Adoption of Information Technology as Digital Literature in the Pandemic Covid-19 Era for Women in Rural

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Abstract

Technology was created to make it easier for humans, but its use also requires user skills. The rapid flow of information and the occurrence of digital transformation are part of the result of disinformation circulating in the community. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many hoax issues were spread on various digital platforms. Digital literacy is very important to accompany the rapid development of technology. This study aims to identify the access to information through digital technology for rural communities living in the Klaten area during the Covid-19 pandemic. The methods for collecting data were surveys and interviews with informants, namely people who live in rural areas of Klaten and have children attending primary school level. The results of the barriers to internet users were obtained viii because: (1) they did not know how to use technology, (2) they were not interested or did not feel the need to use it because they did not know the function of the internet, and (3) the high cost of the internet. In addition, it was found that there was a digital divide between members of the rural community in the Klaten area who were less fortunate, especially those living below the poverty line, the elderly, and even people with disabilities. The conclusion is that the digital divide is influenced by age, education level, and income level. The older a person is, the lower the level of education and income, the smaller the chances of adopting the use of information technology as digital literacy.

Keywords: internet, digital literacy, information technology, Covid-19 outbreaks

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INTRODUCTION

Literacy has become a part of human life and development, from prehistoric times to modern times. In prehistoric times humans only read natural signs to hunt and defend themselves. They wrote the symbols and pictures of the prey on the walls of the cave. Along with the changing times, the standard of human life has developed, from not knowing writing to giving birth to the idea of making codes with numbers and letters so that humans are said to be creatures capable of thinking. This thought eventually gave birth to a culture. The process of developing literacy stems from the introduction of writing which at that time used parchment as a medium for writing (Sormin et al., 2017).

Every individual needs to understand that digital literacy is an important thing needed to be able to participate in today's modern world. Digital literacy is as important as reading, writing, arithmetic, and other disciplines (Adnyana & Martini, 2021). The generation that grew up with unlimited access to digital technology has a different mindset from the previous generation. Digital technology allows people to interact and communicate with family and friends in everyday life. Unfortunately, today's virtual world is increasingly filled with content that smells of fake news, hate speech, and radicalism, and even fraudulent practices. The existence of negative content that destroys the current digital ecosystem can only be prevented by building awareness from each individual.
Being digitally literate means being able to process various information, be able to understand messages and communicate effectively with others in various forms (Rochadiani et al., 2020). In this case, the form in question includes creating, collaborating, communicating, and working according to ethical rules, and understanding when and how technology must be used to be effective in achieving goals. This includes awareness and critical thinking about the various positive and negative impacts that may occur due to the use of technology in everyday life. Encourage individuals to move from passive consumers of information to active producers, both individually and as a part of a community. If the younger generation lacks digital competence, it is very risky for them to be left out in the competition for jobs, democratic participation, and social interaction.

Digital literacy will create a society with a critical-creative mindset and view. They will not be easily consumed by provocative issues, become victims of hoax information, or victims of digital-based fraud. Thus, the social and cultural life of the community will tend to be safe and conducive. Building a digital literacy culture needs to involve the active role of the community together. The success of building digital literacy is one indicator of achievement in the fields of education and culture.

The outbreak of COVID-19 is the beginning of the reign of the digitalization age (Herdiana et al., 2021). Almost all elements are "forced" to switch from manual to digital. This is inseparable from the government's appeal to work from home, study from home, and even worship from home to prevent the spread of the virus more widely. All elements called for the hashtag #at home, even medical workers who couldn't help but struggle in the hospital also called for the same thing by displaying a poster "help us by staying at home" (Dewi & Sudjiarto, 2021), (Novia & Wasehudin, 2021).

In the world of education, e-learning (electronic learning) is the prima donna of transferring face-to-face learning systems. Elementary to upper level education and even higher education were all laid off and implemented an e-learning system, from the simplest application level to an integrated system (Ajeng Melinda Utami, 2020). Almost all teaching and learning processes are carried out through assignments delivered in digital media. Especially in higher education after students are dismissed. Of course, it is not easy for those who have never implemented a digital system, the use of this technology forces people to be more literate in terms of digital literacy (Utomo & Prayogi, 2021). Especially for basic education in rural areas. Digital literacy, which so far has not touched rural areas, is a big thing that must be worked on at this time. Communities in rural areas are forced to be digital literate in order to be able to follow the learning process in their children's formal education. Then, how is the adoption of mastery of technology (internet) by parents, especially mothers in rural areas in the Klaten area, who are forced to accompany their children for distance learning online, this is the theme of the research conducted by the research team. Furthermore, researchers identified the inhibiting and supporting factors for mothers in rural areas to mastery of technology (internet) in providing online learning assistance for their children from home.

This research was conducted with the aim of identifying women in rural areas of Klaten who have children attending elementary school from the aspect of age, profession/occupation, and level of education as well as identifying factors that hinder and support the adoption of understanding technology (internet) as digital literacy. in assisting their children to learn online.

**RESEARCH METHODS**

This research is a type of qualitative research. Qualitative research is research that produces and processes descriptive data, such as interview transcripts, field notes, pictures, video recordings and others. Qualitative research aims to gain a general understanding of social reality from the participant's perspective (Adam, 2021). This understanding is not determined in advance, but is obtained after analyzing the social reality that is the focus of the research. Based on this analysis, conclusions are drawn in the form of an abstract general understanding of the facts. Qualitative descriptive research interprets and tells the data related to the current situation, attitudes and views that occur in society, the contradiction of two or more circumstances, the relationship between variables, differences between facts, the influence of a condition, and so on.
The data collection technique in this study was carried out by providing a Google Form link: https://forms.gle/jkLX1Zx9nmpoPrUa9. The use of this google form was carried out considering that when this data collection was carried out there was a PPKM level 4 program in Klaten City, namely July-August 2021. If there were informants who found it difficult to answer questions in the google form, the researchers helped direct them through whatapps messages or by telephone...

This research uses a descriptive method. Descriptive research is one type of research whose purpose is to present a complete picture of a social setting or is intended to explore and clarify a social phenomenon or reality (Adnyana & Martini, 2021). The author describes the adoption of technology (internet) for parents (women) in the rural area of Klaten City when accompanying their children to learn online from home regarding the obstacles they face as well as to find out the phenomenon of using digital literacy by the community in the education sector during the COVID-19 pandemic. 19.

Data collected through the delivery of google forms to informants with the criteria of parents (mothers) who have children sitting in elementary school and accompanying their children to study online. The informant (mother) lives in a rural area in the Klaten area. Informants were asked to fill in data on age, last education, profession/occupation by choosing one of the items presented, and answer the obstacles faced when accompanying their children to study from home by choosing three answers according to the real conditions of the informants.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The author has carried out research or research on informants, namely with the criteria of parents (mothers) who have children sitting in elementary school and accompanying their children to study online who are domiciled in the Klaten City area. The results of data collection through the distribution of Google Forms that have been carried out by the writing team can be described in the following discussion. Based on the survey results through Google Form, the following research results were obtained and further discussion was carried out.

Based on a survey of 68 informants, it was found that there are 2 informants aged between 20-25 years or 2.9%, between 26-30 years old there are 11 people or 16.2%, aged 31-35 years there are 25 people or as many as 36.8%, and there are 30 informants aged between 36-40 years or 44.1%. The next survey is to get data related to the latest education from the informants.

Based on a survey via Google Form, informants who responded based on the latest education category can be seen in the image below:
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Our focus: Social and Culture


From the survey of the informant's latest education category, the author can get information about the informant's last education. Based on the survey results, informants with the highest education level at senior high school occupied the highest percentage, namely 54.4% or as many as 37 people. Furthermore, the informant's last education at the Postgraduate level was 1.5% or only 1 person. For the last education of informants who took a bachelor's degree, 20.6% or as many as 14 people. The last education was at the junior high school level by 13.2% or as many as 9 people and the last education at the elementary level by 10.3% or as many as 7 people.

The next survey was conducted by identifying the professions or occupations of the informants. From the survey of the profession or occupation category of the informant, the author can get information on the profession or occupation of the informant. Based on the survey results, informants who work as housewives occupy the highest percentage, namely 61.8% or as many as 42 people. Informants with professions as private employees are 14.7% or as many as 10 people. Informants with professions as civil servants are 1.5% or 1 person. Informants with professions as teachers are 4.4% or as many as 3 people. Informants as traders amounted to 8.8% or as many as 6 people. The rest, informants have professions or other occupations that are not mentioned in the google form options.

The researcher also asked questions through a google form about the class of the informants' children (mothers) who were accompanied by online learning. Based on a survey of 68 informants, information related to the grade level being taken by the child from the informant was obtained, namely, class I of 17.6% or as many as 12 children, class II of 27.9% or as many as 19 children, class III of 16.2% or as many as 11 children, class IV of 9.8% or as many as 7 children, class V of 11.8% or as many as 9 children, and class VI of 16.2% or as many as 11 children.
as 19 children, class III of 17.6% or as many as 12 children, class IV by 11.8% or as many as 8 children, class V by 16.2% or as many as 11 children, and class VI by 8.8% or as many as 6 children.

From the survey conducted, data was obtained that the obstacles experienced by informants when accompanying children to study online from home during the Covid-19 pandemic. Informants were asked to provide answers related to whether there were any obstacles when accompanying children to learn online from home during the Covid-19 pandemic, namely the answer “Yes” by 85.3% or as many as 58 people, while the informant who gave the answer “No” was 14.7% or 10 people.

Based on the data in Figure 5 above, it was found that the informants (mothers) experienced more problems when accompanying their children to study online from home. This makes the author want to know more about these constraint factors so that he gives the next question to the informant to provide answers by mentioning up to three answers to various obstacle factors faced when accompanying their children to study online.

The last question that was given to the informants through the google form was a survey about the factors causing the obstacles faced by the informants in assisting their children to learn online. From the survey of the factors causing the informant's difficulties when accompanying children to learn online from home, the informant can choose a maximum of 3 answers to the causal factors experienced by the informant. Based on a survey through Google Forms, it was found that the informants experienced problems with the highest percentage of 61.8% because there was no time due to the workload. The next constraint factor is 52.9% due to expensive quota fees, 30.9% due to not having a laptop, 29.4% due to not understanding the internet, 16.2% due to not knowing technology, 4.4% because they don’t have internet access, and 1.5% because they don’t have cellphones (devices).

Based on several factors that become obstacles for informants (mothers) in assisting their children to study online, it can be concluded that digital literacy in relation to technology adoption for mothers in rural Klaten is still low. There are several reasons for this, among them, respondents have a low level of education.

Discussion
In 2020, the global community is together facing the Covid-19 outbreak which was later declared by WHO this outbreak of international concern because it was considered an emergency for the wider community. This epidemic has prompted the global community to adopt a new lifestyle to prevent the increasing transmission. One of them is the government of many countries, advising their citizens to stay at home during the pandemic if there is no urgent activity to do outside the home.

Referring to the Circular Letter of the Ministry of Education and Culture Number 40 of 2020 concerning "Implementation of Education Policies in the Emergency Period for the Spread of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19)", the Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud), Nadiem Makarim, took a number of policies to deal with the pandemic. These policies include the abolition of the National Examination, changes to the School Examination system, changes to the New Student Admission (PPDB) regulations, and the determination to study from home (online learning) (Dewi & Sudjiarto, 2021). To break the chain of spread of COVID-19 requires the cooperation of all parties in overcoming it. Efforts made by the government are not to huddle in crowds, not to go to markets, sports venues, cultural venues and so on. People who work in offices, are endeavored to do work at home (Work from Home). Likewise in the field of education, learning is done at home (Learning from Home). Learning from Home is the first experience carried out en masse in Indonesia (Adnyana & Martini, 2021).

Online learning is very useful during the current pandemic, so that students continue to follow learning even when they are at home. However, online learning also has many obstacles, especially for elementary school students. Many students at the elementary school level experience difficulties in online learning such as not having a smartphone to support the learning process. Elementary school should be a basic place for planting character values that may not be taught at home. However, because of the impact of this pandemic, students find it difficult to receive character education directly from their teachers at school. Online learning at the elementary school level is usually only given assignments by the teacher without an explanation of the material first. The learning process of students only depends on their parents. However, sometimes parents can't fully help because they are constrained by time, knowledge, and expertise in technology.

As mentioned in previous research, that characteristic of online or online learning is the integration of technology and innovation in it. This is done from early childhood education to higher education (Herdiyana et al., 2021), (Sutrisna, 2020). Some schools in Indonesia are used to implementing online learning methods, but on the other hand, there are also schools that are doing online learning for the first time. Educators who usually teach conventionally in the classroom, suddenly have to teach in a medium. Coupled with a number of educators who are not technology literate. In the online learning system, there are several obstacles that are deemed less effective, such as the provision of learning materials by the teacher, technology literacy from teachers and parents who will guide the child, and the economic situation of the child. Profit behind it (Risnajayanti & Silfiani, 2020). With these conditions, the learning process at the early childhood education level must continue, even more attention is given to them than normal conditions. Especially for children whose parents are at the forefront of handling COVID-19. Children need education to optimize all aspects of their development for the future in taking the next level.

In this new normal era, people are required to remain productive and creative to live side by side with Covid-19. As long as COVID-19 has not subsided, literacy is the public's answer to be good at filtering information, exploring wider knowledge as a form of improving the quality of life. Digital literacy aims to encourage people to use the internet intelligently, positively, creatively, and productively. Technological literacy is one of the filters so that someone is wiser in using technology, has insight, perspective, and a good attitude in using it. With the rapid development of technology, it does not make us eroded, but we can use it well so that technology becomes a good tool and helps every activity. If we have good digital literacy, then we will be wiser in acting and acting. Know what is allowed to be shared and what is not, able to distinguish valid and invalid information, and what is effective or not.
CONCLUSION

Regarding the results of the research that has been carried out, it can be concluded that the age of most respondents is 36-40 years with the highest level of final education being mothers with high school graduates and only 1 respondent who is a graduate. The profession of mothers who accompany their children to learn online is as housewives occupying the highest percentage. Meanwhile, the obstacle with the highest percentage is that there is no free time due to the workload of mothers, even though the majority of respondents stated that they were housewives.

The number of parents who do not master the features of online learning makes learning held at home quite difficult. Therefore, it is necessary to carry out mentoring activities for parents, especially housewives so that they can find it easy to accompany children when carrying out online learning at home. The role of students is very important to provide assistance to mothers around their homes in order to accompany children to learn online from home during this Covid-19 pandemic.

With the increase in digital media literacy for the community (especially for women in rural areas), it can have an impact on increasing individual capabilities for themselves and for others. People with good literacy skills tend to be ready to face the bad impacts of the pandemic. This is interpreted because it has an influence on a person's attitude in determining the response to a problem.

REFERENCE


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Our Scope: