

STRUGGLING FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING DURING THE PANDEMIC SITUATION

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ABSTRACT

In 2020, education system in the world has been disrupted because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This crisis caused the diminishing opportunities for many children, youth, and adult learners (United Nations, 2020). In Indonesia, education face many challenges such as online system of schooling, distanced-learning from home, lack of interaction between students and teacher, and many more. In this paper, the challenges of learning from home, lesson planning for pandemic situation, implementation of the learning from home processes during the pandemic situation in many school levels are reported. The study employed qualitative research in which documents used as data. It was found that most of teachers used WhatsApp as the communication platform to interact with their students. Other applications used as online classroom are Google Classroom, Google Meet, Telegram, Zoom Meeting, etc. Those applications used by teachers and students in effort of struggling for the learning in the middle of current situations. Based on the data, it can be found that teaching and learning still can be done effective enough with various adaptation towards online classrooms.

Keywords: *Education, COVID-19, Teaching and Learning, Online Classroom, Learning from Home*

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused big impact to educational system. Government through minister of education and culture currently promote some scenarios to face the pandemic effect to the education during special condition. Those are including schools closing, working from home by teachers as well as students learned from home, online learning fully, blended learning and other scenarios. Indonesia is one of many countries which implemented country-wide school closures. The government has regulated the guide of learning from home or distanced learning by the Circular Letter of Ministry of Education and Culture No. 15 Year 2020 (SE Sesjen Kemendikbud, 2020). Education in emergency situation has been focused to students who learned from home to keep healthy and stay away from the transmission of the virus.

Because of the pandemic, all aspects of life have been stopped even delayed (Angdhiri, 2020). In fact, Education must be continued whatever the situation is. Students have been learned from home for months to avoid COVID-19 transmission. Learning from home also implemented to fulfill students' right to the education, to protect teachers and students from bad impact of the disease caused by corona virus, and to prevent the virus transmission to the teachers, students, and families. Minister of education and culture has developed distance learning applications based on android: "portal Rumah Belajar"; one of the apps offered by government (Kemdikbud, 2020). All people from the governments, educational institutions, parents, teachers, until students have been struggling to access education during the pandemic situation because education has very pivotal role for life, it is more than only a subject matter. The situation has been running since March 2020 until December 2020, otherwise two semesters. The COVID-19 Pandemic is a form of challenging test for Indonesia, especially, Ministry of Education and Culture. So one of the effort to overcome the problems that exist is providing online learning with various platforms such as Quipper, Google Indonesia, Sekolahmu, Zenius, Microsoft, and more (Abidah et al., 2020).

This situation motivates teachers to think how to teach in such an effective way even if they do not have students together in face-to-face classroom. Education should be developed continuously, especially the way of teaching and learning to achieve optimum result (Mursyid, 2020). In nowadays situation, where students cannot come to the school building, teachers teach use remote teaching from separated places. Furthermore, the teacher's role in teaching with supported environment can help students to get the optimum achievement in learning. This research is aimed to expose the challenges to the process teaching and learning during pandemic, to find out how teachers design lesson planning and its implementation in current situation in many formal schools, especially in senior high school. It is reported in a reflective explanation based on documents as effort to empower teaching and learning and to gain optimum outcomes.

Adaptation efforts of education to the pandemic situation

Education should be continued however the situation is, include education during the COVID-19 pandemic which has re-shaped all aspects include in education. There are many ways to the adaptation, here are the nine ideas for public action according to UNESCO (2020):

1. Strengthen the education as in health, keep safety and healthy when teacher, students, and everybody are safe.
2. Expanding the definition of right to education, connectivity and access to knowledge and information, that learners of all ages have their right to education.
3. Collaborative teaching among teachers. As educators, they have to improve autonomy and flexibility to the education.
4. Prioritize the participation of students and young people in the process of change. Their participation and rights should be prioritized.
5. Students' social spaces must be protected when the education transformation implemented by schools. Even though the physical space cannot be given, various classroom organization can be maintained.
6. Open free access to the source of knowledge, digital tools, and educational resources through available technologies in which interaction between teachers and students relationships still exist.
7. Ensure scientific literacy within the curriculum. This is the right time for deep reflection on curriculum, particularly as we struggle against the denial of scientific knowledge and actively fight misinformation.
8. National governments and all education and development partners must recognize the need to strengthen public health and social services around the protection of public education.
9. Advance global solidarity to end current levels of inequality together with a revitalized global solidarity that has empathy and an appreciation of our common humanity at its core.

METHOD

Method is a way to collect data as information for research completion (Nunan, 2007). This study utilized descriptive qualitative method. It is a method which is designed to provide the frame of situation as it naturally happens (Burns, N. & Grove, 2004). In addition to the qualitative methodology, Creswell (2014) define that qualitative is used for exploring and analyzing particular themes, and the researcher making interpretations of the meaning of the data. Qualitative research has employed where documentation used as the basic data. The lesson plan used for special condition of learning from home has been included to the discussion. The documents of learning program, group discussion of online classroom, and also screenshot of students' learning implementation are inserted as the report of study.

The study was taken place from a public senior high school in Cianjur Regency which represented as a school that implemented online program of learning during COVID-19 pandemic. The participant of this study were teachers and students who involved in the program. The teachers were experienced teachers that competent on planning, implementing, and evaluating the digital teaching. Teacher and students conversation on WhatsApp group as daily interactions were used as

artifact of this research. This research was used as a reflection on the program of teaching and learning during emergency situation of pandemic on the first semester of year of Academic 2020-2021.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This study is aimed to investigate the process of teaching and learning during COVID-19 pandemic situation and to know how the school program can be implemented. The finding revealed that many challenges in the current real condition besides many solutions were offered by government and teachers at school.

1. Education Challenges of the Learning from Home

It has been 9 months that students learned from home, teachers taught via smartphone and digital tools, and schools were closed due to the pandemic. This situation also made parents worked from home and they should take role as teachers for their children. All activities including economic, social, education and other aspects of life were restricted, plans were delayed, and also agenda were postponed. This situation has given big impact to education and its processes. Since March 2020, students could not go to school because the dangerous of corona virus disease transmission. Ministry of education and central government has published many regulations related to keep the people healthy and protected. Schools at all levels followed the regulation from higher government institution, include the closing of schools and stop physical activities. So then, the school (public senior high school where the study conducted) designed the program with the combination of online and offline learning mode that will be explained on the next part.

There were some problems which obstruct the process of learning during pandemic situation. The appropriate solutions and opportunities to answer those challenges were needed. Hereby the challenges in learning from home which conducted during the first semester of new academic year 2020-2021 explained below.

1st Challenge: Designing suitable program for students

Students usually learned in the classroom when they have friends and teachers at the same room. Because of the pandemic, there was not any face-to-face classes. Most of the schools chose online learning and let students learned from their home especially the city or region which categorized as red and yellow zone. Lack of interaction between teacher and students has created fatal impact. Teacher could not know their students, as well as the students did not know how to contact with their teacher well. Each student separated by distance and place, so the program should be connected at the same time with schedule. The school uses the online mode of teaching and learning as alternative to make students keep educated well. For students haven't got gadget, school provides offline learning where teachers prepare materials and tasks that can be learned with minimal connection to internet or even do not need any internet connection.

2nd Challenge: Online learning needs appropriate gadgets and supported features

Gadget was one of the most important things as the tool for learning. Gadgets used for learning were smartphone, personal computer, tablet and or laptop. Appropriate gadgets should be completed with operating system to install various apps. Gadget was the first tool that students have to own. Online learning used smartphone that usually used by teacher to deliver the materials. Having gadget was a must for students who want to follow online classroom to make the gadget appropriate to any kind of application software

Generally, most of students at this time had their own smartphone. Unfortunately, not all smartphone can support any kind of learning apps. To solve this problem, students have to

prepare their gadget so that they can follow the lesson without any technical problems. First, students have to clean their unimportant data or trash on the smartphone. Then, students have to copy or move their important data to other device such as flash disk, hard disk, or even they can also upload to the cloud storage. After that, they can select what application to install or to be uninstalled. Those are some of the solution to the problems.

3rd Challenge: Fast internet connection to open multiple applications

Besides gadget, internet connection was needed since online learning have to connect with teachers and other students at the same specified time. During online learning, student learned through various applications such as WhatsApp, Telegram, Instagram, Google Classroom, and Blogspot. For some reason, students also had to communicate through video call or conferences, some application such as Google meet, Zoom, or WhatsApp video. Those applications needed fast internet connection if opened and used at the same time. Online learning which utilize some learning applications need more than normal internet.

4th Challenge: Attention from parents and Self -Motivation

Support from family at home became one of the most important factors to succeed learning from home. The challenge was when students learn independently without attention from parents who observe the process of their learning. Another problem is students with low motivation. If their parents do not pay attention, it possible that students will not learn seriously and become lazy. On the otherhand, for some parents who worked from home during pandemic, they can help their children to learn together.

2. School program as the solution to the challenges

School program was designed to help teacher and students in the educational processes. It was designed by see the pandemic situation not as obstacle, but as challenge to the education. School program created new point of view, that education can be implemented in anywhere. The following picture describes how learning activities for both online and offline are scheduled.

NO	KELAS	AKTIVITAS PEMBELAJARAN							
		MG KE-1	MG KE-2	MG KE-3	MG KE-4	MG KE-1	MG KE-2	MG KE-3	MG KE-4
		5-9 OKT	12-16 OKT	19-23 OKT	26-30 OKT	2-6 NOV	9-13 NOV	16-20 NOV	23-27 NOV
1	X	PENDIDIKAN KARAKTER	MATERI	LITERASI	TUGAS (Senin, 2 Nov 2020)	MATERI	LITERASI	TUGAS (Senin, 23 Nov 2020)	PENDIDIKAN KARAKTER
2	XI	PENDIDIKAN KARAKTER	MATERI	LITERASI	TUGAS (Selasa, 3 Nov 2020)	MATERI	LITERASI	TUGAS (Selasa, 24 Nov 2020)	PENDIDIKAN KARAKTER
3	XII	PENDIDIKAN KARAKTER	MATERI	LITERASI	TUGAS (Rabu, 4 Nov 2020)	MATERI	LITERASI	TUGAS (Rabu, 25 Nov 2020)	PENDIDIKAN KARAKTER

Picture 1. The schedule of learning activities for students during pandemic

Based on the picture above, students learn from home by following the schedule where the program designed by teachers at school. Even though students cannot come to school, they can learn under teacher guide with various activities for each week. On the table, it can be seen that the schedule is set for 8 weeks and different activities for each week. The activities designed differently for each week to make students learn various mode of online and offline learning.

The activities consisted of character education, learning materials, literacy, and assignment. First, Character education was student learn from home about what to they need to be kind person, respect to parents, understand to the others, etc. The activities could be like helping mom to clean house, tidy up their room, and so on. Students' activities must be recorded by photos or videos, and then send to teacher as evidence that they finished with character education. Second, at the week of learning materials, students' activities were to receive, to read, and to learn the materials independently. Students got the materials from teachers related to the subject (16 subjects for students of grade X at the school). Third, literacy week means students mainly learn about reading and writing. For example, teacher give students reading materials, some articles related to social, natural, economy, education, and other topics. Fourth, a week of assignment intended to make students relax to the situation. Teachers give assignment only once for a month.

3. Lesson plan for online learning from home

Lesson plan was very important for teacher as a design of teaching and learning. Teachers' lesson plan became guide about what to teach, what to learn by students, and what should be prepared. During pandemic situation, teachers had to think more than normal teaching. Many aspects of teaching and learning had considered to the situation. Moreover, online learning was very different with normal teaching at the class. So teacher designed lesson plan for online learning during pandemic. The lesson plan was written very brief and simple that is only in one sheet, or until two sheets of paper. It consisted of lesson plan identity, learning goals, teaching and learning activities (written in points), and assessments. On appendix 1, it could be seen that lesson plan identity covers name of subjects, name of school, class and semester, time allocation, year academic, and basic competence of the materials. Learning goals of the materials were written descriptively, for the example; "After learning the materials, students can differentiate various kind of forms used in bank, agency, and institution and other". Teaching and learning activities are designed to engage students with teacher in real time communication, as example; 1) Teacher and students have dialogue use Google Meet for the first 15 minutes, 2) Student watch teacher's explanation about forms used in the bank on Google Slide, 3) Questions-answer session on Google Meet in interactive for 15 minutes, 4) Distinguish some of the forms as a text to fill in the blank with definition (Order forms, Feedback forms, Purchase forms, Medical forms, and Reservation forms). After designing lesson plan, the implementation of teaching and learning explained on the next part of discussion below.

4. The implementation of teaching and learning during pandemic

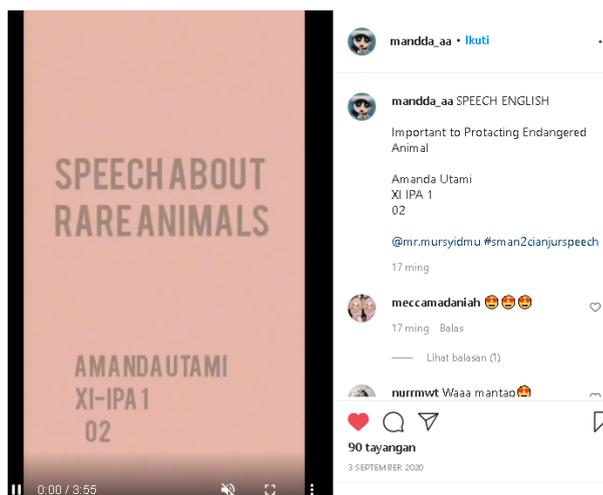
Online learning during pandemic has been implemented continuously. There were many challenges for many schools, teachers, students, parents and all people. Schools designed program to result the best formula. The learning program was launched for students who learn from home because of the pandemic. Teachers follow the program and design lesson plan to reach effective learning either online or mixed with offline. Based on the data, it was found that teachers and students has schedule to do learning from home since 8:00 AM in the morning until 1:15 PM. There were four to five subjects that students have to follow every day. Each subject allocated 45 minutes and 10 minutes for rest. Teacher and students used WhatsApp (WA) to communicate. Teacher open the class, explain the materials, and do the question-answer with students on that WA. If a teacher has five classes, so they were joined 5 WA group. WA that is usually use for chatting and daily communication, now it is very useful for learning, it is depend on function and

purposes. Other applications used as online classroom are Google Classroom, Google Meet, Telegram, Zoom Meeting, etc.



Picture 2. The use of WhatsApp for education during pandemic

WhatsApp could be used for effective online learning. At the beginning, teacher opened the class with salaam and greetings. Students give respond to what teacher says, what teacher asks, and many more. In English class for example, teacher gave students reading materials, some articles related to social, natural, economy, education, and other topics. Then, students asked to write main points of articles they have read. After that, students chose one topic to be discussed, searched other reading sources, and found new ideas related to the topic they choose. Next, students wrote a new text in the form of speech text. At the end, students asked to take video on their speech. The video then uploaded and published to instagram.



Picture 3. Instagram as media to show students' speaking performance

Instagram also could be used for learning besides WA group and other. Instagram used in English class is very useful, it became the final result of students' project based learning. After

students read the articles, they wrote new text in the form of speech. This Instagram was used as media for students to show their speaking ability. They practiced their speaking by reading the speech text they made of their own, practice more and more until they feel confident, and then take video recordings to their speech. The speech video duration is two until four minutes (max) in front of camera of their smartphone. After that, they have to upload the video to Instagram and publish to hashtag #sman2cianjurspeech. By this kind of sequence of activities, students are supposed to have discipline and responsibility to their own learning. Those activities need about 1 month, from reading the articles, writing the text, until publish their speech video at the end. This project resulted many benefit for teacher and students in the process of online teaching and learning.

CONCLUSION

Education has faced many challenges because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many efforts have been implemented including online system of schooling, online and offline learning program, distanced-learning from home, and so on. However, pandemic is not an obstacle for teacher to teach their students as well as for students to educate themselves by learning from home. Some of challenges to the process of learning during pandemic are designing suitable program for students, appropriate gadgets and supported features, fast internet connection to open multiple applications, attention from parents and self-motivation. School program of online-offline learning creates new point of view, that education can be implemented in anywhere. WhatsApp and Instagram as example of application that can be used to support students' learning from home. As recommendation, teacher may use learning application as a digital way of teaching and learning and to get effective teaching in any kind of situation in future.

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