

The Impacts of Covid 19 Pandemic on Early Childhood Education in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

Education is a deliberate and well-thought-out effort to create a learning environment and learning process in which students actively develop their potential for religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills required by themselves, their community, nation, and state. Learning is defined as the process of a learner interacting with learning material. The learning process has transformed as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic. According to a circular letter from the Ministry of Education and Culture, a School from Home policy (SFH) has been implemented, which has resulted in a number of issues, one of which is a decline in the number of students enrolled in various Early Childhood Education.

Keywords: Covid-19, Education, Early Childhood Education Institution

1. INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education aims to develop all aspects of child's development, to put some basics toward the development of attitude, behavior, recognition, skills, creativity that is needed by children to their next growth and development, which is in their growth, early childhood always follows the rhythm of their development [1]

Moreover, early childhood education basically covers the entire effort and action of educators and parents in the process of treatment, parenting and children's education by creating aura and the environment where children can explore the experience which gives them opportunity to know and understand the study experience that are obtained from the environment by observing, imitating and experimenting that take place repeatedly and involve all of the potential and intelligence of children [2]

Based on [3] about the establishment of Early Childhood Education Institution states that Early Childhood Education (PAUD) is a guiding effort that is intended for children since birth until the age of 6 (six) years that were done through the distribution of education stimulus to help the growth and development

of physical and spiritual so that the children have a readiness to enter more advance education.

If we describe more about the law number 20 of 2003 [4] that concerning the system on National Education, mentioned that Education means conscious and well-planned effort in creating a learning environment and learning process so that learners will be able to develop their full potential for acquiring spiritual and religious strengths, develop self-control, personality, intelligence, morals and noble character and skills that one needs for him/herself, for the community, for the nation, and for the State. Where education or learning that is done is defined as the process of interaction between learners with education and learning resources.

At the beginning of the year 2020, appeared an epidemic that is able to harm life orders, including the order of the Education system. As the result of this Covid-19 pandemic, causing the implementation of various policies to break chain spread of covid 19 pandemic in Indonesia. One of the efforts that were made by Indonesian government is implementing the exclamation for the society to do physical distancing which means the exclamation to keep the distance between people, away from the activity in all forms of crowd, associations, and avoid the gathering

that involves many people. That efforts are directed to the community to break the spread chain of covid-19 pandemic that occurs nowadays [5]

In a circular letter from the Minister of Education and culture of republic of Indonesia number 36962 / mpk.a / hk / 2020 [6] about online learning and work from home in order to prevent the spread of the corona virus. This policy is the effort which is applied to the society in order to do the activities at home. Education in Indonesia is one of the aspects that has affected by covid-19 pandemic. By the restrictions on interaction, The Education Ministry of Indonesia also issued a policy to dismiss the school and change the process of Teaching and Learning Activity by using the system in Network (online).

By this new system of learning, several effects towards the order of Education are appeared. In the report of Covid impacts by Kompas (2020) mentions the impact of Covid-19 pandemic include the implementation of distance learning and online learning, planning and budgeting Early Childhood Education.

Based on the mini research that the author did in three schools in Batang Anai sub-district, the interviews results earned from three school's principals, mentioning the major problem in Early Childhood Education Institution is the decrement of the number of students in each school, especially at the student's admission for 2021/2022 period. Some students who previously in kindergarten A do not continue to kindergarten B because there is no certain information the offline learning.

From that background, the authors did the research about the impact of pandemic covid-19 on PAUD institution in Batang Anai sub-district.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

Method of research used in this research is qualitative descriptive method with the purpose of research is it can explain about the impact of covid-19 pandemic on Early Childhood Education Institution. The data that were obtained derived from the results of observation and interviews at three institutions of early childhood education in Batang Anai subdistrict, library study, literature review, scientific articles as study resources.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this pandemic era, there are some impacts that we should get in many aspects, as well as Education. The main change that is appeared is the education policy that

is based on pandemic era. According to Winata et al (2021) the main policy in education is implementing the LFH (learn from home) system, it is adjusted to WHO recommendations to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Learning and teaching process should be done and students cannot lose their right in learning. School as an administrator institution of education should be quick against the phenomenon of covid – 19 pandemics through giving efforts so that the learning process can be carried out effectively.

The government, in this case is the minister of has settled the education policy in this pandemic by issuing a circular letter number 15 in 2020 about organizing guidelines of learn from home (LFH) in emergency period of the spread of Corona Virus Disease (Covid 19). In order to fulfill the rights of students to get the education service during the emergency period of corona virus spreading, so the learning process is done through the distance learning program (DLO). Learning method that is developed during the distance learning process can be done by using online and offline learning method. [7]

Based on the results of interviews that the author did toward the three schools' principals in Batang Anai subdistrict, all schools have a problem that is almost the same, that is the problem in organizing distance learning due to the less of facilities and infrastructure as well as the decrease of parents' interest to educate their children in kindergarten and early childhood education institution in local area. At mid –year 2020, at the beginning of new academic year, a decrease in the number of students is quietly significant. 2 of 3 schools were used as a source of data, which is experiencing almost 70% the decrement of students. From 25 the total numbers of children 25 in kindergarten A class, only 1 out 9 children who continued to kindergarten B. Whereas other schools which have more than 30 children in kindergarten A, there are 26 students that continue to kindergarten B.

The decrement is not just happening in the Batang Anai subdistrict in Padang Pariaman, but also distributed almost throughout the region in Indonesia. As attached on Kompas.id who succeed to collect the data from the Center for Data and information technology of Kemendikbud, mentioning that there is a significant reduction on the number of students of early childhood education, that is 600,000 children. From the survey results, it is known that this case occurs because the two issues, those are the limitations of devices proprietary and internet networks communication access so that the parents decide to teach their children at home.

It cannot be denied that the problems in distance learning becomes one of the reasons of the parents to not send their child to the Early Childhood Education institution. The lack of knowledge of the parents regarding the use of applications that is considered more difficult, making the parents give up about their children education. [8]

The survey which compiled by stc.or.id (2020) [9] also stated that in April 2020 it was shown that 25% of parents did not have adequate teaching tools and materials, 40% of parents saw their children's motivation is decreasing, and almost 30 percent of teachers needed distance learning materials. The possible condition in reality is much more substantial than the percentage of this study, considering the limitations of this study which is choosing groups of people with their smart phone as respondents.

4. CONCLUSION

By the policy issued on learning from home (LFH), there are many problems on PAUD institutions, one of which is the decrement in the number of students. It is caused due to several factors, one of which is the decrease in parents economy condition, unavailability of suitable device and unavailability of the internet network.

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