

Research Article

Implementation of Thesis Supervision Through Online System For Undergraduate Students of Early Childhood Education Study Program Amid Covid-19 Outbreak

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Abstract.

The present study was conducted to describe the implementation of undergraduate thesis supervision through online for undergraduate students of Early Childhood Education Study Program at STKIP Panca Sakti Bekasi amid the Covid-19 outbreak. The research included students' understanding of thesis supervision through online systems, difficulties in using online media systems, selection of interactive online media, forms of communication difficulties, advantages and disadvantages in using online systems and student expectations of supervisors in conducting online supervision models in the future amid the Covid-19 outbreak. The approach used in this research was qualitative with a descriptive research type. The method used was a Survey Method using a questionnaire technique. Respondents in this study were 70 students who were obtained from the calculation of the random sampling distributed through Google forms to students of STKIP Panca Sakti Bekasi Academic year of 2019-2020. The results of this study confirmed that the implementation of the undergraduate thesis through the online system amid the Covid-19 outbreak was not deemed optimally successful.

Keywords: Early childhood; thesis supervision; covid-19

1. Introduction

Thesis is a final project of undergraduate students. Thesis is in the form of scientific work which is prepared in accordance with the knowledge of the students concerned both State and Private Universities. Thesis is proof of students' academic abilities in research. Thesis is a combination of knowledge and skills from starting to understand, describe, and analyze a problem that is presented in a well-written systematically based on the results of research[1]. In accordance with the Republic of Indonesia's Minister of Education and Culture Regulation No. 49 of 2014 concerning National Standards of Higher Education in [2], it is stated that "the need for a thesis or final project in the higher education curriculum ..." is able to study the implementation of scientific development

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or implementation technology that pays attention to and applies humanities' values according to their expertise based on rules, procedures and scientific ethics in order to produce solutions, ideas, designs or art criticism, compile scientific descriptions of the results of them in the form of thesis or final project report, and upload them on the college website high". In preparing the undergraduate thesis, it is usually supervised by two lecturers based on the Assignment Letter from the respective higher education institution. During this thesis supervising process, it is still mostly done conventionally through face-to-face between students and supervisors. However, over time, situations, and conditions the thesis supervision process is conducted online. Especially with the Covid-19 Outbreak incident forcing various forms of activities or activities of life to be done online, not least in the field of education including thesis supervision. However, in its implementation, there are still many obstacles in the implementation process. This is caused by a number of things including the initial implementation of online systems in education, especially new higher education at tertiary institutions with accreditation "A". There are many other obstacles such as the relatively expensive financing factors, unfinished network systems, mastery of competencies both lecturers, education staff, and students themselves in the use of IT, the readiness of facilities and infrastructures, and others. Situation and Conditions of the Covid-19 Outbreak with various Lockdown, Work From Home, Stay at Home, and PSBB policies and other policies have drastically pushed for changes now and cannot be postponed. Therefore, although not yet ready, there are still many obstacles and still, in the experimental stage, the thesis supervision process is also carried out using an online system.

1.1. Undergraduate Thesis Supervision

"Supervision is as" ... a process of helping an individual to understand himself and his world. This means a process of providing assistance to individuals to be able to understand themselves and the environment[3]. "Supervision means guidance (explanation) on how to do something, direction or leadership[4]. "Thesis supervision is a process in which scientific writings are carried out by guiding writers by providing instructions or explanations in order to create scientific works in accordance with the applicable rules"[1]. The main purpose of thesis supervision is to direct, encourage, and guide undergraduate students who will complete their studies in writing scientific papers that are appropriate to their scientific fields using the applicable guidelines.

1.2. Online System

The Online System in Indonesia was originally applied to Higher Education and is known as the Online Learning System (SPADA). Online learning is an ICT learning-based. Information and Communication Technology in learning is known as computer-based learning. Computers are machines that are specifically designed to manipulate information that is coded, electronic machines that are automatic, and can do simple and complex calculations work [5]. The implementation of this Online Learning implementation starts with the name PJJ or Distance Education with E-Learning. This educational model separates the distance between educators and students through space and time. In accordance with Law No. 12/2012 section 7 Article 31 in [6], "Distance education is a teaching and learning process that is carried out remotely through the use of various communication media. The Ministry of Education and Culture Regulation No. 109/2013 concerning the Implementation of Distance Education (PJJ) in Higher Education. In the implementation of Distance Education has several practical advantages, among others, the implementation is very flexible related to space and time, it has a very broad reach, it can be massively implemented and organized. Many media can be chosen in the implementation of this online system. Nowadays, there are various media that can be picked such as zoom meeting, WhatsApp, Cisco Webex, Google Classroom, and others.

1.3. Students of Early Childhood Education Undergraduate Study Program

"Students are individuals participating in educational activities at the Higher Education level[7]. Undergraduate Program (S1), "is an academic education intended for graduates of secondary or equivalent education so that they are able to practice science and technology through scientific reasoning[8]. (Article 18 paragraph 1 of the Higher Education Law), "An undergraduate program to prepare students to be intellectuals and / or scientists who are cultured, able to enter and / or create jobs and develop themselves into professionals (Article 18 paragraph 2)". PAUD (Early Childhood Education) in Article 28 paragraph 1 in [9], is Education that is held before basic education. " Paragraph: 2, 3, 4 and 5 state that "Education held in the formal, informal and informal education channels."

1.4. Covid-19 Outbreak

The Covid-19 outbreak has become a worldwide epidemic. According to Wikipedia [10], it was recorded that death reached 356 thousand people. (World Health Organization (WHO) explained in [11], "Coronaviruses (Cov) is a virus that infects the respiratory system and this virus is called COVID-19". Covid-19 Outbreak in [12], "is the first and foremost health crisis in the world, many countries decide to close schools, colleges, and universities".

2. Methods

The method used in this study was a Survey Method. "survey is a way to collect data from a number of units or individuals in the same time period, usually, the amount is quite large"[13]. "Survey is a research method using questionnaires as the data collection instruments, the aim is to obtain information about a number of respondents who are considered to represent certain populations"[14]. Dalen [13], "The survey is part of a descriptive study and includes 1). School a survey aimed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of education, 2). Job Analysis aimed to gather information about common tasks, 3). Document analysis or content analysis, 4). Public Opinion surveys aimed to know the public opinion about a certain matter and 5). Community Surveys or Social Surveys aimed to find information about aspects of life in a broad and profound way." This type of research is a descriptive study using a quantitative approach.

2.1. Research Subject

"Population is the area of generalization which consists of objects/subjects that have certain qualities and characteristics determined by researchers to be studied and then drawn conclusions". The subjects in this study were 70 students of the Panca Sakti Bekasi STKIP at Early Childhood Undergraduate Study Program 2019-2020 Academic Year who conducted the thesis supervision process. Data collection techniques in this study used a closed question questionnaire. "Questionnaire is a data collection technique that is done by giving a set of questions or written statements to respondents to be answered. As in this study, the questionnaire was given to respondents who were sent via google form then filled out by respondents voluntarily by providing objective data[15] [16].

2.2. Data analysis

In order to measure how the implementation of thesis supervision through the online system for undergraduate students of Panca Sakti STKIP at Early Childhood Education Study Program Bekasi amid the Covid-19 Outbreak, this study was based on the results of the respondents' answers in the form of circular diagrams distributed via google.form in the form of the answer percentage.

3. Results and Discussion

In the present study, some raw data were obtained in the form of answers from 70 included respondents (Undergraduate Students of STKIP Pancasilasakti Bekasi, Early Childhood Education Study Program) as follows:

Based on the aforementioned research result, some discussion analysis can be presented as follows:

1. The needs for a Well-prepared Implementation of Online Thesis Supervision amid the Covid-19 Outbreak. The Covid-19 pandemic that came suddenly forced the thesis supervision process to be carried out online. Actually, whatever happens, all must be prepared carefully in the implementation process. Students' understanding of a very shallow online system becomes an obstacle and constraint for students in implementing the supervision process. Students cannot carry out this supervision process without clear guidelines and policies in order that, in the future, students understand thesis supervision properly and correctly, it should be prepared first by the campus with the preparation of the program and the thesis supervision design model that has been previously designed and made based on the assessment needs or needs of students. This is in line with the statement [1], "an online thesis-based implementation of guidance, needs to be done needs planning". For this reason, the campus needs to prepare several things, including a). regulation or policy, b). issuance of decision letter of thesis supervision online, c). preparation of selected online facilities, d). online system socialization from the campus to lecturers and students, e). preparation of funding related to the credit top-up, f). policies for students affected by the Covid-19 outbreak related to economic circumstances due to the inability to pay for guidance so that they do not have a Guidance Decree and cannot follow the guidance, g). Supervising lecturers should use thesis preparation guidelines issued by the institute to reduce the double difficulties of students both in using online systems with inequality of

TABLE 1: Answers From 70 Included Respondents.

| No | Questions | Respondents' Answers | |
|-----|---|--|---|
| 1. | Students' understanding of the online system in the undergraduate thesis supervision amid the Covid-19 Outbreak | 87.1% comprehending | 12.9 % not comprehending |
| 2. | Difficulties of students in thesis supervision using online media amid the Covid-19 Outbreak | 51.5% difficult | 48.6% not difficult |
| 3. | Online media which are often used by supervisors | 70,6% WhatsApp and Email | Zoom meeting/Cisco Webex/UmeetMe |
| 4. | Students' reasons for choosing online media are in accordance with answer number 3 | 23.5% WhatsApp and Email | Zoom meeting/Cisco Webex/UmeetMe |
| 5. | The use of online media (zoom meeting, UmeetMe, Cisco Webex) by supervisors as an effective medium for thesis supervision compared to WhatsApp by email | 33.8 % using Zoom meeting/Cisco Webex/UmeetMe | 66.2% not using |
| 6. | The most difficult problems faced by students in the thesis supervision between ineffective communication with the supervisor and not having a supervision letter because of the economic impact amid the Covid-19 Outbreak: | 85.5% less effective communication with lecturer | 14.5 had not had a permit of supervision |
| 7. | Forms of communication difficulties between students and supervisors during lecturing who lack enthusiasm by not explaining the steps or procedures in preparing a thesis with interactive online media such as (Zoom Meeting, Ciscowebex and UmeetMe in accordance with the guidelines provided at STKIP Pancasakti amid the Covid-19 outbreak | 30% lecturer is lack of enthusiasm | 70 lecturer did not explain using interactive media as required in the guidelines. |
| 8. | The advantages of using an online system for thesis supervision during the Covid-19 Outbreak | 82.9% time and place are flexible | 17.1 % no exceeding answer |
| 9. | The weaknesses of using online systems such as zoom meetings, ciscowebex and umeetme in thesis supervision even though this media can be used as interactive media | 52.9% expensive, laggy connection | Never using it during supervision |
| 10. | The desire of students in thesis supervision using an online system during the Covid-19 outbreak period between supervisor one and supervisor 2 | 47,1 % not getting along | 52.9% wanting to use online media which are more interactive and well-explained about the procedure of thesis completion. |

guides because of the tendency of lecturers to guide based on their experience in college or refer to guidelines from other campuses, this is due to lockdown conditions, PSBB, Work From Home and so on which make students and lecturers

get lack of communication with the campus related to the guideline used, i). Campus collaboration with providers such as Indosat, Telkomsel, and so forth in the framework of universities has an adequate IT network. This is in line with the statement [4]. "Higher Education also needs the support of Information Technology in improving the quality of service to the education process. The use of online applications is increasing, this is one of the reasons why the need for web-based applications in the thesis supervision process".

2. Monitoring and Evaluation in the Implementation of a Sustainable and Integrated Thesis Supervision. In the implementation of this thesis supervision process, there must be monitoring and evaluation so that it will monitor and assess the guidance process going well or not. "There is a need for a Thesis supervision Monitoring application that is built in order to make it easier for students and lecturers to provide guidance so that the thesis work process or student final project can be completed on time, monitoring facilities such as chat and video streaming"[4]. "advances in science and technology have led to the emergence of the internet or computer networks, as a result, the impact of accessing various information has become easier." The use of email and WhatsApp by lecturers and students actually cannot be said to be the optimum and many have deficiencies in its use. This is because email and WhatsApp are IT media that are not able to explain with audiovisual and are less interactive where it is known that in the thesis supervision it is necessary to explain the procedures or steps that can be used by the supervisor to the students they guide. Moreover, so far students have not or have never done lectures or guidance in this way. It can be predicted that students have difficulties in understanding. In the language that is delivered both via WhatsApp and e-mail is very limited even sometimes there are sentences that are difficult to understand and misunderstandings occur between lecturers and students. "Email is one of the social media that uses internet access. The sender can send text or images, but the file sent may get a late response from the destination address"[17]. "Not all WhatsApp applications can be integrated into the system." If the guidance using online media such as Zoom meeting / Cisco Webex / UmeetMe and so on is expected to help and facilitate students in the supervision process[18]. "Cisco Webex allows users to meet online, collaborate with sharing content, reduce the cost of accommodation and meetings to be productive. Cisco Webex is a web-based video conferencing communication tool that allows communication to run using personal and mobile devices such as smartphones, PCs, Laptops, Notebooks, and tablet PCs while they are still within the reach of the

internet network. "Whereas, Zoom Meeting with UmeetMe is an interactive online media and has a procedure similar to Cisco Webex. Unfortunately, lecturers do not offer and students also do not know and master other online media and feel hesitant and unconfident to give a suggestion[19].

3. Analysis of Evaluation Result and Follow up. From the implementation process of the thesis supervision system and online media, it was found that they have not been selected and designed effectively and efficiently. "Online system that is designed, must help students in the supervision process" With a good system that has been prepared it will reduce the difficulties, obstacles, and constraints in the online-based thesis supervision process[1]. One of them is a lecturer in directing students to look for various sources and communication using the internet or networks. Some problems in the supervision were caused by several things, among others: a). The absence of online facilities that are representative and are implemented in the thesis supervision process, b). supervisors are not getting along in using interactive online media, c). Not all components are ready as a means of supporting the thesis supervision process using an online system, d). HR (Lecturers) and students who have not mastered ICT competencies well, 5). The absence of an integrated on-line support network system, e). It is necessary to have a guide or manual and socialization on how to use the right online media to lecturers and students before conducting supervision, f). The existence of initial direction or supervision to determine research problems that are relevant and up to date to the co-19 outbreak period so that research is so real in accordance with the current situation and conditions, g). The campus needs to make a new policy in dealing with students who have a Supervision Permit, h). There is a lack of enthusiasm in the lecturers, including i). The cost of using zoom meeting media and the like is more expensive, i). they do not get funding support from the campus, j). The inability to use interactive online media, k). Activities at home or Work From Home (WFH) and Stay at Home (SaH) during the Covid-19 outbreak according to government policy make the lecturers working on home activities and close to family.

4. Conclusions

From the results of this study, it can be concluded that the implementation of the online system in the thesis supervision process for Undergraduate Students of S1 Early Childhood Education Study Program at STKIP Pancasakti Bekasi amid Covid-19

Outbreak was deemed not running optimally. There was no proper preparation in the implementation of Thesis Supervision using online systems amid Covid 19 Outbreak. They did not have a Monitoring and Evaluation Application which is adequate for a Sustainable and Integrated Implementation of the thesis supervision Process. They had no guidelines prepared for the analysis of the results of evaluations and follow-up as a basis for recommendations for online system implementation in the thesis supervision after the Covid-19 outbreak.

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