

ONLINE LEARNING FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN INDONESIA DURING COVID- 19 PANDEMIC

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ONLINE LEARNING FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN INDONESIA DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the barriers, solutions, and projections of online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic in Indonesian Primary Education students. The nature of this research is qualitative research by using the sourced from the Ministry of Education website namely 'Sahabat Keluarga Kemendikbud'. The data taken was from the survey which was conducted by the UNICEF on 18-29 May 2020 and 5-8 June 2020. During the survey, UNICEF received more than 4,000 responses from students in 34 Indonesian provinces, through the U-Report channel which consists of the Short Message System (SMS), WhatsApp, and Facebook Messenger. One of the teacher's obstacles when doing online learning is the students' lack of understanding of the lesson because the teachers are not able to explain the lesson face to face with the students.

Keywords: Online, Teacher, Students, Learning, Technology, Covid-19

RESEARCH BACKGROUND

Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was first discovered in the city of Wuhan, China at the end of December 2019. This virus is spreading very quickly and infected almost all countries in the world, including Indonesia, in just a few months. Therefore, the WHO on March 11, 2020, declared this outbreak a global pandemic. Indonesia first confirmed the COVID-19 case on Monday, March 2, 2020. At that time, the President of the Republic of Indonesia, Joko Widodo, announced that two Indonesians had tested positive for the Coronavirus, a pair of a 31-year-old daughter and a 64-year-old mother. After the emergence of the Covid-19 outbreak in the hemisphere, the education system began looking for innovation in the teaching and learning process. Moreover, as an effort to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic from spreading, the government issued a policy for the schooling system by Circular Letter no. 4 of 2020 from the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia. Many universities readily respond to these instructions, one of which is the University of Muhammadiyah West Sumatra through the Rectorial Decree of the University of Muhammadiyah West Sumatra No 0743 / II.AU / F / 2020 dated 7 October 2020 Subject: Online Class Guidelines. The conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in extraordinary changes, including in the field of education. It is as if all levels of education are 'forced' to transform to adapt suddenly drastically to do learning from home through online media. This is certainly not an easy thing, because it is not fully prepared. The problem in the world of education is that the learning process is not uniform, both

the standards and the quality of the desired learning outcomes. One of the alternative forms of learning that can be carried out during the Covid-19 emergency is online learning. According to Moore, Dickson-Deane, & Galyen (2011), Online learning is learning that uses internet networks with accessibility, connectivity, flexibility, and the ability to generate various types of learning interactions. The research stated by Zhang et al., (2004) shows that the use of the internet and multimedia technology can change the way of conveying knowledge and can be an alternative to learning carried out in traditional classrooms. In practice, online learning requires the support of mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, and laptops which can be used to access information anywhere and anytime (Gikas & Grant, 2013). The use of mobile technology has a major contribution in the world of education, including the achievement of distance learning goals (Korucu & Alkan, 2011). Various media can also be used to support the implementation of online learning. For example, virtual classes use Google Classroom, Edmodo, and Schoology services (Enriquez, 2014; Sicat, 2015; Iftakhar, 2016), and instant messaging applications such as WhatsApp (So, 2016). Online learning can even be done through social media such as Facebook and Instagram (Kumar & Nanda, 2018). The teacher or lecturer is not the only determining milestone. This is a tough challenge for teachers, lecturers, and parents. Not a few parents have complained about this online distance learning media. Especially for parents who work from home (WFH), they must still accompany their children, especially their children who are still at an early age. Furthermore, the use of smartphones, tablets, or laptops for studying at home is not yet averagely found in Indonesian households.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a qualitative research that aims to obtain an overview of online learning carried out in Indonesia. Online learning referred to in this research is learning that uses learning media that can be accessed using internet services. Summarized from the Ministry of Education page namely "Sahabat Keluarga Kemendikbud", UNICEF surveyed on 18-29 May 2020 and 5-8 June 2020. During the survey, UNICEF received more than 4,000 responses from students in 34 Indonesian provinces, through the U-Report channel consisting of SMS, WhatsApp, and Messenger. The survey results said that as many as 66 percent of the 60 million students from various levels of education in 34 provinces admitted that they were uncomfortable studying at home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Of these, 87 percent of students want to return to school immediately. Then, 88 percent of students were also willing to wear masks at school and 90 percent said the importance of physical distance if they continued learning in class. The survey also found that 38 percent of students said the main issue of online learning is the lack of guidance from the Teacher. Meanwhile, 35 percent mentioned poor internet access. If distance-learning continues, 62 percent of respondents admit they need help for buying internet quotas.

DISCUSSION

Based on the description of online learning carried out in Indonesia at the primary education level, can be described as follows:

1. Teaching and Learning Process During the Covid-19 Pandemic
 - a. Learning is carried out online.
 - b. Learning can be done Project Based Learning

- c. Learning is done with 60% online and 40% offline using the shift method
- d. Home Schooling Learning
- e. Listening to Educational Radio and TV that have collaborated with Kemendikbud RI

2. Applications used in online learning and how to use these applications in the online learning process.

- a. The WhatsApp and YouTube applications are used by teachers in conducting online learning so that teachers can record videos that can be sent to students as if they were learning in the classroom
- b. Through the YouTube application, the teacher asks the students to watch the learning material that have been recorded and uploaded by the teachers. After the watching process is done, the teacher then gives several questions to the students to be answered. The students then required to send their answer sheet via the WhatsApp application group that have been set up by the teachers prior the class.

3. Pros and Cons of Online Learning

The advantages of online learning

- a. Increasing Security and Safety
- b. More quality time with family at home.
- b. there is no time limit in learning
- c. Learning can improve skills and technology used by teachers and students
- d. Students are not only dependent on teachers, but can also learn to conduct independent research through internet media
- e. For students, the material sent by the teacher in the form of a video can be repeated if they do not understand the lesson on the first watch.
- f. For teachers, videos that have been made can be used repeatedly to the other classes with same lesson.

Disadvantages of online learning:

- a. Students' understanding of the material is lacking due to the lack of supervision by the teacher
- b. For teachers who are elderly, some of them cannot use the existing platform. b. Teachers find it difficult to monitor student learning progress.
- c. Consumes a lot of internet quota.
- d. Distracted by non-notification of cellphones and wasteful of batteries.
- e. Not all teachers and students have and can access the equipment needed for online learning and not all areas where the communication infrastructure is poor.

4. Parents' Response to Online Learning

- a. Parents spend more time with their children.
- b. Stronger bond between parents and children when they doing the classes together.
- c. However, parents cannot accompany their children to study when they are busy working.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

From the discussion above it can be concluded that Online Education learning in Indonesia for Primary Education level was carried out by Using WhatsApp and YouTube application. Several issues arise by this mode of study such as the lack understand of the students not only about the lesson but also about the using of the media itself. After all, they do not meet face to face and

teachers find it difficult to monitor their student learning progress. Despite all that, there is a lesson learned from the world of education amid the Covid-19 pandemic, which is face-to-face learning activities with teachers have proven to be more effective than online. This was explained by the education expert of Universitas Brawijaya (UB) Aulia Luqman Aziz on his speech at Indonesia's National Education Day 2020. "Forever, the teaching profession will not be replaced by technology," said Luqman in his statement on UB's official website, Saturday (2/5/2020). According to him, fully online learning has recently caused a lot of complaints from students and parents.

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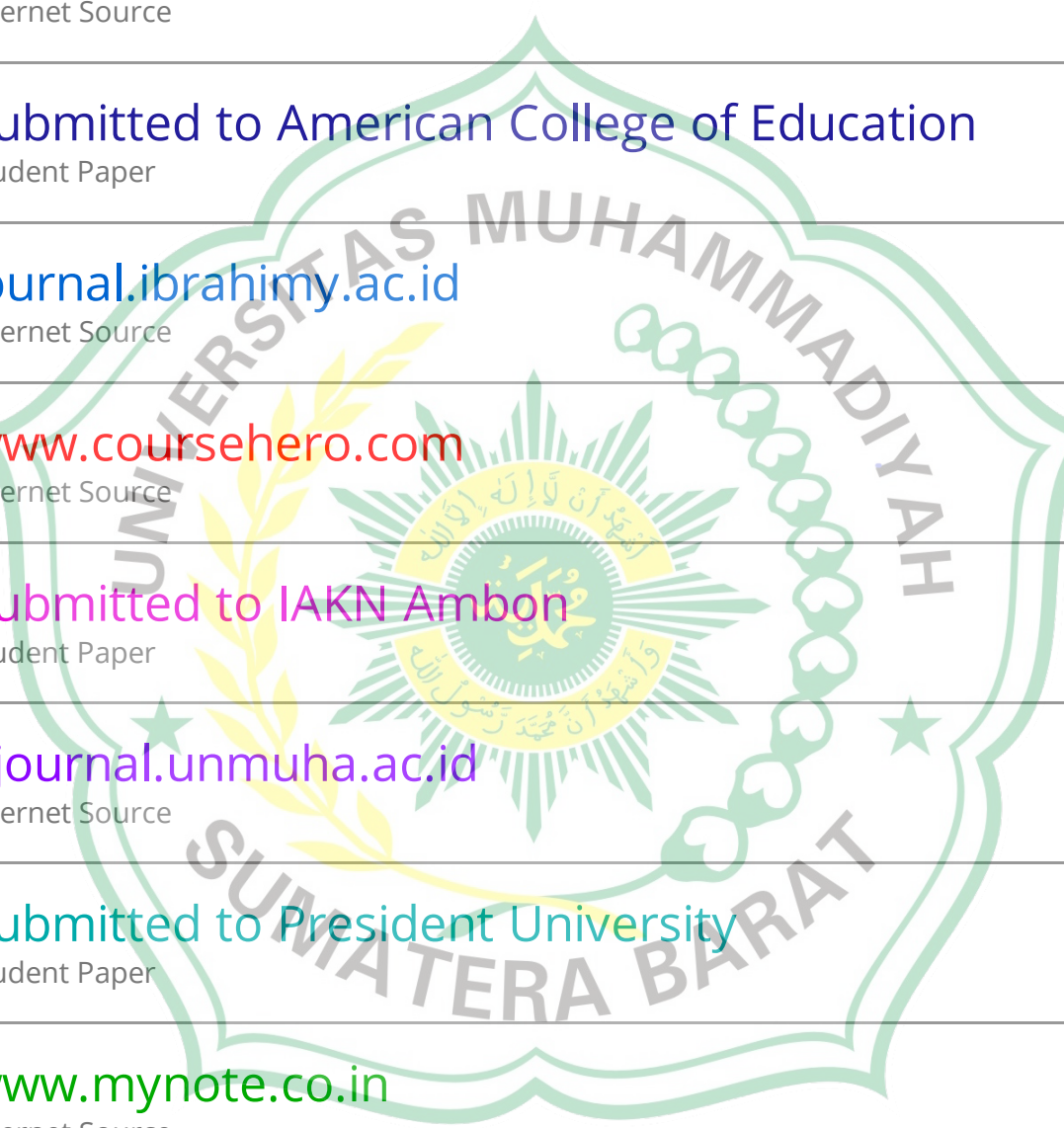
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