

## **E-Learning Application Training for Junior High School and Madrasah Tsanawiyah Teachers in Manado City**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*E-learning has always been a need for everyone. It develops to be utilized since Covid-19 attack. For this reason, many parties including Education attempts to involve applications in E-learning materials. Teachers, in particular required a lot of methods to apply teaching and learning materials through online materials. Within this case, this community service aims to train teachers in using and applying E-learning applications into the classroom. The following community service was accomplished in several schools located in Manado city, such as SMP Yapim, MTs Assalaam, Mts Al Muhajirin. The subjects were teachers from the following schools who have been teaching during covid-pandemic. This activity was held during one month. The results say that the teachers feel motivated, improved and getting understood to have an easier method to use E-learning application such as Edmodo and Google Classroom for their Classroom. The tools in those applications are useful, for instance, to perform an understanding about how to use formula in Math, how to express ideas in English, how to write an assignment in History, and how to learn sufficiently and properly. In the meantime, students are also conveyed grateful and enjoyable to use google classroom and Edmodo application. However, factors such as do not have and have limited smartphone, internet network, and the late to access the apps can be said as the problems found during the service by the team.*

**Keywords:** *learning; Learning Applications; Junior High School Teachers.*

### **ABSTRAK**

E-learning sudah selalu menjadi kebutuhan untuk semua orang. Pembelajaran ini berkembang sejak serangan pandemi covid-19. Untuk alasan ini, banyak pihak termasuk pendidikan mencoba melibatkan aplikasi-aplikasi yang terdapat didalam E-learning. Guru-guru seperti contoh, membutuhkan banyak metode untuk diaplikasikan dalam kegiatan belajar dan pembelajaran secara daring (dalam jaringan) atau sekarang disebut online. Dalam hal ini, tim pengabdian masyarakat bertujuan untuk memberi pelatihan kepada guru-guru dalam menggunakan dan mengaplikasikan pembelajaran aplikasi E-learning didalam kelas. Kegiatan ini dilakukan di beberapa sekolah yang berbeda yang berlokasi di Kota Manado, seperti SMP Yapim, MTs Assalaam, MTs Al Muhajirin. Subjek dari pengabdian ini

adalah guru-guru yang ada disekolah tersebut yang sudah mengajar selama pandemi covid-19. Kegiatan ini dilaksanakan selama 1 bulan. Hasil menunjukkan bahwa guru-guru merasa termotivasi, meningkat dan mengerti untuk menggunakan metode yang mudah dalam aplikasi E-learning seperti Edmodo dan Google Classroom. Fitur-fitur yang ada di aplikasi tersebut berguna, seperti contoh, dalam menampilkan pemahaman seperti rumus matematika, bagaimana mengekspresikan ide-ide dalam Bahasa Inggris, bagaimana menulis tugas dalam mata pelajaran sejarah, dan bagaimana belajar cukup dan tepat. Sementara itu, siswa-siswa juga merasa bersyukur dan menyenangkan dalam menggunakan Google Classroom juga Edmodo. Namun, factor-faktor seperti tidak mempunyai dan terbatasnya smartphone, jaringan internet yang belum memadai, serta keterlambatan mengakses aplikasi adalah masalah-masalah yang terdapat selama pengabdian oleh tim.

**Kata Kunci:** E-learning; Aplikasi E-Learning; Guru-Guru SMP.

## **INTRODUCTION**

In recent years, especially during pandemic, many attempts have been tried by Education parties to look for methods in teaching and learning process. In particular to junior high school teachers, E-learning has been a must to use at that time. The learning by using E-learning is not new. It is designed to simplify the learning by directly executed by the learners or the person who used it. For teachers, it is demanded to look for innovation in teaching and learning by using technology in it. As suggested by one of the previous researcher, being a teacher should have an innovation including technology use among the world's development era (Fitriyani et al., 2020).

In order to apply it, teachers must be familiar firstly to use electronic application and the way the process involve. It is due to E-learning refers to using electronic application and processes to learn (Tanveer et al., 2015). In other words, the users are required to use such online or electronic application in the way it is used. By this issue, teachers must be able to adjust their capacity to support themselves to learn E-learning. Besides, it is supported by the central government of Indonesia as well as the local, to change the offline learning becomes online. Even more, they suggest to apply a hybrid learning, if possible (Hardiyanto et al., 2022).

Hardiyanto elaborated that online learning is executed through online platforms that can be used by digital application without direct interaction in the classroom (Hardiyanto et al., 2022). Consequently, online learning experienced many different developments, such as CALL system that started in several universities in 1980 (Zboun & Farrah, 2021). It is a platform that defined as computers which the inside contains software to support the language teaching in such a CD ROM and other programs. Throughout the development of CALL, it can not be denied that lots of users tried to blend technology and involve the traditional as well online learning method to promote teaching and learning process (Zboun & Farrah, 2021).

There are many discussions about the benefits and challenges of online learning. One from (Fedynich, 2014), explained that potential of online learning that utilized the technology should be cost-effective and instructors or students will have easy access for online resources and trainings for example. Second person elaborates that doing the learning by using online learning brought positive attitudes for teaching such as Teaching English (Zboun & Farrah, 2021). Yet, limitations also are studied. Students or users may get difficulty employing online learning through the platforms. One of the limitations refer to online learning needs to be time consuming. Also, technical problems are always be main category. For instance, the quality of video-conference in this case the virtual connection is not proper. Most importantly, the speed of internet connection seems to be a main issue to use online platform in E-learning (Appana, 2008).

In addition, there are responses from a research found to discuss about potential and challenges in E-learning. Potentials are in the form of flexibility, independent learning, and increased participation. While challenges, are about problems with internet connection and coverage, increased expense on data packages, and adaptation process (Sufyan et al., 2020). This definition can be described that flexibility relates to the timing that the users will operate. Users from all over the world can find out their needs every time they open E-learning. While independent learning, in which the users will do, is the freedom for learners to learn by themselves, improve themselves, as well as form themselves by going through self-study by online. The last one refers to participation. In other words, it takes an opportunity to come and involve into several activities. On the other hand, challenges of doing E-learning also are vary. Users most of the time facing internet connection issue, needed more internet data, and take time to adapt with the process. In responding to this explanation, it cannot be denied that E-learning has always been a thing to consider.

Based on the community service accomplished by the team, it can be said that the theories are correlated with the current phenomena. Like the data from the interview through preliminary study, the team found some issues in the field. The first issue found, was about the unprepared teachers. The teachers looked like having limited understanding to the use of online platforms such as Edmodo, and Google Classroom. The second one, about the age of teachers who dominantly getting older or named as senior teachers. The teachers are often feel difficult in playing the smartphone or even operating the laptop due to the ages. In the meantime, problems such as the school instruction is also limited. It is seen by the quality of school management in inserting the rule of online learning platform in teaching and learning process. Of them all, the infrastructure being the most issue in implementing online learning. In particular, the networks, and the availability were kinds of the reasons why the teachers are lacking of the actions following online-learning.

Within this case, the team intended to conduct a community service for E-learning for junior high school and also madrasah tsanawiyah teachers located around Manado city. The reasons the team implemented this activity was based on the current condition that the team observed. The condition was pictured that the data from the schools show a lack of understanding of teachers to input E-learning into teaching and learning process. In this case, the teachers were mostly refer to use manual process by manual tools of teaching and learning during pandemic. Likewise, the training to use E-learning is necessary.

**METHODS**

The method that the team emphasized on this community service was going through six stages, namely orientation, discussion, material exploration, action, test and reflection (Hardiyanto et al., 2022). The followings can be described as follows;

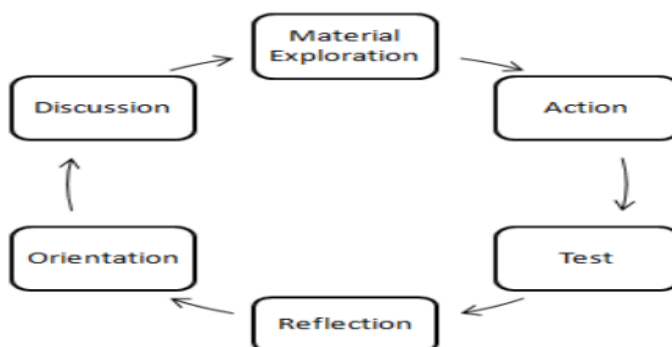



Figure 1. A model from Sufyan et al. (2020).

Stages	Description	Target
Orientation	This activity is the preliminary action that aims to provide orientation to the students related to the discussions in the community service. The form of this orientation was done by giving a lecture and a kind of seminar to the participants related to the topic.	The intended group that the team executed from several stages were the teachers from SMP YAPIM Manado, MTs Al-Muhajirin Manado, and MTs Assalam Manado totaling 30 participants. The entire participants were involved to pursue the target results.
Discussion	This description belongs to take materials for the participants. For this reason, the materials discussed are about the use of Edmodo application and google classroom application.	
Material Exploration	 <p>In this stage, participants are hoped to dig out information about the use of Edmodo and google classroom. Every participant is allowed to use the</p>	

	smartphone or laptop individually to start using based on the examples given by the team. At this moment, team accompanied the participants intensively in which having communication through online or offline.
Action	By working in pairs, participants are given opportunity to elaborate their ability by learning individually or in pair. Certainly, this activity was under controlled by the team and the instructor also the principal of the school.
Test	For this step, the participants are tested by doing self-test throughout the entire learning materials. In the meantime, the community service team has to monitor the participants one by one in order to have better results comprehensively.
Reflection	At this activity, the team and participants utilized an evaluation through final meeting. It was intended to discuss the find out the limitation of the training. Besides, the team did a survey to further analyze the needs of the next project. Of this information, it is going to be an input for the team to organize the community service to revise the strategy and materials being trained.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the data, this activity was located at three different schools in Manado city. The program was held during one month from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The locations were SMP Yapim Manado, MTs Al-Muhajirin Manado and MTs Assalaam Manado. In detail, the findings are explained based on the stages mention in methodology.

### **Orientation**

In this occasion, the first action to do was started at the very first day of the program. The moment was lead by the resource person and the team.

The activities pictured that the participants of the training understand about the introduction to the E-learning activities through the use of online platform such as Edmodo and Google Classroom application. Additionally, the orientation of this program made the participants familiar and comprehensively received an understanding to use those platforms. They looked really enthusiastic to study more complex and fix it to be used in their learning and teaching process.



Figure 2. Orientation E-learning activities

## **Discussion**

In this discussion, participants were asked to discuss related to the materials given. They were assigned to dig out information about the function of the application, the operational stages of those application, the problems found when they difficult to use those applications as well as the comfortable method for them to master those ones. From this activity, the participants are enthusiast to discuss. Of course, the team lead them as always. The situation displayed that every teachers looked curious to click and asked the hints or instructions given. Accordingly, the teachers performed and tried to download the applications freely in google play store.



Figure 3. The teachers performed and tried to download the applications freely in google play store

### **Material Exploration**

In this stage, the team provided an opportunity to explore the materials individually. Meanwhile, the participants are being controlled by the team. During the learning, the participants tried to open Edmodo, inserted the material and assignments. Also, they tried to use google classroom right after using Edmodo. They revealed that these application made them grateful to apply the learning. The features helped them identifying the assignments, even the attendance list they could cover.



Figure 4. The participants tried to open Edmodo

### **Action**

This activity was the important one. Participants were asked to use Edmodo and Google Classroom properly. Despite of the time consuming is limited, the participants kept trying their action with their friends in the classroom. From this action, the participants were also invited to perform



their knowledge in front of their friends. The team lead the teachers to use their phone and operate it in detail.



Figure 5. Participants were asked to use Edmodo and Google Classroom properly

### **Test & Reflection**

To evaluate the activity, the team accomplished a reflection by doing analysis about needs and wants of the participants. The team asked their perceptions about the mastery of the Edmodo and Google Classroom activity. It was due to find out the understanding and mastery of using the apps. Having tested, the results say that the participants were able to use the Edmodo and Google Classroom. Seen from the interview, additionally, it was acquired 93 % participants could be able to control their classroom through Edmodo and Google Classroom. Hence, it can be said that this training is effective and useful for teachers at the following locations in Manado city.

In this activity, there are limitations found by the team. The team considered that they had a limited time to train the teachers. Besides, the locations of the school which far away from IAIN Manado that difficult to reach by the team. On the other hand, the school curriculum that still used the manual one.



Figure 6. Participants were able to use the Edmodo and Google Classroom

## CONCLUSION

From the results and discussion, it is concluded that the ability of teachers in comprehending and using Edmodo and Google Classroom is improved. The results of the test show that there are 93% participants in this case teachers are able to use and comprehend the E-learning application on their schools, such as Edmodo and Google Classroom. Based on the reflection, teachers indicate that Edmodo and Google Classroom support them identifying and running the teaching process through online. Even it is taken time to check, they said that they were flexible enough to open it every time they need. Students, on the other hand, revealed the same advantages too. Students elaborate that by having this platform, they started to be more active in connecting with their teachers anytime. However, internet data are limited and using wifi only.

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