The Importance of Students' Perception of Online Learning During Pandemic

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ARTICLE INFORMATION

ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 epidemic has affected both traditional and online classrooms and the Indonesian government, including education. The world of education is one of the fields that has been badly affected by the pandemic. This research is descriptive research with a questionnaire in a survey via Google Forms to gather information about how they feel about their online course. The subject of this research were students of English Education Department. The data were the usage of applications in online learning, student participation, accessibility, distribution of materials and assignments, and material delivery. Tables and narrative summaries of the findings are provided. This study highlighted three key barriers to online learning, and nearly half of the respondents did not have a favorable opinion of it. Even though over 50% of students claimed to have encountered challenges with online learning, including poor signal, boredom, being unable to meet friends, losing focus while studying, not understanding the subject, and improper settings. Because they reside in villages and rural areas, please encourage their online learning activities. This research is expected to aid in advancing related studies and serve as a foundation for future considerations regarding the development and sustainability of the teaching and learning process without endangering kids, teachers, or parents.

Keywords: Online Learning, Pandemic, Perception

INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, the virus has infected hundreds of thousands of people, and tens of thousands have already perished. The Coronavirus began to shake the world in 2019, starting in the Chinese city of Wuhan, then began to spread to countries including Indonesia, where in 2020, the virus was shocked by the positive cases affected by the virus. Due to the short Covid-19 incubation period, the transmission is rapid, and it is challenging to identify those who have been exposed. Economic problems have had the biggest impact because they have affected different social strata. Economic stagnation has led to the closure of primary human needs to meet them because the country will be overburdened if it must cover all the residents' basic needs. The world of education has been affected by the impact of Covid because, at school, students interact directly, so the risk of being exposed to the virus is very high. Social distancing policy has had fatal consequences for the wheel of human life. The educational field is affected by this policy as well. The government's sudden decision to close or move the learning process from schools/madrasahs to homes has confused many people.

Although the government truly offers alternative methods of evaluating students as a prerequisite for advancement or admittance to institutions, the main reason for this confusion is that school stakeholders and madrasahs are not ready to utilize online learning. The shift to this style of learning forces different parties to choose a course of action that will allow learning to occur, and the option is to employ technology as an online learning medium. Indonesia's education sector – a core element of national development – has overcome many challenges over the years, but nothing has prepared it for the unprecedented shock of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Roxby, 2020) stated that a pandemic is a disease that is concurrently plaguing numerous countries worldwide. Like many other countries worldwide, Indonesia has been working hard to maintain the effectiveness of its educational system since the beginning of the year. However, some necessary concessions have been made to address the current situation, such as substituting online learning for traditional face-to-face instruction. (Agung, Surtikanti, & Quinones, 2020) Over the years, online learning has become a widespread practice as an integrated technology in education. (Fajriyah, Wardoyo, & Putri, 2020) Declared the idea that education is an endeavor to grow and foster the potential of human resources (HR) through diverse activities. (Xhelili, Ibrahimi, Rruci, & Sheme, 2021) Stated that due to the Covid-19 epidemic, educational facilities throughout the world had to close their doors in 2020.

The transition from classroom to online learning is the biggest difficulty for many parts of education since it affects parents, teachers, and students. Some previous studies related to the students' perceptions of online learning, such as (Agung, Surtikanti, & Quinones, 2020) case study "Students' perception of online learning during covid-19 pandemic: a study of the English students of STKIP Pamane Talino" examines how students felt about online learning during the pandemic. The study conducted by (Tsitsia, Kabbah, Doyi, Kabe, & Safo, 2020) entitled "Colleges of education student-teacher perceptions on the e-learning in the era of covid-19 pandemic." and (Smart & Cappel, 2006) comparative study on students' perceptions of online learning.

Much research has been done before related to perception; different people are different perception, and different experience is different perception; this research is interesting because others' perception will be important to discuss. Even nowadays, hybrid learning is applied in some universities and schools, but in the part of academic and research, when we find something important to discuss it will be the current issues and references for academic research. Many students started to express dissatisfaction with the online

nature of the learning process. Beginning with their discontent with the system, the teacher's numerous assignments, their desire to meet friends, and their belief that face-to-face learning is crucial to effectively understanding science, they also expressed frustration with these factors. Perception includes all five senses: touch, sight, hearing, smell, and taste. Perception, a group of senses involving the capacity to notice changes in body postures and movements, is also a part of it (Lengkoan & Rombepajung, 2022); some research already done related to the perception, which not only from ELT but also another part such as from consumer (Bailusy, Buamonabot, Fahri, & Arilaha, 2022) and (Damayanti & Pertama, 2021). In addition, it involves the cognitive processes required to process information, such as recognizing a friend's face or detecting a familiar scent. Learning more about how we go from detecting environmental stimuli to taking action based on that information.

Perception comes in many different forms, some of which are: - vision - touch - sound - taste – smell. The ability to experience things like balance, time, body position, acceleration, and the perception of interior states are all provided by additional senses. Many of these include many sensory modalities and are multimodal. Another crucial sort of perception is social perception, which is the capacity to recognize and use social cues about people and relationships. According to (Corbin, Downer, Ruzek, Lowenstein, & Brown, 2020), perception, which also applies to students, is how a person sees other individuals involved in his life and can be one of the deciding elements for success. Sensing, also known as a sensory process, is the action of receiving a stimulus through one's senses and is the process that occurs before perception. The stimulus is kept going instead of stopping the process, and the subsequent phase is known as the process of perception. The sensing process begins after the information is taken in by the sense organs and processed and translated into a precise perception. The person who shapes the perception, the item or target being interpreted, or the context of the circumstance in which the perception is produced are all factors that might affect perception.

Beginning with the task of selecting, organizing, interpreting, checking, and responding to stimuli, the perception process begins. Stimulation of the perceptual process starts from the sensory capture of perceptual objects. The perceptual process begins with sensing that creates a stimulus from the receptor, followed by data processing in the sensory nerves of the brain or in the center of consciousness. This process is called a physiological process. The processing of data on the sensory nerves of the brain will cause receptors to be aware of what is seen, heard, or touched.

Meanwhile, perception is also an interpretation that comes from what they experience. Students' perception is needed to see the effectiveness and the process of online learning, where students as part of online learning. (Rosenberg, 2001) declared that e-learning is the term used to describe the delivery of a wide range of solutions that improve knowledge and performance using Internet technologies. Online learning is where the activity is conducted entirely online and without direct face-to-face contact. According to (Singh & Thurman, 2020) online learning is a learning process between students and teachers/instructors not face to face directly but using electronic media in the internet network simultaneously in different place. In the era 4.0 online learning helped students and teachers even the Covid-19 pandemic attack the human life and also in education (Paranduk, Rombepajung, & Karisi 2021).

RESEARCH METHOD

A descriptive research methodology is used because data collection, analysis, and interpretation are all part of the implementation process for this study, one factor that affects how smoothly and successfully a study goes is how the data is collected. A

questionnaire is utilized to collect the data for this investigation. The questionnaire is a set of inquiries that are either directly or indirectly addressed to respondents. A key research component is the use of questionnaires, which are lists of questions used to gather data from respondents. A questionnaire was employed in this study's online survey. Students' perceptions were the subject of a survey that was administered via Google Forms. 90 students from higher education served as the sources of the data. The following form contains brief summaries of the questionnaire or survey: name, gender, your bold use of online learning during the pandemic, your challenges with online education, which one would be best for learning, and share your thoughts about online learning.

Students' perspectives and individual online learning experiences during the COVID-19 pandemic were analyzed to gather data for this study. As stated in the data above, the focus of this research is on seven factors: student names, location, gender, the e-learning they use, their challenges with online learning, the learning resources they recommend, and their opinions of online learning.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The research data in the tables below are the results of a survey conducted by researchers on students who went through online learning during a pandemic. A survey was conducted through a Google Form where the link is shared with students. From the results of the survey data found, actual perceptions about online learning are not much different, more or less the same, but with the research title the importance of students' perception of online learning, it is considered not only to know their perceptions but what are the considerations so that online learning becomes an obstacle and affects students' abilities because often the value obtained in learning outcomes during a pandemic is not 100% value because of the student's ability. The data presented below are not only perception data but also receive follow-up from parties involved in being responsible for Indonesian education.

Table 1. Description of Participants

Gender	Male	26.5%
	Female	73.5%
Semester	IV	88%
	VI	12%

In table 2 is the correspondent data where the gender classification of the participants was 26.5% female and 73.5% male. The participants were from two different semesters. There were 88% in semester IV and 12% in semester VI. Based on the existing data, it shows that most of the correspondents are female. However, if we consider the customary gender, the data is not balanced because there are more female correspondents. As well as student semester data where the most correspondents are students sitting in the fourth semester. For students who are in the fourth semester, they only briefly do face-to-face learning in the first semester until almost the middle of the second semester and are different from students from the sixth semester who conduct face-to-face learning from semester one to the middle of the fourth semester, with a variety of different experiences being interesting and correspondence in providing a more valid perception because of doing online and face-to-face learning so that there is a comparison in providing perceptions.

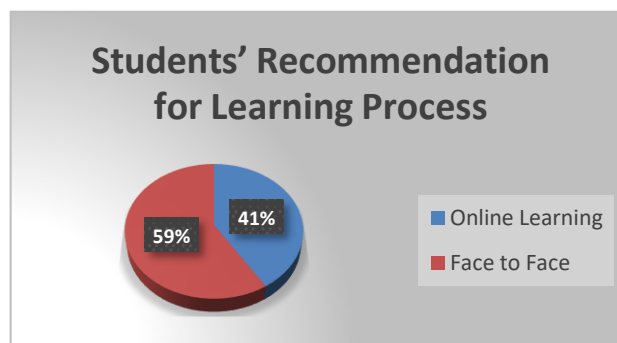**Chart 1.** Students' Recommendation for Learning Process

Chart 1 shows students' recommendations for their learning process, where 41% recommend for online learning and 59% recommend for face to face or onsite learning. The difference in numbers 41 and 59 is not too big or significant, this is seen from the point of view of numbers, but in terms of the amount, it shows that students prefer face-to-face learning. but this data also shows that online learning is not bad, nor does it mean it is not liked by students or is not recommended by students. We all know that signal problems and so on are things that affect the online learning process. As the results of correspondent some of the data below:

Student 1: I think it is less effective. Because bad signals can interfere with the learning process. For example, when it rains, it starts to interfere with signals and electrical outages make it harder to access.

Student 2: The advantage of online learning is that we can take part in learning with time that can be adjusted with other activities of lecturers or students. So, all students can attend online meetings at the time that we agreed.
Student 3: I think online learning is not too effective in teaching and learning proses because there are a lot of differences in feeling when we are learning face to face for example, in group discussion. We cannot control the group online if only via Zoom, we don't know what each person on the group is doing during the discussion. There so many times, based on my experience, I found my friends turn off the camera when our teacher explained the material, and they gave many reasons for that.

Student 4: Online learning makes many things easier, both in terms of self-development and time and efficiency. However, sometimes we don't understand the material provided because there are courses that only enter 3 or 2 times throughout the semester.

Student 5: Accelerated Transformation of Education and online learning that is more flexible and accessible anywhere.
Student 6: I think that since the Coronavirus is online learning, of course, there's a good side to it and a bad side, which I take on the good side of it is that we don't have to go to college to restrict the existing classes and that we can save a lot of roads and rent money if at worst it's the learning we've been following that we can't measure up too well. Second, we can't socialize with classmates or elder siblings and professors. That's my opinion, thank you.

Student 8: Because of this situation, in my opinion online learning is a good method choice for learning. We can learn properly without being afraid about pandemics and the health protocol. As a student it's also really helped us, I mean we don't have to make the cost of transportation and flat rent.

Student 9: I think studying online would be fun because, based on my experience, it turns out it's less interesting not being able to talk directly to each other even though we're now able to communicate through social media, but it's fun to talk in person and have less effective learning.

Student 10: During this pandemic, the only good way is to do online learning. Although a lot of problems with network quality but the learning process remains accomplished. Even if we want to go through college, we can't be forced into the current situation. Online learning can also make us more evolved.

Learning materials must be usable, adaptable, and durable. Masters use it deftly. The facilitator or teacher should ideally be able to use the developed medium. Learning materials are created by modifying the teacher's skills. Undoubtedly, effective learning takes careful planning. How choosing which media to employ for learning will take careful consideration. There won't be a lot of different sorts of media used in learning activities at once, only a handful. The choice of the media must be made for this purpose. It is vital to consider the elements, criteria, and procedures for choosing the medium for the selection of learning materials to be appropriate. Technology is one resource that aids educators in fostering a lively and innovative environment. Utilize current technology, like computers, the internet, and projectors, to transform textbook material into audio-visual content. The child will pay more attention to the provided topic with a strong and engaging presentation. Use technology to experiment or create something new. Teachers can access a variety of knowledge with only one click on a website, which can be tailored to the topic under discussion. There are many websites dedicated to education and information, one of which is the portal keschool.com, which offers a variety of articles on topics including health, education, news, and educational solutions. Because information on the internet is always updated and current, discussions about the topic will be more diversified and always fresh.

Chart 4. E-Learning
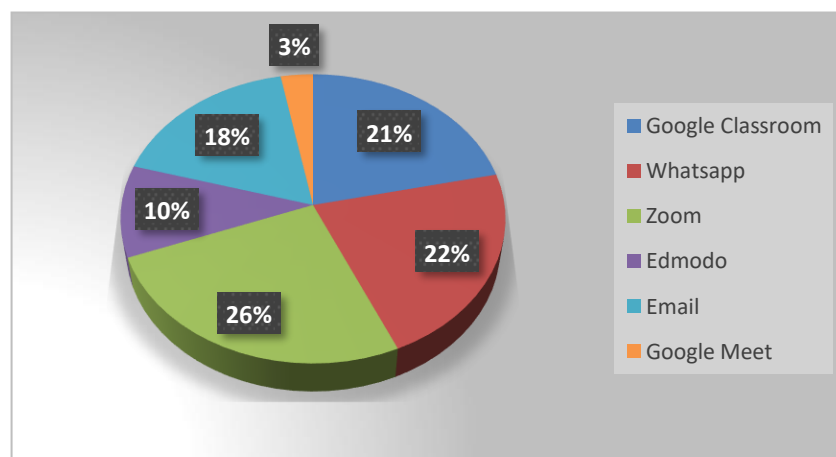
Based on the student's response, the top six e-learning that they used in online learning were Zoom, WhatsApp, Google Classroom, Email, Edmodo, and Google Meet. Though, e-learning that they used it depends on students' condition and the teacher's rules. (Basilaia & Kvavadze, 2020) Stated that online learning can be effective in digitally advanced countries. Which is in Covid-19 pandemic, online learning is not a choice, but it is a must because the government declared that students must learn from home. Any instruction or learning that utilizes electronic networks (LAN, WAN, or the Internet) to deliver learning material, interaction, or direction is referred to as e-learning. There are

many people think of online distance learning as a sort of e-learning. The constraining factors in the e-learning learning system based on the study include quota and network/internet connection, devices used, learning facilities, understanding of course management in e-learning, time constraints in managing e-learning learning, lack of commitment from schools. E-learning learning is very effective for student learning at any time. Teachers and students can communicate during learning via Gmail, WhatsApp, Telegram, or other learning media such as Google Classroom. Teachers can assist students in delivering material. The negative impact of online learning is the network is less supportive, students become less gregarious, students' internet allowance runs out quickly, prices are sky-high, and eye health also declines because of the lack of understanding of the subject taught by teachers. The positive and negative effects of technology, which have an equal impact on changes in human civilization, are like two opposing blades. Technology permeates every part of modern life; hence technological literacy is crucial for society to ensure that technology use is constructive rather than harmful or having a detrimental impact on the social order. All education stakeholders need to study this technology literacy specifically in education, particularly considering its usage as an online learning medium, which is now being pursued. Among the parties involved in education are parents, teachers, schools, and the government, all of whom must comprehend and acknowledge specific elements.

Parents
Since parents will still be held responsible for their own children in the hereafter, raising children is entirely their responsibility. Online PBM activities compel parents to actively participate in their kids' educational pursuits; they learn a lot by having to accompany them. Many parents who accompany their children to school on social media post about their experiences, both good and bad. For instance, it turns out that some parents can't bear it and want their kids to return to school since they find managing their kids to be challenging.

Teachers
Teachers should be aware that their current position as knowledge communicators will eventually be supplanted by a more advanced teacher, specifically a machine teacher, because of online learning. There are so many different media available for learning, so it is not just up to the teacher, yet there are still numerous restrictions. There are several media available today that can serve as teachers; the names "human teachers" and "machine teachers" even exist. A lot of knowledge may be learned via machines; for example, let's imagine that the media is the internet. Technology can act as a teacher; this instructor is now known as a machine teacher. People may rapidly get the information they need online without being constrained by time or geography.

Schools
Schools must be ready for this shift in human civilization as educational institutions. Schools and madrasas must adapt to changes in human behavior that are often inextricably linked to technology. The Covid-19 pandemic's effects have given us great insight into how pointless it seems that schools, madrassas, and even colleges, which have been the hub of education up until now, are now.

Government
The role of the government is crucial in deciding on the national education system's policy. Because national education has the same objective as efforts to construct the nation, all educational institutions must abide by the regulations that they establish. Even though the regulations are not yet legally enforceable, the government swiftly issued a policy addressing the implementation of online learning that must be followed by every educational institution in an emergency circumstance like the one that exists now owing to the Covid-19 outbreak.
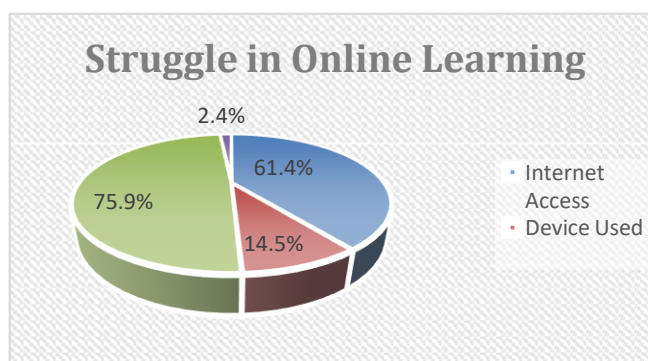
Table 5. Struggle in Online Learning

Table 5 shows the students' struggle with online learning condition and their accessibility to join online learning. There 61.4% of students having struggle with internet access, 14.5% of students having struggle with device used, 75.9% with signal, and 2.4% have nothing struggle. (Smart & Cappel, 2006) stated that there are also potential disadvantages or limitations of online learning. Based on the data above almost all of students have struggle in online learning.

Result disclosure for student participation, the data shows positive perceptions were 33 in 39.76% and negative perceptions were 50 in 60.24%. The majority of them listed the drawbacks or unfavorable opinions on online learning. Online education has several benefits, including the ability to save money and time, be more practical and adaptable, be more appropriate in its approach, be more enjoyable, be easier to record, be more environmentally friendly because it uses less paper, and, finally, be a substitute when social distance is present. Meanwhile, the lack of online learning is the lack of interaction and socialization. Because learning is done online, the intensity of the teacher meeting with students or students interacting with other students will be less. Difficulty Understanding Material. Not all students are able to understand material easily online. Student perspectives on their personal experiences are needed to determine the advantages and disadvantages of online learning. Because ensuring that students have a strong perception and accurate knowledge about the topic is very important. Students who perceive or understand the material correctly will be able to understand the subject matter so that they are able to achieve competence and learning objectives. One thing that is no less important that must be known is that each student has different abilities in understanding lessons and even adjusting to the learning model. (Harsasi, 2015) declared that kids are not prepared for online learning, yet perspectives in table 6 stated that in the online learning process coupled by teacher, students, and internet access. Where teachers and students must be appropriate for the online learning process. (Muthuprasad, Aiswarya, Aditya, & Jha, 2020) stated that to create efficient and fruitful online courses, it is crucial to take learners' preferences and perceptions into account. As a result, students can learn online, but it is the professors' job to ensure that the learning is efficient and productive, regardless of how far away the students are. (Bao,

2020) claimed that research indicates that because of their isolation, kids face a variety of issues, including a lack of desire and conducive learning conditions. In this instance, the researcher needed to observe teachers' perception in addition to students' perception.

This survey was conducted because of the importance of knowing students' responses to online learning. From the results of this survey, it can be used as a reference to the extent of the effectiveness of online learning. Students' perceptions are very important because they are important objects that will receive the negative and positive impacts of this online learning. Even though it offers many advantages, it is undeniable that online lectures also have their own challenges. Knowing the ups and downs that you might experience during this process might help in deciding whether online studying is really for you. Even though it has many advantages, it cannot be denied that online lectures have several limitations and challenges of their own. Many students around the world complain about online lectures because they do not have a fast and stable internet connection. This problem usually occurs in rural or remote areas. This kind of inequality is a real thing in an online college. It may be challenging for you to focus while studying in a laid-back online environment. As a workaround, select a location where you feel most at ease and concentrate on listening to the lecture material. Avoid various distractions that can make it more difficult for you to concentrate, such as smartphone notifications. Since online college allows you to study at your own pace, you may feel that the boundaries between college and personal life are blurring. This can be a problem when you can't find a balance between the two.

CONCLUSION

The pandemic of COVID-19 has impacted the education system such as the learning process. students' perception in the result, almost a half of them not have a positive perception about online learning. Although more than a half the students stated they have trouble with the online learning process, such as bad signals, bored, can't meet friends, they are not focused on learning, they don't understand the material, and they location was not supported for their activity in online learning because they lived in the place like village and hinterland.

These perceptions will be reflected and reviewed by lecturers, parents, and students also, everyone wants this pandemic will be end soon. On that note, we as teachers need to improve and repair the online learning process to be more interesting, and creative, and the learning outcome should be reached. Thus, the most aspect is internet access, but we as teachers can find and solve that problem in another way.

Knowing student responses can be a reference and future reflection for the parties involved in learning, such as teachers, parents, and the government. Students need to express their feelings and experiences. They have the right to acquire knowledge effectively and appropriately. However, many teachers and parents complain that their children are mostly lazy during the online learning process. The study's findings may help guide future research in the field and serve as the foundation for thinking about how to increase and sustain the teaching and learning process without endangering children, teachers, or parents in the future.

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