Forms of Using the Internet to Support Student Activities in Online Classroom Learning in Higher Education

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Abstrak
The emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic at the end of 2019 has changed the style and model of learning at all levels of education throughout the world, including Indonesia. In order to keep the learning process running, the best solution that can be done is holding a virtual learning process (online class). To support this learning model, of course, the presence of the internet is undeniable. This study aims to analyze the role of the internet in supporting student activities during the online learning process in universities. This study uses a qualitative research method with a phenomenological approach, the source of the data is taken through in-depth interviews with thirty informants who were selected using a purposive sampling technique. All data were analyzed thematically using the Miles and Huberman technique. The results of the study found five activities carried out by students on the internet to support lectures: (i) looking for assignment references through journals, (ii) reading online news, (iii) watching Youtube tutorials, (iv) searching Google, Blogs, Web, (v) discuss and learn together like in a WhatsApp group.

Keywords: Activity, student, online learning, internet, Covid 19

Abstrak
Kata kunci: Aktifitas, mabasiswa, pembelajaran online, internet, Covid 19

Introduction

Humans were created by Allah SWT in a perfect form more than any other created creature, this is evidenced by the existence of reason in humans, as stated in Q.S Az-Zumar verse 18:

ٱلَّذِينَ يَسْتَمِعُونَ ٱلْقُوُّلَ فَيِتَبَيَّنُونَ أَخْسَسَةَ أَوْلِيَاءَ ٱللَّهِ هَذِهِمْ أَنَّهُمْ أَوْلُواْ ٱلْأَلْبَابِ

Meaning: Those who listen to the word, and follow the best of it: those are the ones who Allah has, guided, and those are the ones endued with understanding. (Q.S Az-Zumar [39]: 18).

Based on the verse above, it can be understood that Allah SWT has given reason to every human being (Wahbalbari et al., 2015). Intellect is an important element in presenting individual attitudes that are more contributive and contextual, in order to achieve a better life necessity and in accordance with the times and religion. One way to make individuals appear more contributive is through communication. Communication is a human activity that interacts with one or more people (Muslimah, 2016; Strandroos & Antelius, 2017). With communication, one can form mutual understanding and foster friendship, maintain compassion, spread knowledge and preserve civilization (Wijaya, 2015; Fried & Lewis, 2016).

As social beings, humans always want to be in touch with other humans, humans want to know the surrounding environment, even want to know what is going on within themselves, communication involves a number of people where someone says something to others (Romli, 2016; Tahrun & Nasir, 2019). One of the most fundamental activities in human life, the human need to relate to each other, is recognized by almost all religions since Adam and Eve (Cangara, 2016; Aristin & Maharani, 2017; and Alfiananto, 2022). Various communication processes in society are related to the structure and layers as well as the variety of cultures and social processes that exist in the community (Hartono, 2016), and also depend on the influence of the audience, both individually, in groups and in the wider community. While the substance of the form or form of communication is determined by: (i) the parties involved in the communication (communicators and audiences), (ii) the method taken, (iii) the interests or objectives of the communication, (IV) the scope of the person doing it, (V) ) the channel used, and (VI) the content of the message conveyed (Bungin, 2008).

However, at the beginning of 2020 there were barriers to communication, when the world was shocked by the outbreak of a new virus, namely the new type of corona virus (SARS-CoV-2) and this disease is called Corona Virus Disease 2019 (Covid-19) (Yuliana, 2020; Danish, 2020; Rog, 2020 and Coyne et al., 2020 ). Covid-19 is a disease caused by a strain of the new coronavirus. 'CO' is taken from corona, 'VI' virus, and 'D' disease (disease). Previously, this disease was called '2019 novel coronavirus' or '2019-nCoV.' This virus is transmitted from human to human and has spread widely in China and more than 190 other countries and territories (Susilo et al., 2020; Winarti & Hartati, 2020).
The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on almost all fields, including education (Martorejo, 2020; Ekantini, 2020 and Hidayatullah et al., 2020). To break the chain of the spread of the coronavirus, the Indonesian government took social and physical distancing policies, with the coronavirus outbreak, the learning process has changed from face-to-face to distance learning or known as an online system (Syamsuddin, 2021; Suhendro, 2020; Indrawati, 2020 & Marlina et al., 2021). One of the adjustments made in the learning process during the Covid-19 pandemic was the use of internet media. With the presence of internet media as a source of information, it is very possible for someone to search and disseminate all science and technology including writing inventions throughout the world easily, quickly, and cheaply (Mundir, 2017; Zuhri et al., 2020; Nishan & Mohamed, 2021 and Zulfitria et al., 2020).

Judging from the role of the internet, besides being able to make it easier for students to carry out learning during the Covid-19 pandemic (Argaheni, 2020; Reades & Crookston, 2021 and Lloyd, 2021). The internet affects changes in student achievement (Aditia et al., 2017; Wahyuni, 2018 and Fitri & Chairoel, 2019). One of the universities that runs online learning through internet media is the student of the State Islamic University of Imam Bonjol Padang.

This internet has positive and negative impacts on the process of learning activities for students of the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication, State University of Imam Bonjol Padang, the negative impact is that there are limitations that are less effective, lack of clear communication on the learning process, misuse of the internet so that students are negligent and forget the time. in the learning process during the pandemic. While the positive impact is that a student can make alternative learning via the internet during the Covid-19 pandemic. They can use the media properly and correctly. Related to the issue that the author raised in this study, as it is known that the COVID-19 pandemic has an impact on the student learning process. Therefore, the researcher wanted to investigate in depth to obtain information about how forms of using the internet to support student activities in online classroom learning in higher education.

Literature Review

As the author has stated in the background section of this article, the role of internet media is an important point that must be prioritized in improving the learning achievement of students majoring in Islamic broadcasting communication during online lectures. According to Permatasari (2021), the internet is a necessity for many people, the internet provides convenience in finding information, with the internet one can get information and also communicate with other people without having to meet with that person. The Covid-19 pandemic has also brought about significant changes in the learning process, where universities must implement distance learning to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus (Latip, 2020). In addition to distance learning, the use of internet media has also increased to add user recreation (Ratulangi et al., 2021).

As for the previous writing by Syaipuddin (2020) about the Role of Mass Communication Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic, this study examines the potential that occurs in development of the role of the internet in providing...
understanding to the public in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, the presence of mass communication is one of the quick steps that can be taken. can target various levels of society in providing early protection in protecting the public in providing information, education, to appeals about handling Covid-19. The same thing was also expressed by Rosyidi (2021) in the midst of Covid-19, communication through the media is a practical system in conveying information, because communication cannot be separated from various activities of human life, especially in the field of education, because in education there are activities. communication played by each party. This writing discusses the issue of mass communication in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, by discussing mass media and social construction that has the potential to change due to the global impact caused by Covid-19 in order to develop knowledge, it can be studied in more detail the role of mass media in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to Nur (2021) the presence of mass communication is one of the quick steps that can target various levels of society in providing early protection in protecting the public in providing information, education, to appeals about handling Covid-19. Communication can be stated to be a central role in providing information, education, to appeals about providing early protection in protecting the community. Thus, the existence of communication is a shortcut to overcome the spread of Covid-19. The relevance of this paper shows that Syaipudin (2020) and the author view that mass communication and internet media are both one of quick steps in delivering information and education. The difference is that there is a focus on writing, the author examines the role of internet media in improving student achievement of Islamic Broadcasting Communications at the State Islamic University of Imam Bonjol Padang while the previous author focused on the role of mass communication in providing understanding to the public during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The use of the internet in the teaching and learning process is one of the efforts made during the Covid-19 pandemic and can also increase the effectiveness and quality of the learning process (Zulfitria et al. 2020). According to Ni'mah (2016) internet media is very useful in the learning process, where students are more observant in seeing the activities of using internet media in daily activities. The benefits of internet media are also stated by Inayati (2018) that the internet is also able to affect a person's communication competence. The internet is one of the media that can help lecturers and students in learning, even the internet is also very capable in learning on campus and outside campus, students can complete their knowledge with the help of the internet (Sulkifli et al. 2019; Spariosu, 2018; and Linnegar, 2017).

Regarding the problems that the author raised in this study, as it is known that due to Covid-19, a distance learning system was implemented, one of which was at the Imam Bonjol State Islamic University, Padang. The purpose of this study was to find out how the role of the internet in improving student achievement majoring in Islamic broadcasting communication during online lectures.
Method

This study uses a qualitative method with phenomenology, according to Crowe et al., (2011); Taylor, (2013); Murniyetti et al., (2016); Bartlett & Vavrus, (2016); Gustafsson, (2017); Martell, (2017); Bolton, (2021); Zhang et al., (2018); Zhou et al., (2021); Kaputra et al., (2021) & Engkizar et al., (2021 & 2022). Phenomenology is a type of research that aims to observe deeply about phenomena, issues, symptoms or problems that occur either in a small group or a larger community. Referring to the opinion above, related to the issues and problems that the author raised in this study, this type of research is very appropriate to use.

Sources of data were taken from thirty informants who are active students majoring in Islamic broadcasting communication at the State University of Imam Bonjol Padang class 2018/2019 who were selected using a purposive sampling technique. Research data was taken through interviews using a health protocol, after the interview was completed with all informants, the interview data transcript process was carried out to then take a theme according to the objectives and needs of the research data. According to Terry et al. (2017); Neuendorf, (2018); Clarke, & Braun, (2018); Castleberry & Nolen, (2018); Herzog et al., (2019); Sivakumar, (2020) thematic analysis is one of the analytical techniques that researchers can use in analyzing interview results so that they can be seen clearly and easily understood by readers. All interview data were analyzed thematically using the Miles and Huberman technique. Thematic analysis is one of the more flexible ways to identify, analyze, and report qualitative research data. Before all data were analyzed.

Findings and Discussions

In this increasingly modern and sophisticated era, the role of internet media is increasingly needed by everyone. Because with the internet media, daily activities can be completed more easily and quickly. However, the sophistication of this internet media can turn to humans themselves. If someone is dependent on internet media, internet media can make someone controlled by the media itself, because this internet media will have a negative impact on users who do not use it properly and wisely. The role of internet media in modern times like today is undeniably very influential, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, because internet media is currently very influential in terms of time and place, it will be more practical and efficient. Internet media can increase students’ self-creativity, the role of internet media is also able to increase students’ self-confidence by participating in online learning, students also like internet learning media because they can learn with educational spectacles. The student of the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication at the State Islamic University of Imam Bonjol Padang already knows a lot about the positive and negative impacts of the media. They are not completely dependent on internet media. According to them, internet media is indeed important, let alone being able to help their duties due to limitations during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is undeniable that students of Islamic Broadcasting Communication at the State Islamic University of Imam Bonjol Padang must also adapt online learning methods, if students rely on books alone, it is certainly not sufficient because the Covid-19 pandemic has limited everything. The existence of Google and Youtube also helps in learning,
because with Google and YouTube it will also make it easier for students to explore the information needed as a reference in learning.

In a study carried out several stages of research that aims to get answers to the problems of the research that has been focused. These stages include data collection, data analysis and drawing conclusions on the data that has been obtained. The results obtained are different due to differences in perceptions between students, because students have the potential to learn and even in different environments. Each student will pay attention to the learning process according to the interests he receives. The author must really understand the focus of his research and also things related to the data needed. In this study, the authors analyzed the data obtained through online interviews with WhatsApp media and some interview documentation from students of the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication, Imam Bonjol State Islamic University, Padang.

To find out how to use internet media, students of the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication, Imam Bonjol State Islamic University, Padang, of course, the author must focus on the habits of the students to be studied. Starting from how to use internet media to the role of internet media in students' daily activities. With this, the writer can find one of the special characteristics possessed by each student. Even though during the Covid-19 pandemic, students should always be pro-active towards the existing environment, but that is not a benchmark that internet media should be able to achieve an increase in student achievement.

Based on the results of the author's interviews with thirty informants, the research findings found five findings (themes) of activities carried out by students on the internet to support lectures: (i) watching Youtube tutorials, (ii) searching Google, Blogs, Web, (iii) looking for assignment references through journals, (iv) reading news online, (v) discussing and learning together like in a WhatsApp group. To make it easy to understand the five findings in the study, the authors describe them as shown in Figure 1 below:

![Figure 1. How to use internet media for Communication](image-url)
Furthermore, so that the research results in this article are interesting to read and easy to understand, the author will display excerpts from interviews with informants based on the five themes that have been obtained. The interview excerpts that will be displayed are excerpts from short statements from the informants when the interviews were conducted. Even though the interview excerpts were conveyed by informants in slightly different language editorials, they actually had more or less the same purpose and intent.

**First Theme** (search for references through journals). Regarding the first use method, there are clearly five informants as excerpts from the interview below:

...The way I use the internet is by reading existing journals (informant 10). ... Usually, I look for a lot of journal references on various platforms (6). ... I know more about several journals, links and procedures for finding assignments on the internet... (12)

Journals are the main reference source needed in writing scientific papers. For this reason, many students who want to make assignments need journal references as reading material. By reading journals, students can find out the results of a study or research carried out by previous researchers and of course the truth has been guaranteed because it has been professionally compiled and has been published through a publisher (Unusa Library, 2017).

**Second Theme** (Reading news online or news portal). There is one informant who says that it fits this theme as quoted from the interview below:

... I am more able to read news on the internet, because usually when I am offline, I rarely read news on the internet because it is online and I often read news on the internet. (informant 1).

From the interview, the writer can understand that the way to use internet media by informant numbers 1 is by reading news portals that can improve skills in learning.

**Third Theme** (Doing searching Google, Blogs, Web). Regarding how to use these three, it is clear that the six informants are excerpts from the interview below:

... using internet media, namely by maximizing in terms of reading sources through websites that can be accessed (informant 11). ... the way I use internet media is usually using the media that is there such as searching google (8). The way I use internet media is to read more material from websites on the internet because of the pandemic... (20)

The development of the internet network has made major changes in the learning process because now in the process of learning resources are no longer limited by the dimensions of space and time. Through the internet, students can get the information they are looking for such as searching Google, Blogs, Web. One of the benefits of the internet is media search. The existence of search in the internet world makes it easier for users to find information (Arumdani et al., 2018).

**Fourth Theme** (Watching Youtube tutorials). Regarding how to use these four clearly six informants as excerpts from the interview below:

... the way I use internet media with (informant 24). My interest in watching Youtube during this online learning is I always make creations at home such as
cooking (helping parents), making youtube / tik tok content about cooking or other creations (28).

Youtube is very popular with people in various circles, the use of Youtube is as an intermediary for people to connect with each other, provide information and inspire others. Through positive content on Youtube, the Youtube application can be one of the learning media (Farhantunnisya, 2020).

Fifth Theme (Discussing and learning together like in a WhatsApp group). Regarding how to use these five clearly two informants as excerpts of the interview below:

… I discuss more with friends in WA because when looking on the internet a lot of time is wasted understanding the explanation, and the language on the internet is also a lot of languages that are difficult to understand, it's better to exchange opinions with friends (informant 4). …the internet is like applications that support the learning process in discussion… (23).

At the beginning of this the author will mention how to use internet media for Islamic Broadcasting Communication students at UIN Imam Bonjol Padang including: First, (Looking for assignment references thought journals). The existence of the internet has caused many changes that are quite large for someone to communicate, interact, discuss and conduct research (Nur, 2017). There are so many benefits that can be obtained when reading print journals and online journals, especially in preparation for the preparation of thesis in the future. By reading journals, students can find out the results of a study or research that has been done by previous researchers and of course the truth has been guaranteed because it has been professionally compiled and has been published through a publisher. And of course for students who are diligent in reading journals, if the lecturer asks questions in class, students will be better prepared to answer and of course get additional points given by the lecturer.

Second, (Reading news portal). There are now many online news portals that present news that varies from light and entertaining (Riadi, 2022). People who live in a society where the media has played a part in their lives, often forget that they have learned a lot from the media. When newspapers became known, they served as the main news source for world events. Entire generations of human beings form their opinions on world problems as a result of what they learn apart from newspapers but also through media, films, television, magazines (Depari & MacAndrews, 1988). According to Mutmainnah (2016) Various events and information obtained by the public cannot be separated from the role of a news portal in relation to the presentation and interpretation of the facts of events. Through news portals, people get a form of presenting information. News is not an information that is always related to all events because not all events become a byword that is reported. The news itself focuses more on the construction of a reality whose interpretation process uses a variety of measured languages (Unusa Library, 2017; Lonsdale et al., 2016; Octoberlina & Muslimin, 2020; Kuo et al., 2014; Anshari et al., 2017; Banica et al., 2017).

Third, (Perform Google, Blog and Web searches). Currently, the development of information and communication technology has brought enormous changes to the advancement of the world of education. Along with these developments, learning media has also developed a lot, web site-based
learning which is part of e-learning is an attempt to transform the teaching and learning process into digital form which is bridged by internet technology. The purpose of this web-based learning focuses on the efficiency of the teaching and learning process (Affandi, 2020).

An innovation in the development of non-printed teaching materials to improve student learning outcomes, one of which is website-based learning. This website-based learning is an innovation in the world of education that can be used as a medium in the teaching and learning process (Persada, 2017). One of the web that has been so developed and can be used as a source of learning is a weblog which is more commonly called a blog. A blog is a web that is so easy to use, both for uploading learning materials and learning evaluations (Sulasmiat, 2018).

Fourth, (Watch Youtube tutorials). The use of video media can increase motivation and learning outcomes (Delfisanur, 2020). Youtube is a popular video sharing website founded in February 2015 by three former PayPal employees namely Chad Hurley, Steve Chen, and Jawed Karim. The YouTube site is the largest video sharing site ever (Pambudi, 2019 and Schneider, 2016). According to Mujianto (2019) the development of Youtube as one of the most popular social media is an opportunity in the world of education. Education has a very important role in developing quality human resources. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation and state.

Fifth, (Discuss and learn together in WhatsApp). In programming there is an application that is connected to the internet, this application must be installed and most importantly there is an internet connection that can connect (Darmuki, 2020 and Aguerre, 2017; Syafril et al., 2021). WhatsApp is the most popular messaging social media today, making it possible for all students to already know and have WhatsApp (Surani & Chaerudin, 2019). WhatsApp messenger is a cross-platform mobile messaging application that allows the exchange of messages, which is available on various smartphones and can be used to create groups, send unlimited images and audio. This shows that WhatsApp is one of the smartphone applications that can process messages quickly and can improve communication within a group. Thus, WhatsApp social media can be used to convey knowledge, communicate and even discuss. The description above indicates that WhatsApp can be used in well-designed learning, so that students can understand the subject matter, discuss and increase student activities in learning (Lin & Jo 2013; Salam, 2020; Engelbrecht et al., 2020; Sojayapan & Khlaising, 2020 & Azlan et al., 2020; Arbaugh, 2002).

Based on the explanation above, with this internet media a search tool appears or can be called searching where students simply write keywords in the search column, then various explanations of what they are looking for appear. In addition, students of the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication also use the sophistication of internet media such as browsing and watching YouTube. The use of internet media also affects their achievements, such as when doing daily tasks, UTS and UAS, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. They also started looking for literature or references
such as journals due to the limited use of books during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In addition, during online learning students can also carry out other activities. More specifically, their GPA above 3.51 tends to look for more accurate references such as journals, and analyze them. They are also very careful in using the web. These students prefer journals and e-books. They often watch YouTube if they can change their information or insight, such as watching news or watching self-motivated films. In addition, with groups like WhatsApp they can ask each other about problems they don’t understand and find the best solution. Furthermore, students majoring in Islamic broadcasting communication who are included in a GPA of 3.01-3.50 are not much different from students who have a GPA above 3.50 during the Covid-19 pandemic, they also do assignments by on the internet, only sometimes they also use blogs or the Web such as blogspot. Meanwhile, students of the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication at the State Islamic University of Imam Bonjol Padang, whose GPA is 2.50-3.00, prefer to search directly on the internet without analyzing it first and they also tend to look for information that is related to their hobbies, so they are less enthusiastic when learning online during the Covid pandemic.

**Conclusion**

Based on the objectives and results of research regarding the Role of Internet Media in Improving Learning Achievement of Islamic Broadcasting Communication Students During the Covid-19 Pandemic, the conclusions drawn for the formulation of the problem are, The use of internet media by students of the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication at the State Islamic University of Imam Bonjol Padang during the Covid pandemic. -19, namely: (i) Looking for assignment references thought journals, (ii) Reading news portal, (iii) Perform Google, Blog and Web searches, (iv) Watch Youtube tutorials, (v) Discuss and learn together in WhatsApp. The role of internet media in improving student achievement in the Department of Islamic Broadcasting Communication, Imam Bonjol State Islamic University, Padang. Internet media has the role of facilitating the learning process due to limitations due to the Covid-19 pandemic, with this internet media students are able to search for references available on the internet such as by searching Google, reading journals or news, using the Web, watching Youtube Blogs and others. so as to improve student achievement in both academic and non-academic fields.

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