EVALUATION OF ONLINE LEARNING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AT PEMATANGSIANTAR'S PURE INDONESIAN BUSINESS POLYTECHNIC CAMPUS

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Introduction

Covid-19 is an acute respiratory disease caused by Coronavirus Sars-Cov-2 (severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2). The virus, which was first discovered in the Chinese city of Wuhan, is a pandemic threat to the global community. This virus quickly spread and was declared a pandemic disease by WHO on March 11, 2020. Covid-19 or the corona virus is a virus that attacks the respiratory system where the virus can cause respiratory system disorders, acute lung infections and can lead to death.

The increasing number of deaths since the announcement of the first positive patient for Covid-19 was reported in early March 2020 by the Government of Indonesia. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends suspending activities that could lead to the massive spread of the virus. To overcome the spread of Covid-19, several policies were carried out by stopping or limiting community activities. Several policies such as Lockdown, Social Distancing, Physical Distancing and the implementation of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB). The Indonesian government has implemented several policies, such as the Republic of Indonesia's Presidential Instruction for Work From Home (WFH) to work from home. Working from home or work from home which is currently being carried out is a follow-up to President Joko Widodo's appeal at a press conference at the Bogor Palace, West Java on March 15, 2020. Then the policy made by the government is to carry out the PSBB to protect the community from transmission of the coron virus. This is based on Government Regulation no. 21 of 2020 concerning Large-Scale Social Restrictions in the Context of Accelerating Handling of Corova Virus Disease 2019. The President appealed to minimize the spread of the new type of corona virus (SARS-CoV-2) which causes Covid-19, people are asked to work, study and worship from home.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, our education entered a period of unpredictability and uncertainty. There needs to be an adaptation for education in Indonesia to the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore there is a need for policies in the learning process in Higher Education to be more autonomous and flexible. By creating a learning culture that is innovative, non-restrictive, and in accordance with the needs of students.

One of the policies carried out in the world of education is to carry out the teaching and learning process at home or learning online. Ready or not, all educators and students must be able to use and master technology during the teaching and learning process. Campus management carries out health protocols without reducing the teaching and learning process between students and lecturers. Several policies in changing the teaching and learning process are carried out creatively, adaptively and innovatively. One of the activities carried out by campuses is to conduct online or online classes using various applications such as zoom and E-learning.

Discussion

1. Learn Online

The Covid-19 pandemic conditions pose challenges to the world of education, namely by changes in the learning process at all levels of education. Therefore, higher education institutions need to create creative, innovative and adaptive learning so that the teaching and learning process can still be carried out optimally.

The policy of the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, Mr. Nadiem Anwar Makarin, through circular number 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policies in an Emergency for the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) where one of the policies is explained is how to teach students and teachers from home. Some of the policies in point 2 that were conveyed were that the learning process from home was carried out via online / distance. Home learning is focused on life skills education.

Learning activities and assignments can vary according to the interests and conditions of each by considering the availability of access / learning facilities at home. This activity was carried out in order to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus.

The online learning system is considered capable of assisting the teaching and learning process. Studying alone or studying online provides new challenges for teachers, this is because previously the teaching and learning process was in class. Classes consist of teachers and students with learning resources from books. Learning is expected that students are able to find out,

formulate problems and find solutions, train to make analytical decisions, the importance of cooperation and collaboration in problem solving.

With the online learning system, the learning method can be done with video tutorials, video conferences, live chat, video calls, online assignments, quizzes or online exams. Examples of media used can be in the form of google class room, teacher room, TVRI, zoom, e-learning, group WhatsApp, Zenius, Quipper, Capable, Kipin school and others. So that the need for device support in the implementation of online learning such as smart phones, laptops, tablets and computers [1].

Whereas access made to access online lectures can be from home, public areas and campuses, network access that is often used to run online lectures is cell phones, home wifi and public wifi.

Milman in Firman and Rahayu [1] explained that teaching and learning activities using digital technology are very possible so that lecturers and students can carry out the teaching and learning process in different places. According to Setyosari in Khasanah, et al. [2], learning activities using online have several advantages, namely easy access to learning, students can directly interact with the teacher. Meanwhile, according to Setiawan [3] the advantages of distance learning are expanding access to education to the general public, more flexible schedules, more innovative experiences in teaching and learning, while the disadvantages are disruption at home, interaction during the teaching and learning process

According to Aji [4] the obstacles faced by using online methods are (a) Limited mastery of information technology; (b) Inadequate facilities and infrastructure; (c) Limited internet access; (d) Inadequate budget providers. Meanwhile, according to Pujilestari [5] the lack of readiness in the use of technology media is caused by unskilled human resources in the field of technology and inadequate telecommunication infrastructure.

2. Learning Media on Campus

The Indonesian Business Polytechnic Campus is a Polytechnic located in the city of Pematangsiantar, during the Covid-19 period, the learning media used in the teaching and learning process were as follows:

a. E-Learning

One of the learning media that has long been developed by the Pematangsiantar Indonesian Business Polytechnic is E-Learning, Web http://elearning.murnisadar.ac.id/, which makes it easier for students to get material delivered by lecturers while in class. In E Learning, Lecturers can carry out online discussion activities, and online quizzes. This activity is very helpful for students when they cannot attend the E-Learning class as well as helping students to get material from the lecturer in the form of files so that they do not need to print learning modules. E-Learning is used for assignment collection so that it helps students to send in the form of files and does not need to be in the form of a report volume. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, E-Learning has continued to be used in the teaching and learning process so that materials and assignments can still be carried out as usual.
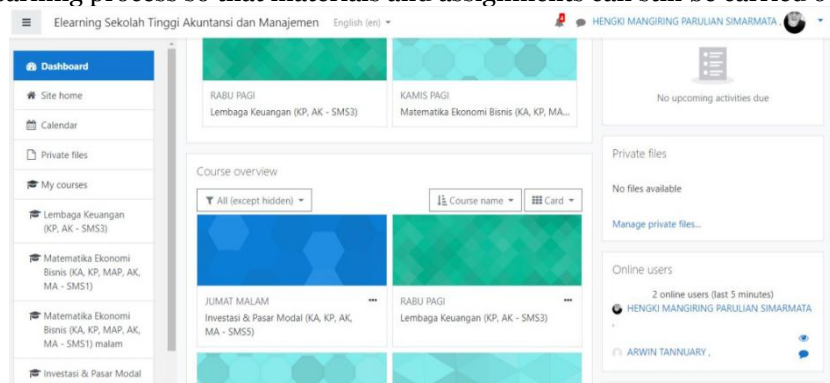

Figure 1. Views of the Indonesian Business Polytechnic E-Learning

b. Zoom application

Since the Covid-19 Pandemic broke out in Pematangsiantar City, the higher education management decided to carry out online teaching and learning activities for the safety of teachers and students. Online class activities began in mid-March 2020. One of the most frequently used media so that lecturers and students can meet face to face is using the zoom application media. In this application, the teaching and learning process can take place as usual. Lecturers can explain and students listen like in a class. If there are questions, the lecturer will provide a question and answer session to increase student understanding of the material that has been delivered. This activity was held conducive even though at first there were many obstacles faced by students and a lack of seriousness.
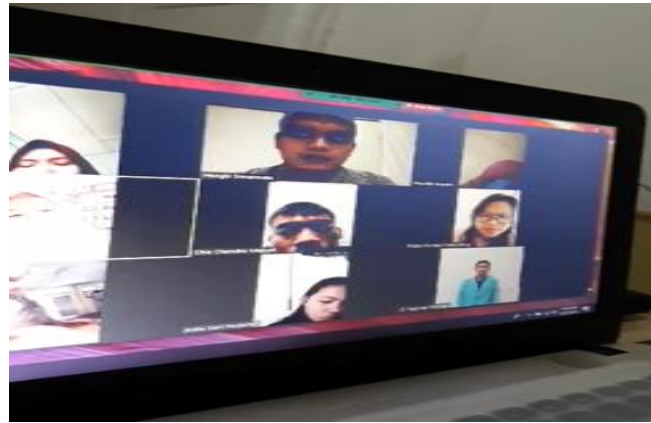
Figure 2. Display of Teaching and Learning Process Using the Zoom Application

c. WhatsApp Groups

WhatsApp groups are used as a medium for discussion and dissemination of academic information. During the Covid-19 pandemic, students did not come to campus as usual. Students and lecturers use group WhatsApp as a source of academic information and share information. Whastapp groups are also used to discuss the material that has been delivered by the lecturer after online course hours. This application is very helpful for students if they do not understand the lesson and can return to discuss it with the lecturer or with fellow students.

Figure 3.Display of WhatsApp Groups of Students and Lecturers

d. Google Class

The learning media used before the Covid-19 pandemic was the Google class personally. This application is very easy to use and has many features such as uploading course materials, assignments and assessments of assignments and class members. Google Class is used to make it easier for lecturers to give grades to student assignments besides that the class material that is delivered can also be given in google class.
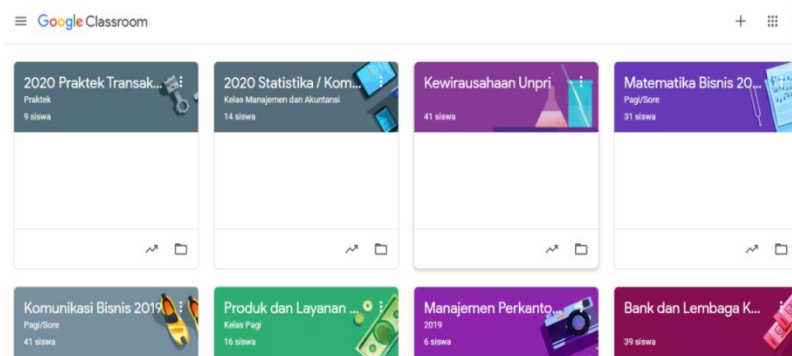

Figure 4. Display Google Class

3. Benefits of Online Media

The use of online media is very helpful for lecturers in delivering course material. The online media used does not provide a time limit for students to ask questions and discuss to better understand the material presented by the lecturer. Online media also helps government programs in preventing the spread of the Covid-19 outbreak so that students and lecturers are guaranteed and feel safe.

Teaching and learning process activities using online media force lecturers and students to be technology literate. Technological development is often a challenge for lecturers and students. With the Covid-19 outbreak, lecturers and students have to really be able to adapt to the use of technology.

The use of online media is also not limited by time and space such as the teaching and learning process in class. Lecturers and students can take advantage of online media creatively and innovatively [6].

4. Student Challenges and Constraints

According to Wijaya in Dewi [7] learning at home is expected to be able to provide convenience in the teaching and learning process, this is because the teaching and learning process can be done anytime and anywhere and is supported by the technology used for online or long distance learning. But in reality the campus and students are not ready to adapt during the teaching and learning process resulting in many obstacles faced during the teaching and learning process. The culture of self-study, which was rarely done before, made it difficult for students to adapt to the use of technology during the Covid-19 pandemic. The technology stuttering of students and teachers is caused by a lack of understanding in the use of technology. Besides, parents always assume that students are not really learning because they cannot see the activities of the teaching and learning process.

Lectures that are considered burdensome because the material presented is not fully understood by students. Besides that, the burden due to online assignments given with a certain time limit, online exams / quizzes, and the total cost of internet quota which is often spent on online lectures even though the economic conditions of students did not support during the Covid-19 pandemic.

a. Teaching and learning process

From the results of research conducted by Dr. Agung Sakti Pribadi which was discussed in the Webinar, it was explained that 44.83% of students felt burdened learning online compared to face-to-face. Comprehension of material that is difficult to understand with given class time and limited discussion work. The process of teaching and learning face-to-face, students may not understand, let alone activities that are carried out online with a very limited time. The material is difficult to understand, especially counting material, even some lecturers provide material that is quite a lot on online or e-learning without explanation so that students have to study on their own and it is difficult to understand. Then another obstacle is the difficulty of communicating and discussing with the lecturer during the learning process so that many miscommunication, some students consider the response of the lecturer when discussing to be very slow

Access used to communicate while studying, such as cellphones and laptops, is also considered an obstacle because not all of them have supporting facilities to travel online.

b. Burdensome Tasks

The time given for sending answers is considered too fast so that the time it takes students to understand the material and work on assignments becomes a burden. The assignment given for each subject per day is considered to be very burdensome for students. Students have a daily study class with an average of two subjects and each subject assigns an assignment. There are assignments given that are not included in the material presented by the lecturer so that students must take the initiative to find ways to complete the assignment

c. Internet fees

The high cost of data access that must be borne by students as well as the large number of lecture assignments when online lectures are applied. The amount of quota spent on average varies from the range of 1 GB to 10 GB depending on its usage and the learning media used. Conference video activities will eat up your quota quickly and a difficult task will also eat up a lot of your quota.

During the teaching and learning process at home, students usually do not get daily money even though the need for package fees is quite large. The poor financial condition of parents due to the Covid-19 pandemic resulted in a lack of students' ability to buy packages so that students were constrained by taking online lectures and absent.

Some students who have migrated cannot return home due to the Covid-19 pandemic experiencing financial difficulties in fulfilling their living needs and internet costs.

d. Availability of Internet services and unstable operator signals

The availability of internet services in each area varies according to the available operators, if students return home, the main obstacle is getting internet service and a strong signal. Some cellular networks can be active in the village but if you want to buy a quota the price is quite expensive.

The unstable network condition resulted in frequent interruptions in online classes conducted by lecturers. The unstable network causes the teaching and learning process to be hampered. This is because some telephone operators do not have good signals in some places. Some students even have to find a place that has a strong signal, borrow wifi from neighbors and friends so that the teaching and learning process and work on assignments can run well.

Complaints from students in the village that online teaching and learning processes such as webinars cannot be carried out due to poor signals. Information about lectures is also often late if internet service is not available. Weather conditions such as rain and blackout also affect the smoothness of the teaching and learning process.

e. Quiz and Task Deadline

The deadline for assignments and quizzes given was quite burdensome for students where some students felt the material presented was difficult to understand, while the time given to work on assignments and quizzes was quite short according to face-to-face class time. Attendance online that is not on time is also considered an obstacle because it will miss the course material and is considered absent from attending the lesson

f. The Interference of Homework Given by Parents

When studying online students are considered unproductive by parents and often parents think students are using social media such as Instagram, Facebook, Tiktok and are considered lazy.

g. Discipline of Teaching and Learning Process Time

Teachers who are not on time when the class starts result in students having to wait Some students also cannot be on time for online classes because they have to help their parents first or because there is no telephone signal.

h. Health

Some students complain about eye health conditions, this is because the time they need to study online in front of a laptop and cellphone screens is quite long. Students become stressed easily because there are so many assignments, each lesson is much different during face-to-face lectures.

i. Lack of empathy

Some lecturers are considered to lack empathy in educating students, some lecturers do not provide leniency in carrying out assignments and do not pay attention to the student's economic condition that is not good. The campus is also expected to provide solutions and assistance to students to overcome economic problems faced by students.

Conclusion

To increase students' enthusiasm for learning, lecturers need to use creative and innovative learning media so that the activity process is not boring and achieves learning goals. Lecturers are expected to provide interesting material through the Vidio Conference or assignments that can be discussed with students on the WhatsApp Group. The campus management needs to record data on students who need to get help and experience unfavorable economic conditions. With the help and attention of the campus, it will help students in the teaching and learning process. The management needs to provide clear directions to the lecturers so that the teaching and learning process can be carried out properly and continue to carry out evaluations during the online learning process so that there are improvements and improvements. Some of the inputs are described as follows:

1. Package assistance, students hope that in the midst of the Covid-19 outbreak, the campus will be able to provide facilities so that the teaching and learning process can be carried out properly, such as providing internet quotas or tuition fee policies. The reduction in tuition fees during the Covid-19 pandemic is considered very helpful for students. Another reason for reducing tuition fees is because students feel they are not using campus facilities during the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. There is support and assistance from the campus in providing solutions to the economic conditions of student parents, especially students affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.
3. There is clear direction from the campus to teachers in carrying out teaching and learning activities online so that teachers can understand students and solve problems during online classes.
4. There are rules that support the teaching and learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic and are not too rigid. Be more sensitive and care about the condition of students.
5. Teachers are able to provide motivation to students during the learning process. Teachers are more creative and innovative so that the teaching and learning activities are not boring.
6. Good communication between teachers and students in explaining material that is not understood. There is time provided by the teacher to students to get direct guidance if the material presented is not understood by students.
7. The material presented needs to be added with other references such as reading books, instructional videos, audio and other references that support the material presented so that students can more easily understand the material presented.
8. The need for parental understanding in supporting students during the distance teaching and learning process so that students are able to complete the learning process well.
9. Learning with online media by providing lecture material and working on questions is considered by students to be less effective because it is considered less interesting and difficult to understand, so that there is a need for active lecturers to monitor the teaching and learning process during online lectures. An interactive learning process can help students complete their assignments. Activities can be carried out by creating group discussions, time tolerance for

students who have difficulty signals and learning activities that are not a burden by involving students in problem solving, providing opportunities for students to learn independently.

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