OPTIMAL UTILIZATION OF GOOGLE CLASSROOM MEDIA IN ONLINE LEARNING

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Abstract- Online learning has become a significant trend in education, with google classroom being one of the most widely used platforms. This research uses a qualitative approach. The researcher selected students and teachers as research informants where the teachers and students employ the Google Classroom application for their online learning experience. The findings of this study show that the learning platform with google classroom media makes a significant contribution to improving the quality and accessibility of learning. Through its advanced features and ease of use, google classroom has opened the door for more interactive, collaborative and directed learning. The use of google classroom provides flexibility for learners to learn anywhere and anytime, and facilitates collaboration between teachers and students. The assignment, discussion and immediate feedback features allow the learning process to be more dynamic and responsive. The success of online learning depends on the technology, and on the commitment and active participation of all parties involved. However, it takes a joint effort between teachers, students and parents to maximize the potential of online learning.

Keywords: effectiveness, online learning, google classroom

INTRODUCTION

Education in Indonesia is regulated in Law No. 20/2003 on the National Education System. In Chapter II Article 3, it states that the main purpose of national education is to improve the ability and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the nation's life. The goal is to foster individuals who are faithful and devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. Education in today's modern era, of course, everything is easy because of the rapid advancement of technology (Cloete, 2017). This requires the mastery of certain technological knowledge in order to keep up with changes in more advanced generations so that they can be ready for the competition of the globalization era. Even now, some Indonesian people are familiar with various existing applications including one of them, the Google classroom service which is usually used by teachers to provide tasks that are not bound by time (Alim et al., 2019). Google classroom itself is one of the uses of technology that makes it easier for teachers to teach and makes it easier for students to access it anywhere and anytime, especially making it easier during a pandemic like now where everything is online (Kumar & Bervell, 2019). Google classroom is expected to increase student activeness. Google classroom is an application that allows the creation of classrooms in cyberspace. In addition, google classroom can be a means of distributing assignments and even assessing collected assignments. This platform facilitates educators in delving into their scientific concepts, subsequently sharing them with students. Teachers gain additional time and opportunities to impart knowledge and assign independent tasks (homework) outside the classroom. Moreover, this provides an opportunity for students to become accustomed to technology (IT) through the guidance of their educators. However, there is an absolute requirement for users of this technology is the availability of qualified internet access so that the operation of this application can run according to plan without any constraints (Wahyudi et al., 2021). The rapid development of information technology, especially with google classroom media, can develop better information services in educational institutions (Munasiah et al., 2021).

Google classroom is not just a virtual space for storing learning materials, but also provides tools for collaboration, assessment, and direct interaction between teachers and students. The ability to upload materials, assign tasks and provide real-time feedback opens up new opportunities in the learning experience (Iftakhar, 2016). The existence of these features raises the question of the extent to which learning effectiveness can be enhanced through the integration of these technologies. By providing various features that support interaction between teachers and students, Google classroom offers great potential to improve the effectiveness of online learning (Hakim et al., 2014). Various learning models can be used to create successful learning. Successful learning is defined as a learning activity that can have a positive impact on improving the knowledge, skills and attitudes of learners using the available resources but attracting students' interest and attention to be actively involved in learning activities (Lea et al., 2003). In other words, successful learning has three main indicators, namely effective, efficient and interesting. However, despite its positive potential, there are still a number of challenges that need to be overcome. From accessibility limitations to student engagement issues, or even worsening the effectiveness of online learning. By paying attention to various aspects, including data

security and privacy, it can form a complete picture of the true impact of using google classroom to facilitate effective online learning (Purba, 2021). The concept of effectiveness typically indicates the extent to which a predetermined goal has been achieved. The term effectiveness primarily pertains to the desired output or results that have been targeted. The significance of effectiveness in learning lies in its role as a crucial determinant of the success of the adopted learning model. Learning effectiveness is gauged by evaluating the achievement of learning objectives through the interaction between students and between students and teachers in educational settings (Swan, 2003).

The assessment of learning effectiveness is evident in student engagement during lessons, their responses to the learning material, and their comprehension of concepts. To establish an efficient and effective learning framework, a collaborative relationship between students and teachers is essential to collectively attain shared objectives (Joy & Garcia, 2000). Furthermore, this approach should be tailored to align with the school environment, facilities, infrastructure, and the required learning resources necessary to support the comprehensive development of students.

Amidst the rapid pace of information technology, deep transformation has penetrated various aspects of life, including education. Online education, as a modern phenomenon, has become increasingly important, especially with the emergence of innovative platforms such as Google Classroom. This platform has become a pillar in online learning, offering integrated solutions to support teachers and students to achieve their educational goals. Research on the effectiveness of online learning using google classroom is highly relevant, as we seek to understand how this platform impacts the achievement of educational goals and student development. In this research, we will present the findings obtained from analyzing the implementation of google classroom related to online learning. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this study can provide valuable insights for educators and students as well as for the development and continuous improvement of education in this digital era.

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach. The researcher chose students and teachers as research informants where the teachers and students use google classroom application in online learning. The object of this research is online learning using google classroom application. The technique used is purposive sampling technique and class observation, where the determination of research informants is based on certain considerations. This consideration is based on the research objectives.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

In this era of rapid development of Science and Technology (Science and Technology), the implementation of distance or online learning models is becoming an increasingly relevant alternative. Online learning, especially through platforms such as Google Classroom, provides a number of advantages for students. Aside from allowing them to master the subject matter, students can also simultaneously explore the advanced technology that is developing today. The importance of online learning lies in the ability of students to acquire knowledge from the teacher, and to actively seek and explore information from other sources. The use of technology as a tool, and as a means to broaden students' horizons and knowledge through access to diverse learning resources (Bossu et al., 2012). However, to ensure the effectiveness of an education system that relies on technology, adequate infrastructure is needed. Good infrastructure will provide smooth and stable access for students, teachers and all parties involved in the learning process. In addition, there needs to be readiness to design an online learning system that suits the learning objectives so that technology can be integrated well to achieve optimal learning outcomes.

The use of learning media increases the visual appeal of the subject matter, aiming to increase motivation and interest. It captures students' attention, encouraging them to focus on the material presented, with the anticipation that this engagement will lead to increased learning effectiveness (Kurniawan et al., 2022). Online learning content must be interesting and high quality. In presenting the material, a creative approach is needed to keep students engaged and motivated. Some things that can be done to achieve this are as follows:

1. Contextual Teaching and Learning (CTL) Learning Model: This learning model emphasizes real-world coverage and relates learning materials to students' daily lives. By using this approach, students can see the relevance of the material to their own lives.
2. PAKEM (Active, Creative, Effective and Fun Learning) approach: This approach involves students actively and creatively in the learning process. Students are invited to participate in physical and psychological activities that involve them to solve problems (Karina et al., 2012; Yanti et al., 2013; Darmawan, 2015). The PAKEM approach includes strategies, methods and learning models that can realize interesting and quality learning (Saraswati et al., 2014).
3. Creative and Innovative Learning Media: The use of creative and innovative learning media can improve understanding and interaction between students. This can include digital newspapers, educational games, learning videos, and so on. By providing interesting media, students will be more motivated and engaged in the learning process (Ummat & Retnowati, 2022).

4. Meaningful Learning: Meaningful learning is an approach that allows students to directly experience what they are learning by activating more senses than just listening to explanations from the teacher. In meaningful learning, learners are accepted as they are, and the teacher acts as a facilitator who helps students to find and select relevant learning resources. This approach also encourages students to take their own responsibility for achieving their learning goals.

By applying the above approaches, it is expected that online learning content can be more interesting and high quality so that students remain engaged and motivated in the learning process. It will also strengthen the chances of achieving effective learning outcomes.

Effectiveness in general signifies the extent to which predetermined objectives are achieved, so it is an important element in learning because it determines the level of success of the learning model chosen by the teacher (Mardikaningsih, 2014a). Effective learning is characterized by providing opportunities for self-learning or involving students in various activities, which aim to gain a comprehensive understanding of the concepts studied. Therefore, the onus is on teachers to choose the right learning concepts for their students, underscoring the important role of teachers in planning, implementing and evaluating learning to improve overall learning effectiveness (Gunawan, et al., 2016).

According to Yew and Goh (2016), indicators of learning effectiveness are as follows: (1) good material organization a teacher must compile and select good and appropriate teaching materials or materials so that a unity of material can be realized in the form of teaching materials that are ready to be delivered to students in learning activities in order to achieve goals; (2) effective communication Effective communication is a form of attitude so that there is a good relationship between the messenger (teacher) and the recipient of the message (students); (3) a positive attitude towards students that a positive attitude can make it easier for teachers to carry out learning activities. Students who have a positive attitude towards a subject will achieve higher learning outcomes compared to students who have a negative attitude towards the subjects they follow; (4) flexibility in the learning approach. An integrated learning that is flexible, can be adjusted to the abilities and needs of students and can be adjusted to the experience and knowledge of students so that students easily understand learning materials; (5) enthusiasm and mastery of learning materials. Teachers are required to be able to master the subject matter well, if they have mastered it, the material can be organized systematically and logically. However, mastery of the subject matter is not enough. This mastery must also be accompanied by enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

In online learning, it is important to have an effective evaluation and progress monitoring system to measure student progress (Darmanto et al., 2014). With this system in place, teachers can provide constructive feedback to students. Here are some of the ways this can be done.

Firstly, formative assessment is a viable approach. It involves the ongoing process of identifying and interpreting evidence that students and teachers use to assess students' current learning status, identify learning objectives, and determine the most effective path to achieve them. Teachers can conduct formative assessment through observation, student discussion, feedback, self-assessment, and peer assessment. By conducting regular formative assessments, teachers can provide specific feedback and help students understand their progress and provide directions for improvement. Secondly, it is important to provide effective feedback to students. Effective feedback helps students learn and improve by showing them where they need to make adjustments. Good feedback provides praise or encouragement, and gives specific information about what students have done well and what needs to be improved. Teachers need to provide structured feedback and provide strategies and tips on more effective ways to achieve goals.

Furthermore, the use of evaluation rubrics can also help to effectively measure student progress. By using evaluation rubrics, teachers can provide more detailed and objective feedback to students. Evaluation rubrics help students understand what is expected of them to achieve the set learning objectives. In addition, evaluation rubrics also help teachers monitor student progress and intervene if needed (Hutomo et al., 2012). Task-based learning can also be used to measure student progress. In online learning, teachers can assign tasks that allow students to demonstrate their understanding and progress in learning. These tasks can be projects, presentations or writing. By analyzing the results of students' assignments, teachers can measure their progress and provide appropriate feedback. Finally, collaboration and discussion in online learning can also help measure student progress. Through collaboration and discussion, teachers can see students' participation, their understanding, and progress to understand the material. Discussions can be conducted through online forums, video conferences, or other collaborative platforms. Teachers can provide immediate feedback during the discussion or afterward.

By implementing these methods, teachers can effectively measure student progress in online learning and provide constructive feedback. This will help students stay motivated and engaged in the learning process.

The implementation of online education introduces a new and more challenging experience compared to the traditional face-to-face learning model. In online learning, both students and teachers enjoy a greater degree of freedom, unconstrained by time and space limitations. Utilizing platforms such as Google Classroom facilitates this flexibility, allowing teachers to easily share learning materials, and students to have sufficient time to complete and submit assignments. However, it should be noted that teachers cannot uniformly grant freedom in assignment completion; instead, they can provide incentives such as bonuses to those who submit assignments on time. The implementation of online learning in a school should indeed be prepared with more careful preparation so that learning activities can take

place smoothly, in terms of facilities and teacher innovation to modify online learning to make it interesting and acceptable to students. One aspect of contemporary education that can be improved is the utilization of media for teaching and learning activities. Media serves as an important tool for delivering educational content to students, and the effectiveness of the chosen learning media significantly affects student learning outcomes. Utilizing technological advances in educational media can optimize the learning process and improve the outcomes achieved by students. However, it is important to recognize that the use of any learning media has inherent advantages and disadvantages, which are natural aspects of the educational process. In summary, the use of Google Classroom as a learning medium has the potential to improve student competencies. Through individual or group assignments given by teachers, students can develop important competencies. First, students can develop critical thinking skills, which involve the ability to reason, understand and make complex choices. Second, students are encouraged to collaborate, fostering the ability to work together and adapt to multiple perspectives to complement each other's strengths and weaknesses. Thirdly, effective communication skills are emphasized, ensuring students can receive messages from others and avoid misinterpretation. Finally, students are expected to generate new ideas, as creativity relies on their ability to think innovatively and make new discoveries.

Online learning is learning that uses the internet network with accessibility, connectivity, flexibility and the ability to generate various types of learning interactions (Djazilan & Hariani, 2022). The implementation of online learning requires the support of devices such as cell phones, computers, tablets that can be used to access information anytime and anywhere (Putra et al., 2022). Online learning is a solution to carry out learning without having to meet. However, this online learning cannot be separated from the problems that become obstacles in its implementation. These obstacles include the internet network, supporting applications to support online learning and the limited services provided by teachers. Internet connection is the most important factor in online learning, if there is no internet connection then students are constrained to download materials, download assignments sent by teachers and students cannot submit assignments back. When implementing online learning, teachers do not know the real development of students because in the process teachers only give assignments, then students give feedback in the form of answers or learning results. So the teacher does not know whether the student really understands or not. The implementation of online learning makes all teachers, students and parents must be adaptive in the current conditions.

Effective learning is a combination of human elements, materials, facilities, equipment and procedures (Blanchard & Thacker, 2023). It is directed to change student behavior in a positive and better direction in accordance with the potential and differences of students to achieve predetermined learning objectives. Effective learning is learning that is able to shape the morality of students, and the habits that are formed are actions that are carried out repeatedly, these actions will become habits, due to two factors, first there is a liking for a job and secondly accepting that liking by giving birth to an action. The effectiveness of learning can be seen from student activities during learning, student responses to learning and student mastery of concepts. To achieve an effective learning concept, it is necessary to have a reciprocal relationship between students and teachers to achieve a common goal, besides that it must also be adjusted to the conditions of the school environment, facilities and infrastructure, and learning media needed to help achieve all aspects of student development.

The effort to overcome the obstacles in online learning using Google classroom is that the principal must map the internet needs of teachers and students. In addition to the school operational assistance fund (BOS), the principal must think of other sources to fulfill this quota. For example, working with internet providers in this area with good signal and cheap price or discount, we even find out if there is a free quota that students can use to access the learning media. The implementation of online learning requires teachers to be creative, especially when it comes to using learning media, methods or strategies (Mardikaningsih, 2014b; Purwanti et al., 2014). A good understanding of children's individual differences is the key to establishing good communication with students, the way teachers deal with these different student characters is by creating a conducive learning climate and motivating students to be more active in the learning process (Djazilan & Darmawan, 2021). Often motivation is the greatest driving force for students to learn despite the limited conditions like nowadays.

In online learning system, besides facilities and infrastructure, it is important to discuss the readiness of teaching staff. Adequate training and support need to be considered so that the teaching staff is ready for online learning. Teachers must have a commitment to develop competencies related to technology mastery (Masnawati & Hariani, 2023). Teachers need to be equipped with relevant knowledge and skills to teach online. They need to understand the technologies used in online learning, such as online learning platforms, collaborative applications and virtual communication tools. Regularly organized training can help improve the competence of teaching staff to face the challenges of online learning. In addition, adequate support is also important to ensure the readiness of the teaching staff. This support can include access to online learning resources, appropriate teaching materials, and technical guidance on the use of learning technology (Parker et al., 2013). Support from schools or educational institutions can also include discussion forums, collaboration between teachers, and sharing best practices to improve the quality of online learning. With well-prepared teachers, they can face the challenges of online learning more effectively. They can manage learning efficiently, provide proper guidance to students, and give constructive feedback. In online learning, teachers' readiness is an important factor that can affect the quality of learning and students' learning experience.

CONCLUSIONS

The findings of this study show that the learning platform using Google Classroom makes a significant contribution to improving the quality and accessibility of learning. Through its advanced features and ease of use, google classroom has opened the door for more interactive, collaborative and directed learning. The use of google classroom provides flexibility for learners to learn anywhere and anytime, and facilitates collaboration between teachers and students. The assignment, discussion and immediate feedback features allow the learning process to be more dynamic and responsive. The success of online learning depends on technology, and the commitment and active participation of all parties involved. Nevertheless, a joint effort between teachers, students, and parents is needed to maximize the potential of online learning. Based on the research results and in accordance with the usefulness of the research, several suggestions are made: (1) learning the use of google classroom for learning is not only that but it is recommended that teachers attend seminars or workshops on the development of educational technology so that teachers can make lessons interesting and also students will be enthusiastic about participating in the learning; (2) hold teacher training on educational technology or the development of educational technology so that the quality of teachers increases in terms of educational technology and also so that teachers can provide learning.

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