

# Educational Communication During the Covid-19 Pandemic to Teachers and Students in Donggala Regency

*by Chontina Siahaan*

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## Educational Communication During the Covid-19 Pandemic to Teachers and Students in Donggala Regency

Chontina Siahaan<sup>1</sup>; Donal Adrian<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Program Studi Ilmu Komunikasi, FISIPOL, Universitas Kristen Indonesia Jakarta, Indonesia

<sup>2</sup>Program Studi Ilmu Komunikasi, FISIP, Universitas Tadulako Palu, Indonesia

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### Abstract

The corona-19 virus (Covid-19) was declared a pandemic disease because it has claimed many lives. This virus can be transmitted from touch and a very close distance of social interaction by not using a mask. To prevent the spread of covid-19, the policy implemented by the government is to limit human interaction such as teaching and learning teachers and students at home through online media. The purpose of the study is to find out the educational communication strategy in the time of the teacher and student pandemic in Donggala Regency. Qualitative research methods using a case study approach. The results showed that there are two educational communication strategies carried out by teachers to students during the covid-19 pandemic, namely through (1) online media such as WhatsApp, google meet, and google classroom. (2) Face-to-face consisting of two ways (a) the teacher comes to the student's house consisting of 3-4 students in one group and (b) students have the opportunity to learn with the teacher in school even with a limited time of 2-3 hours.

**Keywords:** Educational Communication; Covid-19; Learning Media

### Introduction

Indonesia is one of the countries infected with the Covid-19 pandemic. Coronavirus 2019 (Covid-19) is an infectious disease caused by acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2). So that it affects the community and students cannot meet in person on campus or in public places. Based on Nielsen Research entitled "Race Against the Virus, Indonesian Consumer Response towards COVID-19" revealed that as many as 50% of Indonesians began to reduce outdoor activities, and 30% of them said that they plan to shop more often online. Likewise, teaching and learning activities are carried out from home, and even work is done from home to reduce the transmission of Covid-19, (Matdio, 2020: 1).

The government severely limits the space of people, ranging from children to adults. They can not move as usual, for example in the world of education, all students and teachers are required to teach through media communication (online). It means learning enough at home. Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud) Nadiem Anwar Makarim issued Circular Letter No. 4 of 2020 on the Implementation of Education in the Emergency Period of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19). One of the

most important points is learning from home. Learning activities and assignments can vary between students, according to their interests and conditions, including in terms of access gaps/home study facilities (SE Mendikbud No.4 the year 2020: 2020).

Basically, that home learning strategies are certainly not effective, students are not able to receive well the material delivered, network constraints are also an important factor, the family economy-level also affects the ability to buy smartphones and data packages that are also quite expensive for those who are in the middle to lower levels. As a result, many students are unable to follow the process of learning to teach online, such as through WhatsApp, zoom meetings, google classrooms and google meetings.

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed the world order and has had tremendous impacts and changes in all fields, both health, economic, socio-cultural, and educational. On January 31, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that COVID-19 is an emergency for public health and a high-risk international concern. Then WHO on March 11, 2020, announced that Covid-19 has become a pandemic (Li Q, Guan X, Wu P, Wang X:2020 and World Health Organization: 2005).

<sup>1</sup> There are two impacts to the sustainability of education caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. The first is the short-term impact, which is felt by many families in Indonesia both in the city and in the village. In Indonesia, many families are less familiar with school at home. Homeschooling for Indonesian families is a big surprise especially for the productivity of parents who are usually busy with their work outside the home. Likewise, with the psychological problems of students who are used to learning to meet face to face with their teachers. All elements of social life are "exposed" to illness due to covid-19. Teaching takes place <sup>4</sup>line. This process runs on an unprecedented scale and is tested for unprecedented reasons. No wonder in remote villages that are very dense school-age populations become all-around confused because information technology infrastructure is very limited. Student assessments learn online and many trials and errors with a system that is not certain, instead many assessments are widely canceled. The second is the long-term impact. Many community groups in Indonesia will be exposed to the long-term impact of covid-19. The impact of education in terms of long-term is the aspect of justice and increasing inequality between community groups and between communities in Indonesia, (Aji, 2020: 396)

Basically that using an online learning system, sometimes there are various problems faced by students and teachers, such as unfinished subject matter delivered by the teacher then the teacher replaces it with other task<sup>1</sup>. This is a complaint about students because of the tasks given by teachers more. Another problem of this online learning system is access to information that is constrained by signals that cause slow access to information. Students are sometimes left with information as a result of inadequate signals. As a result, they are late in collecting a task given by the teacher. Not to mention for teachers who check the many tasks that have been given to students, making the storage space of gadgets increasingly limited. The application of online learning also makes educators think again, regarding the models and learning methods that will be used. Initially, a teacher has prepared a learning model to be used, then must change the learning model (Matdio, 2020:3).

The problems obtained in the world of education in the pandemic period certainly greatly affect the quality of learning obtained by students. Currently, quite a several students and teachers complain about learning through online media, because not all can be fulfilling and comfortable to learn. Students prefer face-to-face education. According to them that school is a very fun activity, they can interact with each other. Schools can improve students' social skills and social class awareness. The school as a whole is a medium of interaction between students and teachers to improve the ability of interagency, skills, and compassion between them, (Aji, 2020: 396).

Education problems in Indonesia caused by covid-19 are found throughout the archipelago such as those that occur in Donggala Regency. The education process in the area does not run effectively,

many students who cannot receive proper learning, are unable to complete homework provided by teachers, are bored with more school time spent at home, and are encouraged to interact with teachers through online media. In addition, there is an inability of parents in buying mobile phones and credits for the needs of children who attend school.

### **Method**

The type of research used is qualitative. The main purpose in using qualitative description is to describe the nature of a state that existed at the time the study was conducted and explore the cause of certain symptoms, (Seville, 1993: 91). Qualitative research method according to Sugiyono (2013:1) is a research method used to examine the condition of natural objects (as opposed to experiments) where the researcher is as a key instrument, data collection techniques are triangulated (combined), data analysis is inductive, and qualitative research results emphasize meaning rather than generalization.

Ratna (2010: 192-193) explained that definitively that case studies require a study with certain peculiarities and unique. In this case, the researcher already has a view that in the location in question there is a different problem, maybe even deviant. Case studies are very appropriate when associated with cultural studies research, the first reason, following the fact that the object of cultural studies is everything done by culture such as actual problems that arise to the surface. Two, case studies give the right to voice both to people who do not have powerless or voiceless.

The selection or determination of who is the sample and the informant as a data source that provides information is very closely related to purposive sampling techniques, which in Patton language is referred to as purposeful sampling, and by Bailay is referred to as non-probability sampling (Slamet, 2006). The informant consisted of the principal and the teachers.

Data collection techniques use in-depth interviews and direct observation. Data analysis according to Miles and Huberman (1992: 1-2) consists of data reduction, data display, and conclusion/verification withdrawal.

### **Result**

Educational outcomes are the most important part of every human life. To change the future for the better, everyone is required to carry out education ranging from elementary levels such as kindergarten to college. The education process can run well when there is ideal communication between teachers and students. The material provided by the teacher is expected to provide a good understanding to students as learners. At any time, education will be a major necessity in life. However, currently, education is hampered by the process due to the spread of covid-19 in Indonesia, especially in Donggala Regency.

Covid-19 is a virus that is easily spread from human to human. This virus, not only makes the body sick or weak but can cause death for sufferers. In a moment, humans can be confirmed positive covid-19 if they do not use a mask, do not wash their hands with clean water and the most fatal is when humans do not keep their distance like they like to crowd. This is the reason why the government imposes regulations in the world of education to carry out the teaching and learning process at home. However, it turns out that the policies implemented do not provide satisfaction for learners and teachers, many students do not understand the material provided by teachers even though they have been taught optimally through online media. So in the process, teachers have strategies to teach to students in pandemic times like today. Here is the submission from Ainun's as the principal of kindergarten:



Teaching in a pandemic like this is honestly very difficult, moreover, we are faced with a policy from the government to work and teach from home, let alone taught kindergarten children, this is very difficult. And very ineffective. Many students also whose parents do not have enough to buy mobile phones and pulses. (Interview, March 03, 2021)

Coronavirus-19 pandemic has a less good impact on the teaching and learning process of teachers and students. This is because teachers cannot meet students in person at school and are only allowed through online media. However, this policy does not have a positive impact. Many students are unable to follow the lessons well and are even indifferent to the learning process provided by the teacher. As a result, the student's brain development decreases. Parents of students also complained about it because their ability to buy mobile phones and pulses was also insufficient.

Ira, Primary School Teacher:

Pandemic covid-19 hampered the teaching and learning process of students and teachers, especially for those of us who live in the village. We can't teach online completely, because many parents of our students are not well off. We as teachers can only teach by coming directly to students' homes. (Interview, March 02, 2021)

Teaching is an effort to provide a good understanding to students related to the subject matter. Interactions carried out by teachers and students, in addition to providing understanding in thought, teachers also always insert about good noble ethics to be used as a provision for learners when behaving to anyone. However, in pandemic times like today, the process of teaching totality cannot be achieved if only through online communication or media communication. Therefore, to make the classroom atmosphere productive again well, then educational communication in the teaching and learning process is done by the door to door, meaning that every teacher comes to the students' homes to provide subject matter. Students are collected in one house that numbers 2-3 students. The teacher then delivers learning materials that are following the school schedule.

Ani, Junior High School Teacher:

We in junior high school have also applied to teach and learning through online media, but did not last long, because it starts from poor network conditions, the ability to buy the mobile phones of parents who cannot afford it and others. Finally, we decided to go to the students' houses to meet in person, but the students were limited to a few people. (Interview, March 04, 2021)

The process of teaching and learning in times of pandemic must certainly vary, as happened to junior high school students, in addition to learning through online media, teachers also try to go to students' homes to learn directly, but with a limited number of students and collected in one house, for example only 3-4 students. This effort aims to encourage the creation of good classes by providing useful understandings ranging from intelligence in the brain and intelligence from the heart that can form good behavior.

Mashartin Head of Junior High School:

Online learning is not long we do, especially with the condition of the community that is less qualified in terms of economics, then the strategy we do as teachers is to visit the homes of students and provide opportunities for students whose homes near the school to go to school and study with teachers. Honestly, communication is more effective. (Interview, March 7, 2021)

The teaching and learning process is carried out quite varied both through the media and face to face. But the learning process through online media is quite hampered due to the problem of parents' inability to facilitate children to buy mobile phones. Therefore, the strategy carried out by teachers is to visit the homes of students who are far from school. Furthermore, for students with a fairly close distance of home and school, it is given the policy to be able to come to school, so that the teaching and learning process can take place effectively. Students' understanding will also increase critically and of course, happiness in the school term to meet with friends is maintained well.

Dewi, High School Teachers:

Children in our school learn more online even though only through whatsapp, such as sending school assignments and others. But they can also occasionally come to school to study. Usually we as teachers who announce in whatsapp group. (Interview, March 06, 2021)

At the Junior High School level, teachers are more active in online learning with whatsapp accounts. In the learning process, teachers only send school assignments in whatsapp groups for students to do. This learning is basically to follow the rules made by the government so that everyone tries to keep their distance. However, to make the class varied, teachers also provide opportunities for students to be able to come to school to learn face-to-face even if only in a short time, about 2-3 hours of school time.

### **Discussion**

The covid-19 pandemic is a time when humans must be able to keep their distance in social interaction. Almost all social activities that are done by humans in groups are given limits, especially in teaching and learning activities in schools. The government has implemented a policy so that in providing learning materials, teachers and students can only communicate through social media such as the use of whatsapp, google meet and google classroom. The policy provided by the government aims to overcome the prevention of the spread of the coronavirus-19, but in the process of education between teachers and students in Donggala Regency, this policy certainly presents a new problem, many students are less familiar with the material provided by teachers when explained through online media, students become bored, indifferent to schoolwork, poor signals, and parents of students who cannot buy mobile phones as a mobile phone media learning.

Matdio (2020:3) explained that problems in government policy to keep the <sup>1</sup> distance during the Covid-19 pandemic, impacting the world of education such as access to information that is constrained by signals that cause slow access to information. Students are sometimes left with information as a result of inadequate signals. As a result, they are late in collecting a task given by the teacher. Not to mention for teachers who check the many tasks that have been given to students, making the storage space of gadgets increasingly limited.

Given the many problems faced by students in the learning process during the covid-19 pandemic, the strategy carried out by teachers is to provide a varied learning model, in addition to using social media such as WhatsApp, google meet, and google classroom, teachers also apply to learn strategies face to face consisting of du events, namely teachers visiting student homes formed in one group consisting of 3-4 students. Furthermore, the teacher also brought his students to school even though they were not dressed in uniform and the teaching and learning process was only carried out for 2-3 hours. The strategy carried out by the teacher as a school makes communication run very effectively, students can provide a good response related to learning materials delivered by teachers. Psychically, students and teachers have their happiness because they can meet directly with others in social interactions but still apply health protocols implemented by the government.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the findings of research results related to the communication of education of teachers and students during the covid-19 pandemic, the conclusion is that communication in the teaching and learning process is carried out with several strategies, namely through (1) online media such as whatsapp, google meet, and google classroom. (2) Face-to-face consisting of two ways (a) the teacher comes to the student's house consisting of 3-4 students per group and (b) students have the opportunity to study with the teacher in school even with a limited time of only 2-3 hours. The goal is to provide students with a good understanding of the learning materials and re-cultivate the sense of happiness of the students when social interaction is carried out in school.

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