

# Using Digital Songbooks for Singing Activities in Early Childhood During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Indra Yeni <sup>1</sup>, Alrizka Hairi Dilfa <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Early Childhood Education, Universitas Negeri Padang,

<sup>2</sup>Pascasarjana, Universitas Negeri Semarang

Email: [indrayeni.30031971@gmail.com](mailto:indrayeni.30031971@gmail.com)

## ABSTRACT

Singing is one of the methods of early childhood learning that is typically done in kindergarten, but during this pandemic, all forms of activity are restricted. Singing activities for early childhood during the covid 19 pandemic necessitate the role of parental assistance as well as the use of digital media such as YouTube Digital Songbooks, TV, and other media players that can assist parents in sending their children to sing at home. The goal of this study is to investigate using digital Songbook for Early Childhood Singing Media During a Pandemic. This study employs a qualitative analysis with a case study design. Data on Kindergarten students in the Siulak Mukai District were collected through observation, interview, and document study. According to the findings of this study, the Digital Song Book is an Android-based audiovisual learning media development designed in electronic form, which includes a list of songs that can support early childhood learning to sing. The use of Digital Songbooks as a medium for singing for kindergarten students in the Siulak Mukai District can be an option for parents. The benefits of digital songbooks can be seen in terms of practicality, appealing appearance, concept suitability, added and modified, as well as challenges to media dissemination. Then, in online learning, collaboration between teachers and parents is critical.

**Keywords:** *Singing, Digital Songbook, Early Childhood Education, Online.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Education is the foundation of all hope because education is a far more valuable capital for humanity's future (Dilfa, 2020: 2) education should be rooted in national ideals. One of the primary goals of education is to develop potential and educate people. With this goal in mind, it is hoped that those with a good education will be able to demonstrate creativity, knowledge, personality, independence, and become more responsible individuals [2].

The development of a nation's education must be directly proportional to its overall progress. As a result, education will have an impact on all aspects of human life, both personally and in relation to other people and the environment. Humans can reach their full potential as individuals and as members of society. In this case, however, the state is required to provide educational services to its citizens. Mulyasana (2012) Education is a necessity in

everyone's life, and every citizen has the right to a good education, including early childhood education. Quality learning is also a determinant of appropriate early childhood education.

Early childhood education is an important part of creating a quality golden generation, and singing is one way of early childhood learning that is usually done in kindergarten, but during this pandemic, all forms of activity, including education, are limited. Kindergarten in Kerinci Regency, Jambi Province, provides early childhood education. The government has a policy that allows people to learn from home or online.

Seeing this situation, many teachers believe that it is extremely difficult, particularly for early childhood, to carry out online learning activities (online), as stated by Sinta Indria, one of the kindergarten teachers in Kerinci Regency on June 15, 2021 "For young children, online learning is not yet possible. According to Nilvirawati this "requires the

participation of the community and parents in assisting children to study at home." ". However, on this subject, several kindergarten teachers in the Siulak Mukai District invite all of us to participate and contribute to the ongoing renewal of art for the needs of students and the arts.

Philosophically, the responsibility for education is attached to the family, community, and government. In the context of Art Education, it is our collective responsibility to provide a container or space for aestheticization that is oriented toward educational service standards. Investigate utilizing Natalia (2021) E-books can be one of the early childhood learning media. E-books can be read at any time and from any location. During the COVID-19 pandemic, e-books can also help with early childhood learning. In an interview on June 18, 2021, Arif Al Ansari, an education observer and chairman of the Nurul Yaqin Education Foundation in Kerinci Regency, stated that he had advised teachers/parents to collaborate and use Information Technology Gadget media as an instrument to assist children in learning from home.

"...During this Pandemic period, we face difficult choices in the field of education; we have limitations to face-to-face learning activities at school, as is customary. However, we must remain adaptable and collaborative in order for education to continue as usual. In order to educate children today, we as educators/teachers must adapt to other media and information technology, such as selecting educational broadcasts on television media and using a Digital Songbook for singing."

Since 2018, Siulak Mukai District has been developing digital songbooks for kindergarten students through development research [5]. As a result, it is critical to review how it is used during this pandemic. As a result of the background description, the aims and objectives of this research are to analyze what media are used in online learning in Kindergarten and how to use digital songbooks for early childhood singing activities during the pandemic, as well as case studies on park students. Children in Kerinci's Siulak Mukai District, Jambi.

## **2. RESEARCH METHOD**

This study employed a qualitative descriptive analysis method [6] with a Case Study Research Design in a kindergarten in Siulak Mukai District, Kerinci Regency, Jambi Province. Data were gathered through interviews with three teachers as informants and two principals, observations of learning at Dharma Wanita Kindergarten and Nurul Yaqin Siulak Mukai Kindergarten, and Document Studies with related literature. Triangulation was used to maintain the data's level of reliability. The data is then analyzed using the Miles and Huberman model [7], which

consists of three processes: data collection, data reduction, and data presentation.

## **3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### ***3.1. Singing Activities in Kindergarten during the Covid 19 Pandemic***

Learning media can be defined as anything (a tool, material, or situation) that serves as an intermediary for communication in learning activities. [8]. There are three concepts that underpin the limitations of the learning media discussed above: communication, systems, and learning. However, the use of media is unquestionably geared toward the learning system. The educational process has shifted to a home-based learning system, which replaces face-to-face instruction in the classroom. According to NW, one of the kindergarten teachers in Siulak Mukai.

"...Since the Covid 19 pandemic, online education has become an unavoidable requirement. It is one of the possibilities for determining the learning process. The last four ministers' joint decree confirmed that online learning would be extended in most parts of Indonesia until the end of the year. This undoubtedly creates new challenges for Indonesian teachers. This online learning requirement must be met in order to prevent the spread or pandemic of the corona virus and to protect children from viral infection. 19)."

Online learning refers to learning that takes place over the internet, also known as distance learning. As observed in Siulak Mukai District Kindergartens such as Dharma Wanita Kindergarten, Pertiwi Kindergarten, Nurul Yaqin Kindergarten, and Nurul Iman Kindergarten. The online learning media can be used in conjunction with a variety of media, including Google Classroom, Google Suite, Whatsapp, and Zoom. Furthermore, teachers can create and design materials by creating compact disks (CDs) that can be distributed to students, such as the Digital Song Book developed by (Dilfa, 2018). Learning will continue in this manner, and students will not fall behind. lesson.

The essence of singing activity is an early childhood learning effort. The importance of education in this case is, of course, the minimum service facilities guaranteed by the government in order to achieve educational goals. According to Winarsih (2017:52), it is hoped that education will help Indonesian participants become human beings who are balanced in cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects. Singing is one of the aspects that must be learned in the field of Early Childhood Education, but when referring to the concept of art education, it can have a dual role, art as a subject

matter that must be studied and art as one of the media for other learning. (2019, Yeni and Dilfa)

Singing activities can influence children's development, and the moral message of song lyrics can be understood by children, resulting in activities that can influence children's behavior. (Hayati and colleagues, 2019) How do teachers prepare songs for delivery to children, including the use of musical instruments, and where do teachers get ideas for new songs? According to the information gathered from the research subjects, the singing activities delivered by the teacher to early childhood are both planned and spontaneous. As a result, it is understandable that some singing activities have an impact on learning activities, while others do not. As a result, singing activities for young children are a very important activity, and having the right media for singing activities in kindergarten is essential for the continuity of learning.

### 3.2. Digital Songbook for Kindergarten Singing Learning

We discussed the importance of digital media for singing activities for early childhood in the previous sub-discussion, so in this case, we need to analyze "Use of Digital Songbooks for Singing Media for Early Childhood in the Pandemic" (Dilfa 2018). The Digital Song Book is an Android-based audiovisual learning media development designed in electronic form that includes a list of songs that can support early childhood singing learning, as shown in the figure below.



Figure 1. Digital Songbook Form

Based on the findings of research and development conducted [5] during the offline learning period, it was determined that the Digital SongBook was usable, with 75 percent validity and 85 percent practicality. This means that, at this early stage of development (prior to the pandemic), this media is feasible and practicable for use in thematic learning in Kindergarten.



Figure 2. Digital Songbook Form

Aside from the material and media received, one of the benefits of the Digital Songbook is its compatibility with educational curricula and policies [12]. According to [13], the Digital Songbook can support thematic learning, which means that the media was created with the subject matter in mind. However, unlike the results of repeated observations during the pandemic, digital songbooks cannot be used as before. As stated by several teachers, in online learning there are various obstacles and obstacles, especially for early childhood learning (interview NW 18 June 2020).

However, with these obstacles and obstacles, one of the efforts that can be made is by paying attention to the synergy between teachers and mentoring parents in learning by continuing to use the Digital Songbook media, this is actually an opportunity as well as a challenge for the developer. Assessment As a result, the focus of learning implementation has shifted to efforts to realize modern learning. This type of modern learning is distinguished by the use of digital media to deliver material.

One of the most important learning components should be digital media. According to YN's statement as one of the principals of the kindergarten in Siulak Mukai, he argued that during online learning, the teacher could not directly accompany the child and that the role of parents in singing activities using media was required. "The role or cooperation of parents in online learning is very important," NS, a kindergarten teacher, confirmed. Furthermore, we summarize for suggestions. The need for updating song material and broader access necessitates the creation of a digital songbook. As a result, it can, of course, be taken. In other words, the environment is an important factor to consider when implementing art education.

#### 4. DISCUSSION

Implementation is the process of putting ideas, concepts, policies, or innovations into action in order for them to have an impact, both in terms of knowledge, skills, and attitude values. [14] As a result, the use of the Digital Songbook in Thematic Learning in Kindergarten is an attempt to use android-based audiovisual media. Which was used in the pre-pandemic period through development research [5], but since this pandemic learning is at home, there is a change in the learning cycle that is usually carried out in Kindergarten, causing a collision with the use of digital songbooks as learning media as usual.

In light of what was said [15], One of the assisting factors in achieving learning objectives is media. Curriculum planning should be transferred into school operational actions as the Digital Songbook is implemented. The use of media in schools has been practiced since ancient times, but as technology evolves, so does this media.

The Digital Songbook is an android-based audiovisual media designed to support thematic learning in Kindergarten, and it should be appropriate for use in early childhood education in the digital era. However, during the pandemic period, collaboration between teachers and parents is critical in online learning.

Aside from that, it is important to note that the song material in the digital songbook must be updated, which must then be accompanied by access to technology such as the dissemination of applications through songs and government support in supporting the use of this media.

#### 5. CONCLUSION

It is possible to conclude that Singing Activities for Early Childhood are important. Teachers face difficult decisions during the Pandemic period when carrying out various activities in kindergarten, but the selected Digital Songbook is an alternative that can support thematic learning in kindergarten. In online learning, collaboration between teachers and parents is critical. Important considerations for future development include (1) song material; (2) access to technology; and (3) government support. It is hoped that this will open up opportunities for the development of digital songbooks in the future.

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