

Application of Vlogs in Introductory Ecology Courses

Ryan Budi Setiawan^{1*} dan Zulfadly Syarif¹

¹*Department of Agricultural Cultivation, Faculty of Agriculture, Andalas University*

**Correspondence author : Email : ryan@agr.unand.ac.id*

ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the role of vlogs in learning introductory ecology courses. This research method is descriptive qualitative. The data source is some vlogs available on youtube. The results showed that the use of vlogs was able to improve students' understanding of learning materials. Therefore, vlogs can be used as learning media and solutions to optimize learning introductory ecology courses during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: *Vlog, Introduction to Ecology, Learning Media*

1. INTRODUCTION

The times demand to be able to keep up with the rapid advancement of technology. Increasingly sophisticated technology makes information more accessible to all. If in the past information was obtained through newspapers and television, in this era of 4.0 it can be accessed quickly only with the help of smartphones and laptops. Not only technological developments that require creativity, but the Covid-19 pandemic has created a rule to maintain distance from one another and carry out all activities from home such as working from home, learning from home and worshipping from home. This activity requires the role of technology. One of the most demanded for creativity and innovation is a lecturer. This is a challenge for academics to make breakthroughs in integrated learning media in information technology. This learning is done online or in a network by utilizing an application which is commonly known as E- learning. E-learning is learning that is structured with the aim of using an electronic system or computer so that it is able to support the learning process (Michael, 2013).

Some interesting digital media can be used as learning media that contain the impression of being up to date (newest) in the era of disruption. One of them is a vlog or video blog. Vlog is an activity in the form of blogging using video as the main content. Vlog fans are more than one billion users and

viewers. This means that vlogs are already in great demand by various groups as a source of information, entertainment and so on.

Vlogs can be the most effective learning tool because through vlogs people can still express themselves when they convey information. In addition, through vlogs, learning becomes fun and easy to understand. The mastery of technology and information and implementing it through fun learning media is expected to increase the quality of learning.

2. METHOD

The method used in this research is descriptive method which produces qualitative analysis. Qualitative research frames studies with fundamental assumptions such as new designs and the presentation of multiple realities. in this case the position of the researcher as one part of data collection and focus on the views of the participants. The data subjects of this study were students who took an introductory ecology course. The object of this research data is the impact of using vlog media on the learning process of introductory ecology courses in the Department of Agricultural Cultivation, Andalas University. This research technique implements the following steps: 1) Determining the material to be used as a vlog, 2) Creating a vlog scenario, 3) Taking vlogs. 4) Applying vlog media in learning, 5) Observing interactions and

impacts in the learning process by using vlog media, 6) describing the results of observations and notes, 5) making reports and conclusions.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Application.

In the initial stage of learning, researchers select videos and topics to be used in the research. This study applies vlog media in an introductory ecology course. The researcher introduced the topic "The interaction between species and germplasm conservation using a vlog from the channel" Ryan Budi Setiawan "which has been packaged by vloggers into an interesting, exciting and informative video. Things that need to be considered in making or using vlog media are: 1) short, concise and clear, 2) the suitability of the content with the teaching material, and 3) creative and informative.

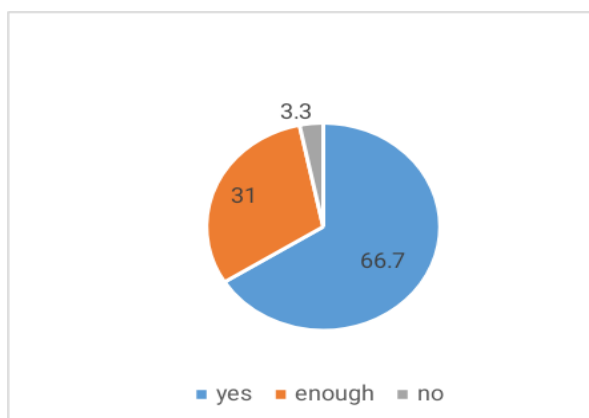
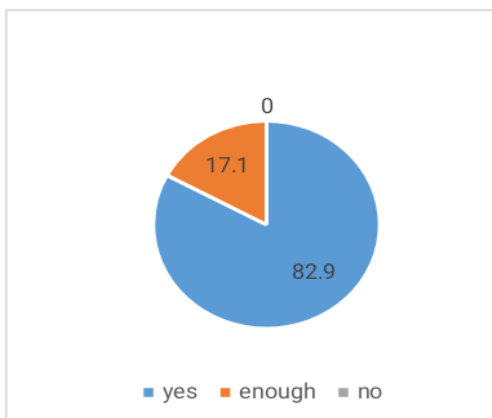
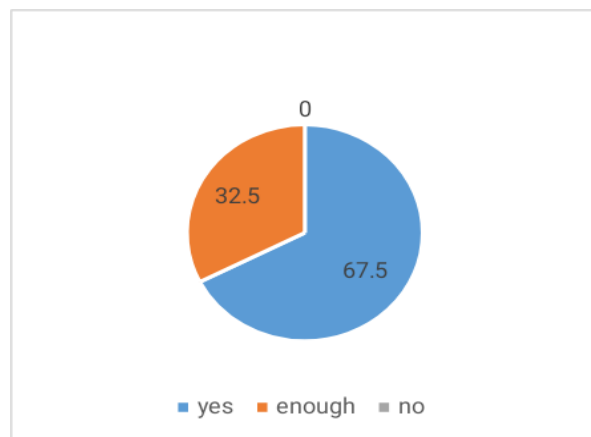
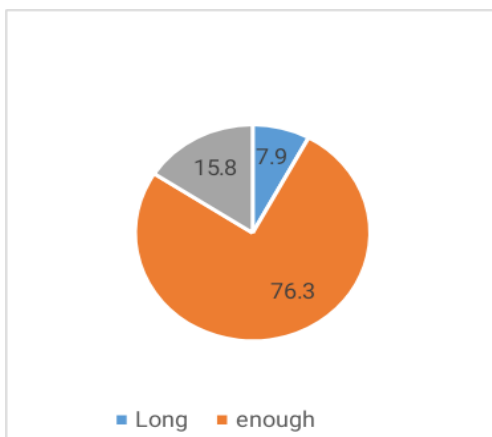
The learning process begins with the introduction of the material and provides information on topics to be discussed with the aim of students

having a curiosity about what will be presented about the topic. The material provided is in the form of ppt, modules, journals and learning videos.

After the introduction, it was followed by the process of watching a vlog about "Interactions between species and germplasm conservation". The lecturer then explains in detail what is in the vlog by linking to the learning material. Furthermore, a discussion was held about the material that had been taught in order to find out how far the students understood the material that had been delivered.

3.2. Results and Discussion of the Application of Vlog Media.

Based on the results of the research that has been done, it shows that vlogs can increase student interest in the learning process (Figure 1). Vlogs and learning materials by lecturers are able to provide a comprehensive overview of learning materials for introductory ecology courses. The vlog that is made directly shows how species interactions in nature form and how to do conservation both in vitro and invivo.



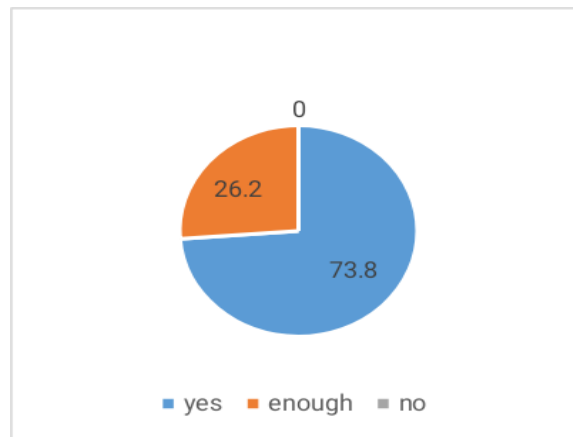


Figure 1. Student responses to the vlog of the Introduction to Ecology course. a) Duration, b) The suitability of the video with the material, c) The attractiveness of the vlog, d) Benefits, e) Informative

The results showed the student's response to the video, such as the duration, the suitability of the video with the content and the quality of the vlog. Based on the survey conducted, the video is considered to have a sufficient duration of around 10 minutes / video. The video duration that is not too long causes students to be more focused and less bored. Learning videos are also assessed according to the learning material, delivery is interesting, informative and useful in the learning process.

The explanation of the material after watching the vlog caused students to be more responsive and understand more. In the discussion process about the material, students answered quickly and accurately. In the question of the impression of using vlogs to students, there were several answers that the researcher received and concluded as follows: 1) they mentioned that the presentation of vlogs was very interesting and creative, 2) vlogs were short, dense and clear, and 3) they preferred video-based learning. The vlog media which is packaged attractively becomes more interactive and causes students to focus on the material, so that it will increase understanding of the material and be more responsive in answering questions.

4. CONCLUSION

Vlog as a learning medium is expected to be a solution for optimizing all courses, especially an introduction to ecology, because vlogs have several advantages: 1) easier to make, 2) concise, 3) interesting, and 4) following the times. Some things that need to be considered in packaging a vlog that are attractive and can be of interest are 1) Short, concise and clear, 2) In accordance with the material, 3) Creative and informative

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to LP3M Andalas University for the PPBL 2020 research funding

REFERENCES

- [1] Michael, A. 2013. Michael Allen's Guide to E-learning. Canada: Jhon Wiley & Sons.
- [2] Priana, R.Y.S. 2017. The use of information technology integrated learning media. Proceedings of the FKIP UNTIRTA National Education Seminar. ISBN978-602-19411-2-6
- [3] Tosepu, Y.A. 2018. Lecturers, Students and Contemporary Learning. LSP # I Study, Study, Research. Education. Pp 1-23