking skills. All aspects of all strategies and tactics fall into this category. The top category includes explanations of basic aspects, basic support, and conclusions. The first step is to define the type of intermediary. The critical thinking of students in relation to environmental change learning materials PjBL STEM has a relatively high average.

In Setyowati et al. (2020) study, the topic of STEM PjBL became a topic for instructional content as a method of increasing students' critical thinking and awareness in a lengthy period and sustainability. Based on the feasibility test results, a score of 85 with a very strong grounding for the critical thinking ability test and a score of 97 with a strong background for the sustainability perception test. The PjBL-STEM model and the ESD approach to pollution serve as the foundation. The creation of learning aids is an effort to enable teachers to use ESD as a scientific learning method in high school.

Dywan, Aureola, Airlanda, and Septian (2020) examine the effects of PJBL-based (project-based learning), STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and non-STEM-based learning models on skills. Fourth-year elementary school students' critical thinking. The population of the Gajah Mada cluster, Sidomukti district, Salatiga city, used SD Negeri Dukuh 01 Salatiga sample as an experimental group of 32 students and SD Negeri Kecandran 01 Salatiga sample as a control group of 33 students. To ascertain test accomplishment, this study used a semi-experimental study design with a non-equivalent control group and required pre- and post-trial trials. An independent t-test with a significance level of 0.038 produced the results of this study. 0.05 when using SPSS 20 for Windows. This means that H1 is accepted and H0 is rejected, which has a significant effect on increasing the mean pre-test to post-test scores in the experimental group from 7.51 to 13.38. To enhance 4th-grade elementary school students' critical thinking skills by using the most effective science-related content and the PjBL STEM-based learning model.

The findings show that STEM is taught at the high school and undergraduate levels in Indonesia, according to Sulisworo et al. (2021). In addition, relevant research on STEM-based physics with learning media. This study has several limitations, including the fact that the main reference material used as the main research material is still limited to Indonesian research. The findings of the Indonesian language study cited in this article are not from peer-reviewed international journals. Other researchers should use critical thinking skills to demonstrate the performance of various learning materials, learning models, and scientific bibliographies published in reputable international journals to ensure universal use.

According to Fitriyah et al. (2016), SMP VIII students' critical thinking ability remains low. The low average score of students in the correct category demonstrates this (B). Students' low critical thinking ability is caused by a lack of exposure to active learning, which maximizes students' potential. The findings of this study provide teachers and researchers with an overview of the critical thinking skills of young college students. Teachers must be more creative in designing and developing learning tools to help students become more familiar with critical thinking. Through various active learning models, teachers should engage students in learning situations that stimulate their critical thinking skills.

Kurniasih and colleagues (2019) describe that critical thinking teaches us when solving the tetrahedron problem various descriptions can be found. Critical thinking abilities are required to educate students in math and problem-solving abilities. However, the students remain unable to answer the questions. When the researcher asked the question, the students were still undecided about responding to the 4-page document question. Average students lack analytical ability because they do not comprehend the fundamentals of the problem, therefore, are unable to create mathematical models. As a result, they continue to be incorrect when providing explanations or solving problems. Computational steps are taken in the skills assessment for incorrect answers because students are still confused about how to implement the strategies used. Furthermore, students remain incapable of drawing correct conclusions from questions about their ability to formulate conclusions because they are unable to make judgments based on concepts and concepts.

Based on Edi, Rosnawati, and Raden (2021) we can learn a lot from the description of critical thinking when solving the tetrahedral problem, and various descriptions emerge. Critical thinking skills are required to train students in the solving and solving of mathematical problems. Students continue to be unable to interpret the questions. When the researcher asked, students were still perplexed about completing the 4-page material question. On average, students with Analytical Competence do not understand the concepts in the problem, so they are unable to create mathematical models. As a result, they continue to provide incorrect explanations or solve problems. Because students are still confused in implementing the strategies used, computational steps are performed in the competency assessment for incorrect answers. Furthermore, students cannot draw correct conclusions from the questions asked in relation to their ability to draw conclusions; this is because students still cannot draw conclusions based on concepts and concepts. The description of critical thinking teaches us a lot. Only 15 STEM-PjBL compliance exercises can improve critical thinking skills, including 5 research papers with quantitative methods, 2 articles with qualitative research methods, 2 articles with mixed methods, 2 research papers with research and development models, and 4 literature reviews. Each article suggests that STEM-PjBL can assist students to improve their critical thinking skills. The aspects of critical skill measured in this research included five aspects: interpretation, analysis, evaluation, interpretation, and inference (Facione, 2007).

The Trend of Improving critical thinking in STEM-PjBL Research in Last 7 Year-Publication

Figure 2 depicts search trends over the last seven years based on VOSviewer-processed bibliographic data. Colors that are the same color represent the same group, and the size of the circle represents keyword popularity. The larger the circle, the more frequently the topic is covered

in the 34 articles. The figure appears to be able to connect the lines between the circles as well as the keywords directly.

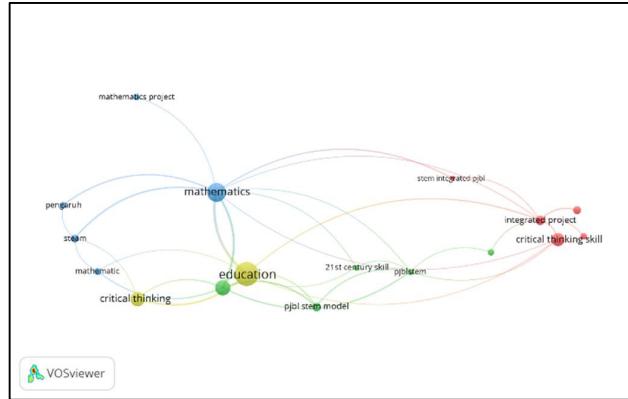


Figure 2. The Keyword Network Visualization of the 34 Processed Articles

Categories of keywords or variables that occur frequently and their relationships

Being able to observe the most frequently studied topics over a given period of time could unveil research trends on critical thinking skills in STEM-PjBL learning over the last 7 years. Comparisons were also made to research trends in critical thinking in STEM-PjBL learning in order to identify developmental milestones. This can be seen in topics that have only been around for a short time, as well as the most popular ones. There are four keyword groups that reveal related keywords in the processed articles. Current keywords include critical thinking skills in STEM-PjBL learning, critical thinking skill indicators, and research participants. The popularity of the 34 articles mentioned is indicated by each circle-sized keyword. The larger the size and the circle indicate more keyword usage in search. This implies that the previous variable was searched. Figure 3 illustrates the direct relationship between the keyword "critical thinking skills in STEM-PjBL learning" and other keywords.

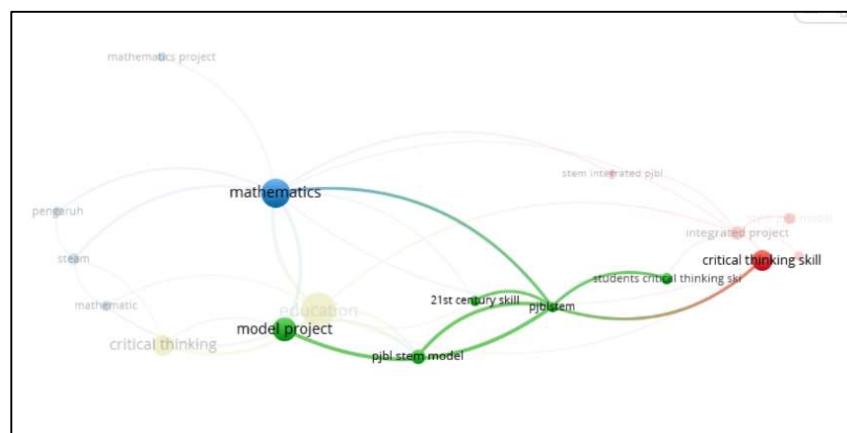


Figure 3. The Relation of the 'critical thinking skill in STEM-PjBL learning' keyword with other keywords

Figure 3 illustrates the inclusion of the keywords "critical thinking and STEM-PjBL" in group 2 with 10 links and 4 facts. The 21st Century Skills, Student Critical Thinking, PjBL-STEM, and Project Model, are keywords related to "Critical Thinking Skills and STEM-PjBL." These keywords are directly related to others in three groups, namely those in group 2, namely 6 (blue) and 5 (orange). This means that, in 34 studies, keywords from the four groups were more likely to appear as a topic in the search title.

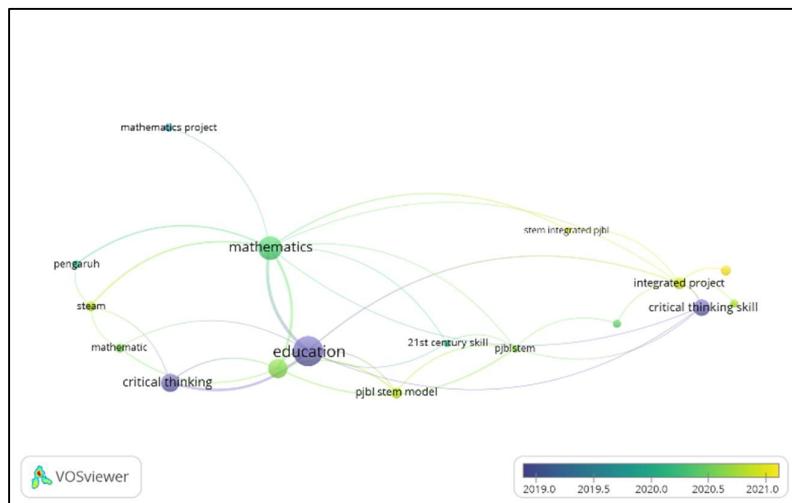


Figure 4. Publication Trend from 2015 to 2022

Color demonstrates trends, as shown in Figure 3, with lighter marks indicating the most recent posts. The most recent publications, highlighted in yellow, show that keywords such as integrated project, STEM integrated PjBL, and STEM model PjBL is trending. For researchers, information about the topic's novelty is critical in representing the current state of studies carried out throughout time.

Benchmark for students' mathematical critical thinking skill

Regarding the previous research employing the STEM PjBL to know its impact on the critical thinking skill (Afifah et al., 2019; Rahmania, 2021; Edi & Rosnawati, 2021; Khotimah et al., 2021); thus, there are five aspects used to determine the critical skill item. There are interpretation, analysis, evaluation, explanation, and inference were first introduced by Facion (2011) as indicators of critical thinking skills. Each indicator, called the metrics, is described in table 2.

Table 2. Metrics indicators critical thinking skill

Indicators	Description
Interpretation	Understanding how to convey significance or meaning based on a variety of personal experiences, circumstances, information, occurrences, evaluations, behavioral patterns, traditions, opinions, regulations, methods, or requirements.

Indicators	Description
Analysis	Actual referential correlation is intended for questions, declarations, notions, explanation, or other depiction that aims to convey opinions, decisions, experiences, reasons, data, or viewpoints.
Evaluation	Reviewing credibility of questions or other representation in the form of reports or descriptions from perceptions, experiences, situations, judgments, beliefs, or opinions, and interpreting logical power of referential correlation or other intended representation.
Explanation	Examining the validity of questions or other types of representation derived from perceptions, experiences, circumstances, decisions, belief systems, or thoughts and analyzing the rational authority of referential correlation or other intentional representation.
Inference	Recognize and obtain the components required to reach a logical conclusion, such as making assertions and assumptions, contemplating relevant data, and drawing conclusions from data, circumstances, questions, and other representations.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings and discussion of this literature review, several conclusions have been drawn: 15 articles from 100 documents show that learning PjBL STEM can improve critical thinking skills. This is a literature review in which 15 articles are analyzed using research methods, and the results show that the use of STEM-PjBL can enhance students' critical thinking skills. The articles in the dataset were analyzed using a case study. According to the findings of the study, (1) the use of STEM-PjBL has had a positive and significant impact on the critical thinking skills of students in each educational unit, including elementary, middle, and high schools; (2) The use of STEM-PjBL can assist students in enhancing their mathematical critical thinking skills.; and (3) The following metrics are recommended as benchmarks for students' mathematical critical thinking skills: interpretation, analysis, inference, evaluation, interpretation, and self-correction.

LIMITATION & FURTHER RESEARCH

The findings of this systematic literature review have some limitations. To begin with, the literature is only searched from 2018 to 2022. Only STEM- PjBL can improve critical thinking skills are the two keywords. Therefore, there is a need to add several keywords from aspects of psychological mathematics related to STEM-PjBL and the skills for twenty-first learning, such as mathematical literacy, collaborative, computational thinking, problem-solving, and creative thinking.

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