The Effects of Online Learning on Children's Social Development in COVID-19 Pandemic

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Abstract—During the Covid-19 pandemic, students, teachers, workers, and all activities outside the home are restricted. This is because the government implements a policy to lockdown an area and social distancing programs as attempts to break the chain of spreading the Covid-19 virus. So that the teaching and learning process must also be carried out at home. This condition is very different from before, in which students stare at the screen, discuss behind the screen, and chat or socialize are limited by the screen. The question is, 'how does online learning affect children's social development in today's era of COVID-19 pandemic?' This paper would like to answer that question by using the theory of Child Development, such as Psychosocial Developmental Theory, Attachment Theory, Psychosexual Developmental Theory, Social Learning Theory, and Cognitive Developmental Theory. Learning at home is a great way to continue gaining knowledge and carrying out the teaching and learning process despite there are many Pros and Cons about this program.

Keywords—children's social development, Covid-19, education, online learning

I. INTRODUCTION

During the present pandemic crisis when the entire globe is sailing amid the storm, technology has played a pivotal role. Technological development and the internet have changed the lives of people immensely and have also brought a huge change in various fields (Nadikattu, 2020). Especially in the education system E-learning is a significant tool for effectively continuing the teaching-learning process during the lockdown. The web has become one of the important mediums of learning that opens the door for people around the world to access education easily at a free or lesser cost (Noor-Ul-amin, 2013). E-learning has fixed its root especially in the field of modern education. The need of modern learners is quite different and E-learning has been found beneficial for fulfilling their needs. The mediums of E-learning andprinciples of artificial intelligence are gradually gaining popularity in the world (Misko et al., 2004; Soni, 2020). It is providing a solution to the learners who are unable to access the traditional means of education due to the present pandemic situation. The present paper is going to unfold the aspects and impact of various E-learning

platforms that the educational institutes have been following globally in diverse fields during the pandemic crisis of COVID-19.

A. Covid-19 Pandemic and Online Learning

The COVID-19 pandemic that occurred this year, has made everyone shocked. How this virus could spread so fast. Wehave to take care of ourselves, our families, and those around us.Diligently washing hands with soap, always wearing masks, applying social distancing, and staying at home. Our country is implementing a lockdown, all offices, schools, and public places must be closed to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Then, if schools are closed, how can we continue to carry out the teaching and learning process? The government and the school implement the teaching and learning process through an online learning application. This is very good for this time, where students can still gain knowledge—even though there are many pros and cons to this. How we react is to think about common interests or put aside the ego. Online classes are a great alternative to normal in-school classes. The important point is that we can still accumulate knowledge during a pandemic.

In particular, Dr. Soetomo University has directly implemented the e-Learning program, an online learning program.Whereteachers can provide material, assignments, tests, and fill in student attendanceonline. This is a good learning program in responding to the current pandemic, and the teaching and learning process can still do well.

When the first two COVID-19 cases were announced in Indonesia in early March, the country was in a panic. On March 14, Jakarta Governor Anies Baswedan announced that all schools in Indonesia were to be closed. "Don't focus too much on the academic aspect, but emphasize life skills, character, etc. This is a good output for us to discuss in the future," he said. Clearer rules regarding PJJ are regulated in the Minister of Education and Culture Circular Number 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policies in the Emergency of the Spread of Coronavirus Disease (covid-2019). In point 2 of the circular letter, it is explained that the Learning from Home Process is carried out with the following conditions:

1. Learning from Home through online / distance learning is implemented to provide meaningful learning experiences for students, without being burdened

withdemands to complete all curriculum achievements for grade promotion and graduation.

2. Learning from Home can be focused on life skills education, including regarding the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. Learning from Home learning activities and assignments may vary between students, according to their interests and conditions, including considering gaps in access/learning facilities at home.

4. Evidence or products of Learning from Home activities are given qualitative and useful feedback from the teacher, without being required to give a quantitative score.

As a student participating in the home-learning program, the online school was confusing to adjust to as we had not been prepared through simulations or practices beforehand. Students reported the home-learning program to be even more stressful than regular classrooms. Some of the common reasons for this went along the lines of: "Normal classes may have been difficult, but having friends makes it so much more manageable and less stressful. Online classes take out the benefits of having friends to socialize with and being stuck alone with nothing but assignments."

Many students participating in home-learning programs also say that the workload of online classes is larger than that of regular classes. The consensus is that home-learning programs — although highly beneficial and a good alternative to school as schools are closed — still require some getting used to by students, as it is a novel concept and not many are experienced with them.However, although the closing of schools does have a silver lining (home-learning programs where students are still able to learn), the true sufferers of the government order of school closings are the students in less fortunate situations and the students who are in schools that are not well-funded.

This is because those students lack the devices and internet access to be able to participate in online classes, and the schools do not have the capacity to teach online. Unlike in New York where devices are distributed to students by schools and private companies, in Indonesia, there is yet to be this kind of effort.This leaves many students in a bad spot where they are unable to receive an education. Although internet service providers have been giving out free data packages, they are simply not capable of supporting video calls on programs such as Zoom.

To further complicate things, it seems that COVID-19 will last a while in Indonesia. For context, in China, it took months for the transmissions to stabilize — and this was with a fast government

response, instant lockdown, and people obeying the rules and quarantine policies.Despite the lack of a nation-wide lockdown, schools remain closed, meaning that students who have no access to a device or internet connection will have a difficult time maintaining their education. Due to these factors, they will be in a very difficult spot educationally until the COVID-19 pandemic dies down in Indonesia. In this situation, the government should make extra efforts to support the education sector and build a sense of solidarity among schools, such as by facilitating networks between international and national/public schools to share experiences and study methodologies for online teaching.

Thankfully, there are now some alternatives to online learning in which students in less fortunate situations could participate. The Education and Culture Ministry recently introduced a Belajar di Rumah (Learning at Home) program through state-owned broadcaster TVRI (for the next three months) and a platform called Guru Berbagi (Teachers Sharing), providing creating learning and teaching materials. To add to this, however, the government should still have more offline options for students without internet access, such as the distribution of books and learning materials.

The presence of COVID-19 will directly and permanently change education in the future, seeing that we must be able to adapt to working and studying online for any kind of reasons and situations.

B. Five Theories of Child Development

Experts in medicine and science have marveled for decades over the ways in which children develop.This fascinating area of study continues to yield many questions: "What affects child development?", "At which ages are development most susceptible to external effects", "What all can be done to maximize child growth and minimize detriments to it?", and many more like these. In response to such questions, many theories have abounded. The following five child development theories are among some of the most expertly recognized and utilized today.

1. Erikson's Psychosocial Developmental Theory

Erik Erikson was an important figure in the fields of psychoanalytic and psychological development. He was also the famous coiner of the popular phrase "identity crisis". Central to much of his work was his theory on psychosocial development. As it became known, Erikson's Psychosocial Developmental

Theory produced a framework for organizing human growth, through all stages of life, into eight distinct stages. Key to the outcomes of the child stages as well as those afterward are the principles of social interaction and experience.

2. Bowlby's Attachment Theory

John Bowlby was another groundbreaking psychologist and theorist in matters of development. He also crafted one of the earliest known child development theories which still sees prominent use and citation today. In Bowlby's Attachment Theory, he asserted that much of child development is based on the innate need of children to form attachments. These attachments may involve any number of people, places, or things and ultimately have a substantial effect on onward development patterns throughout life.

3. Freud's Psychosexual Developmental Theory

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Sigmund Freud "may justly be called the most influential intellectual legislator of his age." While creating the modern field of psychoanalytic, Freud also went on to make many other significant contributions to the sciences including the assertion of multiple, important theories. Freud's Psychosexual Developmental Theory was one of these important products in which Freud explained that child experiences, experienced at different ages in childhood, directly go on to dictate personality and behavior patterns in the later adult. This general theory has since birthed virtually countless studies, disciplines, and other academic and business establishments.

4. Bandura's Social Learning Theory

Albert Bandura's Social Learning Theory commonly relies upon today across many industries and professions. This theory states that while much child learning and development does come from direct experience, much also comes from modeling and simple observations. Bandura himself is another important and very pioneering figure in psychology who is currently Professor Emeritus at Stanford University.

5. Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory

Piaget's Cognitive Developmental Theory states that children, quite simply, think differently than adults. While this may seem obvious to some, this was a

revolutionary theory that went on to provide the foundations for several other theories to come. Essentially, this theory divided the child's life into four separate categories, or stages, each of which carries its important qualities and vulnerabilities. Jean Piaget, the theory's author was a notable psychologist and scientist of his time.

The study of child development is a vastly important one that helps us today to understand the greater human development process itself. Just like in many other scientific disciplines, theories themselves are some of the critical pillars of the science and study of child development. These five above-mentioned theories are among some of the most pertinent in the field to date.

II. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Children's Social Development in Today's Online Learning in COVID-19 Pandemic

In the current Covid-19 pandemic era, online learning has an influence on children's social development, we can find from fivetheories from Experts in medicine and science who have marveled for decades above over the ways in which children develop-where learning can be easier if children socialize with other children. It supports all the theories above that can be seen in each theory, In the first theory, Erikson's Psychosocial Developmental Theory which says that Key to the outcomes of the child stages as well as those afterward are the principles of social interaction and experience. The second theory, Bowlby's Attachment Theory, says that most child development is based on children's innate needs to form attachments. These attachments involve a number of people, places, or things and ultimately have a substantial effect on subsequent patterns of development throughout life. The third theory, Freud's Theory of Psychosexual Development is one important product in which Freud explained that the experiences of children, experienced at different ages in childhood, directly continue to determine patterns of personality and behavior later in life.The fourth theory, Bandura's Social Learning Theory, this theory states that while much of children's learning and development comes from direct experience, much also comes from simple modeling and observation. And the fifth is Piaget's theory of Cognitive Developmenta theory that divides a child's life into four separate categories or stages, each of which has important qualities and vulnerabilities.Where it can be said here is that the social development of children will be better if they socialize or meet

other children of the same age / other individuals in the school. Children can immediately argue, learn from each other, and advance each other. Online learning is also good for this current pandemic, but not good for children's social development in the future.

III. CONCLUSION

During the Covid-19 virus pandemic, we are still given the opportunity to gain knowledge through online learning, which is a good thing for students. With the theory that has been explained about child development above, we can find out how children react in the online teaching and learning process to their development period, and we as students, parents, and teachers can understand it, so that we can continue to learn with make adjustments during a pandemic. So that the teaching and learning process can run smoothly, and children's development can not be disturbed by the presence of new online learning methods.

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