



Direction Analysis of Student Research Topics During Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

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The Covid-19 pandemic has reduced field activity, especially for students who will research their final task. This article aims to explain (1) the direction of research topics selected and conducted by students and (2) learning media plans implemented during covid-19. We have spread the questionnaire online to several colleges so that 146 respondents are acquired. The results of the questionnaire were analyzed using descriptive statistics as well as qualitative analysis to look at concepts or variables as well as reference sources used by students in determining the topic of research. The results showed that the research topics chosen by students did not all lead to the development of ICT-based learning media during the Covid-19 period. This is seen from 61.64% choosing qualitative variable studies to facilitate the process of retrieving data through the spread of online polls. From this result, it is also seen that the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic on the determination of student research topics is only 17.12%.



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A. INTRODUCTION

Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) is an infectious disease that attacks the elderly more, it can also attack anyone, ranging from babies, children, to adults (Sarda et al., 2020). This coronavirus can cause mild disruption to the respiratory system, severe lung infections, to death. COVID-19 was first discovered in Wuhan city, China in late December 2019 (Nayak & Rai, 2020). The virus is contagious very quickly and has spread to almost all countries, including Indonesia,

in just a few months. So the WHO on March 11, 2020, designated this outbreak as a global pandemic.

This led some countries to set policies to impose lockdowns in order to prevent the spread of coronavirus (Indriya, 2020). In Indonesia itself, a large-scale Social Restriction (called PSBB) policy was put in place to suppress the spread of the virus (Sanur, 2020). Because Indonesia is doing PSBB, all activities carried out outdoors must be stopped until this pandemic subsides. Some local governments decided to implement policies to disburse students and began implementing learning methods with online or online systems (Yunus & Rezki, 2020). This government policy came into effect in several provinces in Indonesia on Monday, March 16, 2020, which was also followed by other provinces. But that does not apply to some schools in each area. These schools are not ready with online learning systems, which require learning media such as mobile phones, laptops, or computers (Nurhalimah, 2020), (Luhukay, 2017). The online learning system is a face-to-face learning system between teachers and students but is done online using an internet network. Teachers must ensure teaching and learning activities continue, even if students are at home. The solution, teachers are required to design learning media as innovation by utilizing online media (Mandalina et al., 2019).

On the other hand, students also have an urgent task in studying and completing their studies, namely final assignment research. With conditions occurring in the field, where institutions both government, private, and school have no face-to-face activities. Of course, this has an impact on the selection of the right methods and topics to be taken by students in order for this final task to be completed on time.

The government recommends several learning methods during the Covid-19 pandemic, namely Project Based Learning, Online Method, Offline Method, Home Visit Method, Integrated Curriculum, and Blended Learning (Tanu Wijaya, 2020), (Aviandy, 2020), (Hower, 2020), (Grainger, 2020), (Sari et al., 2020). The various offers of this learning method will certainly be of concern to students in determining research topics that are in accordance with the learning method (Aviandy, 2020). However, the capacity of students may not come to the application of such methods but still in the realm of how the use of learning media, how data collection is done because it cannot be face-to-face, as well as other topics that are not burdensome but do not eliminate the flow of scientific research.

Therefore, the goal that this research wants to achieve is (1) to know the direction of the research topic chosen and carried out by students and (2) know the learning media plan implemented during covid-19. The results of this research can later be referenced by several universities in applying the selection of research topics suitable for students are not burdensome in conducting and completing their research.

B. METHODS

This research is a fixed method that is data disseminated through online questionnaires analyzed statistically descriptively and analyzes the results of respondents' responses qualitatively. We have distributed questionnaires online to several universities so that 146 respondents from 10 universities in Indonesia are obtained. The questionnaire contains 7 question items with a variety of key answers namely about (1) research variables; (2) the association between research topics and the Covid-19 pandemic; (3) the role of third parties in determining research topics; (4) research reference source website; (5) the relationship between research topics and ICT-based media development; (6) development of e-learning; (7)

research instruments used; and (8) selection of research sites. The questionnaire can be accessed at <https://bit.ly/3dVpREO>.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Respondents who have successfully filled out the poll of 146 students are divided into 9 students from religious fields, 95 students from the fields of science and technology, and 41 students from the fields of social, legal, and social humanities. Respondents who have successfully filled out the poll of 146 students are divided into 9 students from religious fields, 95 students from the fields of science and technology, and 41 students from the fields of social, legal, and social humanities. The results of each question are explained as follows.

1. Related research topics to Covid-19 pandemic

A total of 83% of students explained that in determining the topic of research had nothing to do with the Covid-19 pandemic, these respondents came on average from science and technology including the field of health, while the remaining 17% explained there was a link and the average came from the field of social humanities.

2. The association of research topics with the role of technology or the development of online-based learning media.

A total of 61.64% of respondents explained that they did not develop online-based learning media during the Covid-19 pandemic. The topic of meticulous research relates to descriptive qualitative research. While the remaining 38.36% said that the research conducted in the development of online-based learning media.

3. The instrument used is an online questionnaire.

The obstacle faced by students to research the Covid-19 pandemic is face-to-face with respondents or research subjects. So another alternative is needed to collect data from the field, one of which uses an online questionnaire created using Google Form. This was evident from 146 students there was 58.23% said using online questionnaires in collecting data.

4. The role of other parties in determining research topics

The process of determining the topic of research for final semester students is not easy. Because it must be supported by a strong and acceptable reference by the adviser. Therefore, in addition to trying alone in determining the topic of research, as many as 46% of students get offers and support from lecturers who are in a field with topics to be researched, while as many as 53% of students try themselves in determining the topic of research.

5. Reference source for determining research topics

Google Scholar (<https://scholar.google.co.id/>) is the most popular internet page among students. Evident in determining the topic of research as many as 87% of students stated that Google Scholar is the most complete reference. Besides, students also search to Garuda Portal (<http://garuda.ristekdikti.go.id/>), Scribd (<https://www.scribd.com/>), and directly to certain journals according to their respective fields.

6. Determination of research location

The government during the Covid-19 pandemic has issued a policy that the learning process of teaching is carried out online and schools are taken off. This makes students have to choose the right topic by avoiding taking data directly to school. This is evident as many as 93% of students state that the research location is not in the school.

Learning during the Covid-19 pandemic depends heavily on field conditions. Therefore, the government has a zoning system consisting of red, yellow and green colors (Lena Yanti, 2020), (Heryanto, 2020). Most cities in Indonesia are still red so teaching and learning activities must use online learning systems and educational institutions are temporarily closed (Epriliyanti & Ratnasari, 2020), (Mandailina et al., 2019). Therefore, information systems and technology are needed for the smooth running of student research activities and data retrieval process in the field. The results of data analysis also showed that the influence of the Covid-19 pandemic on (1) the determination of student research topics was only 17.12%; (2) the role of technology or development of learning media by 21.23%; and (3) website/online based e-learning development by 38.36%.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

The selection of research sites mirrors the topic of research conducted. A total of 93% of students chose the research site, not in school. This is given that the learning system is done by the school is online learning. Of course, it is also a consideration that 60% of students choose to use research instruments in the form of online questionnaires. Furthermore, the data analysis results also provide information that most students do not develop learning media to be applied in the covid-19 pandemic period because during the development process will certainly conduct validation process and product trials will plunge into the field so that more select research topics with qualitative methods. We recommend that students read more about 4.0 era learning so that they get the latent variables that can be used as research topics.

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