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Alternative Media in Supporting Learning in Indonesia During The Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui tingkat pemahaman dosen dan mahasiswa khususnya perguruan tinggi di Indonesia terhadap pemakaian media alternative yang berupa video converence dalam menunjang perkuliahan di Indonesia pada tengah wabah virus corona (covid-19) pada saat ini. Adapun media alternative yang dimaksud yaitu Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, dan Discord, dimana masing-masing media tersebut memiliki fungsi yang berbeda namun untuk mencapai tujuan yang sama. Mampu menunjang perkuliahan di Indonesia pada tengah wabah virus corona (covid-19) dengan menggunakan media alternatif seperti video conference. Pada penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif yang mana pengertian dari pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif itu sendiri ialah penelitian yang menggunakan data kualitatif kemudian dikembangkan secara deskriptif, jenis penelitian ini merupakan gabungan dari pendekatan kualitatif dan deskriptif. Adapun subjek dari penelitian ini adalah seluruh dosen dan mahasiswa pada perguruan tinggi di Indonesia, yang mana pada penelitian tersebut jelas bahwa video conference sangat banyak digunakan dan memberikan peran sebagai penunjang proses pembelajaran pada tingkat perguruan tinggi yang ada di Indonesia pada tengah wabah virus corona.

Kata Kunci: Media Alternatif, Perkuliahan, Pandemi Covid-19.

Abstract

This study aims to determine the level of understanding of lecturers and students, especially universities in Indonesia, on the use of alternative media in the form of video conferences in supporting lectures in Indonesia during the current coronavirus (covid-19) outbreak. The alternative media in question are Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, and Discord, where each of these media has a different function but to achieve the same goal that can support lectures in Indonesia during the coronavirus (covid-19) outbreak by using alternative media such as video conferencing. This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach where the meaning of the descriptive qualitative approach itself is research that uses qualitative data and is then developed descriptively, this type of research is a combination of qualitative and descriptive approaches. The subjects of this study were all lecturers and students at universities in Indonesia, in which it was clear that video conferencing was widely used and played a role in supporting the learning process at the university level in Indonesia during the coronavirus outbreak.

Keywords: Alternative Media, Lectures, Covid-19 Pandemic.

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INTRODUCTION

At this time, Indonesia is faced with a phenomenon that is closely related to health, where there is the spread of the coronavirus outbreak (Covid-19) which is very wary of by all groups (Herliandry et al., 2020). Now, this is a challenge, especially in educational institutions, especially in universities, here universities are required to remain creative even though it is carried out at home (Astini, 2020). With creativity done at home, a media or application can be used which is an alternative way to stay creative to study, not only at universities but some people cannot carry out activities as usual (Yánez Benítez et al., 2021).

In Indonesia itself there are already many patients exposed to the virus outbreak (covid-19), where on March 24, 2020, there have been 686 patients exposed to the virus (covid-19). can cure patients exposed to the virus (covid-19) and cannot break the chain of spreading the coronavirus (Winugroho et al., 2021). This makes many people worry where in this situation people are required to continue to meet their needs. During the current pandemic, you must consider between work that can be done at home and those that will be done outside the home in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

The President has given instructions to carry out activities such as work at home, carry out worship at home, and studying from home, in activities which are carried out at home cannot be separated from the monitoring of Covid-19 health workers who always urge the whole community to maintain cleanliness at all times. washing hands before and after carrying out activities, maintaining a distance between people, and staying away from crowds when outside the home, in this case, the government issued a regulation that the implementation of learning should be carried out online or online in order to avoid direct contact which results in the spread of coronavirus transmission (I. Utama & Rai, 2020).

Lecture activities carried out online do not discourage students and lecturers from continuing to demand and seek knowledge, many things can be done if lectures are conducted online, however, this also results in pros and cons to students and lecturers where some of them respond that lectures conducted online can reduce the spread of the coronavirus because there is no direct contact between lecturers and students, some others think that online lectures can provide convenience where lectures can be done anywhere but there is a problem with the internet network which is often damaged which results in delays in the process lectures.

Some lecturers often have difficulty in the lecture process where lecturers have to choose learning media that are suitable for use during lectures considering and considering there are courses that must be carried out face-to-face through online lectures, if done via WhatsApp only then only obtain information through group chat and voice notes only and cannot see each other's faces (Sidebang et al., 2021). Therefore, lecturers are very careful in finding and considering what media are suitable to be used as media in the online learning process. So, the learning process can still be continued without any obstacles, including the distance between lecturers and students.

One alternative way of taking education at this time is using video conferencing, where in the current pandemic many use global development technology, many universities have conducted lectures at home which have made many applications used in the form of online meetings to keep active in lectures, video conference alternative media is a shortcut in the use of learning media, which relies on a choice of video applications that are only installed and connected to the internet network without having to think about the distance needed (Argaheni, 2020). Therefore, the government provides a free wifi network and free data packages to support the online lecture process (Sabiq & Sa'dullah, 2020).

The use of video conferences can make it easier for us to conduct online lectures, can be done with virtual face-to-face and can save costs when compared to holding meetings in person, in using video conferences sustainably, we will get accommodation so we save on large-scale usage (Rustaman, 2020). The things that can be done in using this alternative media are holding regular meetings, holding lecture processes, holding seminars and workshops, and conducting percentages and interviews to achieve certain goals (Camilleri & Camilleri,

2021). Students are also enthusiastic about participating in the learning process because through very interesting video conferences, they are used with guidance from lecturers in guiding the course of the lecture process (Asmaroini, 2021).

Video conferences are very useful to use at this time because they can bring together many people with various needs, as is the case in universities where the lecture process is carried out at their respective homes which are far apart, but by using video conferences as an alternative medium for everything hindering the lecture process will feel light, activities such as seminars can be carried out both with low capacity and high capacity where the difference is only in the use of the internet network in every region in Indonesia and the world, but especially in the Indonesian region which is still experiencing ups and downs in network voltage internet (Subekti, 2021).

The kinds of video conferences that can be used are Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, and Discord, each of which has its advantages and disadvantages depending on its use, because in this case, you have to go through special training to understand it and do it repeatedly every day so that the use of alternative media can be used following the desired procedure and that has been set by a large audience (R. I. Utama, 2021). So that the use of alternative media can be used properly and correctly without any obstacles that will have side effects for lecturers and students (Ekawardhana, 2020).

In this study, using a descriptive qualitative approach to find out how important the position of alternative video conference media is in supporting lectures in Indonesia amid the coronavirus (covid-19) outbreak by using a questionnaire via Google form. So it is clear that video conferencing supports the lecture process during the current pandemic by using several media such as Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, and Discord, each of which has its advantages and disadvantages and has the following features: features that are different from each other, where the application is equally used in the online learning process and becomes a support for education, especially in universities in Indonesia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Video Conference

Video conferencing software is an information technology that can be used by users who are in different positions or areas to conduct face-to-face meetings without having to move to the same location as in the current condition where activities such as work and study are carried out from their respective homes. At the end of 2019 the outbreak of coronavirus disease (covid-19) where all public places, offices, and schools were closed caused all teaching and learning activities to be transferred at home using video conferencing.

Alternative Media to Support Lectures in Indonesia

Alternative media are forms of media that are out of sync with other forms of media that are more dominated in terms of content, production methods, or distribution methods. The media used, such as media in general, can have many forms of access, such as print, audio, video, internet, or street art. Alternative media means new types of media that are currently being studied by scientists in the field of communication that are widely used in the learning process during the current pandemic.

Usually, in face-to-face lectures, you can use media such as print media, namely books, both guides from lecturers and papers made by students, but at this time lectures are carried out online where lecturers and students use video, audio, and internet media such as using directly connected applications. with an internet network, namely Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, and Discord which can help support the educational process at the lecture level, especially in Indonesia.

Corona Virus Outbreak (Covid-19) Against Education

Coronavirus (Covid-19) is a branch of the virus that causes disease in humans and animals. In humans, it generally causes respiratory tract infections, ranging from the common cold to focused diseases such as Middle

East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS). This outbreak was first reported to the WHO on December 31, 2019, and the first country to be confirmed was China, to be precise in the city of Wuhan, Indonesia was no exception, Indonesia was also part of one of the countries affected by the Covid-19 Corona Virus pandemic, this was confirmed After President Joko Widodo and Minister of Health Terawan Agus Putranto, on Monday, March 2, 2020, they stated that two people in the country had been exposed to the virus.

The President and the Indonesian government asked the public to remain vigilant and reduce social mobility, where the president and the government have determined to carry out activities at home such as working and studying from home so that education in Indonesia continues to progress and develop. Therefore, the coronavirus outbreak has greatly affected education in Indonesia, especially at the lecture level.

METHODS

At this time video conferencing is very widely used in the learning process, especially at the university level in Indonesia (Santoso & Sari, 2020). Various kinds of video conferencing applications can be used such as Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, and Discord, each of which plays an important role in supporting the lecture process at universities in Indonesia during the coronavirus outbreak (covid-19). 19) in accordance with the main functions of the use of each application, which differ in the variety of features that the application has and cannot be separated from the advantages and disadvantages of each application when used in the lecture process conducted during online lectures.



This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach where the meaning of the descriptive qualitative approach itself is research that uses qualitative data and then is developed descriptively, this type of research is a combination of qualitative and descriptive approaches (Yuliani, 2018). This study focuses more on the current situation and emphasizes only the meaning and results. The subjects of this study were all lecturers and students at universities in Indonesia, in which it was clear that video conferencing was widely used and played a role in supporting the learning process at the university level in Indonesia during the coronavirus (covid) outbreak.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of research collected using google from there are several applications that are often used in the learning process, especially universities in Indonesia, as for the applications in question, namely Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, and Discord, the following is the researchers' description of each the application:

The Zoom Meet application is an application that is very beneficial for long-distance communication needs for humans, especially for lecturers and students, the initial use of this application was when a pandemic emerged that required us to be active at home whose presence made it easier to convey learning information (Firman et al., 2021). Supporting features provided directly by the Zoom Meet application are images and audio, video recording features, schedule reminders, discussion rooms or chat fields, authentication profiles, waiting

rooms, lock meetings, webinars at Zoom Meet, then there is a breakout room feature which each feature has its function (Kristóf, 2020).

The description of each function of these features, among others, The image and audio quality features here must be good because this feature is the main feature when using Zoom Meet where the images and audio that are displayed and heard are very clear. Then the video recording feature where this feature can be controlled by the host, whether this feature can be activated by all participants or can only be activated by the room maker. The schedule reminder feature where this feature is already included in the zoom meet whose presence can be a reminder so you don't forget if there will be a lecture meeting. The chat room or discussion room itself is also available directly in the zoom meeting which is used to assist the discussion for all participants who are in the zoom meeting. The limit of participants who are accommodated in the zoom meeting is a separate factor for users because in each class there are many students. The profile authentication feature where this feature is very useful because only registered participants can attend lectures so that lectures are managed properly. The waiting room feature can be used by all lecture participants to enter the Zoom meeting room without being approved by the host. The lock meeting feature is a feature that prevents students from entering the room because it has not been approved by the host or due to delays (Singh & Awasthi, 2020).

Zoom meeting is a relatively new technological development pioneered by a communication technology company from the United States which is designed in such a way as to facilitate the process of remote work, especially at universities in Indonesia (John, 2020). In the Zoom Meet application there are advantages and disadvantages as follows:

The advantages of the Zoom Meet application include:

1. Has a large room capacity and a large number of participants

If you have a paid Zoom meet, the room capacity and participant limit is large, the zoom meet can contain 1,000 access for participants in one discussion room, as well as 10,000 participants in a forum that is held directly. So this is what makes Zoom Meet widely used in the lecture process.

2. Has a variety of supporting features.

The features in question are images and audio, video recording features, schedule reminders, discussion rooms or chat fields, authentication profiles, waiting rooms, lock meetings, webinars at zoom meet, then there is a breakout room feature where each feature has its function.

3. Have a high level of access quality.

For Zoom Meet users, things like this are a positive side because the quality of the access provided by the Zoom Meet application is very possible in the lecture process directly with clear image and audio features and can adjust to needs in the convenience of discussion.

The weaknesses of the Zoom Meet application include:

1. Waste of internet data quota usage.

Wasteful use of internet data is a weakness for users of the Zoom Meet application, how do we not both know that in using the Zoom Meet application, it has very wide access so it requires a lot of internet coverage, but it is not possible for un-limited data users or those who use wifi that only needs to be accessed and you only need to pay monthly. It all depends on the individual user of the Zoom Meet application by using it wisely.

2. Unavailability of Indonesian language.

The Zoom Meet application does not provide Indonesian language features to support live broadcasts on the Zoom Meet application. This can be a drawback for the Zoom Meet application, maybe for those who understand the use of the Zoom Meet application by using the English language it is easy for them, but for beginners who do not understand using the ZoomMeet application and use English then it can be difficult for users of this application.

The Google Meet application was first launched in March 2017 where this application appears as a video conference with a maximum of 30 participants, which is defined as a company-friendly application that can be

accessed via Android, web, or iOS. In the current covid-19 pandemic, the use of Google Meet has grown to 30 factors from January and April 2020 (Rustaman, 2020). The main benefit of the presence of Google Meet is to help make it easier for someone to carry out the work process, especially the learning process carried out at universities in Indonesia which are carried out by distance learning at this time (Sulistio, 2021).

The Google Meet software has the latest features in June 2021 including features in the form of effects, videos, and augmented masks that can be used via Android owned by lecturers and students (Sawitri, 2020). The new feature in question is the hand-raising feature where the aim is to make it easier for participants to see other participants who will provide questions or options for a learning process, then the add text feature to live streaming, cross-domain live streaming available with google workspace revisions, recording feature with the revision of google workspace, new admin settings to join the learning process, then new updates for hand raises on desktops and laptops easily access all the feature services that are already provided by the Google Meet software.

Google Meet is a video communication service developed directly from Google. This application is a communication software used at the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic, the limit for using Google Meet is for 60 minutes of continuous use. The procedures for using google meet are: search google meet in the search column on google, enter an account or create a new account according to what we want, click join or start meeting, write a title according to the material we are studying at that time, give access in the form of permission use of microphones and cameras, then share the lecture link with students who were attending lectures at that time (Randi, 2020). In using Google Meet, there are advantages and disadvantages of them.

The advantages of the Google Meet application software include:

1. Has flexibility in free form and paid form.

The free form of the Google Meet service can accommodate up to 100 participants, while the paid form can accommodate more than 250 participants. The free usage has a time limit of 60 minutes while the paid use can have more time in its use.

2. Integrated on google services.

Google meet can also be connected to other googles such as google calendar, google contacts then google meet has tools that are useful for productivity and interactivity, such as the share screen feature that helps participants to present papers and powerpoints that have been made.

3. Has convenience in user experience and user interface.

The use of google meet is very easy by entering the room by clicking on the link that has been shared, the overall appearance of the platform is very good, so the use is simple with the experience of using the google workspace.

4. Video and audio quality and security.

The use of google meet can set the capacity resolution as desired, the security on google meet is already perfect. Performance in Google Meet remains strong comparable to Zoom Meet or Microsoft Teams.

The weaknesses found in the Google Meet application software include:

1. Has relatively limited features when compared to other applications.

It needs to be further improved on the use of the features found on Google Meet so that it can compete with other applications in the online lecture process.

2. Burden hardware and system resources.

When using the Google Meet software, there is no special or original desktop, by making video calls to five people, a dual-core processor with 3GB of RAM will be charged.

Based on the advantages and disadvantages of the Google Meet software, there are pros and cons where the selection of the tools icon on Google Meet which is paid is the same as payments made to other products

and services, with the weakness of this feature, many competitors offer the feature, but how to use Google Meet is an alternative solution in supporting online lectures, especially in Indonesia.

Skype software is a free downloadable P2P (peer-to-peer) technology communication program to provide a high-quality internet-based and connected voice communication platform to various people around the world. Skype can make and receive traditional calls with Porto, get voicemail and with other skype users, can talk for free. Skype technology was discovered by entrepreneurs Niklas Zennstrom and Janus Friis (Azzam et al., 2019). Skype software is designed as simple as possible so that everyone can use Windows software and telephone because this software can work very well using pocket PC personal computer operating systems, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Vista, Pocket PC, Mac OS X, and Linux. So through this device, it is also practical to use and not make it difficult for users (Sama, 2014).

The features found on Skype include Skype calling which is useful as a maker of calling by telephone as a result it is cheaper and easier, video calling is used to make video calls so that we can clearly see the other person talking, chat groups that can make it easy to use chat or instant messaging (IM), using all participants, especially students at universities in Indonesia directly (Surahman, n.d.). Conference calls that can be used by the other party using a conference call using more than one friend at a time as desired. Profile settings used in the form of profiles can help lecturers and students find contact with each other. Quickfilter and speed-dial, we can use this to find Skype and chat relationships, and can also make calls quickly without waiting a long time. Import relationships that can connect lecturers and students by only needing to look for addresses or data to find them, Outlook contacts with this contact, lecturers, and students can view and call in the specified Microsoft Outlook.

Skype has several advantages that make it much in demand by many people, Global, and local communication is more efficient through communication via voice or video conferencing. As a model, in 2007 the comparison in calling from Indonesia to America was Rp. 6,640, -/min while using Skype, this communication is free for fellow Skype users. but it becomes paid If skype is used to make calls to mobile phones, then we will be served at a cost of approximately Rp. 1,593/min and a residential telephone for Rp. 423/min (Karabulut & Correia, 2008).

The advantages of Skype software are:

1. Has better sound quality.

Skype has better sound quality, probably because the Skype work team managed to control the resources available on the network so that the call success and quality on the Skype network increased. exceeds POTS (Plain Old Telephony System) levels. Even without using expensive resource centers, even just using the simplified software this system allows many people to apply it very easily.

2. Has a Traversal Firewall and NAT (Network Address Translation).

Decentralized global User Search data and tools are generally controlled as long as the senders are also recipients of instant messages or communication software that requires data forms and aims for successful correlation between end-users. By using this, the users end up having an inactive username. Because IP addresses tend to change. The cause of this change occurs when a user changes location or can try to reconnect to the network using a forward IP address.

3. There is intelligent traffic direction (intelligent routing).

Skype can direct coded calls through all possible effective routes and using all available resources, Skype ensures that multiple lines of permanent contact are open. So, moving forward the path will move to determine the best path at that time. This is what makes Skype direct the attention of many people, especially lecturers and college students in Indonesia. Due to its impact in reducing connection delays and improving call quality on the network.

4. Has good security.

Skype sets a code for every instant message and call made using one end of the line. It aims to protect user privacy. This coding is also very necessary because all calls or exchanges of information are channeled using Internet facilities for publication.

This software is very popular among users of remote communication sense features (Gray et al., 2020). So it is not surprising anymore if lecturers and students conduct online lectures using this application, where the Skype software can make calls with aporisma 70 users at once and has good voice quality (Santoso & Sari, 2020).

Webex Applications is an American company association that develops and sells web conferencing and video conferencing software. The company was formed in 2007 after Cisco Systems acquired Webex. The company's office is located in Milpitas, California (Handarini & Wulandari, 2020). Webex Meetings is a face-to-face application, where people can do audio and video conferencing, web conferencing, and also share content that will be presented, content can be in the form of images, audio, video, or software on individual devices. For join meetings, participants using Desktop/Notebooks can join via a browser, so there is no need to install an application. Participants who use mobile phones need to install the Webex Meetings.

The primary features of Webex Meetings include Breakout Sessions, which allows you to create a small meeting room in the primary meeting room application (Akiyama et al., 2018). So it is possible to create small group meetings for discussions to find out more complete information on how to use this feature. Live Streaming is where users can live stream to Facebook, YouTube, and other streaming sites using this feature easily when they are in a meeting (Thanoun, 2021). Remove Background Noise with AI technology from Cisco, Webex Meetings can distinguish the user's voice from the sound around him. As a result, Webex will eliminate the annoying sound in real-time so that users are permanently comfortable while doing lectures. Recording users can record meeting sessions, re-watch or show meeting recordings to other participants (Dinata1 et al., 2020).

The advantages of using the Webex application include:

1. HD Video Quality

The first advantage that Cisco Webex has is that this software will provide satisfactory services to its users with HD (high definition) video displays. So, when lecturers and students are in an activity or are communicating via video, don't worry about the quality of a video being bad or being said to be blurry. So lecturers and students don't have to worry about adjusting the display or thinking that the video provided by Cisco Webex is in a low-pixel state so it's blurry.

2. Mobile Friendly

Webex is a video conferencing software that is easy to use, even people who are new to a smartphone or cell phone will have no problem when using Cisco Webex for the first time. In addition, this application also does not have to require a complicated and confusing registration that takes up a lot of time, all we need is to have a Gmail account or other email that will be used as someone else's Webex account.

3. Easy to share screen with everyone.

The advantage of Cisco Webex is that it's easy to share screens with everyone. Cisco Webex is a very flexible application in sharing a video or live broadcast to various other media. That way it is very easy to know the state or activities of a person in a video. So we don't have to worry about sharing videos with whom and how. At Cisco Webex meetings have been prepared and already exist, it's just us who make the best of it.

The disadvantages of the Webex application include:

1. Not very well known

The first disadvantage that Cisco Webex has is that the software is not widely known by many people, so no matter how good it is, it will not be useful if no one uses it or uses it.

2. More data-consuming

The third disadvantage of Cisco Webex is that this software requires large internet data. With the live video feature, automatically more data is needed, but if we use a wifi service then there are no problems about running out of internet data or quota. So we should use the data. So it is certain that if lecturers and students do not use wifi, the quota will be drained a lot if we keep doing it.

The Discord application is a platform that allows users to send chat, pictures, audio, video, and even share screens. Discord was first released to the public in May 2015. This application is widely used by gaming content creators who do live streaming. The origin of Discord comes from America (Rakhmawan et al., 2020). Discord comes from the thoughts of Jason Citron. Previously he had formed a communication platform for gamers called OpenFeint, then sold it for US\$ 104 million (1.5 trillion). This application can be used for the lecture process for universities (Tjahjadi et al., 2021).

Some of the reasons people use discord are, Cross-Platform, Discord is available inclusively for PC and mobile needs. You can search for Discord on the Google Play Store and App Store or download it for personal computers. Guaranteed security issues, Discord guarantees the safety of everyone who uses it. Its servers are encrypted, as a result, every incoming message from its respective IP address will be guaranteed security (Absor, 2020). Then it has millions of users, especially during the current pandemic, the number is increasing (Fauzi, 2020).

From the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that in online lectures there are still many alternative media such as video conferencing that can support lectures, especially during the coronavirus outbreak (covid-19), where the application is used according to the needs of lecturers and students in conducting the lecture process, with the existence of These alternative media make education in Indonesia not dead and continue to pursue technology that is growing day by day.

CONCLUSIONS

In the research above, it can be concluded that the lecture process during the current pandemic needs alternative media, while the media that can be used are Zoom Meet, Google Meet, Skype, Webex, and Discord, where each media has a different function but to achieve the same goal. Able to support lectures in Indonesia during the coronavirus (covid-19) outbreak by using alternative media such as video conferencing.

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach where the meaning of the descriptive qualitative approach itself is research that uses qualitative data and is then developed descriptively, this type of research is a combination of qualitative and descriptive approaches. The subjects of this study were all lecturers and students at universities in Indonesia, in which it was clear that video conferencing was widely used and played a role in supporting the learning process at the university level in Indonesia during the coronavirus outbreak.

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