

Journal of Community Service for Indonesian Society

Open Access

Page 34-37
ISSN 2964-3899

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Journal of Community
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Home Visit Learning Assistance as a Solution to Learning Problems During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

This community service aims to obtain information regarding obstacles during the teaching and learning process in the network during the Covid-19 pandemic. This activity also aimed to reveal the effectiveness of study assistance by Community Service Teams of Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara. The study in this activity uses the action research method to obtain information about the constraints and consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic for students and parents during the learning process with courage. The objects of this community service activity are school children who are supported in their natural learning process. Obstacles that occur in the subject of community service activities, namely mastery over the use of technology, which tends to be low due to the high cost of using or purchasing internet packages, besides that the subject has difficulty interacting directly with teachers and colleagues plus the assignments from the teacher are so many that it confuses students. The study results show that home visit learning can help students in their learning activities. Learning assistance is carried out openly by the research team. Community service activities were carried out in Saentis Village, Percut Sei Tuan, Sumatra Utara.

Keywords: Home Visit Learning, Open Learning Assistance, Solutions to Learning Problems, Learning in Pandemic Situations.

Introduction

Not only impacting health the Covid-19 outbreak also impacted the education, economic, social humanities, and tourism sectors, limiting all forms of human activity (Pradhan, S., Ghose, D., & Shabbiruddin, 2020). Especially in education (Ratten, V, 2020), limitations in teaching and learning activities are a new problem because learning activities must continue under limited conditions. The only way for learning activities to take place is to use a network that utilizes an internet connection with various devices such as laptops, smartphones, and social media applications. However, the fact is that online learning systems create new problems for education providers (Raspopovic, M., Cvetanovic, S., Medan, I., & Ljubojevic, D. 2017). As experienced by the subject of community service in this study, parents of students and students who do not have smartphones to support online learning activities so they feel confused about fulfilling online learning activities (Mohadisdudis & Ali, 2014), so the school is looking for solutions to anticipate this. Some students who do not have smartphones learn in groups, so students do group learning activities such as using WhatsApp Group (WAG) by giving assignments to students. In the online learning process, the role of parents is crucial and, as much as possible, to be able to accompany their children because learning with online or distance learning systems requires assistance for children (Nugroho et al., 2021; Rodriguez-Valls, F. 2009). In addition, the role of accompanying parents who are also accompanying teachers when the teacher gives material and school assignments, but the child still needs to understand. So that the role of accompanying parents can help children understand the material provided by the teacher, but this also still needs to be solved because the parents of students work so that parents cannot monitor children's learning to the fullest. For this reason, the service activities team assists in transferring knowledge to parents of students in Desa Saentis, Dusun XVIII Sopoyono, Percut Sei Tuan, North Sumatra. The PkM team provides learning assistance to students in a home visit format. Home visits support guidance services by educators to collect and complete student data or information (Peralta-Nash, C. 2003) by visiting students'

homes as alternative learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. According to Schultz et al. (2018), the teacher's home visit activities act as mentors for students to develop themselves further. Guidance carried out by the teacher is not only for students with problems but also for all students so that each child is motivated to learn to achieve well. In other words, home visits are a method of bridging communication between schools, parents of students, and society. Home visits to help schools solve various student problems are very important for schools to overcome various problems between schools and students (Schultz et al., 2018).

Research Methodology

To achieve the expected goals of learning assistance from home to solve educational problems during the Covid-19 pandemic. The implementation method used is the action research method (Burns, A. 2009). According to Arikunto (2002), action research is research on things that happen in the community or target group, and the results can be applied directly to the community concerned. Therefore, this program is carried out directly to the community by complying with the government's recommended health protocols. This Home Visit learning was conducted over ten days in Desa Saentis, Dusun XVIII Sopoyono, Percut Sei Tuan, Sumatra Utara.

Supporting factors

1. The community service team obtains permission from the head of Saentis Village.
2. The community service team obtains permission from the local community.
3. The community service team obtains permission from the participants' parents.
4. The subject of parental service and students are willing to involve their children during tutoring.
5. Availability of facilities and infrastructure such as Home Visit Learning places

Obstacle factor

1. The tools or media used for learning are limited
2. Participants' grasping power is not evenly distributed
3. some participants are unstable due to their very young age.
4. All participants involved were elementary school students from grades 1 to 6, so the quality of learning was irregular.

Results and Discussion

The condition of the community is still during the Covid-19 pandemic even though the Covid-19 vaccine has been found. However, the government still urges all people to comply with health protocols. Therefore, education providers in Indonesia continue to carry out online (in-network) learning even though they have carried out offline (out-of-network) learning in some areas. Learning is mainly done online at home using digital technology such as Zoom and WhatsApp groups. Online learning is currently the most effective solution during the Covid-19 pandemic. Online learning, of course, requires knowledge of digital technology to support the learning process. However, only some parents experience technostress and sometimes even ask others for help operating their smartphones, laptops, or computers. In addition, many parents are still burdened with the cost of buying internet quota and continuing school fees.



Figure 1. Learning Assistance

Only small numbers of parents also have difficulty accompanying their children to study from home because they need to remember school materials. The children also experienced problems in the learning process. They are used to learning face-to-face in class, interacting directly with their teachers and friends, and playing and joking with their friends. With the enactment of online learning, they have to adapt to this online learning system. Indirectly this affects the absorption of their learning. Students need help understanding the material taught online. Not infrequently, the teacher only conveys the material at a glance or only gives assignments so that children experience problems in the learning process. Therefore, an alternative is needed for the problems that arise from this online learning system. One

is by accompanying children's offline learning from home, carried out by the community service team in Desa Saentise, Dusun XVIII Sopoyono.



Figure 2. Home Visit Learning Process

University, at its aim as one of the intellectual agents called upon to contribute together with the community to deal with Covid-19. To deal with this, one of the programs implemented by the PkM Team at Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara 2021 is offline learning assistance in Desa Saentis. The program aims to help students with difficulties and facilitate students in understanding lessons given by schools online, where students assist learning by providing materials and assignments and helping students with difficulties in doing homework given by the teacher. As a result of intensive assistance to the society members of Desa Saentis XVIII Sopoyono through counseling, a sense of concern for the problems that occur in the environment around them was born, and concrete actions were taken to manifest their concern for the quality of their learning in the Covid-19 situation. This sense of care is then directed to solving the main problem, namely the lack of quality learning in a pandemic. In dealing with learning problems due to the pandemic, an initiation was carried out to carry out home visits in order to help children learn, such as:

Home visit learning as a solution

Home visit learning is carried out offline to meet the needs of students in conducting learning. Even though the meeting time allocation was not optimal, it was due to face-to-face meetings being carried out in group study. Therefore, the PkM team concluded that the learning process using a combination of online learning models with home visit strategies in pandemic situations could provide the essence of the learning process so that the constraints that are complained about and faced by teachers and students can be fulfilled even though not 100% optimal as in the learning meetings in normal conditions.

Learning using WhatsApp Groups

The PkM team created a WhatsApp Group (WAG), which included the PkM team, parents, and students. Each student must be accompanied or under parental supervision to facilitate the process of delivering learning, especially for students unfamiliar with technology. Instructions for delivering learning materials using the WAG application (Susilawati, S., & Supriyatno, T. (2020) are carried out using the technique of conveying learning materials that contain information about lessons to be learned that day via WAG. After learning information is disseminated via WAG, students work on or study existing information or orders to be implemented. To find out whether the instructions from the PkM team were carried out, the PkM team conducted monitoring with home visits to each WAG member. Further assistance was provided to complete student learning assignments. Ultimately, student learning outcomes were reported or sent via WAG to be examined and evaluated by the PkM team.

Increasing Children's Reading Interest

The pandemic has dramatically affected children's learning patterns because what was originally done offline has suddenly become online learning. As a result, the interaction between teachers and students becomes limited automatically. Moreover, suppose the school provides no activities to their students. In that case, students will look for other activities, such as playing with gadgets. Therefore, in this PkM activity, students and parents are given knowledge of the importance of using free time by reading to prevent students from being addicted to gadgets.

Conclusion

In reality, the teaching and learning process that is carried out online has some enormous impacts on students and parents. The impact felt by parents is that there are obstacles in the online learning process, especially the technology used, because not all parents have smartphones, especially additional costs such as smartphone data quota

and school fees that do not have deductions. While the impact felt by students is that there are several obstacles in online learning, namely the habit of students to interact directly with teachers and friends, they are used to face-to-face learning in class and interacting directly with teachers and friends. Understand the learning material because only given a simple explanation by the teacher..

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