

Covid-19, Walkie Talkie and Teacher Agency in Educating Young Learner at SD Punik

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Abstract—Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered type of coronavirus. The impact of the Covid-19 virus occurs in various fields, one of which is education. To control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the learning process becomes online learning. Online learning cannot separate from the internet network. An internet network was one of the problems faced by students who live in rural or isolated areas, they could not access the internet. The purpose of this study was to determine the teachers' agency in implementing the learning with less supportive facilities and infrastructure during the Covid-19 pandemic. The subject of this research is the students of SD Punik, Sumbawa Besar. The type of research is qualitative research. The data were collected by survey and interview. Data analysis was collected by using the interactive analysis technique. In obtaining accuracy in this research, the researcher used triangulation techniques. (1) The teacher delivered and explained the material and student assignments through the walkie-talkie; (2) Using the walkie-talkie media was cheaper than using the internet network because the students did not buy the internet quota every learning time and also the smartphones; (3) Learning from home could reduce the crowded at school and defeating the spread of Covid-19. Learning by using a walkie-talkie was successful and effective because it improved students' learning abilities and motivation, and stabilized the learning process.

Keywords—*covid-19, rural area, learning from home, walkie-talkie.*

I. INTRODUCTION

Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered type of coronavirus. Even though it mostly affects the elderly, this virus can affect anyone, from babies to children to adults [1]. This coronavirus can cause minor disorders of the respiratory system, severe lung infections, and death. Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) was discovered in the city of Wuhan, China at the end of December 2019 [2]. This virus has spread very quickly and has spread to almost all countries, including Indonesia, in just a few months.

It has led several countries to establish policies to force lockdowns to stop the spread of the coronavirus. According to Risryawati [3], large-scale social control was implement in Indonesia to reduce the spread of the Covid-19. Because Indonesia is carrying out large-scale social control, all activities carried out outside the home must be stopped until this pandemic has subsided. The Covid-19 virus in Indonesia currently impacts the entire community. The impact of the Covid-19 virus occurs in various fields, one of which is education [4].

To control the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic, the government has decided to close the schools and changed the learning activities into learning from home (online learning). According to Septianingrum & Prasetyo [5], the school was one of the media that could expand the spread of Covid-19 because of the close interaction between students and teachers. The spread of the coronavirus or Covid-19 pandemic presents challenges for educational institutions in Indonesia. The learning process became online learning to solve this condition, which means that the students could access the learning process from each learner's home [6]. Through the implementation of online learning from home teachers are required to be more innovative in arranging learning strategies. Covid-19 changed teaching methods certainly made teachers and students change from face-to-face learning in class to online learning.

Online learning is the use of internet networks in the learning process. Through online learning, students had the flexibility time to learn and learn anytime and anywhere. According to Mustakim [7], students could interact with the teacher using several applications such as google classroom, video conference, telephone or live chat, google meet, zoom, or Whatsapp group. This learning was an educational innovation to overcome the challenges of the availability of various learning resources.

Online learning cannot separate from the internet network. An internet network connection is one of the obstacles faced by students who live in rural, isolated, and disadvantaged areas were difficult to access the internet [8]. Even if someone used a cellular network, sometimes the network was unstable because the geographical location was still far from the range of cellular signals. It also a problem that often occurs in students who take online learning, so the implementation was not optimal. According to Aji [9], internet networks still not distribute throughout the country, not all educational institutions, both primary and secondary schools, could enjoy the internet. As experienced by students at SD Punik, the geographic location of SD Punik in a rural area made the internet network difficult to access and the quota is expensive, so the students unable to do the online learning. Besides, most students and their parents do not have smartphones because the parents have low income or from the middle to lower economy (less well off). So, the headmaster and the teachers decided to use a walkie-talkie, or it can be called HT (handy talk), which can be used by students to learn independently at home.

The purpose of this study was to obtain information about the strategies and media used by teachers in the learning

process during the COVID-19 pandemic and the implementation of walkie-talkies in learning at SD Punik.

II. METHODS

This type of research is qualitative research. The research was conducted by first conducting a survey of teachers, students, and parents about the use of walkie-talkies during the learning process. The survey was shared by using hard copies given to teachers, students, and parents of students who were sent through a delivery service to the village. 68 subjects responded to the shared survey. The survey results were grouped into three response categories: (1) Agree with the use of walkie-talkies; (2) Disagree with the use of walkie-talkies; (3) Doubtful about the use of walkie-talkies.

Besides, researchers also conducted interviews with research participants. There were 14 research subjects, 2 teachers, 3 grade 3 students, 3 class 3 guardians, 3 grade 4 students, and 3 class 4 students' guardians. Interview data were collected through telephone. The aspects that were asked in the interview were: (1) The use of walkie-talkies as a learning media during the Covid-19 pandemic; (2) Student and parents' responses about the effectiveness of using walkie-talkies; (3) Implementation of learning from home in defeating the spread of Covid-19. Analysis of research data was carried out using the analysis model of Miles & Huberman [10] which consists of three stages, namely data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. Analysis of research data, the data condensation stage is the stage of collecting all the information needed from the interview results and then grouping the data. The data display stage is the process of combining, organizing, and concluding information. It also displayed the data needed in research, and that does not need to drop. The conclusion drawing stage is the stage of interpreting research data to draw conclusions based on the phenomena obtained.

In obtaining accuracy in this research, the researcher used triangulation techniques. According to Sugiyono [11], triangulation was a data collection technique by combining data with several data collection techniques and data sources. In this research, the researcher chose to use several triangulation techniques [11]:

1. Method triangulation is a process of comparing information or data in different ways. In qualitative research, the researcher used the interview and survey methods. To obtain accurate data and complete data, the researcher used the free interview method and structured interviews. Besides, the researcher used interviews and surveys to check the truth. Also, the researcher used different informants to check the accuracy of the information.
2. Triangulation of data sources is the technique of exploring the correctness of certain information through various methods and sources of data collection. For example, in addition to the interview and survey, the researcher used participant observation, written documents, archives, historical documents, personal notes or writings, and pictures.
3. Theory triangulation is a technique that used the perspective of more than one theory in discussing the problems. Then, the researcher completed and comprehensive the conclusions.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Results

The world of education has changed since the Covid-19 pandemic. Face-to-face learning between teachers and students was replaced by learning from home or online. Learning from home used online media such as Whatsapp, Google Meet, Zoom, Google Form, and other types. It means that the learning process used the internet network. Based on the research, the process of learning from home has various limitations in ability, facilities, and infrastructure in the form of smartphones, laptops, and internet networks for teachers and students, which implement learning from home disrupted. Based on Yaumi [12], the e-learning process required supporting facilities and infrastructure, then the learning could implement and improve the quality of education. The implementation of learning from home between teachers and students by using the internet network sometimes created problems for teachers and students who live in areas with limited internet networks and also the economic factor of the students. According to Jones & Sharma [13], argued the economic condition of parents to provide online education facilities such as the use of the internet network, which needed a lot of money.

Teachers' skills in selecting and using strategies and learning models are very influential in overcoming student learning difficulties. Professional teachers were teachers who could adapt situations and conditions of learning materials, learning strategies, and the media that were used to support the learning process, such as during the Covid-19 pandemic. Because learning must carry out, so the process of transforming knowledge to students was not disturbed. According to Mastura & Santaria [14], stated teachers' agencies in learning must be changed and adapted to the conditions of students. To overcome this problem, SD Punik chose to use walkie-talkies as a replacement media for online learning. A walkie-talkie was a communication device similar to a handphone that used a radio network in use. According to Saleh et al. [15] argued that walkie-talkie is a fast and easy-to-use communication tool and the process of sending and receiving information using radio networks. The walkie-talkie has a wide range, long battery life, practical, cost-effective, and can be used at any time.

Education is an obligation for all, not only for the government but also for the teachers and parents. Before Covid-19 begun, parents did not have much time to guide their children. But since the Covid-19 pandemic began, the parents have more time to teach their children and improved emotional closeness [16]. During learning from home, parents' participation was a need so the learning could implement optimally. Father and mother became protectors who keep their children studying in their homes. Moreover, parents were teachers' co-workers in teaching children at home. It means that the parents participated in guiding and motivating children, both by encouraging them and providing for the school needs [17]. Society participation was the need for the spread of the Covid-19 virus. The public is encouraged to apply social distancing and physical distancing to cut the chain of spreading the Covid-19 virus [18]. Learning from home is one way to break the spreading of the Covid-19 virus [19].

B. Discussion

The procedure of using walkie-talkies as a learning media during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The people of Punik settlement, Batudulang village, Batulanteh sub-regency, Sumbawa regency, West Nusa Tenggara (NTB) needed to walk uphill to the mountains to get an internet signal. It caused students to be unable to carry out online learning and then decided to use walkie-talkies for the learning process during the Covid 19 pandemic. According to Rigianti [20], the need for an internet connection was important in implementing learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. However, the reality on the spot proved that many people complain about the internet network.

The headmaster and the teachers are the member of Radio Amatir Penduduk Indonesia (RAPI). Then they found an idea to use the walkie-talkie as the alternative media in learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Then, they made a joint investment for the purchase cost with the students' parents in gaining walkie-talkies, because the school operational assistance funds could not use. After all, it took a long time. Then, 68 walkie-talkies were available; 60 for the students and 8 for the teachers. For the use of the walkie-talkie, it could reach a distance of approximately 5 km, the teacher delivered and explained the material and student assignments through the walkie-talkie. If there were questions, students could ask directly by mentioning their names first, then asked their questions, and ending with a code that agreed, namely Ganti. The teacher also visited students' homes to ensure students' understanding. According to Iftitah & Anawaty [21], the teachers' creativity in giving interesting and fun learning from home will determine the students' attention to the learning activities.

Student and parents' responses about the effectiveness of using walkie-talkies.

During the Covid 19 pandemic, students spent time learning at home. It required innovative collaboration between parents and teachers so that students could continue learning effectively. Based on the research, it was found that as long as students learned at home it improved communication between children and parents. According to Cahyati & Kusumah [22], the parents felt that learning from home was effective to apply, it did not mean that learning at school no more effective than learning at home, because of the learning at home was many assignments from the teacher that can be assisted and guided by the parents at home. Parents could monitor and assist in the development of children's education. Based on Trisnadewi & Muliani [23] argued that the important roles of parents during learning from home were to foster children's creativity, foster children's motivation, maintain children's motivation, supervise children, and evaluate children's learning outcomes. The use of walkie-talkies during the learning from home helped the economy of students' parents. Using the walkie-talkie media was cheaper than using the internet network because the students did not buy the internet quota every learning time and also the smartphones. The people of Punik village, who mostly coffee farmers, only needed to recharge the walkie-talkie batteries until they were full, then walkie-talkies were ready to use for three days. During the learning process, students felt happy and comfortable using the walkie-talkie. They felt very enthusiastic when asked about the materials and assignments from the teacher and their friends.

The implementation of learning from home in defeating the spread of Covid-19.

Coronavirus Diseases 2019 (Covid-19) was a new type of disease that was never identified in humans. Common signs and indications of Covid-19 infection include indications of acute respiratory distress such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath [24]. All outdoor activities in all sectors have to stop to decrease the spread of corona, especially in the education sector.

According to Arifah [25], stated gathering and interaction activities between teachers and students in school could be a media for spreading Covid-19. Various efforts to defeat the spread of the Covid-19, one of which was learning from home. The learning process was carried out at home through distance learning to provide meaningful learning experiences for students. Also, this activity could reduce the emergence of crowded at school as happened in face-to-face learning. Learning from home allowed parents in Punik village to divide their time. Time for worked and accompanied their children to study. Some parents work (went to the fields/gardens) after Fajr prayer, then back home before the lesson begins. Besides, some parents chose to go to work after their children's study hours finished. Parents were aware of the importance of their role during the Covid-19 pandemic, so they did their best for their children. According to Mulyadi [26], learning from home decreased activities outside because parents helped their children studied and finished the assignments at home. It also allowed the villagers to help each other, providing information about the school and student learning.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research and discussion above, the impacts of Covid-19 on the implementation of learning from home are lack of learning facilities and infrastructure at SD Punik, the lack of internet access in the Punk village, and the economic condition of the society, make it unable to carry out online learning. Because of this incident, the teachers must improve their teaching strategies and abilities, by finding alternative media to replace smartphones and the internet with walkie-talkies that can be accessed and used by all students and teachers. Also, this incident gave the awareness to parents that educating children was not easy. It took a lot of knowledge and patience. So, from this incident, the parents must be aware and knew how to guide their children in learning. After gained this experience, it hopes that parents would learn how to educate their children at home. Besides, the government would fulfill the facilities and infrastructure for all schools in Indonesia and improve society's economy. Learning by using a walkie-talkie was successful and effective because it improved students' learning abilities through independent learning, increase student motivation, stabilized the learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic, and reduced the spread of Covid-19.

The parents should become a partner of the teachers in the current situation by guiding children at home in the learning process, the teachers should use methods and media that suitable to the needs and conditions of students, the government should complete the facilities and infrastructure for students in schools, for schools in rural areas and have the same problems, walkie-talkie media can use as an alternative,

and for further researchers, it hopes that they can find other media that can use for students who are in rural areas.

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