

Research Article

# The Effectiveness of Virtual Classroom Learning in Islamic Early Childhood Education

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## Abstract.

This research aims to find out the effectiveness of virtual classroom learning in an early childhood education environment. The research method used was case study method at PrayataSubang Playing Group. Data is primarily collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation studies with parents, teachers, and children. We analyze the data collected related to the use of virtual classrooms and see their efficiency. The findings lead to virtual classroom learning implemented using several applicators such as Zoom, Whatsapp Video Call, Instagram Live, Youtube, and Quizzz. The implementation of learning has been quite effective judged by several indicators such as the participation of students in following learning is good, parents play an active role in accompanying and assisting children learning, and teachers who are creative and innovative in providing learning.

**Keywords:** Virtual classroom; effectiveness; early childhood

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## 1. Introduction

The influence of the Covid 19 disease outbreak in Indonesia in 2020 has started to reach the quality of study, with national and state governments introducing policies to close all schools. This was motivated by a desire to avoid the transmission of coronary virus. It is assumed that, given that certain schools do not carried out their operations as normal, this would reduce the spread of Covid 19. Then it has been achieved by the different countries impacted by the Covid 19 outbreak, the lock-up or quarantine measures have been introduced in an attempt to limit the exposure of many people with access to coronary virus spread[1]. Previously, the emergence of the corona virus had quite a significant effect on the stagnant economic environment, and now the effect is also felt by the field of education. The policies implemented by several countries , including Indonesia, by putting an end to all educational activities have rendered it necessary for the government and state organisations to present an alternative educational method

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for students who are unable to undertake out a teaching experience at educational institutions. Policies in the education sector taken by the government related to the COVID 19 case, namely: online learning for school children, online lectures, the 2020 national exams were eliminated, the 2020 SBMPTN UTBK was postponed, and the implementation of SNMPTN is still being studied[2]. Before becoming a pandemic, this virus initially occurred in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China in December 2019.

The emergency response period for the Covid-19 pandemic has not yet ended, making the public even more restless. No exception PAUD educators who have to be extra in preparing everything for online learning needs. Education should guarantee that learning continues, even when learners are at home. The answer is that educators must design learning media as an advancement by using digital tools. This is in line with the ministry of education of the Indonesian concerning Directive No. 4 of 2020 on the development of educational policies for the transmission of Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19). The use of WhatsApp Group in learning from home in PAUD institutions, that using WhatsApp Group is easy and flexible learning makes this application chosen as a medium of contact between teachers, children and parents, even though conditions are limited by distance, space and time. The features on WhatsApp Group can be used in PAUD children's learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as text message features, voice messages, video calls, receiving and sending pictures, videos and file documents. The use of Whatsapp Group is also an application that makes it easy in the online learning process as the research results show that as many as 56 students or 91.8% of students choose the WhatsApp Group application, as many as 4 students or 6.5% of students choose the Zoom application and 1 student or 1.6 % of students choose the email application. Activities given are more for the development of life skills and children's character. Giving activities can be done by utilizing online media in the form of WhatsApp, Facebook, zoom meetings, google meet, by planning the implementation or planning activities that can be taken by parents to the institution by paying attention to health protocols[3].The data that has been obtained from the results of the activity reports are then analyzed according to the basic competencies and aspects of child development so that reports can be made. Child development reports can be done face-to-face while still paying attention to health protocols. The data that has been obtained from the results of the activity reports are then analyzed according to the basic competencies and aspects of child development so that reports can be made. Child development reports can be done face-to-face while still paying attention to health protocols. The data that has been obtained from the results of the activity reports are then analyzed according to the basic competencies and aspects of child development

so that reports can be made. Child development reports can be done face-to-face while still paying attention to health protocols.

The growth of information and communication technologies seems to have an influence on the world of education in Indonesia, particularly in the learning experience. One indicator of this transition is a change in the learning process, where contact between lecturers and learners takes place not only by face-to-face relationships, but through communication media such as computers, the internet, and so on.[4]. Online lecture is a learning process that utilizes information technology, in this case utilizing the internet as a method of delivery, interaction and facilitation. It includes learning support services that can be used by learning participants. In addition, there is also a learning system design that can be learned and known by each learning participant[5].

The Australian Health Protection Committee on April 6 from the results of its research also stated that the closure of early childhood education and daycare services, is not proportional or effective as a public health intervention to prevent community transmission at this time[6].

The state of Los Angeles, United States, through the Department of Public Health encourages early childhood education and day care to be held, but with strict safety requirements with authorized guideline [7]. There are two things, firstly that dismissing early childhood from school is something that threatens the context of early childhood education. Second, this is not too significant in reducing the spread of the Corona Virus. However, the existence of a lockdown policy or PSBB means that there are no other options and also requires the temporary closure of all PAUD institutions.

The virtual environment is considered suitable in the teaching and learning process of science-based subjects. The adoption of effective virtual classrooms has huge implications for teaching and learning as it encourages student interest in learning content and promotes teacher efficiency. In a virtual classroom setting, learners are actively engaged in synchronous instruction which means that teachers and students enter the classroom at the same time as in conventional classroom systems in the real world[8].

Ideally, learning that is held in PAUD institutions is in accordance with the principles and has generally been carried out through face-to-face, play and fun things[9].

The Basic principles in classroom-based learning would be combined with immersive digital tools. Mixed learning comes in a number of ways and styles. It can be used to supplement conventional lectures with extra reading, e-learning notes and graphs, maps, or other handouts in a single lesson. Teaching is also a passion and a friendship between teachers and students. Technology is seen as potentially useful in facilitating face-to-face instruction, allowing students to engage with learning materials.[10].

In this article, we will describe The Effectiveness of Virtual Classroom Learning in Islamic Early Childhood Education

## 2. Theoretical Review

According to Gersten et al [11] effectiveness in the learning process should be seen from the relationship between lecturers who teach students by using certain methods in situations to achieve certain instructional goals. Meanwhile, according to Singla et al [12] Learning is said to be successful if it meets the intended goals, in both process of teaching outcomes and student performance.

Digital classrooms are technology has affected that occur only in the type of electronic online multimedia, accessed and shared through computer networks and information technology. Anything in a virtual classroom occurs in a non - material environment; students have access to the class by accessing the internet, rather than going to an actual physical classroom. Digital classrooms imply there will be electronic interactions such as email, mailing lists, discussion forums and virtual classrooms that occur in current technologies such as computers , the internet, radio and TV. This shows that SMS technology is not listed as a virtual classroom tool for teaching and learning in remote mode. Ramos argues that a more comprehensive study to assess the efficacy and feasibility of teaching using mobile SMS technology is still unknown [13].

Learning Management System is a web-based technology that provides a menu or feature that is useful for learning both in managing and delivering learning material, monitoring student activity in learning, and evaluating student learning online [14].

Interactivity in the class using the virtual classroom method has been documented to encourage a more active learning environment. Some platforms are designed for classroom teaching, incorporating mobile devices into face-to - face learning scenarios, such as the Studeo Concert, which involves tools including brainstorming, quizzes, and voting. Moving on to simpler technological solutions, it allows students to send SMS messages on different topics of discussion that the teacher gathers and categorizes using an interactive whiteboard in the classroom [15].

Virtual classrooms have proven to be very effective in Distance Education dispensation programs in many countries of the world [16]. The strategy has been expanded as a true tool in improving teaching and learning in diverse education shapes. Unfortunately, the use of virtual classrooms is rare in many academic areas of the program and only depends on the potential set by many institutions. Only recently was an extension given to adopting virtual classes in the teaching and testing of students in institutions [5]

Online learning is a learning mode that develops with skills in line with the development of information and communication technology. Many educators put optimism on online learning to be able to provide education that can be accessed by all people from various regions, education that has the same quality for everyone. Many factors influence the success of online learning, such as the level of teacher confidence, student activity levels, and the level of interaction between teachers and students. One important factor is the level of interaction between teachers and students which is influenced by social presence. Social presence is one of the most significant factors in increasing teaching effectiveness and building a sense of community[17].

Another essential element of incorporating the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) in the teaching - learning activities is allowing teachers to track platforms, tasks, projects and student performance. With the aid of the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), teachers can define students' level of comprehension by providing them with digital assignments, exercises or quizzes for each chapter. A student's shortcomings (such as misconception, carelessness, coding, etc.) in the chapter can be found by assignments, forums, or quizzes. In addition, teachers may also track student achievement through the evaluations offered. Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) not only plays an important role for students and teachers, it also helps parents to exchange ideas and help their children learn through a virtual learning environment (VLE). This is because it's the instructor[18].

Franz Rosenthal draws attention to the relevance of children's past or rather the history of the Notion of Childhood in "Child Psychology in Islam," an essay that is exceptional in the field of Islamic education from a subject point of view: it tries to understand the definition of the universe and of man that prevails in a certain culture. Rosenthal's reflections go along the lines of the theories developed by European childhood historians, without, however, adding much emphasis to the psychological aspects in the strictest sense of the word, emphasized by psychohistorians. What they call 'psychogenic theory of history' points out is that it is not 'economic class' or 'social class' but 'psychoclass'-a shared child-raising model that is the real basis for understanding motivation in history. Mainly concerned with adult male behaviors, you could see how late Windows history is first characterized in communities by women and children as well as men, and only later articulated in adult public activities.[19].

This article started to provide an insight into the growth of Islam's traditional pedagogical practice and tried to prove that Medieval Muslim scholars have contributed greatly to humanity in different educational fields. The theoretical considerations of medieval Muslim philosophers are extremely intellectual, as seen in previous sections.

However, there is a willingness to practice realistic wisdom and to dedicate oneself to the ethical, spiritual and emotional facets of schooling. Finally, with discovery of the Coran and the principles of Islam at the center of Islamic schooling, the philosophical and moral aspects of information development and learning play a pleasant role in them. I agree that Muslim medieval academics have well known that the mind, analytical and realistic knowledge, critical thought, ethical and esthetic learning, morality, and faith have a close connection. If the new world were to benefit from the past, as John Dewey (1859–1952), the grand reformer and pragmatic intellectual of the American Americas, put it[20].

### 3. Methods

This research is a case study to see online learning's effectiveness through virtual classroom applications used by PrayataSubang Play Group (KoBer). This study includes descriptive qualitative, so researchers will collect and analyze qualitatively obtained data then described through narrative.

Data is collected through interviews and documentation studies. This observation was done by way of researchers looking directly at how the online learning process in PrayataSubang Play Group. The interview was conducted with one principal, four teachers, and ten parents of students to find out the learning process. In contrast, the documentation study is done to see the relevant written data to help the author answer the research problem.

The data analysis in the study was done by selecting, adding, or reducing data following the focus of the study, which is to look at the effectiveness of virtual classroom learning. Furthermore, the data is interpreted in the form of narratives according to the selected data and then concluded from the data that has been found.

### 4. Results and discussion

The application of online learning conducted in Prayata Play Group (KoBer) is quite varied. As Koberprayata manager revealed:

"Learning today we use various learning applications, such as quizzi, zoom, live youtube, live Instagram, and whatsapp video call app"

Some media can be used as support in carrying out online learning, such as virtual classes by using google classroom [21], Zoom [22], edmodo[23], andschoology[24]or even by using social media such aswhatsapp[25], facebookand Instagram [26].

Virtual classroom learning implemented today is certainly not without constraints and obstacles. Online learning has a challenge: the availability of weak internet services [27] so that the explanation or instruction given by the teacher is not appropriately conveyed so that the students poorly understand it [28]. As with the obstacles faced in KoberPrayata, inadequate signal conditions are one of the obstacles for teachers and students when carrying out the learning process.

The role of parents in online learning in early childhood education units is significant and influential. One of the objectives of online learning is the essential purpose of online learning is to train students to learn independently. According to Kuo, et.al. [29] Online learning can foster responsibility and autonomy in learning because it has a more student-centered nature. Nevertheless, in early childhood has not been able to learn independently. Therefore, there needs to be an assistance from parents or adults around them to carry out online learning activities. Related to parents' role in accompanying children in the learning process, this is also one of the obstacles faced in KoberPrayata. As explained by the teacher Koberprayata, namely:

"the parent aspect is also one of the obstacles because some students whose parents both work so that they can not accompany their child in the lesson hours. So we use two sessions in learning, namely morning sessions and evening sessions"

The evaluation results stated the effectiveness of learning success with the virtual classroom in KoberPrayata reached 85%. The effectiveness of virtual classroom learning activities in KoberPrayata is seen from several indicators, namely:

1. The presence of students who attend and follow the learning.

For the percentage scale of success, if more than 25% of students attend this virtual class, this learning consideration is only applied against the background of parents of participants who are entirely new to the online learning application system.

1. Children who follow the learning can listen and actively communicate with their teacher while carrying out virtual classroom through zoom or video call.
2. Parents play an active role and accompany the child in learning activities and always send the child tasks through image/video documentation on Whatsapp.
3. Children actively follow learning through games or quizzes in quizzi app.

Children love to attend virtual classroom learning activities without coercion. This is evidenced by reports from parents stating that the child is always waiting for the game in quizzi, the child always wants to try repeatedly do the quizzi, and the child performs the task given by the teacher in a timely way.

### 1. Teachers always try to learn innovatively and creatively.

The efforts made by teachers include creating learning videos that fit the theme of learning. Create animated videos relevant to learning themes and create video tutorials for parents in supporting children learning while in virtual classes.

Based on the description, virtual classroom learning conducted in KoberPrayata has been quite effective. Singla et.al, [12] learning is said to be effective if it achieves the desired goals, both in learning objectives and student learning achievement. Assessments in virtual classroom learning are tailored to indicators that must be achieved based on age and expected learning. While in children constrained by virtual learning, teachers will have home visits to do learning activities that are left behind. In general, the student response is very enthusiastic. Some students are waiting for learning done through virtual classes, such as quizzi and zoom. Virtual learning classes organized for early childhood should be made exciting and fun. Educational institutions should not conduct continuous learning that gives excessive tasks to make children and parents depressed.

## 5. Conclusion

The effectiveness of virtual classroom learning in the Prayata Play Group has been quite effective, with a success rate of 85%. Virtual classroom learning is conducted using several applicators such as Zoom, Whatsapp, Instagram, Youtube, and Quizzi. From the findings of the study it can be said that the participation of students is quite good judged by the level of attendance and activeness in participating in learning activities. Parents also play an active role in accompanying and assisting children in learning. Besides, teachers also provide different virtual class learning so that children are happy and do not feel bored following learning.

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