The Urgency of HOTS-Oriented Learning and Assessment Towards Quality of Education in Facing Indonesia Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030: A Literature Review

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Abstract—In the early decades of the 21st century, especially in the era of industrial revolution 4.0, there are many demands on human resources quality improvement in the field of education. One of the ways to meet the demands is through learning process and classroom assessment. Nowadays, people are discussing and developing high-level order thinking skills (HOTS) oriented learning and assessment in order to increase the quality of education in Indonesia. Basically, the education quality is one indicator of sustainable development goals (SGDs) 2030. Therefore, this study aimed at investigating 1) Urgency of HOTS-oriented learning towards the quality of education in facing Indonesia SDGs 2030. 2) Urgency of HOTS-oriented assessment towards the quality of education in facing Indonesia SDGs 2030. The method used in this study is literature review by using descriptive qualitative approach, and the data were collected from various relevant references consist of indexed journals, books and other types of sources. The findings of this study prove that 1) The implementation of HOTS-oriented learning during teaching and learning in the classroom is important to improve the quality of education, and 2) The implementation of HOTS-oriented assessment in classroom learning is significant in order to improve the quality of education in Indonesia to face Indonesia Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030. In conclusion, the implementation of HOTS learning and assessment in the classroom is very vital in order to improve the quality of Indonesian human resources in facing the Indonesia Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 specifically in the field of education.

Keywords—learning, assessment, HOTS, Indonesia's Sustainable Development Goals (SGDs)

I. INTRODUCTION
Currently the education system has been designed on academic ideas and professional abilities that are in line with the dictates of the industrial revolution [1][2]. The 21st century industry will gradually depend on the generation of knowledge through creativity and innovation [3][4]. The rapid development of times and globalization demands a rise within the education quality. Every education system must be ready to make changes concerning an improved and better quality [5]. Directing education into the future, the turn of the century finds the education of stakeholders involved in controversial discussions about which skills and competencies should guide policy and 21st century educational practice [2] because education can change values, attitudes, skills and behavior especially through a broad and deep understanding of sustainable development issues [6][7][8].

The conditions continue to change afterward. Competitive market regulations connected to the global political, social and economic systems have led to an immense growth in the knowledge generation, industrial management, and information communication technology (ICT). This condition has great effects on institutional education, changes the conditions for policymakers and educators and challenges taken concepts such as knowledge, information and abilities [9]. In this condition, the 21st century led to a new approach to the important given skills for students in order to experience academic and life success [2].

One of those approaches to academic success is by using HOTS approach. This approach can be implemented during learning and classroom assessments. HOTS is an ability that students in the 21st century must have [2][10][11]. This high-level thinking ability can be mastered by students if students grasp and integrate their knowledge with the experiences they have [12]. Efforts to improve higher-order thinking skills are not only focused on student activities but are also influenced by
the strategies used by the teacher during the learning process [13][14][15][16]. This strategy aims to link students’ thinking skills during the learning process in the classroom.

Today, high-order thinking skills become a hot issue in the education system in Indonesia. Basically, the ability to think at a higher level is an ability that trains students to get used in dealing with problems in the real world. In this level of thinking, students are not only required to think critically but also to be creative in solving problems [17]. These high-order thinking skills can also make students develop their careers, have more achievements, have social skills, have self-control, be creative, be responsible, work hard, and be able to solve problems by making the right decisions [18].

Higher order thinking skills are an educational challenge in the twenty-first century. To improve the quality of education, especially in the 21st Century, students need to develop higher-order thinking skills. Higher order thinking skills can also be trained and developed through classroom learning [19]. Craig [20] suggests that in the 21st century students will deal with unusual problems, so they must be familiar with activities related to solution to problem. In this case, problem solving can be solved through the ability to analyze, evaluate, and create, where the three components of these abilities are included in the high order realm of thinking abilities. Therefore, higher order thinking skills are important things that must be possessed by students in the 21st century.

Recently, the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) released the results of the 2018 PISA survey, placing Indonesia in 74th place, which is the sixth from the bottom. In the Science category, Indonesia scored 396, far below the OECD average score of 489. Meanwhile, in Mathematics, Indonesia is ranked 7th from the bottom with a score of 379 (OECD average of 489). Meanwhile, the lowest score obtained by Indonesia was in the Reading category, namely 371 (OECD average of 489). The following is a comparison of the results of PISA data of Indonesia and several countries based on Reading Performance, Mathematics Performance and Science Performance, which is presented in Figure 1, 2, 3 as follows:
The data that has been presented is the backdrop of the importance of and the need to improve the education quality in Indonesia. In this case, the government continues to carry out evaluations in the education sector to improve the quality of education in Indonesia, namely by increasing the existing deficiencies. Lacking in curriculum implementation, the government continues to review the curriculum that is suitable for application in Indonesia. Therefore, the 2013 curriculum is being implemented with the aim of improving the quality of education in Indonesia [19].

Basically, comprehensive components are needed to improve the quality of education in Indonesia and to keep up with the times in the 21st century. The main components must be implemented comprehensively according to Andrew and Willingham [22] include (1) A more adaptive curriculum that is the development of curriculum content which is able to stimulate thinking and skills in relation to the challenges of time. (2) A more participatory learning model, namely the development of a learning model that is directed at developing collaborative, interactive, creative, and innovative skills; and (3) A more meaningful assessment, which is the development of a Contextual Assessment model and the demand for Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS). The aforesaid components must be carried out and integrated simultaneously.

Improving the quality of education in Indonesia is one of the goals of the sustainable development program. Based on
the three main components above in improving the education quality in Indonesia, the urgency of implementing higher-order thinking-oriented learning and assessment or better known as higher-order thinking skills (HOTS) can be used as principal to improve the quality of human resources in Indonesia. Thus, based on the aforesaid issues, this study aims to investigate 1) The urgency of HOTS-oriented learning towards the quality of education in facing Indonesia SDGs 2030; 2) The urgency of HOTS-oriented assessment towards the quality of education in facing Indonesia SDGs 2030.

II. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Higher-Order Thinking Skills Learning

Countries invest in education expecting that it will contribute to their long-term welfare and economic sustainability. The problem, at present, is that although the necessities in the world of work have changed, there is no change in education [2]. Today, the world in facing Industry 4.0 urgently needs a generation of knowledge who has ability to face new and more complex technological challenges [23][24]. To respond to this, in the field of education, especially in the learning process, it must be designed very well to be meaningful and in accordance with the objectives and also with student needs in order to prepare them for their future [25]. The 21st Century learning places a greater emphasis on students’ ability to perform Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) [4][26][27].

Conceptually, HOTS is an extension of the use of the mind to meet new challenges. HOTS is seen as a thoughtful function of the mind’s ability to solve challenging situations [28][29]. According to Nofron and Wijayanto [30], HOTS learning is learning that develops students’ higher-order thinking skills, which is more than just the ability to memorize/remember, restate, remember and refer without scientific reason (reading). Questions, assignments and problems in learning are useful for:

- Transmitting one notion to another,
- Processing and applying an information,
- Looking for relations from various sources,
- Using the information to solve the problem,
- Critically reviewing ideas and information.

This higher order thinking skills can be improved through learning process activities that lead to an increase in 4C skills (communication, collaboration, creative thinking, and creativity). Students must practise the skills and improve learning to be able to conquer global challenges, such as basic reasoning abilities (critical thinking), the ability to communicate effectively, being creative and taking care of issues through negotiation and collaboration [31]. This 4C skills must be possessed by 21st century students in order to be ready to face a development of the times that is increasingly sophisticated. This 4C skills can be done by applying learning models such as Project Based Learning, Problem Based Learning, Cooperative Learning [32]. The framework of the 21st century skills is presented in Figure 4 below:

![Framework of 21st Century Learning](image)

Fig. 4. The Framework of 21st Century Learning [33].

A description of the 21st century learning framework according to BSNP [34] and Wijaya, et al. [35] is as follows:

- Students are able to think critically, laterally, and systemically, particularly in the problem-solving context through Critical-Thinking and Problem-Solving Skills;
- Students are trained to be able to communicate and collaborate effectively with various parties through the ability to communicate and collaborate (Communication and Collaboration Skills);
- The ability to create and renew (Creativity and Innovation Skills) means that students are able to develop their creativity to produce various innovative breakthroughs.
- Information and Communications Technology Literacy aims to enable students to take advantage of information and communication technology to improve performance and daily activities;
- Contextual Learning Skills means being able to experience contextual independent learning activities as part of personal development;
- Information and media literacy means being able to comprehend and use various types of communication media to deliver numerous ideas and carry out collaborative activities and interactions with various parties.

Framework in 21st century learning is a step that can refine the quality of students in the learning process, in a frame of mind designed to carry out a learning activity that improve students’ 4C skills in class, on the other hand this activity is a step to improve students’ thinking skills from low-level thinking to high-level thinking. High-level thinking skills become a demand for 21st century learning in this era of revolution 4.0.
B. Higher-Order Thinking Skills Assessment

Assessment is described as the process of gathering information aimed at making decisions about students, curriculum programs, and educational rules [36][37]. Assessment is carried out in order to improve teaching or learning, and it is done during the teaching process [38]. At the time of the learning process carried out by teachers in Indonesia, the classroom greatly affects the student learning process. It is because learning outcomes are important parameter in determining the level of understanding and knowledge possessed after the learning process takes place [39]. Assessment activities are able to assist learning if they provide information that both teachers and students can use as feedback in assessing themselves and each other [40].

At the beginning of this decade, the assessment that is currently trending in Indonesia is an assessment that is able to refine students’ thinking skills, namely higher-order thinking skills. Stein and Lane [41] and Ananda [42] define HOTS as the use of complex thinking and the use of different approaches, also the ability to complete tasks with multiple solutions [43][44] which require effort to find a structure or solutions [45][46][44]. Basically, the ability to analyze, evaluate, and create is often referred to as Higher-Order Thinking Skills [47][48][49][50].

Higher order thinking skills (HOTS) are the abilities to analyze (C4), evaluate (C5) and create (C6), and practically in the classroom, teachers must have knowledge and skills to support their professionalism so that can also support higher order thinking skills of students [51]. The cognitive taxonomy according to Anderson and Krathwohl is presented in the following figure 5 [47]:

![Cognitive Taxonomy Diagram]

**Fig. 5. Cognitive Taxonomy [47].**

In the implementation of HOTS-oriented assessment in the classroom during the learning process in order to improve the quality of student thinking, the teacher should be able to apply the following operational verbs in writing item questions on measuring student learning outcomes. The details of cognitive taxonomy categories included with operational verbs that are higher-order thinking oriented skills according to Anderson and Krathwohl [52] are presented in Table 1 below:

| Cognitive Process and Category | Other terms | Definition |
|-------------------------------|-------------|------------|
| C4 Analyze                    |             |            |
| 4.1 Distinguishing            | Isolate, Sort, Focus | Distinguishing parts of the subject matter that are relevant and irrelevant. |
| 4.2 Organizing                | Finding Coherence, Integrating, Outlining, Describing | Determining how the elements work or function in a structure. |
| 4.3 Attributing               | Deconstruct | Determining the point of view, bias, value or intent behind the subject matter. |
| C5. Evaluate                  |             |            |
| 5.1 Checking                  | Coordinating, Detecting, Monitoring, Assessing | Find errors in a process or product; find the effective procedure that is being practiced. |
| 5.2 Criticizing               | Assessing   | Find inconsistencies between a product and external criteria; determine whether a product has external consistency, find the accuracy of a procedure to solve problems. |
| C6. Create                    |             |            |
| 6.1 Formulating               | Making a hypothesis | Making hypotheses based on criteria. |
| 6.2 Planning                  | Designing | Planning a procedure for completing a task. |
| 6.3 Producing                 | Constructing | Creating a product. |

Based on the table above, basically these three aspects can be improved through the following learning activities:

- **C4** cognitive aspect (Analysis), is an aspect of analysis that involves a process of breaking the material into small parts and determining the relationship between parts and the overall structure [52]. This aspect can be improved through the implementation of problem-based learning, problem solving learning in class.
- **C5** cognitive aspects, is an aspect of evaluation that is defined in making decisions based on criteria and standards. These criteria are determined by students [52]. This aspect can be improved through the implementation of project-based learning and problem solving in class.
- **C6** cognitive aspect, is an aspect that creates and involves the process of following the elements into a coherent whole [52]. This aspect can be improved through the implementation of project-based learning in class.

C. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Sustainable development aims to preserve and improve the quality of life constantly and in the long term. Sustainable development is a process that aims to improve the quality of
life in a broad sense, which should not be limited to financial wealth or material welfare but consists of environmental quality, implementation of democratic rights, access to natural resources, services and also institutions provided by the community, together with full physical and mental health, leisure, safety, and security [53]. Practically, sustainable development itself is a global action plan agreed upon by world leaders including Indonesia, population destruction, reduction and environmental protection. The SDGs contain 17 Goals and 169 Targets which are expected to be achieved by 2030. The 17 programs are as follows table 2:

### TABLE II. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) PROGRAM [54]

| Goal | Sustainable Development Program |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 1    | End poverty in all its forms everywhere |
| 2    | End hunger, achieve better living food security and nutrition and support sustainable agriculture |
| 3    | Ensure healthy lives and supporting wellbeing for all ages |
| 4    | Ensure education is inclusive and of equal quality, while also supporting lifelong learning opportunities for all |
| 5    | Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls |
| 6    | Ensure availability and sustainable management of clean water and sanitation for all |
| 7    | Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all |
| 8    | Support inclusive and sustainable economic growth, a full and productive workforce and decent work for all |
| 9    | Build resilient infrastructure, support inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation |
| 10   | Reduce inequality within and between countries |
| 11   | Build cities and settlements that are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable |
| 12   | Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns |
| 13   | Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts |
| 14   | Conserve and sustainably use marine, oceanic and maritime resources for sustainable development |
| 15   | Protect, restore and support the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, manage forests sustainably, combat desertification, and inhibit and reverse soil degradation and inhibit the loss of biodiversity |
| 16   | Support a peaceful and inclusive society for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all people and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels |
| 17   | Strengthen the implementation measurement and revitalize global partnerships for sustainable development |

Based on the 17 SD points above, there is number four relating to the quality of education. Education for sustainable development can support every human being in acquiring the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that are needed to build a sustainable future [55][56]. From a development perspective, quality education has a significant impact on national development [57]. The quality of education is actually the result of the process and other factors that can affect student learning outcomes. Quality education can provide great opportunities to produce capable human resources.

According to UNESCO [55], the goals relate to inclusive and equitable quality of education and lifelong learning opportunities for all people. The targets are: 1) free, fair and qualified primary and secondary education 2) access to qualified education since an early age, early childhood development, and pre-primary education, 3) equivalent access for women and men to technical education 4) the increased number of youth and adults who have relevant technical and vocational skills for employment and entrepreneurship 5) gender gaps elimination at all levels of education and vocational training 6) a literate generation (all youth and adults are literate) 7) the acquisition of knowledge and skills needed by the students in order to promote sustainable development through ESD in all aspects 8) building and refining educational facilities for students with disabilities and becoming sensitive to gender issues as well as providing safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environment for all learners 9) expanding globally the number of scholarships for enrollment in higher education, vocational training, and ICT, technical, technical and scientific programs 10) increasing the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in development and at least developed countries.

Fig. 6. Education Sustainable Development [58].

ESD (Education Sustainability Development) in figure 6, is a lesson needed to improve the human life quality today and, in the future, where competencies related to ESD in the form of knowledge, skills and attitudes or ESD values are carefully integrated in learning [59]. There are four main priority supporting the implementing ESD, which are (1) fostering and improving the education quality; (2) reorienting the existence of education at all levels to address sustainable development; (3) increasing public awareness of the concept of continuing education; (4) labor train [59][60].
III. METHODS

The research method used is descriptive qualitative with literature review. According to Sukmadinata [61], literature review is a series of studies which is related to the literature study as data collection methods or, in other words, it is a research conducted in libraries which its research objects are investigated through a variety of literature such as books, scientific journals, encyclopedias, newspapers, magazines, and documents. Data collection can be done by finding some relevant data or information, namely reputable journals, both international and national indexed journals, as well as several books and website pages that support updates in this article related to the urgency of learning and HOTS-oriented assessment towards education quality in facing Indonesia’s 2030 sustainable development goals.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The urgency of HOTS-oriented learning towards Quality Education in facing of Indonesia SDGs 2030

Education for sustainable development also refers to the learning needed to maintain and improve the quality of life for future generations [62][63]. Quality of education is basically essential for a country as it can affect the quality of its human resources. Education quality can be seen from the national education standards applied to the country [19]. In principle, all levels of education require students to have high HOTS scores [4][64][65][66]. HOTS is a skill that is required by every person in any educational environment [67].

ATCS (assessment and teaching for 21st century skills) concludes four main concepts related to 21st century skills, namely how to think, how to work, work tools and life skills. Ways of thinking can include creativity, critical thinking, problem solving, decision making and learning, in this case all these ways of thinking are included in HOTS-oriented learning. Conceptually, there is a difference between learning low-order thinking skills and higher-order thinking skills, and it can be seen in the following table 3.

| TABLE III. THE DIFFERENCES OF LOTS AND HOTS LEARNING [68] |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Student activities in LOTS learning** | **Student activities in HOTS learning** |
| Passive in thinking | Active in thinking |
| Problem Solving | Formulate problems |
| Reviewing simple problems | Reviewing complex problems |
| Convergent thinking | Think divergent and develop ideas |
| Learning from the teacher as the main source of information | Finding information from various sources |
| Practice solving questions and memorizing | Critical thinking and solving problems creatively |
| Prioritizing factual knowledge | Analytical thinking, evaluative thinking, and making decisions |

Thinking skills are the most basic abilities of every individual. The main task of educators is to provide space and facilities for students to become effective and efficient thinkers through the process of correct thinking. Things that educators can do include providing appropriate teaching strategies, methods, and materials to facilitate the growth of higher order thinking skills [69][70]. To improve student thinking, the teacher's strategy in the learning process in the classroom must be implemented to improve the thinking of the 4Cs super skills which consists of critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration thinking and communication thinking. Here is an illustration from the 4Cs Super Skills on 21st century learning in figure 7.

![The Four Cs of 21st Century Skills](image)

The Four Cs of 21st Century Skills are four skills that must be mastered by 21st century students, basically these four skills can improve students’ higher order thinking skills. These four abilities can be conceptually defined as follows:

1) Critical thinker skills: Critical thinking skills create problem solving including reasoning effectively, using systems of thinking, making sound judgments and decisions, and solving problems [73]. The term ‘critical thinking’ or expression refers to critical thinking and behavioral skills such as analyzing and interpreting meaningful data [74]. According to Liu, Frankel and Crotts [75], they create an operational definition of critical thinking that integrates previous theoretical frameworks and empirical research. They identify five main dimensions namely (1) evaluating the evidence; (2) analyzing and evaluating arguments; (3) understand the implications and consequences; (4) generate original arguments; (5) understand the causes [76]. Critical thinking is considered a high-level thinking or higher order thinking skill. These skills are also needed to analyze and manipulate information [77].

In line with the opinion of Keshta and Seif [78], critical thinking skills are associated with high-level cognitive skills, such as analyzing, synthesis, and evaluation [79]. Then, critical thinking also helps testing the validity and reliability of our beliefs contributing to sound and accurate judgments. In education, students are expected to have self-discipline skills in thinking, drawing logical, objective and fair conclusions. For this purpose, teachers should also have critical thinking skills [80][77]. There is a huge connection between basic reasoning abilities and applied comprehension. Students who are gifted in basic reasoning have higher cognitive learning outcomes than those who are not, and critical thinking has a significant effect on academic achievement [79][81].
Communication is defined as a person’s ability to articulate thoughts and ideas effectively by using oral, written, and non-verbal communication skills in various forms and contexts [82][83]. An important aspect of communication is that it demands a two-way exchange of information (messages and feedback) that forms a connection between two or more people. Both business and education researchers also agree that communication skills are very significant for 21st century citizens [73].

2) **Collaborator skills:** Collaborative skills, including working effectively and respectfully with multiple teams, exercising flexibility and willingness to achieve common goals, and taking shared responsibility for collaborative work while assessing individual contributions of team members [73]. P21 [84] in Germaine [73], defines collaboration as the ability to “work effectively in a diverse team of compromises in order to achieve common goals, and appreciate the contribution of each individual”. Following are the many benefits of collaboration according to Trilling and Fadel [85] including (1) providing access to skills and strengths, (2) developing skills, (3) solving problems and innovating faster, (4) making work more efficient, and (5) increase job satisfaction.

3) **Creator skills:** Creativity and innovation skills, which include thinking about creating new things and valuable ideas; and outlining, refining, analyzing, evaluating ideas, enhancing and maximizing efforts [73].

Creative individuals can utilize an assortment of thought creation methods, including conceptualizing, mind mapping, doodling, and charts. They are keen on evaluating unique thoughts, explaining, refining, and attempting to improve them. Creativity regularly includes working on projects with others and being open to various points of view. Innovative individuals work to be creative and unique, and they view disappointment as a chance to learn from mistakes [82]. To understand more deeply about The “Four Cs” there is a concept from Bubbls.us which is presented in Figure 8.

![The “Four Cs” of 21st Century Skills created with Bubbl.us](image)

The problems that will be faced by students in industrial development schools 4.0 are very diverse, so HOTS (High Level Thinking Skills) is needed. Therefore, there are many abilities that students should be able to develop, including 4C. In order to have the results (students) which match the industrial needs of the 4.0 era, learning must be updated and innovated [86]. According to Saavedra and Opfer [31], it is suggested that these nine principles are used to teach 21st century skills: (1) make learning relevant to ‘big picture’; (2) teach with discipline; (3) develop the ability to think lower and higher to encourage understanding in different contexts; (4) foster the transfer of learning; (5) teach about how to “learn to learn” or metacognition; (6) correct misunderstandings directly; (7) promote teamwork; (8) utilize technology to support learning; and (9) increase student creativity.

In this case, students must be the main actors in making meaning of their experiences. Some studies highlight that student involvement in the learning process is more vital to learning [87][88][89]. In other words, student involvement in the process should be the focus of assessing teaching effectiveness [16]. Because basically what teachers do in the learning process has a significant impact on student learning [16][90][91].

Fig. 8. The “Four Cs” of 21st Century Skills created with Bubbl.us [83].

Number 22 of 2016 concerning process standards using 3 (three) learning models which is expected to shape scientific, social behavior and develop a sense of curiosity. The three models are: (1) a learning model through discovery / inquiry learning, (2) a problem-based learning (PBL) model, (3) a project-based learning model. PPA).

- The learning model, through discovery / inquiry learning, is an understanding of concepts, meanings, and relationships through an intuitive process to finally arrive at a conclusion. Discovery occurs when the individual is primarily involved in the use of his mental processes to discover some concepts and principles. Discovery is done through observation, grouping, measurement, prediction, determination, and inference. The aforesaid procedure is called cognitive process, while discovery itself is the mental process of assimilating concepts and principles in the mind [92]. This learning is very important for educated people and basic education strategies for scientifically literate individuals [93][94]. The goal of the Discovery Learning model will help students improve their critical thinking skills [95]. According to Bruner, the syntax of the Discovery Learning model includes
Problem-based learning (PBL) is a learning model that uses the various thinking abilities of students individually and in groups as well as a real environment to solve problems so that they are meaningful, relevant, and contextual [97][92]. Problem-based learning (PBL) is a learning and teaching strategy that is planned to involve students in solving real-world problems [98]. According to Fajrilia [99] Problem based learning is a learning model that focuses on students, and it is contextual. Students are directly involved in finding solutions to a problem so that the model is able to improve higher-order thinking skills. Meanwhile, the syntax of the Problem-based Learning model according to Arends [100] includes (1) the orientation of students on problems; (2) Organizing students to learn; (3) Guiding individual and group investigations; (4) Developing and presenting works; and (5) Analyze and assess the problem-solving process.

The project-based learning model is a form of student-centered learning. Which aims to develop more independence in students [101]. The benefits of PjBL allow students to demonstrate higher abilities [102][103]. In this case, PjBL facilitates students to collaborate on conceptual understanding, apply previous knowledge, and to acquire skills. It can integrate several disciplines to create a project [104]. The application of the Project-based Learning model according to Ariyana [92] includes (1) Topics / material that students learn are contextual topics and are easily designed to be interesting projects / works; (2) Students are not led to produce only one project (one student produces one project); (3) The project does not have to be completed in 1 meeting but completed in 3-4 meetings; (4) The project is a form of problem solving so that the creation of a project leads to an increase in learning outcomes; (5) Ensure that materials, tools and media needed to make the project are available in the surrounding environment and directed to utilize used materials / waste to make them valuable and useful; and (6) Authentic assessment emphasizes the ability to design, implement, find, and convey products to others.

The learning model can also be disclosure/discovery, but problem-based learning models, project-based learning models are the three models that are effective for improving high-level thinking (HOTS) of students during the teaching and learning process. It means that the teacher’s urgency is in the implementation of HOTS learning at every learning in class because basically the main actor of education for sustainable development is the teacher or educator who is seen as an effective agent of change [105][106][107][63].

B. The Urgency of HOTS-oriented Assessment towards the Quality of Education in Facing Indonesia’s 2030 SDGs

The OECD supports these discussions and shares member states’ commitments to a new education and universal agenda with a focus on learning outcomes and skills for all [58]. Good learning outcomes are when individuals exceed expectations to memorize and repeat interrupted facts and knowledge (with certain applications), can indirectly seize opportunities to understand difficult concepts and complex ideas, evaluate new ideas, and create the essence of their own insights. In this case the role of the teacher is very important, the teacher can use the student’s response as an opportunity to evaluate their readiness to learn more deeply, and introduce new concepts that are appropriate to challenge their thinking [108]. In the 2013 curriculum, the Ministry of Education and Culture also made improvements to content standards and assessment standards, both of which focus on Higher-Level Thinking Skills (HOTS) [19][109]. Related to higher-order thinking assessments, Mohamed and Lebar [110] designed an integrated structure regarding the item elements in an assessment to measure HOTS which can be seen in Figure 9.

![Figure 9](image_url)

In measuring the HOTS assessment, it is necessary to form and train students’ thinking to analyze, evaluate and create or create in line with the three HOTS-oriented learning model designs that have been described in the previous sub-section. According to Brookhart [111], indicators to be able to measure analytical skills are to focus on main ideas, analyze arguments, and compare and contrast. Indicators that can measure evaluation ability are the ability to make decisions or methods to be in line with the desired goals. Indicators to measure the capacity of creation are taking care of issues with more than one solution, planning an approach to tackle issues, and making something new. Indicators of logical and reasoning abilities are substance, reasoning and evidence, and clarity of language style.

The assessment instrument or HOTS questions are questions that require high-level thinking skills. In shaping better student quality, questions like this must indeed be developed by the teacher properly and applied in the class they are teaching. HOTS or higher order thinking skills are divided into four groups, namely problem solving, decision making, critical thinking, and creative thinking [36]. According to Krathwohl [44][112] in a revision of Bloom's Taxonomy: an
overview - Theory into Practice states that the indicators for measuring HOT are as follows:

- Indicators that can measure C4 cognitive level questions (analyze) include: 1) analyzing incoming information and dividing or structuring information into smaller parts to recognize patterns or relationships, 2) being able to recognize and differentiate causal and effect factors from a complicated scenario, 3) identifying/formulating questions. The following is the implementation of the measurement instrument with the C4 cognitive level (analyzing).

- Indicators for measuring C6 cognitive level problems (creating) include: 1) generalizing an idea or way of looking at something, 2) designing a way to solve a problem, 3) organizing elements or parts into new structures that have never been existed before. The following question is the implementation of the measurement instrument with a cognitive level of C6 (creating).

### C4 Question (Analysis)

| Look at the following picture |
|-------------------------------|
| ![Diagram](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subduction) |
| Fig. 10. Subduction. | Sumber: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subduction |

When the oceanic crust collides with the continental crust, it tends to sink into the bowels of the earth, this is because ...

- A. Higher density of oceanic crust
- B. Oceanic crust is thinner than continental crust
- C. The continental crust is made up of silica and aluminum
- D. The continental crust is composed of the mineral magnesium
- E. The oceanic crust is beneath the continental crust

### C5 Question (Evaluate)

| Read the following statement: |
|-------------------------------|
| 1) Each time zone has a distance difference of 15° BT |
| 2) The WITA area follows the GMT +8 standard time |
| 3) Papua region is the earliest area to start morning activities in Indonesia |
| 4) The western part of Indonesia is 3 hours apart from the eastern part of Indonesia |

The correct statement with respect to time zones in Indonesia is ...

- A. (1), (2), and (3)
- B. (1) and (3)
- C. (2) and (4)
- D. (3) and (4)
- E. (1), (2), (3), and (4)

### C6 Question (Create)

| Look at the following picture: |
|-------------------------------|
| ![Image](http://bnpb.go.id) |

Fig. 11. Figure 8. Map of Mount Merapi Disaster Prone Areas | Sumber: http://bnpb.go.id |

Based on the map above, it is an overlay of several maps to produce a new map. The thematic map that is overlayed to make the map on top includes ...

- A. Population distribution map, lava flow map, topographic map
- B. Topographic maps, land use maps, lava flow maps
- C. Population distribution map, lava flow map, land use map
- D. Risk map of disaster area, map of lava flow, map of population distribution
- E. Topographic maps, population distribution maps, land use maps

The implementation of assessment using HOTS-oriented measurement instruments at cognitive levels C4, C5, and C6 can improve students’ higher thinking skills. This means that in this case the integration of ESD is by Teachers/Educators since the educators are agents of change who provide the educational response needed to achieve the SDGs. The knowledge and competencies they possess are very important to restructure the educational process and educational institutions towards sustainability. Teachers are required to continue to face this challenge by reorienting themselves towards ESD. However, efforts to prepare teachers to implement ESD are still not advanced enough. There is still a lot of work that needs to be done to direct teachers towards education for sustainable development, both in terms of content, teaching methods and learning [113]. In this case, we should have the quality of education in Finland which is a country that has good quality education, but all of this is based on high quality teacher training [114]. The aim of such teacher training is to provide graduating teachers with the versatility and required knowledge and skills [115][116].

Education plays a significant role in preparing the human resources. Indonesia has also a highly qualified human
resource. This is proven by the fact that the correlation of the education coefficient on the human resource development index is 0.99. It means that education is great for contributing to increasing the welfare index [117]. Today, the world is confronting a challenge to characterize the educational indicators including access, value and quality for all levels of education that can be measured and tracked over time and on a global scale [58]. Full commitment from all levels of society is very important because education for sustainable development is a disciplined learning strategy that emphasizes values, thoughts, methodologies and structured policy decision making in accordance with changing world [118]. Basically, education is the best medium to build a nation to make a great nation in all sectors [117]. Opening the gates of education for all human beings is the only way to develop Indonesia's human resources.

V. CONCLUSION

In the current development, especially at the beginning of the 21st century, the era of revolution 4.0, having several challenges in improving the quality of education of a country is indeed very urgent. Given the changing times, it requires several standard processes, especially in the field of education to improve the human resources quality. The use of strategies, methods, models and assessment instruments is used to improve a student's thinking ability. Today, particularly high-thinking skills are becoming a hot issue in its implementation. This is done to improve the quality of Indonesian education, based on the research results of the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). Indonesia is one of the countries that has a PISA score that can be categorized low compared to other countries. Thus, based on these problems the importance of implementing higher order thinking skills oriented learning in Indonesia, which in its application teachers or educators can use several design models such as discovery-inquiry learning, problem-based learning and project-based learning and cooperative learning, the application of some of these learning models is expected to be able to improve the ability to think critically, creatively, collaboration and student communication in the classroom so as to improve students' higher order thinking skills in class.

On the other hand, the implementation of the assessment also needs to be considered since basically a means of measuring the success of a teaching and learning process activity is to conduct assessments in class. In this case, HOTSS-oriented assessment is also urgent. It is done to improve students’ ability to think, analyze, evaluate and create. So with the two urgent things above, educators should be truly competent in implementing higher order thinking skills (HOTS) oriented learning and assessment in the 21st century, which is the main key to realizing high quality education in realizing sustainable development in Indonesia in 2030.

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