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ORIGINAL RESEARCH



# LEARNING PROBLEMS OF CHILDREN DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE APPLICATION OF HOME LEARNING IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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# Lida Khalimatus Sa'diya<sup>1</sup>, Tria Wahyuningrum<sup>2</sup>, Yunika Nurtyas<sup>3</sup>

Universitas Bina Sehat PPNI Mojokerto

Email: lidarafi2@gmail.com, triyuss@gmail.com, yunikanurtyas@gmail.com

ABSTRACT	Keywords
The objectives to be achieved in this study were to find out the factors causing the problem of implementing learning from home, to find a solution in overcoming the problems of implementing learning from home at Early Childhood Education children during the Covid-19 pandemic in PAUD Yaminna, Mojokerto City. This study used a descriptive approach. The technique used in this research is the technique of interview, observation, and documentation. Data analysis in this study includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. Checking the validity of the data using triangulation of data sources. The results of this study conclude In the learning process from home the teacher experiences problems or obstacles first, problems related to teacher competence, second, students' understanding problems, third, problems of parents who do not have android, fourth lack of cooperation between parents and students, the five limitations of facilities and infrastructure; The solutions to solve problems that arise when learning from home are first, increasing teacher competence in using/operating technology, secondly providing counseling to guardians about the importance of using android, fourth providing understanding to parents about the importance of parent-student cooperation.	Learning from Home, Learning Problems. Early Childhood Education children

# INTRODUCTION

The spread of the corona virus globally, both in terms of the number of cases and the death toll, is still increasing day by day. As of October 27, 2020, the total number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in the world is 43,767,925 million. Of these, 32,161,971 million patients have recovered, and 1,164,227 people have died. Currently, there are 10,441,727 active cases or patients in care spread across various countries (Sutarsa, Astuti, Choy, &

Moore, 2020). In order to prevent the spread of Covid-19 transmission to school residents in particular and the wider community in general, the Ministry of Education and Culture issued several circulars related to the prevention and handling of Covid-19. Circular Letter Number 2 of 2020 dated March 9, 2020 regarding the Prevention and Handling of Covid-19 in the Ministry of Education and Culture (Abidah, Hidaayatullaah, Simamora, Fehabutar, & Mutakinati, 2020). Circular Letter Number 3 of 2020 dated March 9, 2020 concerning Prevention of Covid-19 in Education Units. Circular Letter Number 4 of 2020 dated March 24, 2020 regarding the Implementation of Education Policies in the Emergency Period for the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19), which among other things contains directions on the process of learning from home. Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system(Wajdi et al., 2020).

Home Learning or learning from home aims to make the educational process of students continue even though they are at home. Such conditions require educational institutions to innovate in the learning process. One form of innovation carried out by educational institutions through the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture is by conducting online or online learning (in a network)(Yuzulia, 2021). Online learning is learning that is carried out without face to face through available media. The management of the online learning system is different from the face-to-face system. Online learning systems require the existence of supporting infrastructure and technology, such as computers, televisions, and gadgets(Ismail, Bakar, & Wafa, 2020).

The Challenges of Learning from Home The learning process from home through distance learning should ideally still be able to accommodate the learning needs of students to develop talents and interests according to their education level(Rosyada & Sundari, 2021). To achieve this, it is necessary to prepare educators, appropriate curriculum, availability of learning resources, and support for stable devices and networks so that communication between students and educators can be effective(Tamboto, Tambingon, Lengkong, & Rotty, 2021). The current state of distance learning cannot be called ideal because there are still various obstacles to be faced.

This obstacle is also a challenge in the implementation of distance learning considering that the implementation of distance learning is a must so that educational activities can still be held in the midst of the current Covid-19 pandemic emergency(Sulistiyo Nugroho, Wahab Syakhrani, Hardiansyah, Jacob Pattiasina, & Yunita Rahma Pratiwi, 2021). The obstacles faced in implementing distance learning are related to the readiness of human resources, lack of clear directions from local governments, the absence of an appropriate curriculum, and limited facilities and infrastructure, especially technology support and internet networks(Lubis, Harahap, & Armanila, 2021).

## **REVIEW LITERATURE**

Research on the problems of studying from home in Early Childhood Education childrenwas conducted for the first time, but there were previous studies that discussed online learning as an effort to study from home.

Asio 2021, This study aims to identify online learning activities in Any student can access learning as an effort to support government programs, namely study from home during the COVID-19 pandemic and student responses to online learning while schools are still closed. The subjects of this study were students who did online learning while schools were closed during the COVID-19 pandemic. The difference is that this journal only discusses online learning and does not discuss the problems of studying from home. The similarity discusses studying from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. (Asio, Gadia, Abarintos, Paguio, & Balce, 2021)

Erawati 2021, The purpose of the study was to obtain an overview of the implementation of online learning in the Biology Education Study Program. The difference is that this research is centered on the Biology Education Study Program. The similarity discusses online learning during the Covid-19 period(Erawati, Widiana, & Japa, 2021).

Tanamal 2021, Corona Virus or known as COVID-19 has now spread to various countries in the world. WHO (World Health Organization) has declared COVID-19 a global emergency or pandemic on March 11, 2020. COVID-19 is reported to be quite contagious with a relatively high mortality rate and is reported to continue to increase. Indonesia is the fourth most populous country in the world, thus it is estimated that it will suffer greatly from the COVID-19 pandemic, and is even expected to be free in a longer period of time when compared to other less densely populated countries. The difference is that this journal discusses students' thoughts about learning from home. The similarity is discussing learning from home during the Covid-19 pandemic (Nurhayati, Angkarini, & Tanamal, 2021).

Tyaningsih 2021, The purpose of this study was to identify the impact of the WFH (Work From Home) system on the performance teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The research uses the quantitative method. The data collection process in this study came from an online questionnaire of 8 teachers at SD Negeri Dengkek 01 Pati. The difference is that this journal uses a qualitative method. The similarity is discussing online learning activities (Tyaningsih, Arjudin, Prayitno, Jatmiko, & Handayani, 2021).

Asvial 2021, in the field of education, COVID-19 has also drastically changed the learning model; All learning activities are carried out online from elementary school to university level. This research is a qualitative descriptive study that describes online learning activities after all learning activities are carried out at home with online mode. The difference is that this journal is centered on universities. The similarity is discussing the impact of Covid-19 on the online learning process (Asvial, Mayangsari, & Yudistriansyah, 2021).

# **METHOD**

This research is a type of field research (field research) with a qualitative descriptive approach, which is a study that intends to understand the phenomena experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, action, holistically, and by way of description in the form of words. and language, in a particular natural context and by utilizing various natural methods (Moen & Middelthon, 2015). This research was conducted at PAUD Yaminna, Mojokerto City. The research subjects were students, parents and teachers of PAUD Yaminna Mojokerto City.

Data collection methods are ways that can be used by researchers to collect data. Data collection techniques in this study were collected by means of observation, interviews, and documentation. To test the validity of a data in qualitative research, an examination technique is needed(Moen & Middelthon, 2015). The implementation of the inspection technique is based on certain criteria. There are four criteria used, namely the degree of trust (credibility), transferability (transferability), dependability (dependability), and certainty (confirmability). There are various ways to check credibility in qualitative research, namely, extended observations, increased persistence, discussions with friends, triangulation, negative case analysis, and member checks. In this study the sources are students, parents and teachers. So, to test the credibility of the data from the results of collecting data from observations, interviews, and documentation, triangulation is used. Triangulation of this research by comparing and checking the degree of trust and the results of observations, interviews, and documentation.

According to Calvert (Calvert, 2013), data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from observations, interviews, and documentation. Thus the data that has been reduced will provide a clearer picture, and make it easier for researchers to collect data. After the data is reduced, the next step is to display the data. Presentation of data is done in the form of brief descriptions, charts, relationships between categories, flowcharts, and so on. Miles and Huberman in Sugiyono stated that the most frequently used to present data in qualitative research is narrative text. The conclusions put forward are still temporary, and will change if no strong evidence is found to support the next stage of data collection. However, if the conclusions put forward at the initial stage are supported by valid and consistent evidence when the researcher returns to the field to collect data, then the conclusions put forward are credible conclusions. Therefore, researchers try to get evidence by looking for the meaning of each symptom obtained from the field.

# **RESULT**

Based on the results of the analysis of the Problems of Application of Learning from Home for Basic Early Childhood during the Covid-19 Pandemic at PAUD Yaminna, Mojokerto City for the 2020/2021 academic year, there are several things that can be outlined, namely:

- a. The implementation of learning from home has been going well because the teacher gives assignments and provides material during the online learning process via Android by utilizing class groups.
- b. The problems or problems faced in the learning process from home are as follows:
  - a. Problems related to teacher competence.
  - b. The problem of differences in the level of understanding of students.
  - c. The problem of parents who do not have Android and do not know how to use it.
  - d. Lack of cooperation between parents and students.
- c. Solutions taken to solve the problem of learning from home:
  - a. Teachers can attend seminars or training on information technology and learn from peers.
  - b. Provide guidance or assistance to children in groups or individually.
  - c. Provide counseling and hold meetings with parents about the importance of using Android in the learning process.
  - d. Provide an understanding of the importance of parental cooperation in supervising their children learning from home.

Based on the results of interviews and direct observations in the field, it can be seen that there are problems with the application of learning from home for early childhood during the Covid-19 pandemic at PAUD Yaminna, Mojokerto City. Based on the results of interviews with PAUD Yaminna teachers, Mojokerto City Nantal obtained by researchers: "Teachers have prepared lesson plans before teaching online learning, during the Covid-19 pandemic online lesson plans also exist, just need to be developed by the teachers themselves. We use whatsapp to deliver learning, but we still accept assignments that are delivered directly to home or school because of the many obstacles faced by parents, some do not understand how to use technology and lack of signal, even poor parents. So we accept if there are parents who deliver assignments directly so that learning continues"

In creating the intensity of communication with students at the teacher's home using applications in delivering learning, the authors also asked about the obstacles experienced by the teacher during the learning process from home. The following are the results of interviews with PAUD Yaminna teachers, Mojokerto City: using zoom is due to poor signal and lack of knowledge in using technology. So we communicate with students only using whatsapp, some directly face to face when students deliver assignments to home or to school, for the collection of assignments itself is done on Mondays and Thursdays. In the process of learning from home, there must be obstacles, both in terms of delivering material to students and collecting assignments. Most students do not understand how to use technology, but we can deal with that by giving assignments directly, namely when collecting assignments face-to-face at home or at school, why do we do two ways in giving assignments and collecting assignments so that students are not hampered in following learning process during the

COVID-19 pandemic. We also do this method so that students can follow the lesson so they don't miss lessons and get grades.

The results of student learning during the learning process from home have differences between students. The following is the result of an interview with a Yaminna PAUD class teacher, Mojokerto City: "The students' scores differ from the previous year because students have different intelligences, some are able to learn independently, others still need direction. For students who are able to study independently their scores are stable but there are students who still need direction from teachers or parents who are not good, here we give advice to parents to supervise their children during learning because during the pandemic the teacher cannot play a full role in supervising students in learning. We also do not limit students to ask when they have difficulties in the lessons we provide, students may ask directly or through the whatsapp group.

Apart from teachers, parents also face obstacles when collecting assignments and lack of knowledge about technology and communication with children during learning. The results of the interview are as follows: "When we talk about the obstacles we as parents are confused about using technology, it is better for us to collect assignments directly at the teacher's house, and as parents we cannot supervise children optimally while they are doing assignments. For our own children's lessons, sometimes we don't understand which makes us confused to answer children's questions. As parents, we only help supervise children's learning if they haven't gone to work so that children do their schoolwork, and answer if there are lessons that children don't understand."

The parents' responses to learning from home, and the researchers also asked about how people learn from home. The following are the results of interviews with parents of PAUD Yaminna students, Mojokerto City: "In our opinion it is better to study at school than study at home. Sometimes children use gadgets more often to play games than study and do assignments, and children's grades are also not good, maybe there is a lack of supervision from us as parents. Because so far at school children get supervision from the teacher in learning. As parents, we only help supervise children's learning if they haven't gone to work so that children do their schoolwork, and answer if there is a lesson that the child does not understand.

Apart from teachers and parents, students also have problems in the learning process from home. The results of interviews with PAUD Yaminna students, Mojokerto City are as follows: "My mother likes to get angry when asked and is not a good teacher anymore. When you want to find an answer, sometimes the signal is not good and you don't understand when asked, so ask a friend's mother who understands the lesson.

From the results of observations and interviews, it can be concluded that problematic is a gap between expectations and reality which is expected to be completed or can be needed or in other words can reduce the gap.

## **DISCUSSION**

# Factors causing problems with the application of learning from home for early childhood during the Covid-19 pandemic

After the data is known as presented in the facts above, then as a further action of this research, namely analyzing the data collected using descriptive qualitative methods in detail. In an effort to use learning media effectively, teachers and students often experience various obstacles, both concerning themselves and those outside of themselves. Based on the previous findings, it can be seen that teachers, parents and students experience problems in the learning process from students' homes. The following are the problems of implementing learning from home Early Childhood Education PAUD Yaminna, Mojokerto City, namely:

The problem of teacher competence Competence is the knowledge, skills and behavior that must be possessed and mastered by a teacher in carrying out his teaching duties. There are still teachers who have difficulty in using and utilizing technology-based learning, this is because teachers lack the skills and knowledge or lack of technology (technology stuttering) about the importance of operationalizing information technology-based learning media. This causes students to become passive and feel bored during the learning process, because there are still teachers who are still confused in using technology. Whereas as a teacher he is required and should have basic competence in the use of information technology. It has become a demand in the curriculum that a teacher must have adequate competence, including in using learning media. In the field, it was found that there were teachers who had not been able to operate information technology tools such as difficulties in choosing learning media and were less familiar with information technology-based media. How sophisticated the learning tools are if the teacher is skilled then it will be in vain.

Different levels of understanding of students Students have different characters and understanding of the material or assignments given by the teacher. Because children who are still at the elementary school level, it becomes difficult to grasp abstract material. Especially in the current learning process from home, and the teacher immediately gives assignments without explaining the material first. Each individual has a different level of intelligence, the learning process from home that has been going on for a long time makes it difficult for students to receive lessons from the teacher. Sometimes in the learning process the teacher feels the maximum but the response given by the students is also relatively passive. This is one of the tough challenges that teachers must pass in the learning process

Parents who do not have android and lack of understanding in its use in the learning process from home are done with a lack of communication with the students themselves because many parents of students do not have android/sophisticated communication tools. In this case, Android is very important for the realization of the learning process from home. On the other hand, parents who are mostly rural people find it very difficult to use sophisticated communication tools. Parents and guardians of students do not use android as a technology use to achieve the learning process from home.

Lack of cooperation between parents and students, parents tend not to accompany their children to study from home due to various reasons, namely reasons because they are busy working, busy taking care of the house and busy with other things. Parents let their children study and do their own work without being accompanied by their parents. Even after interviews with classroom teachers, many parents are not patient in accompanying their children to study at home during this pandemic. This makes the right of a child to learn to be out of control because many are even playing gadged and playing kites with other friends. A solution in overcoming the problems of implementing early childhood learning from home during the Covid 19 pandemic at PAUD Yaminna, Mojokerto City

Based on the previous findings, it can be seen that teachers, parents and students experience problems in the learning process from students' homes (Susila, Qosim, & Rositasari, 2020). The following are solutions to overcome the problems of implementing learning from home for Early Childhood Education children during the Covid 19 pandemic Early Childhood Education PAUD Yaminna, Mojokerto City, namely: The solution to overcome teacher competence in an effort to overcome teacher competence, actually from the teacher's side has made several attempts to overcome it. These include studying with other teachers and participating in training in certain forums. All efforts or efforts to overcome the problems above are considered appropriate and good. However, there is a drawback that sometimes the teachers who attend the training and seminars are actually chatting with themselves. However, it all goes back to each individual because of the age factor or being old, not being able to operate a computer or information technology is a mistake.

The solution to overcome differences in the level of understanding of students and individual differences is related to "personal psychology" which makes a way of receiving a lesson and in thinking(Tamboto et al., 2021). To overcome various kinds of students in the online learning process, teachers and schools have been looking for solutions so that students have the same understanding, namely by paying attention to the differences that exist in their students by motivating them to continue learning in any condition between others: first, the teacher provides assistance to students either in groups or individually. The method taken in an effort to overcome this problem above is considered appropriate, but teachers do not have to provide special services between individuals.

The solution to dealing with parents who don't have Android is by means of a parent or student who is not in the group, one of the students provides information related to assignments and can come directly and ask the teacher by coming to school because the teacher is there every Monday and Thursday during the day. work. The solution to overcome the lack of cooperation between parents and students, the parents who are busy with their respective interests and are not painstaking in accompanying children in the distance learning process, make students who should be studying play with their peers. The school and teachers have their own solution to overcome this problem, namely by providing motivation and

understanding to parents to continue to accompany their children to study at home because parental control and supervision is very important when learning from home like this.

## **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the analysis and discussion of the problems of implementing learning from home in early childhood, the problems or problems encountered in the learning process from home are problems related to teacher competence, problems with differences in the level of understanding of students, problems of parents who do not have android and don't know how to use it. lack of collaboration between parents and students. The solution taken to solve the problem of learning from home is that teachers can attend seminars or training on information technology and learn from peers, provide guidance or assistance to children in groups or individually, provide counseling and hold meetings with parents about the importance of using Android in the learning process. . provide an understanding of the importance of parental cooperation in supervising their children learning from home.

To improve teacher competence in operating technology-based media, teachers continue to learn from peers/peer tutors and teachers should further develop their respective competencies, including skills in the use of information technology-based media. Teachers should understand the characteristics of students so as to facilitate the online learning process. For parents, they should pay more attention to their children's learning process when learning from home and learning to use technology in order to monitor their child's learning process. students, should keep learning even from home and don't play much with their friends.

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