Comparison of the Independence Learning of Prospective Teacher through the Use of E-Learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Hermansyah¹, Eryuni Ramdhayani², Nurhairunnisah³, Erma Suryani⁴, Sri Sugiarto⁵

¹Physics Education Program, Universitas Samawa, Sumbawa, Indonesia.  
²Biology Education Program, Universitas Samawa, Sumbawa, Indonesia.  
³Education Technology Program, Universitas Samawa, Sumbawa, Indonesia.  
⁴Economic Education Program, Universitas Samawa, Sumbawa, Indonesia.  
⁵Indonesian language and literature education Program, Universitas Samawa, Sumbawa, Indonesia.

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Abstract: The current learning process is carried out online with the help of e-learning. This certainly changes the pattern of learning and this pattern requires students to be more independent in the learning process. This study aims to compare the effect of using e-learning on the learning independence of prospective teachers in the exact field of exact sciences with the social and humanities field at Universitas Samawa. Respondents in this study amounted to 62 students from five study programs under the auspices of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education. Respondents were divided into two based on the specifications of the fields of science, exact sciences, and social humanities. The data collection technique used observation technique with the tool used in the form of a Likert scale questionnaire. The results showed that in general, student-teacher candidates in the field of social humanities obtained a higher score of learning independence than prospective students in the field of exact sciences, while based on each indicator of learning independence, prospective students in the field of exact sciences teachers were higher than prospective students in the field of social humanities specifically on disciplinary indicators. The results of the influence test show that the significant value is greater than 0.05. So, it can be concluded that the use of e-learning during the covid-19 pandemic does not significantly affect the learning independence of prospective teacher students at Universitas Samawa.

Keywords: Independent learning; pre-service teacher; e-learning; covid-19


Introduction

Education systems around the world are facing difficult times due to the Covid-19 pandemic forcing universities to implement conventional learning through online learning (Tarhini et al., 2017). In Indonesia, the Government issued a policy to close schools and colleges to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Educators and students as important elements in learning are required to switch from face-to-face learning to online learning (W. Bao, 2020; Basilaia & Kvavadze, 2020). The development of information and communication technology today can support online learning. Online learning is experiencing rapid development (Haryadi & Jannah, 2020). With the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT), higher education has moved to online platforms to assist students and is adopting virtual teaching to deliver online courses (Ali, 2020; Hodges et al., 2020). The online platform is one of the learning media needed in learning. The use of learning media is an important factor that affects the...
Online learning can support learning activities (Herwanto et al., 2020). Online learning independence is one of the factors that are considered to affect student achievement. Learning independence is the willingness and initiative of students to carry out their own learning activities without the help of others and are responsible for solving learning problems (Herwanto et al., 2020; Lestari et al., 2019). This is in line with the opinion of Ahmad et al. (2019) that with independent study, students' learning responsibilities will increase as well as self-discipline. Learning independence is an internal factor found in students that can affect the learning process. Mukhlisa et al., (2021) state that learning independence is one of the factors that are considered to affect student achievement. Learning independence has other terms, namely independent learning, independent thinking, independent learning, self-efficacy, and self-esteem (Sumarmo, 2010). Independence is the ability to manage everything that is owned, namely knowing how to manage time, walk and think independently accompanied by the ability to make decisions in problem-solving (Nasution, 2018). One of the online platforms that can be used to support the learning independence of prospective teachers in learning during the COVID-19 period is e-learning. Crawford et al. (2020) stated that UNESCO also recommended that higher education institutions need to prepare online learning tools or e-learning. E-learning has emerged as a powerful learning medium, especially using internet technology as a way of delivery (Amin et al., 2021). This is a challenge for universities, especially educators (Fahmi, 2020), to be able to choose effective learning media to support online learning such as e-learning. E-learning is also called learning management that utilizes technology as a learning tool (Sulistyohati, 2020; Tigowati et al., 2017; Apriansyah & Pujastuti, 2020). E-learning is a learning platform that utilizes information and communication technology networks so that online learning activities occur. The American Society of Training and Education (ASTD) explains that E-learning is the application of digital media in the learning process such as internet media, computer networks, broadcast satellites, audio cassettes, video, interactive television, CD-Room, etc. (Mahdi & Sally., 2010). E-learning is seen as having a major influence on students' academic performance (Tawafak et al., 2020). In addition, the use of e-learning can increase student interaction with lecturers (Amin et al., 2021) and can help students independently understand the subject matter (Hernawati & Aji, 2016). Likewise, the opinion of Naidu (2006) explains that the type of e-learning is individualized self-paced, meaning that students can learn and access their own learning resources via the internet. The e-learning system provides an opportunity for instructors/ faculties where they can manage, plan, deliver and track the teaching and learning process (Amin et al., 2021).

Based on the above, this study aims to compare student learning independence in the exact field with the social humanities field through e-learning during the covid-19 pandemic.

Method

This type of research is a qualitative descriptive method. The research subjects are prospective teachers from five study programs at the Faculty of Teacher Training and Sciences, namely Physics Education, Biology Education, Indonesian Language and Literature Education, Economics Education, and Educational Technology. The research sample is as many as 62 teacher candidates. The data collection instrument used was a Likert scale questionnaire with a scale of 1-5. A scale of 1 indicates strongly disagree, 2 indicates disagree, 3 indicates less agree, 4 indicates agree, and 5 indicates strongly agree. The learning independence questionnaire contains 20 statements that have been adjusted with indicators including self-confidence, responsibility, initiative, and discipline according to Febriastuti (2013), as shown in Table 1 which is measured. Data analysis techniques were carried out by classifying data, tabulating data, scoring respondents' answers, processing the number of respondents' answer scores, calculating the percentage of questionnaire answers for each statement item, calculating the average percentage of the questionnaire, visualizing the data in the form of pictures, and interpreting the percentage of answers to the questionnaire as a whole. The data obtained in the qualitative form are then quantified using the following equation.

\[
N = \frac{\text{Total Score Obtained}}{\text{Maximum Score}} \times 100
\]

The final results obtained are interpreted into an interpretation scale, according to (Riduwan, 2012) as in Table 2.
Table 1. Independent Learning Indicators and Aspects Assessed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Rated Aspect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Self-confident</td>
<td>Students learn not to depend on others. Students have the courage to act.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students believe in themselves.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
<td>Students have self-awareness in learning. Students do all the assignments given by the lecturer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students are active and serious in learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Initiative</td>
<td>Students learn at their own pace. Students ask or answer without being asked by others.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students try to find other reference sources in learning without being asked by the lecturer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Discipline</td>
<td>Students pay attention to the lecturer's explanation when learning. Students do not delay the assignments given by the lecturer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Students are not lazy to study.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2. Score Interpretation Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Scale</th>
<th>Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>81-100</td>
<td>Very High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>61-80</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>41-60</td>
<td>High enough</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>21-40</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0-20</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Result and Discussion

Figure 1 shows the acquisition of learning independence for prospective student teachers at Universitas Samawa. Based on the data in the figure, the scores obtained by students in the social and humanities fields were higher than in the exact fields. The difference in scores obtained between the two groups of fields is 2.08.

Figure 2 shows students' scores on each indicator of learning independence. The data in the figure shows that students in the social and humanities fields scored higher than students in science on every indicator except for the discipline indicator. In the discipline indicator, students in the exact field were 0.55 higher than students in the social and humanities fields.

In Table 1 it can be seen that the significance value of the comparison of student learning independence in the exact fields and social humanities is 0.140. This shows that there is no significant difference between students in the exact sciences and social humanities.

The results of this study indicate that the value of student learning independence in the social humanities field is higher than students in the exact field. After testing the differences in learning independence, it turns out that there is no significant difference between the two fields of science. The absence of differences in learning independence between students in the exact fields and social humanities occurs because the treatment given to the two groups of fields tends to be the same, namely using e-learning. The similarity is found in the content and procedures for the treatment given.

Table 1. Results of Student Learning Independence Statistics Test for Prospective Teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Learning Independence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Mann-Whitney U</td>
<td>374.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wilcoxon W</td>
<td>674.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Z</td>
<td>-1.475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Asymp. Sig. (2-tailed)</td>
<td>0.140</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The absence of differences in learning independence in the two field groups also occurred because the scores obtained by the two field groups were not too different even though the social humanities group was higher than the exact field group. The high value of student learning independence in the social humanities group is due to the fact that based on the characteristics of the courses and the material being taught is more dominant in theory so that it does not require further explanation in the form of practicum or field problems solving. In contrast to the exact group of students, the material is more dominant on concepts that require further explanation, such as practical activities. Practical activities emphasize the level of student confidence, responsibility, and initiative.

Some practical or experimental activities cannot be explained through e-learning because the e-learning system does not support several applications that can be used to carry out practical activities. This causes the low level of learning independence of prospective teacher students, especially in the exact field group.

E-Learning is an example of technology in education that can support a conducive atmosphere in the teaching and learning process, especially during a pandemic like today. Students are required to study independently. Independent learning is one of the important goals in the learning process. This is in line with the Presidential Regulation of the Republic of Indonesia No. 87 of 2017 concerning strengthening character education which states that in order to create a cultured nation through strengthening religious values, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, democratic, curiosity, national spirit, love for the homeland, respect achievement, communicative, peace-loving, fond of reading, care for the environment, social care, and responsibility, need to strengthen character education (Huda et al., 2019).

Independent learning is a learning process where each individual has the initiative with or without the help of others, in terms of determining learning activities, such as determining learning objectives, learning resources, learning needs, learning strategies, and evaluating the learning process (Supriani, 2017). A student is said to have learning independence if he has his own desire to learn, solve problems, and is responsible for completing his obligations (Wahyuni & Nurhayati, 2019).

The application of e-learning is a new medium that can overcome the passive attitude of students, increase enthusiasm for learning, allow direct interaction and allow students to learn independently (Nana & Surahman, 2019). E-Learning is an internet-based electronic technology-based learning that is used to make it easier to receive knowledge and improve students' skills (Sagita & Khairunnisa, 2019).

Learning independence is a process that can be improved, but requires habituation, a strong will because many are based on the internal factors of each individual, so it is not easy to be able to change it. (Supianti, 2016). In line with the results of research (Hermansyah et al., 2020) learning independence is closely related to the level of discipline of prospective teachers, self-confidence, initiative, and responsibility for the assigned tasks also affect their learning independence.

Based on the results of research (Wilson, 2020) the E-learning learning system must be balanced with increasing the competence of lecturers. Students faced by lecturers today are millennial generation students who are technology literate, therefore lecturers are required to always improve scientific competence and innovate learning methods so that students can be more motivated and excited to carry out the learning process. This is in line with the opinion of Firdawati et al. (2021) which states that the use of technology in the teaching and learning process as an interactive medium can increase student motivation. Learning motivation is an encouragement to carry out the learning process. Students who have high motivation will have enthusiasm and energy to carry out daily learning activities. Meanwhile, from the student’s perspective, what must be addressed is the readiness of students to learn independently. Since online learning is more likely to adopt the term self-directed learning, student self-study is important.

Online learning is effective for overcoming learning that allows lecturers and students to interact in virtual classrooms that can be accessed anywhere and anytime. Online learning can make students learn independently and increase their motivation. However, there is a weakness that students’ online learning is not properly supervised during the online learning process. Weak internet signals and high quotas are a challenge for online learning (Sadikin & Hamidah, 2020). In line with research (Indrayana & Sadikin, 2020) that e-learning can make students learn independently and dare to think and be active. However, the weaknesses of e-learning are internet signals in remote areas, limited quota, and difficulties in supervising students.

Based on research (Sudiana et al., 2017) that in virtual classroom learning students are weak in targeting indicators and learning objectives compared to students who receive conventional learning. There are several reasons why learning in virtual classrooms has not contributed well to student learning independence, because learning independence is formed through a learning process obtained from childhood to adulthood. This intelligence is obtained
after a person goes through a development that is very influential for the development of his independence. Learning independence has a dynamic nature, meaning that it does not escape change. There are indicators that can last for a certain period of time, but there are also those that can change according to momentary situations. This means that there is a possibility to increase or increase one’s learning independence.

**Conclusion**

The learning independence of prospective students in the field of exact sciences is lower than that of prospective teachers in the social and humanities field. The learning independence of prospective teacher students can be influenced by the types of learning support devices such as e-learning with the types of courses or majors taken by students. E-learning currently cannot be used as a maximum supporting medium for prospective students in the exact field of science because in some concepts from exact material there are concepts that need to be explained directly by doing practicums that cannot be done using e-learning to its full potential.

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