

The Students' and Parents Voices on Online Learning in SMP Wahid Hasyim Pasuruan

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Abstract

The pandemic of COVID 19 has caused a drastic change in the way the students learn. Instead of learning at school, the students learn from home. This paper is aimed at describing the students' and parents' opinion, reasons, and difficulties during the learning from home. The researcher used a mixed method design to collect the data. The subjects of the study were 25 students in grade 9 of SMP A Wahid Hasyim Pasuruan and 28 parents. The instruments were open and close questionnaire and interview. The data were collected from October to December 2020. The result shows that 1) the students and the parents agreed that online learning was effective for the teaching and learning process during the pandemic of COVID 19. 2) The students like online learning because online learning saves time (41.66%). On the other hand, the parents prefer online learning because of health reasons, which is to avoid the spread of covid-19. The major problem faced by the students and parents is the internet quota. The result shows that most students and parents agree that online learning becomes the most preferable way to conduct the teaching and learning process during the pandemic of COVID 19.

Keywords: *learning; opinion; pandemic*

Introduction

The pandemic of Covid-19 has created the largest interference of educational systems in almost all countries in the world. The latest data shows an increase in death rates due to this pandemic around the world. More than 200 countries confirmed that more than 685,639 people died from COVID 19 (WHO, 24/12/2020). Indonesia has confirmed that more than 20,408 people also died from COVID 19 (WHO, 24/12/2020). Therefore, with the increasing risk of COVID 19, remote learning becomes unavoidable. In terms of education, distance learning presents its challenges for teachers. Some positive challenges for facing online learning are to teach with Zoom or Google Meet presentations. Teachers also need to utilize technology such as Google Classroom, Quiz Bot, Goggle form and other media.

Research on online learning during the pandemic of COVID 19 are blooming. The results of the research are varied among researchers. Most research used survey and descriptive quantitative approach to investigate the preference of students' learning during the pandemic. Some studies show that the students feel negative about online learning, while some other feel positive. Febrianto, Mas'udah & Megasari (2020) investigated the online learning process and the obstacles that accompany it. The result of the study shows that not all students were fond of online learning and showed their disagreement of its effectiveness. The problems of online learning were the quota, the demographic characteristics, and the insufficient infrastructure to support online learning.

The second research was conducted by Sulisworo, Kusumaningtyas, Anomeisa, Wahyuningsih, & Rahmadhani (2020). The researchers explored the difference perceptions of the Junior High School students in urban and remote areas during the pandemic of COVID 19 of their online learning of science subject. The result of the study shows that there were no significant differences on the students' perception score between the two regions. Yet, there was a difference on the easy-to-use aspect in terms of the technology. The result of the study also shows that there was a learning engagement and interaction due to the use of various forms of quizzes, posts, and emoticons. Next, Hamid, SENTRYO, & Hasan (2020) explored the teaching and learning process during the pandemic of COVID 19 in PGSD FKIP UHO (Department of Elementary School Teacher Education, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education Sciences, Halu Oleo University). The finding shows that the main supporting factor of the success of online learning was the quality of network to access the internet, as well as the device. The result also shows that the students perceive that the online learning during the Covid-19 has not been fully effectively implemented.

Sujarwo, Sukmawati, Akhiruddin, Ridwan, Siradjuddin (2020) investigated the university students' opinion on utilizing online learning during the pandemic of COVID 19. The result of the study shows that although in the beginning the students disliked online learning, by and by they got used to it. The students were interested in online learning because of its flexibility. The result also shows that the most favorable media for online learning is the Whatsapp application.

However, even though research on the teaching and learning during the COVID 19 outbreak is flourishing, not much is discussing the Junior High school students' and parents' perspective in relation to online learning. So far, studies are directed to the students' opinion, while the parents' view are left unnoticed. Therefore, this study is intended to 1) describe the students' and parents' opinion about learning from home during the pandemic of COVID 19, 2) explore their reasons of preference of learning from home, and 3) identifying the students' and parents' difficulties during the implementation of online learning.

Methods

The researchers used a mixed-method design. The design is chosen due to the form of the data are in the form both numbers and sentences. The participants were all the 9th grade students of SMP A Wahid Hasyim Pasuruan. The researchers also involved the parents whose children learnt in the school. There were 28 parents-participants joined this study. The instruments to collect the data were the questionnaire and interview. There were nine questions in the questionnaire. The options in the questionnaire ranged from very agree to very disagree. The same questionnaire was distributed to both the parents and the students. In total there were 51 respondents who filled out the questionnaire. The instruments were developed and validated before it was given to the respondents. To collect the data from the interview, the researchers used Whatsapp to interview the parents and the students. The respon to the interview were either in the form of Whatsapp voice or chats. Thus, all data were fully documented.

The data were collected from October to December 2020. The data from the questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively. The data were analyzed closed questionnaire by using percentage in Microsoft excel calculation and open questionnaire by an interview with the parents.

Findings and Discussion

The Students Opinion and Reasons

The online teaching and learning process are expected to make the students feel comfortable, and safe. In this study, researchers found that half of the students (54,16%) stated that online learning was effective.

Table 1. Students' opinion of learning from home

	SA	A	N	D	SD
1. I like online learning	21%	17%	50%	8%	4%
2. Online Learning is effective	4%	54%	25%	13%	4%
3. Online Learning ease me to understand the material	0	38%	25%	29%	8%

Even though half of the students felt unsure about their likeness of online learning during the COVID 19, the percentage of the students who agree of online learning (SA 21% + A 17%) is higher than those who do not. Online learning offers a lot of benefits. According to Dhawan (2020) is easily accessible, affordable and flexible. The use of technology enables the teaching to reach remote areas. It is also affordable because no cost in transportation and other type of accommodation are needed in terms of flexibility, the teacher and the learner can schedule and re-schedule the meeting and task submission anytime at their conveniences. However, even though they agree on online learning, the way of learning did not fully help them to understand the material given by the teacher.

Table 2. Students' Response

	SA	A	N	D	SD
1. Online learning prevents the spread of covid-19	42%	33%	8%	13%	4%
2. Online learning saves time	33%	42%	13%	8%	4%
3. Online learning saves costs	8%	29%	33%	22%	8%

The data show that the majority of the students agree (75%) (SA 42% + A 33%) that learning from home prevents the spread of COVID 19. The majority of the students (75%) also agree that online learning saves time (SA 33% + A 42%). Yet, only 37 % of the students (SA 8% + A 29%) who agree that online learning is economical. The result of the questionnaire also shows that the students faced some difficulties during their online learning. The difficulties face by the students were the signal factors, the quality of gadgets, and the quotas.

Table 3. The Students' Difficulties

	SA	A	N	D	SD
1. Online learning difficulties are signal	21%	42%	25%	8%	4%
2. Online learning needs good or expensive gadget	4%	29%	25%	29%	13%
3. Quotas are a problem in online learning	46%	37%	13%	0	4%

The data shows that 45.83% of the students stated that quota was the problem with online learning, and 40% of them stated that signal was also the problem they faced during online learning. Yet, many students 42% (D 29% + SD 13%) state that online learning did not require an expensive gadget. The result of this research is similar to other previous studies. Hamid et al. (2020) state that the problems of online learning are the network and the devices to access the internet. Based on the research conducted by Handayani (2020) network instability was also the main problem in online learning. The result of this present study is also similar to Widodo & Nursaptini (2020) who found out that quota was the problem that the students often encounter in online learning.

The Parents

Parents' opinion of learning from home

The researchers also investigate the parents' opinion in relation to learning from home during the pandemic of COVID 19. There were 28 parents participated in this study. The data shows near half of the parents agreed about online learning. According to them, the new way of learning helped the kids to be more independent, and enable the kids to have more technology literacy.

- (O2) *I like it because the kids stay at home. (R2)*
- (O4) *My child's online learning is good enough. He did well on understanding the materials, assignments and tests. (R7)*
- (O5) *It makes the children become independent and can follow the development of technological advances. (R9)*

Based on the data from the interview from Whatsapp voice and chats, the parents showed a consistent reason regarding to the use of online learning during the pandemic of COVID 19. Many of them agreed on the application of online learning. This new way of learning is one of the possible options that every educational institution can take.

- (O3) *I strongly agree with online learning because online learning help reduce the COVID 19 outbreak. In addition, parents can provide guidance to their children. (R6)*
- (O6) *The positive thing is that in this pandemic situation it is safer for children to learn from home. (R10)*
- (O7) *The schedule for children learning online is more flexible. (R14)*
- (O8) *I think online learning is effective because it can save time and the children are safer to learn at home during the pandemic. (R15)*

According to Handarini & Wulandari (2020) learning from home is one of the governments' effort to reduce the spread of Covid-19 pandemic. Yet, the majority of the parents felt that online learning did not really help the students to understand the material. Despite of the positive comments on online learning, some parents feel negative. They disagreed on online learning because of several reasons. Some of the reasons are the kids become lazier and unfocused in learning.

- (O1) *In online learning, the children understand the lesson just a little. (R1)*
- (O9) *Online learning is ineffective, it makes children lazy to learn. (R3)*
- (O10) *Online learning is less optimal as compared to learn at school (R4)*
- (O11) *It is less effective; children are less focused (can live). (R5)*

- (O12) *It is difficult to learn online. It is different from learning at school They were underestimate the lesson. (R8)*
- (O13) *It is not useful in terms of education. The children are lack of training, theory, and direction. (R11)*
- (O14) *(I think) the children only understand a small portion of lesson (R13)*
- (O15) *The children hold cell phones too often. They complain that they have more tasks (R12)*
- (D15) *The parents do not know the abilities and knowledge of the children acquired through online learning and to what extent. (R3)*
- (D16) *This learning system makes the children are unable to study the material completely. (R11)*

In relation to this, research has shown that not all people agree on the online instruction during the pandemic of COVID 19. This can be seen in Febrianto, Mas'udah & Megasari's research (2020) in which their result shows that not all respondents feel positive about online learning. The different perception among parents is understandable because not all parents have sufficient technology literacy, and not all of them have supporting gadget or smart phone for online learning. Almost all parents admitted that there were some difficulties faced by their kids in online learning. Most of them complained about the quota and the signal.

- (D1) *There is no difficulty (in learning) but we ask the government to help us with the quotas for parents who cannot afford to buy one. (R1)*
- (D2) *Online learning uses an application that consumes a lot of quotas. (R2)*
- (D3) *The signal and quota are the difficulties that we often face. But quota is number one (R3)*
- (D4) *Yes, in terms of the signal, sometimes it is bad. So, it disturbs the online learning. In terms of quotas, it doesn't really matter because there is a government assistance program with a learning quota. (R10)*
- (D5) *The difficulties are when we run out of quota or the internet network has problems. So, sometimes the kids cannot do assignments given by the school. The quota for learning is large. Sometimes our monthly budget to buy quota is not enough. (R12)*
- (D6) *The Signal is sometimes difficult if you want to send files via Google classroom. (R14)*
- (D7) *The difficulty is the signal, and you have to buy quotas. (R15)*

In relation to this, Widodo & Nursaptini (2020) assert that the problems typically occur during online learning are the internet connection and limited internet quota. These problems are similar to those faced by the students and confirmed by the parents in this study. In relation to this problem, the ministry of education of Indonesia released a policy to provide internet quota for four months given to students, teachers and lecturers (Noto, 2020). Some parents also concerned about the students' social life. They viewed this as the problem that needs to be solved.

- (D8) *Technically there are no difficulties. But the children become lazier to learn. They are also less enthusiastic and have less social life with friends. (R7)*
- (D9) *Social relation between individuals is lacking. The kids become selfish because they never get together with others. (R9)*
- (D10) *The kids lack of mental and character development because they do not have enough socialization (R10)*
- (D17) *Children tend to think about depending on their parents. For parents who cannot fully accompany their children, the children are less disciplined in*

terms of time. This is because children tend to abuse gadgets just to play games and watch movies on YouTube. (R14)

It is undeniable that the teaching and learning process during the pandemic of COVID 19 lacks of direct interaction. And sometimes the teaching and learning process was boring and not engaging. This makes all works and assignments should be done independently. Based on the research conducted by Hasanah, Lestari, Rahman, Danil (2020), the problem that may occur in the online learning is the difficulty to work collaboratively among students. Yet, according to Kirkwood & Price, (2014) there is still a possibility for interaction among students and teachers. For this reason, teachers are challenged to create an engaging learning atmosphere that can trigger a good collaboration between students and teachers. The teacher can apply online group work for the students to work cooperatively (Koh & Jill, 2020). The challenge of online group work is the communication because of the absence of face-to-face meeting. Yet, an online group work is worth to try. Working in a group teach the students to appreciate differences and to work collaborative to achieve the same goal. As stated by Muirhead & Juwah (2004) teachers should feel challenged to create a collaborative learning atmosphere that may result in meaningful learning.

In summary, the researchers conclude that the parents seemed to feel safer if their kids learn from home during the pandemic of COVID 19. One their biggest reasons of agreeing learning from home is because it can prevent the spread of COVID 19, and may prevent the outbreak in a larger scale. However, even though both the students and parents agree on learning from home, they share the same challenges. Among others are the technical difficulties, such as the internet access and the quota. They also share the same challenges in terms of lesson and material comprehension. However hard the challenges during online learning, all these problems are solvable. Until today, the Indonesian government has provided many aids for the students and teachers to be able to learn online during the pandemic of COVID 19. Kurniawan (2020) states that there are seven Indonesian government policies in education. They are the reallocation of education funds, relaxation of school operational assistance funds, providing affirmation and performance funds to private schools, single tuition fee assistance, creating educational content on the government television, launching emergency curriculum, and making learning modules for parents of students so that they can learn independently. In terms of the parents' concern of social life and social interaction, zoom Application and Goggle meet application offer a type of distance communication where face to face interaction can happen. All in all, until today, online learning is still the best possible option. The government, the school, and the parents need to work together to help the students to achieve their best in this time of difficulties.

Conclusion

The outbreak of COVID 19 forces the teacher and the students to be adaptable to the new way of learning. The result of this research shows that in general the students and the parents feel positive on online learning. The problems that may arise during the online learning is the availability of internet access and the quota. Even though in general the students and the parents agree on online learning, they confessed that they were not sure if the students understood the lesson. In sum, the researchers conclude that online learning in SMP A Wahid Hasyim Pasuruan is the best possible option to do during the pandemic of COVID 19. It gives challenges not only to students and parents, but also to all people involved in the education system in general.

Some suggestions are addressed to the parents, the students, and the school. Firstly, the parents should guide and accompany their children during online learning.

This would help the students to have better discipline in learning. In relation to the quota, the parents can buy a cheap internet package for learning, or register for free quota program offered by any internet providers. Secondly, the school can give better policy in relation to the school fee. This means that some tuition fee should be allocated for the students' internet quota sent to the students' phone private number. This will surely lighten the parents' burden to buy and provide quota for learning. The school can also enroll the government's program to subsidize free internet access for the students. And thirdly, the students should have better time management and self-discipline to join online learning and to do the assignment. The research, however, is a small scale in nature. To have better understand how the teacher teaches and how the students learn during the COVID 19 pandemic, future researchers can use a case study design, or a survey with larger participants. As there is no certainty when this pandemic would end, the students and the parents need to adjust themselves to the new way of learning. Until today, online learning is still the most suitable way to conduct the teaching and learning process during the pandemic of COVID 19.

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