General Overview on the Daily Conducts at the Graduate Programs of Universitas Kristen Indonesia during Covid-19 Pandemic

by Bintang R. Simbolon

PROCEEDING

"Revisiting the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education"

Friday, September 18, 2020 & Friday, October 9, 2020

Department of Management of Education
Study Program Graduate Program
Universitas Kristen Indonesia

PROCEEDINGS

"Revisiting the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education"

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PROCEEDINGS

"Revisiting the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education"

Greetings from The Chair!

First of all, let us thank to our God, the Almighty, for His blessing for us, and we believe because of His grace, we had the opportunity to organize International Webinar, which theme "Revisiting the Teaching and Learning in Higher Education", which was held on September 18, 2020 and October 9, 2020.

Highly appreciation to all the speakers in this webinar, from Universitas Kristen Indonesia and specially to Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela (Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Thailand), Prof. Dr. Zenaida Quesada Reyes (Philippine Normal University, The Philippines), Dr. Chih-Hung Yang (Cheng Shui University, Taiwan) and Dr. Norfishah Binti Mat Rabi (Universitas Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia).

We believe all the topics that already presented in that webinar will give beneficial and contribute to the development of education specially in higher education.

We also give appreciation and thank to Dr. Bintang Simbolon, Director of Graduate Program and Dr. Lisa Kailola, Director of International Office Universitas Kristen Indonesia, which have given all supports to make this webinar runs successfully.

May God bless us all!

Best Regard,

October, 2020
Chairman of the committee

Dr. Dra. Mesta Limbong. M.Psi

DAFTAR ISI

General Overview on the Daily Conducts at the Graduate Programs of Universitas Kristen Indonesia during Covid-19 Pandemic

Bintang Simbolon, Vetresia Rega
Universitas Kristen Indonesia (Indonesia)

Abstract

This paper is written due to many ways of analyses and evaluating the impacts of many limitations caused by Covid-19 pandemic that spread all over the world, especially starting from March 2020. Inevitably impacts also happened at Graduate Programs. Facts that taken to be the bases of writing are taken from the daily activities as monitored through many units of activities which resulted to the learning dynamics up to the day of writing. The contents of writing are structured in accordance with the three dharma (dedication) of Graduate Programs as stipulated by the National Education System Law. Those are teaching activities, research activities and public responsibility activities. In all of the general overview it was found out that even though there are many limitations difficulties, and troubles caused by the situation, some advantages also appeared. The conclusions for teaching activities are the urgent efforts either by students or lecturers to grasp latest technology are very important, cost reduction and efforts minimization, chances for developing learning line are opened to be discussed in the future. For research activities the enhancement of better communication services by the library are very important. These is due to the efforts of providing all data required by students, lecturers and everybody. For the public responsibility activities it is concluded that the arrangement of good and constructive transformations are needed to be found by all parties.

Keywords: Covid-19, teaching activities, research activities, public responsibility activities

INTRODUCTION

The management team of the Graduate Programs of Universitas Kristen Indonesia is now running the second year of their duties*. Unfortunately, since last semester (March 2020), the whole components and structure of management, as well the rest of the world, are facing great difficulties due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been happening now for seven (7) months. This situation forces the management team of the Graduate Programs of UKI to work harder in ensuring that the whole activities can be running as expected, in accordance to the

authorized missions and targets. Activity rhythms must always be periodically reviewed and restructured.

There are many difficult things resulted which must be tackled as thorough as possible, but behind those difficulties, there are also some positive things that, if handled properly, will potentially bring good things for the future. This general overview is meant to capture the impacted areas of the Graduate Programs of UKI that have distrupted the ways of doing things. Essentially, the daily conducts, together with the perspective on the negative and positive outcomes in accordance with the three dharma dedication of higher education of Indonesia.

DISCUSSION

In higher education, there are three dharma (dedications) that consists of teaching activities, research activities and public responsibility activities.

1. Teaching Activities

The entire teaching activities are facing difficulties in performing complete direct learning, which has been in place since the start of it all. The traditional, usual face-to-face teaching consists of physical gestures, direct explanation, instant questioning and answering, and puts an emphasis on emotions and word accentuation or tones. These very essential components are not able to be provided now, which is a major disruption to what we have known and mastered thus far. Today, we are forced to switch from direct learning to distance learning.

Of course the lessons are still able to be performed by way of online execution, but our students usually absorb the learning through direct teaching. Not all students are ready yet to receive the essence of learning through distance learning. We must never forget that in giving the best teaching, either students or lecturers must recognize each other personally. And especially for students of graduate programs, the extent and sharpness of study absorption is no longer merely about defining the basics of the study, but more to the deeper analysis and exploitation of practices in the field, and the sinergies of various kinds of study and knowledge.

Therefore, it is esensial for the students to inherit many ways of thinking and approaches from their professors. On the other thing, the lecturers are not yet instantly able either to perform distance teaching because so far they have been conducting the teaching directly in the classroom facing all students. Technology does provide the face to face discussion with applications such as Zoom, Teams, Google Meet, etc. However, there are still incompleteness felt and things missing while using those applications. Especially when some of the lectures have already, for so many years, found special art in explaining some learning matters, including providing teaching instruments that are usually best explained by direct learning.

To attempt to execute good learning nowadays using online tools, the availability of technology capacity requires money, extra effort in refilling bandwith and quota, and especially in ensuring the quality of the signals and network. Often, failure in addressing these preconditions lead to the lower absorption of the teachings, hence ineffectiveness. A very different atmosphere from the usual conduct is the process of supervisory. Such as for thesis, papers, any kinds of strengthening and widening the scope of thinking of students, and special skill enrichment. This is a must, rather than everything performed online through screen. The data shows that the number of students promoted/graduated last semester tends to decrease, with one of the programs shows the decrease of 50%.

But thanks to the situation, distance learning reduces the difficulties of students to attend the class, as now they need less preparation time to go to the school, therefore the late attendance to the class. Learning from home allows both students and lectures to have simpler preparations and executions. The learning done by Graduate Programs of UKI before the pandemic hit includes mostly students who lead a busy lifestyle in Jakarta, spanning across various locations. Jakarta is a very huge city with congested traffic everywhere, especially during late afternoon and early evening, which is when most students are required to attend classes at the Graduate Programs of UKI. Because of that, it is inevitable for students to show up late at class.

As previously touched that majority contexts of the studies at Graduate Programs are more to the cross and deeper analysis of various knowledges, containing multiple rich discussions, coming late to class is a big disadvantage for students. Even worse when the traffic forces them to miss the class entirely. But now, as technology provides the possibility of study from home, these disadvantages of tardy attendance can easily be overcome.

Through this difficult condition, thankfully the management has also been able to perform effective coordination and teamwork with the available technology. The effort to have a wider view of knowledge is also still attainable, with the ease of coming together with long distance contacts. We are very lucky that we are able to have a varying degree of valuable webinars from different remote sources. Last week, for example, we had a professor from Taiwan strengthen the students, lecturers, and alumni of the Graduate Programs of UKI through his talk about the advantage of online learning nowadays. Many of us see the big benefits coming from this kind of strengthening. We plan for more webinars like this. For instance, two weeks from now we will have the webinar by speakers from three countries (Thailand, the Philippines, and Malaysia) who will share Flexible Learning and Pedagogy online in pandemic era. They are invited for free from many countries. Reducing extra efforts of working preparations, traveling vehicles, traveling time. Formerly these kinds of activities need much more preparations, effort, cost and good coordination with other parties.

2. Research Activities

From all activities, one of the biggest difficulties is the lack of access to the library. Of cource some sources can still be obtained through online media, but this still falls short on the experience compared to when we are in the library. In the library, various books and literature are available and we may choose what we need. We can then easily find cross searching between books. We can also put in the desk and open more than one book at a time and easily search pages book by book. Moreover, it is very easy to open and compare the contents of certain books

from newest edition the previous, some editions in the back and the old edition, etc., to see what has been changed over the years.

This is not the case for online media. It takes a lot longer to do cross-referencing and everything is limited by one screen at a time. This is the major disadvantage of not being able to visit a physical library. Another difficulty is in obtaining the data for the research, especially primary data. If the objects analysis are human, primary data can still be done by spreading questionnaires to some people through online approaching (by google form). Or a little chance to do qualitative analysis, or interviews by approaching people using health protocols. But if the analysis objects are not people / human, obtaining the data is a lot more difficult due to the limited situation where we can't easily approach the objects.

Fortunately, the secondary data obtaining is now made easier. Because of the pandemic, companies and other resources tend to also store every valuable data to public in online media, making it more accessible for civitas academica who are now limited to only online media as a place to gather data. Therefore, we have to say that now it requires less effort in obtaining secondary data.

3. Public Responsibilities

Usually contribution to public is proven to be well done when direct contacts are provided. We can imagine how difficult it is to give a change of public life quality without direct contact. Pandemic era reduces much possibility for such, meanwhile public responsibilities are still demanded. It is difficult to expect the successful impact by only doing the online executions. Cultivating contents of change will not be able to be done only within a short approach, especially online. Even more for programs where the changing force need more practices and direct interventions. Ideally, to reach the maximum beneficial result, public must see actions through repetition of online efforts. The possibility of post communication must also be opened or therefore a repetition of conducts are needed, to provide people with knowledge/skill adequately.

The good thing is, because of the pandemic, special physical visits to some remoted area are being put on hold. Before this, usually we have to provide

transportations (which can be an exhausting) to the site and back, where intense preparation and accommodation are also needed. All kinds of distance is now a matter of opening a laptop or another gadget.

CONCLUSIONS

In whatsoever either students or lecturers must enhance their ability to work with the latest available technology. Even for some experiences these months difficulties appeared, some positive things also appeared. Through all implementations so far there is a hidden sign that maybe in the future we may develop a special learning classes which will be performed by online. Library must enhance a good communication with the students/lecturers about the need of students/lecturers. So that even the attendance physically is limited but the possibility of providing data is expanded. For the public responsibility both university and the community must seek good solutions in terms of the successful public responsibility missions.

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Program Pascasarjana
Universitas Kristen Indonesia

Jl. Diponegoro No. 84-86, Jakarta Pusat
10430 - Indonesia 021-3920174

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