



The Use of Whatsapp Social Media as Reinforcement Online Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACTS

Learning is done by humans for life with a specific purpose. Learning is done so the creation of teaching and learning activities. In current conditions, after COVID-19 entered Indonesia, it requires everyone to keep their distance in order to break the chain of spreading the virus. The world of education is also carried out online or remotely so that teaching and learning activities can be carried out. In accordance with the demands of the industrial revolution 4.0, educators must be able to create creative learning in order to create effective learning activities. With that, learning is carried out through online learning media with the use of applications in particular such as the Whatsapp application to strengthen online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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1. INTRODUCTION

At the end of 2019 in December it was reported that the corona virus appeared and spread to humans, first appearing in the city of Wuhan, China. In early March 2020, President Joko Widodo announced that the Corona virus had entered Indonesia. To break the corona virus chain, many activities are carried out at home, including learning activities (Wajdi *et al.*, 2020; Purwanto *et al.*, 2020; Buska *et al.*, 2021). Minister of Education and Culture Nadiem Anwar Makariem said "The principle of issuing education policies during the COVID-19 pandemic is to prioritize the health and safety of students, educators, education personnel, families and the community", in which this is written on the kemendikbud.go.id website.

With the corona virus in the world, more and more applications are being used to help teaching and learning activities remotely applications that help learning online such as Whatsapp, Zoom meeting, Google meet and many more (Amin & Sundari, 2020; Famularsih, 2020). The various applications that have been mentioned, of course, have their advantages and disadvantages. The use of WhatsApp itself as an online medium in the world of education is increasing every year along with the increasing need for students and teachers to interact with someone or a group of people who are physically distant (Bouhnik *et al.*, 2014; Madge *et al.*, 2019; Abidah *et al.*, 2020; Orijji & Anikpo, 2019). For students, this Whatsapp application can also be used to create (WAG) consisting of teachers and students who do have the same interests. Whatsapp Group is a virtual classroom that facilitates each member to communicate with fellow members who are in it inviting goodness only and relating to learning materials.

2. METHODS

The research method is a scientific way of obtaining data with the purpose and usefulness of research. The research method used is descriptive qualitative method. BPG and Taylor said that the qualitative method as a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior descriptive. This research aims to reveal events or facts, circumstances, phenomena and variables that are present during the research process by presenting what actually happens in the learning process online. The research was conducted by using the data collection method by asking questions that were asked in writing to the SDN PLUMBON 3 grade 4 students and the parents of this 4th grade student.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Thematic KKN activities organized by UNIVERSITAS PENDIDIKAN INDONESIA, held on February 4 - March 14, 2021 with a demand time that must be taken is 120 hours. The theme of the Community Service Program which is carried out is "Thematic Real Work Lecture on the Prevention and Management of the Impact of COVID-19". Students can carry out KKN at their respective homes with all activities carried out online. Activities that can be carried out are regarding the COVID-19 Prevention program in the field of education. Focus on this program is the process of online learning activities and learning media used for elementary school children. The target was taken, namely grade 4 SD, which is about 26 students and also the parents or guardians of the target students from grade 4. The number of participants who are expected to achieve the target is 20 students, 2 teachers and 20 parents of students, but in fact it exceeds the target that has been achieved. The number of participants collected was 26 students, 2 teachers and 20 parents.

Whatsapp application is a social media with a messenger / chat category that allows users to send messages or information privately or in a group with more user-friendly features so that it is easy to use by various groups from young to young old, these features include chatting (text, photos, videos), telephone calls, video calls and others and their use is lighter than other social media so that they are suitable for use as online learning media. Strengthening online learning through the WhatsApp application I did at SDN PLUMBON 3 to be precise for grade 4 children and I was also assisted by the homeroom teacher in directing what material I wanted to convey in accordance with the lesson plans for class 4. Strengthening online learning through Whatsapp starts from the 11th February-5 March 2021. Program in this thematic KKN, namely Making interactive Power points where the material is in accordance with the RPP class 4 then sending the power points to the Whatsapp group SDN PLUMBON 3 class 4 and Answering questions asked by students regarding the material that I have provided via Whatsapp. **Figure 1** is teaching activities through Whatsapp group.

We created and shared pictures or posters to Whatsapp Group SDN PLUMBON 3 Class 4 regarding the prevention and handling of COVID-19. The purpose of distributing this poster is to broaden students' insights about the dangers of COVID-19 because there are still many students who ignore the dangers of COVID-19 and ignore health protocols. I make this poster design as interesting as possible so that students are interested in reading it and understand it, of course the parents, homeroom teacher and I as guardian's companion must contribute in teaching the child. Conducting a posttest related to the subject of electric style (Science Lessons) consisting of 5 multiple choice questions. Students are given 45 minutes to answer the question. **Figures 2 (a-b)** show Whatsapp as teaching media to share picture and learning topic, respectively.

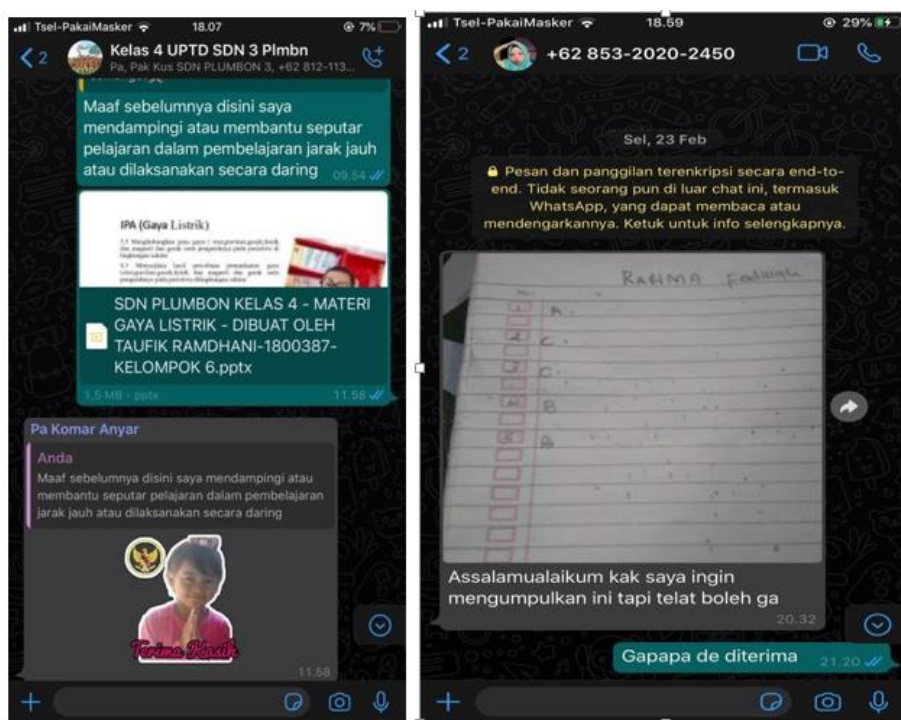


Figure 1. Teaching using Whatsapp Application

In this study, online teaching method shows 9 students (70%) thought that online learning was effective through WhatsApp 6 students (30%) thought that online learning through WhatsApp was not effective Of the 26 students, only 15 answered questions. 9 people answered that online learning through Whatsapp groups was effective, easy to understand, easy to access WhatsApp, then 6 students answered that online learning was rated less effective and signal interference often occurred (see **Figure 3**).

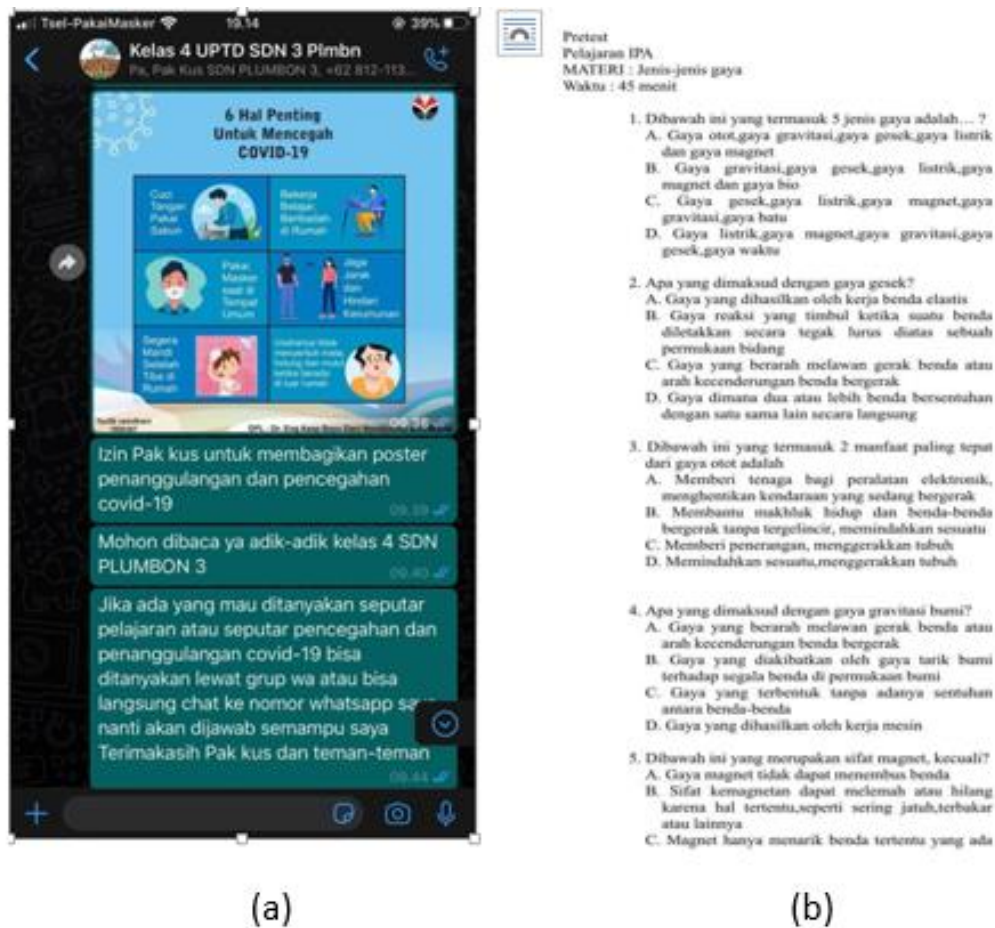


Figure 2. Whatsapp as teaching media to share picture (a) and learning topic (b)

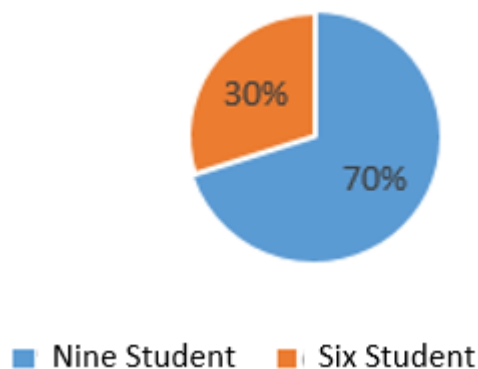


Figure 3. Percentage of student opinions about online learning

We found that provide a pretest and posttest regarding the Electric Force material. Based on **Figure 4**, When answering the pretest questions, there were still many grade 4 students who made mistakes in answering these questions but after the teacher in question and the author participated in guiding students through online learning, grade 4 students had proven changes in answering posttest questions the students answered questions well 70% of students answered correctly without any mistakes on the posttest questions 30% of students still answered posttest questions wrongly.

4. CONCLUSION

COVID-19 provides major changes to the Indonesian education system, especially for areas or areas that are affected or are in the red zone. However, this does not restrict schools from continuing to carry out teaching and learning activities. There are many ways and platforms or learning media that can be used to encourage teaching and learning activities. From video calls, educational videos and also pictures / photos as well as writing as learning media for giving material to students. There are also many applications and platforms available. Supports the implementation of the teaching and learning process such as the Whatsapp Group application, Zoom, Youtube. However, online learning feels very different, especially for elementary school students who are actively making friends and playing. Therefore, it is hoped that the community will always adhere to health protocols so that offline teaching and learning activities can be carried out again. Whatsapp can be a solution in dealing with online learning in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic because its use or access is easy, it doesn't waste a lot of quota. Students can ask for material through private messages or messages in groups, call teachers or teacher assistants regarding academics and others. I have asked a number of questions to grade 4 SDN PLUMBON 3 and the results were 9 students felt that learning through Whatsapp groups was effective, easy to understand and easy to access but 6 students argued that it was ineffective and less understandable, meaning that more students thought that the use of This Whatsapp group is effective for online learning.

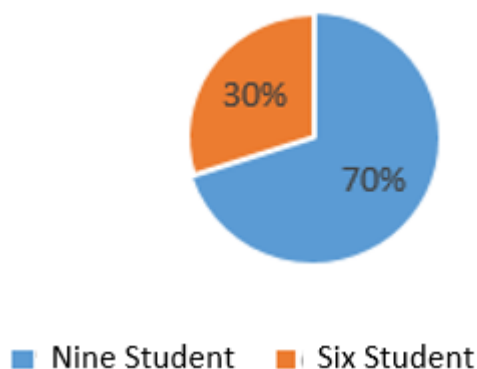


Figure 4. The percentage of students who answered the posttest questions correctly

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6. AUTHORS' NOTE

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article. Authors confirmed that the paper was free of plagiarism.

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