

# The Effect of Online Learning Policy in the Era of Covid-19 on Students' Quality

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## Abstract

This study aims to analyze the effect of online learning policy in the era of Covid-19 on the students' quality at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba. The type of research used in this research is a combination method (mixed method), namely quantitative and qualitative with instruments in the form of questionnaires and interviews. Determination of the sample in this study using probability sampling technique, the categories are students of SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba and the number of samples taken in this study was 90 people and 5 informants. Data collection techniques used are observation, questionnaires, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis technique used regression analysis. The validity of the data was obtained through validity and reliability tests. The results of this study indicate that the influence of online learning policies in the Covid-19 era on the quality of students at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba is going very well. This is based on the average score obtained from the statement items of 346 or 63.2% which indicates that the implementation of online learning has a positive and significant effect on the quality of students. Then there are 30% and 5.27% disagree due to student interest in the online learning process.

**Keywords:** Online Learning, Covid-19, Students' Quality

## Introduction

This research is motivated by an incident that hit the world some time ago, namely the COVID-19 outbreak at the end of 2019 which is still happening until the end of 2020. In Education Sector, the Government issues a policy in the learning process, namely how many days off school students. However, students are encouraged to study from home. This policy influences

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changes in the teaching and learning process in schools, and then affects the quality of students, so teachers, students, and other school officials must be more effective in the learning process so that students still receive material in the event of this Covid-19 outbreak.

The Government's policy is in the Circular Letter of the Minister of Education and Culture number 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Educational Policies in the Emergency Period for the Spread of Covid-19. In line with the soaring spread of Covid-19, the mental and physical health of students, teachers, school principals, and all school residents becomes the focus of consideration in implementing this education policy. Learning from Home is carried out through special provisions for students studying at home with online or distance learning carried out to get a more meaningful learning experience for students, without burdening the demands of covering all curriculum achievements for graduation.

Based on the Law of the Republic of Indonesia No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System Chapter, education plays a very important role in the life of a person and society which has the aim of developing self-potential that determines the direction of one's life and will be beneficial for the nation and state. The realization of quality learning cannot be separated from the role of a teacher who continues to strive to provide learning that students can easily understand. There are many ways that teachers can do for the fulfillment of the learning process, one of which is by utilizing the sophistication of technology as it is today. Teachers can carry out the learning process using the internet and supporting applications others such as e-mail, zoom applications, *WhatsApp* applications, and so on.

The use of the internet will certainly help teachers and students in the learning process. The effectiveness of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) as a learning media and learning resource, apart from having advantages, also has limitations. Therefore, its use in learning activities must be carried out by selective, with Pay attention to the nature and characteristics of the material to be delivered (Salma et al., 2013).

Online Activities, based on Circular Number 4 holds 2020 in its influence on the quality of student learning can be seen in several indicators. Indicators that refer to the quality of students in the interactive learning process cannot be implemented in this online learning process. Among others; direct meetings of teachers and students (Harakan, 2017). Interactive grouping of students, as well as student independence in processing the understanding of lessons from the teacher and also the activities, conduct Comparative Studies, Trainings, and Educational Workshops that students understand faster when done interactively.

According to Pohan (2020) online learning is also known as online learning or distance learning. Online learning is learning that takes place in a network where teachers and students do not need to meet face to face. So it can be concluded that online learning through online that utilizes an internet connection can happen anywhere and anytime.

Online learning in schools in Indonesia is a compulsion. Many things become obstacles in online learning, for example, the internet network is not evenly distributed, internet access is expensive, and so on. When viewed from the way the online learning process is carried out, there are likely several obstacles that students and teachers will face. Such as difficulties in obtaining a network/signal and the possibility that some students do not have an Android mobile phone to support the learning application. Not to mention that students have to spend money to buy cellular data packages. Not only that, electric power and electricity supply conditions also do not guarantee that they will still be there at the time or moment of learning, tests or exams to be held. Not to mention that during this pandemic the economy slumped, so some students had to help their parents work. It means that online learning is not easy, so many obstacles are not encountered in interactive learning. This will have an impact on students in learning and affect student learning outcomes.

Online activities, based on Circular No. 4 of 2020, the impact on the quality of students' learning can be seen in several indicators. Indicators that refer to the quality of students in the

interactive learning process cannot be implemented in this online learning process. Among others; 1) Direct meeting of teachers and students. 2) Interactive grouping of students, as well as student independence in processing the understanding of lessons from the teacher. 3) Activities to conduct Comparative Studies, Training, and Educational Workshops which students' understand faster if they are carried out interactively.

Based on the description of the background above, the author is interested in analyzing more deeply related to the online learning process in the era of Covid-19 on students' quality at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba.

## **Literature Review**

### **Policy**

Hasbullah & Anam (2019) argues that policy means taking care of problems or public interests so that the emphasis is on action (product). The word policy when juxtaposed with education is the result of the translation of the word educational policy which comes from 2 words, education policy has the same meaning as government policy in the field of education. This education policy is the product of the selected person or unit, the product of several inputs from all parties for the sake of improving the quality of education.

Policy activities are purely derived from the considerations of human reason. Even so, humans are more dominant in the selection of consideration options to become policy. Therefore, in policy-making, there is an emphasis on emotional and irrational factors. Policymaking based on these two factors does not mean that the policy is irrational, but it is possible that at that time rationality has not been achieved or is an intuition (Tilaar & Riant, 2008).

### **Education Policy in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era**

Carter (1959) provides an understanding of educational policy (educational policy) as a consideration based on a value system and several assessments of situational factors, these considerations are used as the basis for making decisions to operate institutionalized education. Education policy is a set of rules whose alignments are owned by the government for the creation of education that is in accordance with the ideals so that it reaches the desired goals, alignments here include politics, budgeting, empowerment, rules, and so on (Hasbullah & Anam, 2019).

Since the Government implemented Circular No. 4 of 2020 on March 24, 2020, as the basis for the Implementation of Education in the Emergency Period for the Spread of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19), there was a restriction on meeting people in numbers, many of which were included in the Learning Process in the world of Education. The learning process, which was originally face-to-face in class, shifted to distance education (PJJ) in a network (online) with an online system. Such policies have an impact on the habits of teachers and students in the learning process, which in itself also affects the quality of students receiving lessons or affects students' effectiveness.

### **Online Learning**

According to Meidawati, et al (in Pohan, 2020) online learning is a formal education organized by schools where students and teachers are in different locations so that they require an interactive communication system to connect the two and the various resources needed in it. This learning can be done anywhere and anytime depending on the availability of supporting tools used. According to Sanjaya (2012) online learning can be defined as a form of distance education in which the delivery of material is carried out via the internet in a synchronous or asynchronous manner. Online learning is usually known as e-learning, virtual learning, computer-mediated learning, web learning, and distance learning. This learning term implies that students and teachers do not have to meet face-to-face in the learning process but can use digital technology media such as computers or androids that allow flexibility of access.

Meanwhile, according to Ibrahim (in Salma et al., 2013) online learning is a learning activity that is not bound by time, place, and the rhythm of the teacher's or teacher's presence, and can use electronic media and telecommunication facilities. Furthermore, according to Santoso et al. (2020) online learning or commonly known as online learning is a learning mechanism that utilizes ICT, in this case via the internet. One of the advantages of using this technology is our flexibility in carrying out daily activities.

### **Online Learning Media**

In online learning, the teacher is not limited by the rules in choosing and using online media to be used. However, teachers must refer to the principles of online learning that have been determined by the government. This means that the media used by teachers can also be used by students so that communication in learning can be done properly.

### **WhatsApp**

According to Enterprise (2014), WhatsApp is a chat application where you can send text messages, pictures, sounds, locations, and even videos to your friends using any mobile phone. Sucipto (in Nurhalimah, 2019) also states that WhatsApp messenger is a cross-platform messaging application that allows users to exchange messages without SMS fees because this application uses the internet data packages using 3G, 4G or wifi internet connections for data communication. By using this application, users can chat online, share files, exchange photos, and so on.

According to Jumi atmoko (in Rahartri, 2019) in the WhatsApp application, various features can be used by users including a gallery which is used to add photos, contacts are used to insert contacts, audio is used to send voice messages, camera to take pictures, maps. used to send locations and various map coordinates, and document which is used to send and insert files in the form of documents. All these features are available for the convenience of the users and all the files can be sent in an instant.

Rahartri (2019) stated that in May 2018 there were 1.5 billion WhatsApp users and 65 billion messages were sent per day through this application. So from some of the above understanding, it can be concluded that using the WhatsApp application will greatly help facilitate users in terms of communication and sharing information. But on the other hand, this application requires an adequate cellphone and is very tied to the internet network. So it can be ascertained that if someone who is in an area with a minimal network connection will not be able to use this application.

### **Google Form**

According to Sudaryo et al. (2019) Google Forms or commonly called google forms is one of the features in google that is useful for making it easier for users to create surveys/forms via the internet. Meanwhile, according to Nurmahmudah & Nuryuniarti (2019), google form is one of the general applications from google, which can be accessed for free if you have a google account. By using google forms users can create a form that can be found by everyone through the link provided by the survey maker.

If it is related to education, according to Joenaiddy (2019) the use of Google Forms in learning, especially evaluation and assessment on the network can be done by teachers only by inputting questions. However, in this case, patience is needed by the teacher in entering the questions manually one by one.

### **Indicators of Students' Learning Outcomes Quality**

Learning outcomes can be said to be successful if they have achieved the expected learning objectives which can be seen by the changes that occur in students, both changes in knowledge to changes in student behavior (Khaerah et al., 2021). According to Benjamin S. Bloom (in Suprijono, 2009) learning outcomes indicators consist of cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities.

According to Gagne's thinking (in Suprijono, 2009) learning outcomes can be; 1) Verbal information, 2) Intellectual skills, 3) Cognitive strategies, 4) Motor skills, and 5) Attitudes.

## Research Methodology

This research takes approximately two months to achieve research that is in accordance with what is desired. Then this research will be carried out at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba. This research was conducted at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba, one of the schools targeted for the location of online learning policies in the Covid-19 Era. So, the researcher took the title 'The Influence of Online Learning Policy in the Covid-19 Era on Students' Quality of SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba' because online learning policies are a tangible manifestation of policy implementation. The study used the Mixed Method which is a combination of qualitative research methods and quantitative methods. The number of samples used as many as 90 respondents who were taken through the distribution of questionnaires which were male as many as 60 people and female sex as many as 40 respondents, and also using as many as 5 informants.

## Research Results

### Online Learning Policy

SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba carries out all online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the implementation of online learning, learning times become more flexible, depending on the agreement between teachers and students if they cannot carry out lessons during the scheduled hours of school. Students still experience difficulties in the form of various obstacles and are also still adapting, from face-to-face conventional learning to online learning. These obstacles are internet quota problems, unstable network signals, and other supporting facilities such as laptops and gadgets. According to students, it is easier to understand face-to-face lessons than online. This research was conducted by interviewing principals, teachers, and students online.

**Table 1** The results of data management from 90 student respondents and the results of the interviews on online learning policy

Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage (%)	Score
Strongly agree	8	7.2%	48
Agree	18	25.2%	90
Neutral	30	33.3%	120
Disagree	28	27%	84
Disagree	4	5.4%	8
Strongly disagree	2	1.8%	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>352</b>

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the respondents' responses to the increase in discussions between students and teachers were normal because there were 37 students or 33.3% choosing the neutral category and 30 students or 27% choosing not to agree. For the category of strongly agree there are 8 students or 7.2%, agree there are 28 students or 25.2%, disagree there are 6 students or 5.4%, while strongly disagree there are 2 students or 1.8%. This was conveyed by informant J as the principal of SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba.

In the pandemic era, many changes have occurred, including in the world of education. This can be seen from the respondents' responses regarding the online learning process. Then it was strengthened by the results of interviews with several informants that indeed the existence of this Online Learning Policy was limited for teachers and students to conduct discussions in order to deepen the material previously described. Because before the pandemic, when the class

was over, the students could go directly to the teacher to ask questions about the material they didn't understand during class time, and based on the observations, it was true that with the online learning policy, many students and teachers lose their emotional connection between them.

Based on the results of research in SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba students in Bulukumba Regency, 68.61% which indicates that the online learning policy is in the Good (B) rating, indicating that the online learning policy has been implemented and is running well. The results of the analysis of the indicators of the quality of the students of SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba can be seen that the average of the highest respondents was 43.59% of respondents who gave responses that did not agree, while the average assessment of the lowest respondents was 9.77% of respondents who gave responses strongly agree. The indicator of the quality of the students of SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba shows that the assessment is neutral 77.42% of respondents, the assessment is obtained from the results of the analysis of 43.59% disagree and 33.38% agree.

It is also clarified by the results of interviews with several informants which can be concluded that the existence of online learning policies is very helpful as a means of distance learning methods (online) both in terms of health, education, empowerment. With the existence of online learning policies, it is very useful to achieve efficiency in learning time, it is easier to access learning materials and learning resources themselves.

While those who choose strongly agree that is equal to 9.77% obtained from the category of strongly agree and disagree by 20%. This shows that the quality of students in the online learning process still has obstacles in terms of improving the quality of learning because there are still many students who take the opportunity with this online learning policy, one of which makes it a form of laziness to try so that students always expect to be given. Although there has been an improvement, there are some students who are no longer willing to be more active in improving the quality of their learning.

Based on the results of research that has been carried out on indicators of improving student quality, this online learning policy is part of the learning process during the covid-19 pandemic.

#### **Students' Quality**

The impact of online learning is the result of the influence of online learning which is expected to improve education in the future. So that students can develop to be able to continue their learning process.

This is in line with the online learning policy whose indicators are in line with Education, where the existence of online learning policies in the COVID-19 era is expected to be able to improve education in the future. Improving the level of education is one indicator of the variable influence of online learning policies (Setiyawan & Wijayanti, 2020).

**Table 2** The results of data management from 90 student respondents and the results of the interviews on students' quality

Category	Number of Respondents	Percentage	Score
Strongly agree	5	4.5%	30
Agree	13	14.4%	65
Neutral	29	32.4%	116
Disagree	27	31.5%	81
Disagree	11	12.6	22
Strongly disagree	5	4.5%	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>319</b>

Based on the table above, it can be seen that the responses of 90 respondents turned out to be 29 people or 32.4% who chose the neutral category, 27 people or 31.5% who chose the less agree category, disagreed there were 11 or 12.6% respondents, while strongly agree and

strongly disagree there are both 5 respondents or 4.5%. By looking at the respondents' responses, it can be concluded that students at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba are still normal with the online learning policy. Based on the indicators of the impact of online learning 7 questions with an average assessment of 90 respondents there are 6.04% who gave a strongly agree response, 17.73% who gave a agree with the response, 31.76% who gave a neutral response, 30% who gave a less response agree, 8.99% who give a response disagree, 5.27% who give a response strongly disagree. Online learning with the help of youtube media has the advantage of being easy to access, so to improve the quality of learning, youtube as a learning medium can be a solution (Sari, 2020).

Then in the circular letter of the Ministry of Education and Culture No. 4 of 2020 on March 24, 2020, it was explained that the implementation of education in an emergency period of the spread of the coronavirus, there will be restrictions on meeting large numbers of people including in the learning process in the world of education Implementation of online learning requires good communication between students, parents, and schools due to long distances and not continuously. Communication between students and schools is done virtually or in cyberspace.

So that the results of the analysis of the indicators of the impact of online learning can be seen on the average of the highest respondents 31.76% of respondents who gave neutral responses, while the lowest average of 5.27% of respondents who gave an assessment strongly disagreed. Indicators of the impact of online learning at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba show a strongly agree assessment of 23.77% of respondents, the assessment from the analysis is 6.04% neutral and 17.73% agree. However, the high voter disagrees which is equal to 30% and 5.27% strongly disagree due to student interest in the online learning process is very low. This is due to the absence of time discipline rules during the learning process and also the lack of awareness of students in dealing with changes in the learning process. So that the quality of students will also influence in terms of grades and skills.

Based on the results of the indicator research that has been carried out on the impact of online learning, it is in line with the theory Muiz & Sumarni (2020) which states that learning outcomes are in the form of verbal information, intellectual skills, cognitive strategies, motor skills, and attitudes. Online learning is a formal education organized by schools where students and teachers are located in different locations so that it requires an interactive communication system to connect the two and the various resources needed in it. So that at the assessment level, not only online attendance but also student activity in the online learning process takes place.

Based on data analysis, we can obtain information about the contribution of variable X to variable Y, the influence is symbolized by R (regression). As the table above explains that the magnitude of the regression value or influence (R) is 0.756, which means 75.6%. From the large influence of the independent variable or the influence of online learning (X) on the dependent variable or the quality of students (Y) which is also strengthened by the value of the coefficient of determination ( $R^2/R$  Square) or the determinant coefficient of 0.572 meaning 57.2%. So that the ups and downs of students' quality levels are influenced by 57.2% online learning.

## Conclusion

Based on research conducted on the influence of online learning policy in the covid-19 era on students' quality at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba, it can be concluded that; 1) The results of the study found a close relationship between online learning on the quality of students. This can be seen from the results of the processing and the analysis data obtained at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba, about 63.2% had a positive effect on online learning at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba. Then there are 30% and 5.27% disagree due to student interest in the online learning process.

This is due to the time discipline during the learning process and also the lack of awareness of students in dealing with online learning. 2) The online learning policy at SMA Negeri 8 Bulukumba has been going well. We can see this based on all activities in the implementation of program policies that can run well.

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