



Does Online Learning During the Covid-19 Pandemic Have an Impact on Student Character Values?

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Abstract. This study aims to find out the impact of online learning on the character values of students in higher education. The type of this research is a literature review research by reviewing various relevant theories, findings, and previous journals. The results showed that online learning had an impact on the degradation of the character values of students in the higher education. This is because the formation of students' character values cannot be taught only through words, but requires a teacher's example and a culture of applying character values in learning. There are 18 character-building values that need to be instilled in students that require collaboration between education in the family, community, and college environment. Further studies are needed to evaluate which characters disappear from students after online learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Keywords: Online Learning · Student Character

1 Introduction

Success in education in a country is determined by the quality of education. One form of embodiment in the success of the education system in Indonesia is the existence of character education where students are not only able to balance education in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains as complete human beings but also how to balance the character of being a good human being and useful for the nation and state [1]. Character education is a process of changing the way a person thinks and behaves where every human being will have a different character in carrying out a life in the family, community, nation and state environment. The character attached to a person is usually considered the same as a person's personality which allows the existence of inherited characters from his parents [2].

The ideal education must be able to create a learning atmosphere and learning process that can develop the potential of students to have spirituality, religion, self-control, personality, strength of intelligence, noble character, and skills needed to live in society, nation and state. Therefore, the most important goal of implementing education is related to one's character, namely placing intelligence, knowledge, personality, noble character,

and skills to live independently where these characters will be a reflection of a person in living his life [3]. It is hoped that students will not only be strong in knowledge but also have good character values in their lives. Thus, character education is also very important given to children from an early age which can be included in formal education. Character education is an action that educates the next generation, in order to shape the character or self-improvement of each individual. This education aims to train one's abilities towards a better and beneficial life for oneself and the environment.

The existence of a pandemic period resulted in the transition from the education system which was initially carried out offline with face-to-face in educational institutions to switch to using distance learning using networks. The existence of this policy has an impact on the learning process, so the government issued a social distancing policy as a preventive effort in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Furthermore, in response to the decision, the government issued a policy related to the implementation of education policies during the Covid-19 emergency by deciding the education system to switch to distance learning or commonly known as online learning [3]. So, this policy is sought so that learning can continue and support efforts to slow down the spread of the Corona virus in the community.

The policy of implementing online learning provides several problems for education implementers and affects success in the learning process. The implementation of online learning has a significant impact on students in the learning process. This causes misconceptions in learning materials, stress, lack of creativity, lowers the productivity of students. This is because in distance learning, students are not directly supervised by educators. Where the teacher only monitors student learning activities through the learning platform [1]. As a result, the character education of students at various levels of education during the pandemic has changed greatly, including at the university level. This is also influenced by the changing learning environment, which was originally a combination of interactions in the school, social and family environment, now turned into being dominated by the family environment only.

Based on these conditions, it is necessary to conduct studies and research on changes in student character values as a result of distance learning during Covid-19. The results of the research are expected to be used as evaluation material to improve the learning process and character building of students at the Higher Education. Furthermore, the results of this study are expected to be used as a basis for conducting research on the impact of online learning on student character values. Thus, the negative impact of online learning can be minimized and optimize the cultivation of good character values for students at the higher education.

2 Methods

The type of this research is literature review research by reviewing various relevant theories, findings, and previous journals to solve the problems found or serve as the basis for research [4]. The theoretical references obtained by the study of literature studies serve as the basic foundation and the main tool for further research practice in more depth. This research takes source from journals and all references that support the research needs. Sources taken are sources relating to the the impact of online learning during the Covid-19 pandemic on student character values.

3 Result and Discussions

The success of learning is not only measured by the achievement of students' academic targets, but must be able to instill character values that are reflected in their daily lives [5]. Character is a characteristic of a person or group of people that contains values, abilities, moral capacity, and resilience in the face of difficulties and challenges [6]. Character education aims to improve the quality of educational processes and outcomes that lead to character education and noble character of learners in a complete, integrated, and balanced manner, in accordance with graduate competency standards at every level of education [7]. Therefore, formal education plays an important role in shaping the character values of students in addition to education in the family and community environment.

Based on this, educational institutions are obliged to pay attention to the process of character building in students. This has been regulated by the Guidelines for the Implementation of Character Education compiled by the Ministry of National Education, Research and Development Center for Curriculum and Books, where in the reference 18 character-building values have been identified originating from the Pancasila religion, culture, and educational goals which is described in Table 1 [8].

During the pandemic, many students experienced degradation of character, attitude and behavior (Dewi *et al.*, 2021); (Massie and Nababan, 2021); (Salim, 2022). This is because the formation of students' character values cannot be taught only through words, but requires a teacher's example and a culture of applying character values in learning [5, 6, 9, 10]. Learning should be able to provide direct experience for students so that it becomes a deep meaning so that it can be applied in their daily lives and further embedded as good character values [10, 11]. Therefore, lecturers have a big task in implementing the 18 character-building values even in online learning, especially for new students who are undergoing the transition from secondary education to higher education.

On the other hand, the use of technology used as an alternative to online learning should be used to strengthen the character of students because it opens wider learning opportunities [10, 12]. Moreover students also state that online learning facilitates the learning process [13–15]. Face-to-face learning seems to be indispensable, but the positive attitude and willingness shown by the majority of students to engage in online learning shows that there is a huge future potential for e-learning platforms in higher education institutions (Ismaili, 2020). But of course, the collaboration of the role of the family environment, universities, and the community as supervisors is needed to direct the formation of good character values as expected [7].

The decrease in student character values is also caused by the short time students have to adapt from face-to-face learning to online learning [15]. Especially for new students who are in a transition period, it can actually cause stress because changes occur simultaneously with other changes, both within the individual, within the family, and in lectures. Thus, character education at the higher education requires good cooperation from various parties so that the values of the nation's character can remain embedded in themselves even in the midst of many changes in education.

Table 1. Student Character Building Values.

No	Character	Description
1	Religious	attitudes, traits and religious behavior to build good character in a person. This character must be instilled from an early age as a provision when they grow up so that they have attitudes and behaviors that are in accordance with their beliefs and are tolerant of followers of other religions.
2	Honest	attitudes and behaviors that reflect the truth shown by knowing, saying, and doing the right thing so as to make the person concerned as a person who can be trusted.
3	Tolerance	attitudes and behaviors that respect differences in religion, belief, race, ethnicity, customs, language, opinions, and other things that are different from themselves so that a wise generation will be created and a safe and peaceful country.
4	Discipline	actions that show obedient or orderly behavior towards the rules and regulations so as to instill the habit of not ignoring time and rules
5	Work Hard	Behavior that shows a person's sincerity in overcoming or completing tasks, problems, or other things appropriately and as well as possible.
6	Creative	innovative attitude in solving problems shown by thoughts and behaviors that can produce new ways of something that already exists or better than before.
7	Independent	attitude and behavior of someone who always completes his own tasks and problems and does not depend on others but can still work collaboratively with others
8	Democratic	act, think or judge between the rights and obligations of himself and others are the same
9	Curiosity	act of always trying to find out more deeply than what one sees, hears and learns so that it creates a habit to keep trying and learning throughout life.
10	Nationalism	attitude of prioritizing the nation and state above personal interests, both in thinking and acting
11	Love for Country	high concern for the environment, language, socio-culture, politics, nation's economy, and etc., so that it is not easy to accept offers from other nations that can harm their own nation.
12	Appreciating Achievement	attitude in respecting the success of others without reducing one's own enthusiasm for achievement

(continued)

Table 1. (*continued*)

No	Character	Description
13	Communicative	an attitude or behavior that is useful for the community which is shown by being polite and friendly with others so that they are easy to work with and collaborate
14	Love Peace	attitude or behavior in respecting others so that a sense of comfort, peace, security arises in particular community or society.
15	Love to Read	habit of taking the time to read various information without coercion from various sources, thus creating a policy for him.
16	Environment Care	behavior to protect nature from various damages while making efforts to repair the natural damage that occurs
17	Social care	attitude of always providing assistance to the environment or people in need.
18	Responsibility	attitude or behavior in a person to carry out his duties or obligations towards himself, society, country, and even God.

4 Conclusions

Based on the results and discussion above, it can be concluded that online learning during the covid-19 pandemic has an impact on instilling student character values in the higher education. The collaborative role of the family, community, and college is very much needed in character education so that it can be embedded in each individual. More in-depth research is needed to evaluate the impact of online learning on changes in student character values at the higher education to improve the learning process.

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