



## CHANGES IN LEARNING PATTERNS DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC: THE CASE OF INDONESIAN UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

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### Abstract

The primary objective of this research was to assess the educational procedure facilitated by e-learning while identifying the shifts in learning behaviors among Indonesian university students amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The investigation revealed notable modifications in students' learning approaches consequent to the pandemic. Notably, students who were conventionally acclimated to traditional classroom settings were compelled to transition to online learning platforms to mitigate the spread of the virus. Although the alterations prompted by the COVID-19 crisis are acknowledged as challenging, it is imperative to recognize the potential benefits associated with this shift in the educational landscape. The transformation primarily underscores endeavors aimed at enhancing both the instructional quality provided by educators and the learning experience of students within the context of this unprecedented pandemic era.

**Keywords:** Learning patterns, Covid-19 Pandemic

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### INTRODUCTION

Currently, we are faced with a situation where all corners of the world have to fight against an epidemic or a very dangerous virus. The world was hit with new cases of viruses, including a new form of coronavirus (SAR-CoV-2) at the beginning of 2020, and the epidemic was named coronavirus epidemic 2019 (COVID-19) (Yuliana, 2020). The virus is thought to have appeared for the first time in the city of Wuhan, China in August 2019. Then the virus that is spreading and infecting more than one million people worldwide is named the COVID-19 virus or coronavirus. A study published in February 2020, stated that it appears that the coronavirus originated from a bat animal. This virus has successfully mutated from the host's body. However, the coronavirus is not a direct infection from bats but from other infected species from bats and eventually attacks the human body. The Coronavirus that causes COVID-19 can attack anyone. In humans, it usually causes respiratory infections, from the common cold to serious illnesses such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

The presence of this deadly new virus certainly makes the world chaotic. It is undeniable that the coronavirus is shaking human civilization in the world. Every single country through its authority asks its people to stay at home, maintain physical (physical distancing) and social (social distancing) distances, and even carry out lockdowns (regional quarantine) to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Not just an appeal but strict rules and prohibitions for doing activities outside the home. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed suddenly the daily lives of individuals and community activities, bringing about extraordinary changes in all aspects as well, particularly in education. When we thought everything was going right, an invisible virus completely changed the way the world was operating — the education system, the working styles, the family dynamics, and the personal routine.

Almost all aspects of life are affected by this virus as well as economic problems that have the most impact because it touches various levels of society. The education sector is also feeling the impact of this pandemic. While a lot of sectors are impacted because of the pandemic, one of the most crucial changes is in the delivery of content between the teacher and the students. Schools, colleges, and tuition centers are now conducting their classes on Zoom, Google Classroom, or any other medium as found convenient. Several policies have fatal consequences for the wheel of human life. The government's sudden decision to leave or move the learning process from school to home, of course, made many parties confused.

During this pandemic, the evolving situation requires all elements of education to be mindful of reacting, learning, and adapting to many new things. All nations affected by this pandemic have tried and are trying to make the best management to support the students in this time of crisis to continue to learn and be educated. It is because education is one of the fundamental human rights for all. The spread of the coronavirus pandemic in Indonesia makes it appropriate to close all schools and universities and the students have to do "study from home" activities. The closing of the school is advised by the government using certain legal documents: the Republic of Indonesia Minister of Education and Culture's Circular Letter Number 2 of the year 2020 on coronavirus disease (COVID-19) prevention and management in education unit; in the Ministry of Education and Culture; Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Circular Letter No. 3 of 2020 on the prevention of coronavirus disease (Covid-19) in educational units; and the Circular Letter from the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia No. 4 of the year 2020 on the implementation of education policy in the Covid-19 emergency time series. It should be remembered, however, that the closure of schools and universities does not mean that the students and teachers get holiday time at home, as it is a must to carry out their teaching and learning activities from home.

By looking at the above issues, this study aims to find out the changes in learning patterns of Indonesian university students in Indonesia during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## RESEARCH METHOD

In conducting this study, there is a primary source that will be used to collect the data. The study involved 22 respondents who were university students in Lampung, Indonesia. The questionnaire becomes a tool to collect data in research and is processed descriptively. Indicators in related research; Students have changed their study schedule during the pandemic, How does a student change the learning style during Study from Home (SFH), How many hours does student study a day, what kind of Application that student usually use to support their study, the student can practice English Speaking skill using the application used by their teacher, the student can practice English Listening skill using the application used by their teacher, the student can practice English Reading skill using the application used by their teacher, the student can practice English Writing skill using the application used by their teacher, what kind of Social Media Platforms that student often use to study after SFH class, what kind of Media that student use to study (e.g. Mobile Phone, Laptop, Book, etc.), How does the student understand the material given by the teacher, Does student find any challenges while you do SFH Class and how do they overcome the challenges.

The questionnaire is divided into three parts. The first part is about Yes/No questions, then the second part is Multiple Choice and the last questionnaire is about Students' opinions regarding their learning activities.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The result of this study research has been collected through the online questionnaire using Google Forms. The writer has been divided into three sections when making the questionnaire. Based on the result of the distribution of the questionnaires to 22 respondents who are Indonesian University Students from different colleges in Indonesia, here is the following descriptive data are generated.

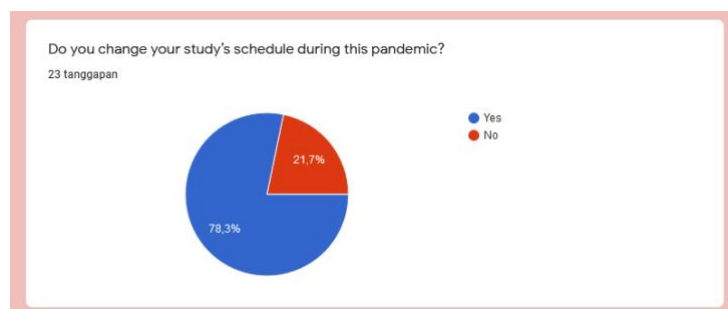


Figure 1. Do students change their study schedules during this pandemic? Yes/No.

Based on Figure 1, it can be seen that according to respondents, the majority of students have had changes in their study schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite the fact that there are still some students who are still on the study schedule they normally do. As we can see in the pie chart above, shows that 79.3% of 22 students in Indonesia have changed their study schedule since the existence of the coronavirus. While there other 21,7% of

the students have no changes in the study's schedule during the COVID-19 pandemic. This further evaluates how the changes affect the sustainability of the learning process.



Figure 2:

- (a) Students can practice English Speaking skills using the application used by the teacher. Yes/No
- (b) Students can practice English Listening skills using the application used by the teacher. Yes/No
- (c) Students can practice English Reading skills using the application used by the teacher. Yes/No
- (d) Students can practice English Writing skills using the application used by the teacher. Yes/No

Based on the results of the research in Figure 2. a, it can be seen that the application used by the teacher in the learning process facilitates students to practice English speaking skills. Students need more oral practice so that they can be more confident to speak and yet this thing definitely would have a great outcome. Then, not only able to practice students' speaking skills but the application used by the teacher can improve students' ability in listening as well (Figure 2.b). Furthermore, according to the respondents, all answered that they can practice English Reading Skills with the application used by the teacher (Figure 2.c). Besides that most of the students agreed that they can practice their English writing skills by studying using the application that the teacher applied (Figure 2.d). According to the results of the research in Figure 2(a), Figure 2(b), Figure 2(c), and Figure 2(d), it can be concluded that the quality of application used by the teacher is quite good. Even though learning is carried out without having face to face, students can still hone and practice to improve the four English language skills.

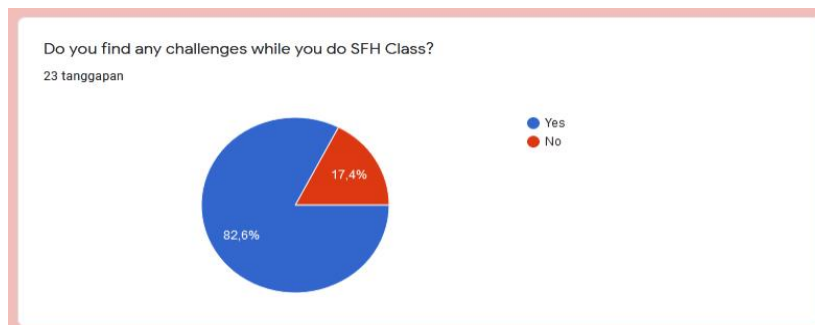


Figure 3: Students find any challenges while doing School From Home (SFH) Class? Y/N

As we know, students at this time having learning activity which is operated via the online system, as the replace face-to-face learning and carried out through the remote process. This was carried out to avoid and split the spread of the COVID-19 virus chain from one to another. By having distance during online teaching, it definitely raises some of the issues that students face, where it takes time for them to adapt to the learning environment online. Based on Figure 6, it can be seen that according to respondents, the majority of students said "Yes" which means that they found challenges in this online learning process.

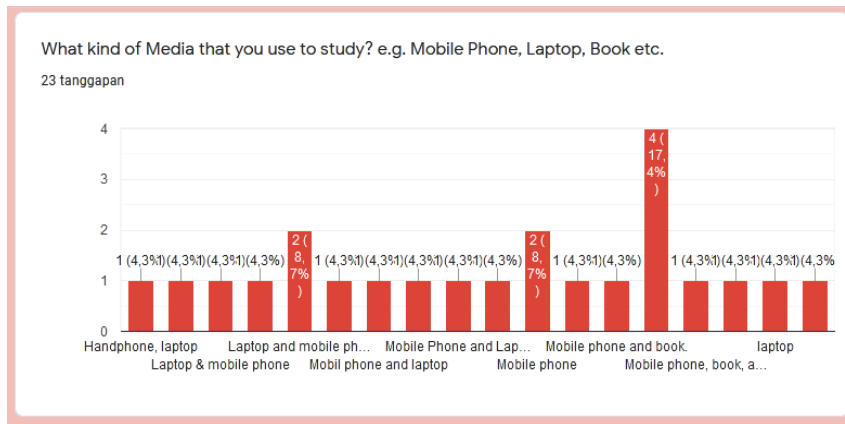


Figure 4: What kind of media that students usually use. ( Mobile Phone, Laptop, Book, etc.)

Based on the result above, we can see that students used a variety of media. Seems like they could be learned through Book, Laptop, Smartphone, Dictionary, and other media to support their learning.

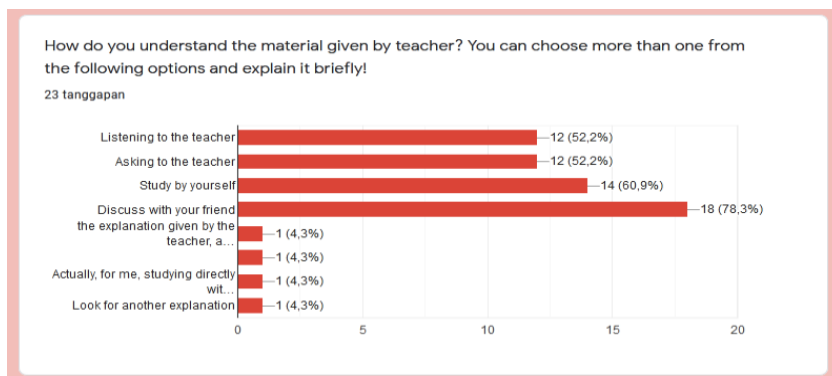


Figure 5: How do students understand the material given by the teacher.

To get a better understanding of the material, students have to work hard and study hard. As the result shows that the students are very creative and active in studying. Most of the respondents choose to have discussed it with a friend regarding the material. However, there are also another ways in understanding the material like listening to the teacher's explanation and asking the teacher directly when something is not clear and sometimes student used to study by their self (Self-Studying) or in other words they learn independently by looking for another explanation through some sources.

Question: How do you change the learning style during Study from Home (SFH)?

- Study by wacthing the video and find out many kind of material that given by the lecturer.
- I change nothing. The patterns is just the same.
- In the current state of the pandemic, learning styles change from learning hours. which usually only occurs during working hours, but during a pandemic like this weekend activities are still filled with learning activities.

- *I try to understand material by reading and discussing it with friends.*
- *I learn more longer than before pandemic because I can repeat the subject every time I want at home.*
- *Actually, there's a lot of changes. It's like, when I was lost or can't find the correct answer, I cant ask the lecturer, although I could ask by the application or via chat, that's just different, it would be much easier to understand when I studied or get the answer directly or face to face with the lecturer. Also, I felt that too many assignments that given to me in a short time of the deadline. I lost my study-friend. A pleasure of studying together, I miss it.*
- *I changed my learning style. Previously met face to face with the lecturer, but now since the pandemic, I and my friends studied online. Mostly using a mobile phone to learning everything. Online class and other activities.*
- *Hmm... I usually write and read books mostly, but while studying from home I mostly use the internet and read books from pdf, etc.*

Based on the results of the research as we can see in the statements above, from the overall answers of the respondents, we can see variations in student learning styles during this coronavirus, from starting to use online sites available on various platforms, then learning and sharing with friends about material that they don't understand, reading more books or pdf, and of course, this is forcing them to get used to independent and creative learning to be able to understand the lessons.

Question: How many hours do you study a day? and what kind of Application do you usually use to support your study?

- *2 hours a day. By using Google, browser, Merriam webster, and YouTube.*
- *3-6 hours per day. I usually use google translate.*
- *3 - 5 hours a day. By Google, Google translate, Merriam-webster and Youtube.*
- *2-7 hours a day and using Google, Google classroom, Youtube, and Whatsapp.*
- *At least 4 hours for 4 "SKS" or more in a day. But beyond that, I think that I studied less than 2 hours a day, not even studying at all.*
- *Many of lecturer using google classroom, and some used WhatsApp.*
- *Not sure, sometimes every time or once in 2 days. Lots of applications could be like Telegram, and of course Google scholar, Youtube, etc.*
- *2-3 hours a day and I use Youtube, Duolingo, Cake.*
- *2 hours or 1 hour but I use Podomoro technic. Duolingo, Cake and U-dictionary.*

As we can see from all the answers above, the average student learning hours lasts for 2 hours, 4 hours even up to 7 hours per day during the pandemic period due to demands in understanding the material and the existence of additional assignments from lecturers. Then, to keep supporting the learning, the student is already active and creative by using some of the digital platforms. Students also mentioned some of the platforms they were familiar with such as Google Scholar, Kamusku, Grammar Test, Youtube, Duolingo, Cake, Telegram, and many other digital platforms that provide an opportunity for the student to study.

Question: What are the challenges you face as a student and how do you overcome them?

- *Most of us would face the same issues as connection problem, hard to comprehend the materials, not really practical. We ask friends that usually understand the material and find out any sources that talk about that material.*
- *Sometime it is hard to understand the material from the video that given by teacher and I am one of the people who don't like reading so in order to understand the material I had to really read even though I didn't like the activity.*
- *If the lecturer who provides the material is not sufficient in explaining and immediately gives the assignment with a very fast deadline. Read more and understand more from the material that has been given and immediately do their job.*
- *The challenge I received was that I could not meet face to face with the lecturer, so I could not fully understand what was being explained online and the way to overcome it is that if I have difficulties, I will ask questions with the lecturer or my friends.*
- *The challenges I got is, I can't Manage my time, because since SFH I always use the internet, and sometime I often waste my time to not study but For looking social media, play the game or listen to music. Overcome : When I have achieved something whether it is a big thing or not. I should reward myself once in a while for doing well. I will take my time to relax( like looking social media, play the game or listen to music).*

- *We actually have a problem with networking, and we can't ask to the teacher directly or sometimes we don't understand what the teacher said but we don't have chance to get the answer clearly. So, we just read again and again more and more, and also try to learn by ourself. We also try to get some understanding from internet*
- *Harder to understand new material that is given by the teacher and my way to overcome that problem ask to the teacher for explained more clearly and repeat the material after SFH. Sometimes I got the bad connection internet and that is a challenge for me to learning. And I must find something ,so that I get good signal and connection.*
- *Assignments that requires student to record their speaking. The quality of the sound is not very good.*

The application of e-learning in learning is intended as technological assistance provided in terms of presenting learning material, a step currently being taken by the government in an effort to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. This certainly requires an adjustment process for students so that learning can take place as expected. Seeing the student's answers above regarding their difficulties with online learning processes, participants faced various problems such as connection constraints that were not always stable so that students would miss a material, then constraints with such a short time that students had little opportunity to ask questions or discuss and so on. However, students do not immediately give up on the situation they also find various ways to overcome this problem when they do not understand the teacher's explanation, Students choose to study with peers, and some take the initiative by browsing through the internet, or looking for sources of information on various social media sites to support student learning needs.

## **CONCLUSION**

From the results of the research, it can be concluded that student has changed their learning patterns during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Students who are initially accustomed to direct learning inevitably have to learn online to prevent transmission of the coronavirus. If we are aware of the positive side of changing the learning paradigm in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is more directed at efforts to improve the quality of teachers and students in the learning process. The understanding of students who study online with those who learn face-to-face is very different. E-learning becomes a stimulus that challenges students to know more about the teaching material being discussed. Besides that, the students' study time is also flexible. Moreover, although students are required to adapt to online learning where they encounter various problems such as unstable connections, students are required to be wiser and more active. like when they do not understand the explanation from the teacher, students will look for other ways such as discussing with friends or finding information themselves through various digital platforms such as Google, Youtube, Telegram, and other applications to support students' understanding of the material.

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