

Alternative Learning Media for Environmental Health during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Ns. Brilyan Anindya Dayfi, S.Kep., M.Kep¹, Ns. Betty Sunaryanti, M.Kes²,
I Nengah Kundera³, Sulistyani Prabu Aji⁴

¹Fakultas Kesehatan Universitas Samawa

²Politeknik Insan Husada Surakarta

³Universitas Tadulako

⁴Universitas Gadjah Mada

e-mail: ¹brilyananindya@gmail.com, ²bettrysunaryanti@yahoo.co.id,
³nengahkundera@gmail.com, ⁴prabuajisulistiyani@gmail.com,

Abstract

In this study, we will discuss the critical period of transmission due to Covid-19 requiring teaching and learning activities to be carried out through Distance Online Learning. This phenomenon requires every lecturer in particular to be able to use an appropriate online learning media platform so that the learning process runs smoothly as desired. Researchers use one of the online learning media that can be applied by lecturers, namely by using Google Classroom media. The Google Classroom learning media can be used easily by lecturers in the online teaching and learning process, because it is relatively easy to use. The final result of this research is to describe the use of Google Classroom as an online-based learning media. The research method used is literature study, observation, and interviews with course lecturers at Sari Mulia University. The results of the study were based on interviews with the lecturers. Google Classroom is easy to use for Sari Mulia University lecturers. The features found in Google Classroom are quite easy to learn and apply by lecturers. The results of the study were determined based on a literature review, namely Google Classroom, which made it easier for lecturers to manage time in managing classes and improve communication with students.

Keywords— Learning, Classroom, Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

As we know, the pandemic situation in Indonesia has had a major impact on various sectors, one of which is the education sector. The Ministry of Education and Culture issued Circular No. 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Educational Policies in the Emergency Period of Covid-19 Transmission which states that teaching and learning activities must be carried out through Distance Learning. current policies still involve educators and students.

Online distance learning activities really need learning media that are easy to use and operate by lecturers and students. Online learning media can be said to be a place that can be used for the teaching and learning process so that the meaning of the message conveyed becomes clearer and educational or learning objectives can be obtained effectively and efficiently. Every use of the right learning media can help the effectiveness of the online learning process online. So that in choosing online learning media it must be adjusted, especially in this case lecturers who have not mastered technology, it is necessary to have a reviewer by the government or related agencies.

The learning media used by Sari Mulia University lecturers is to use learning media via Google Classroom. This learning media is considered to be able to facilitate the lecturers in coordinating the learning process. This is very much in line with Marharjono's research in 2020, which states that classes facilitate lecturers to save time, manage classes, and improve communication with students. We can conclude that based on the problems above, the purpose of this research is to describe the use of Google Classroom as an efficient online learning media.

RESEARCH METHODS

The research method used is a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research emphasizes a thorough description, which is a detailed description of what happened in a particular activity or situation. Google Classroom is used as the object in this study. Google Classroom is arguably one of the online learning media that can be used by lecturers during the COVID-19 pandemic. The sources of data in this study are literature review, interviews and observations.

This research was compiled based on the author's ideas and supported by secondary data which is used as a basic benchmark in determining the discussion in the use of online platforms by lecturers in conducting online learning during the pandemic.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Online distance learning online requires teachers to find the right learning media platform so that learning takes place effectively and efficiently. Based on the results of observations, the learning media used by lecturers at Sari Mulia University is Google Classroom. As an online learning medium, Google Classroom is considered very easy to use and has been provided by campus administrators or operators.

Google Classroom is an application that is used in the world in the scope of ongoing education, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic (Roida Pakpahan, 2020). Google Classroom can be used at various levels of education, from elementary school to college.

Google Classroom can be accessed using the internet through various browsers, such as Chrome, Firefox, Internet Explorer. In general, Google Classroom supports major browser releases on an ongoing basis. No need for installation because Google Classroom is website-based. However, installation is required when accessing Google Classroom via mobile which is available for Android and Apple-based mobile devices. Gmail, Youtube, Google Drive, Google Maps, and Google Translate are supporting features on the Google Classroom platform. Google Classroom is affordable and safe to use, because it is provided free of charge for campuses and individuals.

Among the features possessed by Google Classroom are assignments (assignments), grading (measurement), communication (communication), time-cost (time saving), course archive (program archive), display class code, mobile application (mobile application), and privacy (personal security). The features contained in Google Classroom quoted from (Wikipedia, nd) are described as follows:

1. Assignment

Students can view assignments on the Assignments page, in class, or on the class calendar. All class materials are automatically saved in the Google Drive folder. Assignments are stored and graded on the Google Classroom suite of productivity apps that allow for collaboration between teacher and student or student to student. Teachers can select a file which can then be treated as a template so that each student can edit his or her own copy and then return to grades letting all students view, copy, or edit the same document. Students can also choose to attach documents and materials from their drives to assignments.

2. Grading

Google Classroom provides many assessments with different scales. Teachers can make choices in attaching files to assignments. Students can view, edit, or get individual copies. Students can create files and then paste them into assignments if a copy of the file was not made by the teacher. Teachers can monitor each student's progress in class, on assignments where they can comment and edit. Assignments can be graded by the teacher and returned with comments for students to correct the assignment and resubmit. Once graded, assignments can only be edited by the teacher unless the teacher returns the signed assignment.

3. Communication

Announcements can be given by the teacher to the class which students can reply to through the comments column so that there is two-way communication between teachers and students. Students can also reply to each other's comments so that direct communication can occur between students. In addition, in Google Classroom, you can conduct virtual meetings with Google Meet where the meeting link can be obtained in every class created in Google Classroom and used continuously because the link is automatically stored in the class.

4. Time-Cost

Teachers can add students by sharing a code to join a class. Teachers can manage multiple classes by providing announcements, materials, assignments, or other questions from other classes. This can save the teacher's time in carrying out learning. In Google Classroom, you can make an assessment directly and in sequence according to the material and time given.

5. Archive Course

Classes may be archived at the end of the semester or year. This archiving is carried out for classes whose learning activities have been completed so that they are no longer used. Teachers usually do not only teach one class so there will be many classes in Google Classroom that are managed. With archive classes helps teachers maintain the current class so that there is no stacking of too many classes and teachers are more focused on managing new classes. When a class is archived the teacher and students can still open it but cannot perform activities until the class is restored.

6. Mobile Application

The Google Classroom mobile app is available for iOS and Android devices. The app allows users to take photos and paste student assignments, share files from other apps and supports offline access.

7. Privacy

Google classroom does not display any advertisements and user data is not scanned or used for advertising purposes.

The following is an explanation of the Google Classroom online learning media platform for lecturers:

1. Create a Class

- (a) Open the GC website in a browser or via the <https://classroom.google.com/> link
- (b) Click the “go to classroom” button
- (c) Enter the school domain email provided by the school operator
- (d) Choose a role as a teacher
- (e) Click "+" on the top right and click "create class" then fill it in according to the command.

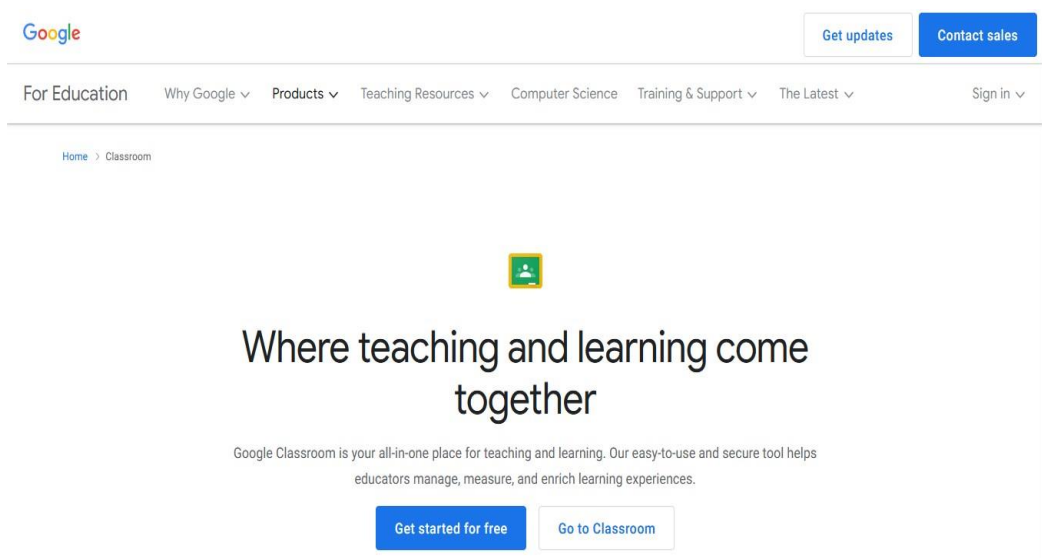


Figure 1. Opening an Online Class

- 2. Entering student data Add students by clicking “+” at the top right of the student section, or you can join using the class code.

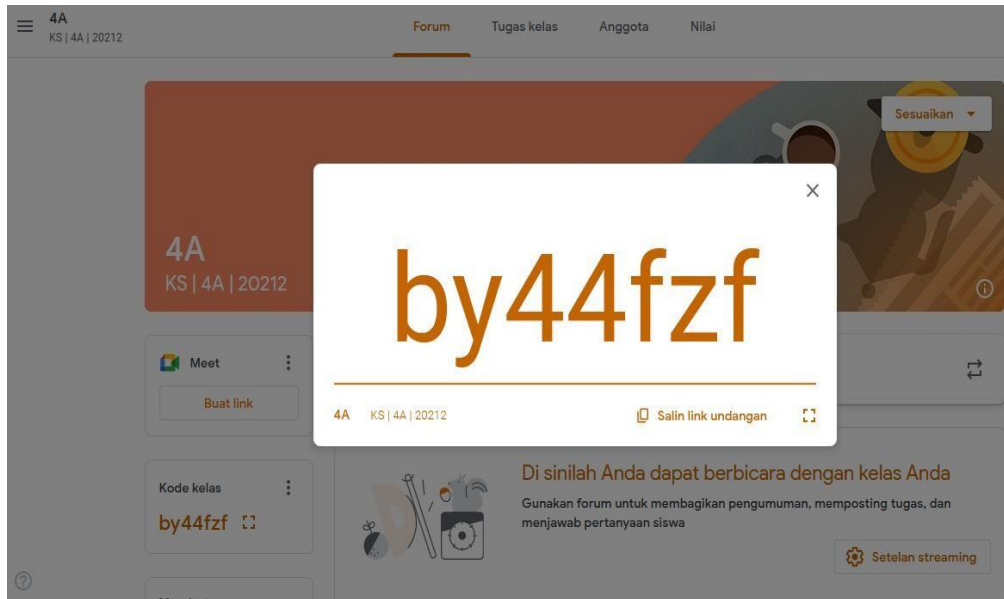


Figure 2. Inviting Students to Join Class

3. Making Class Announcements

Click stream then write an announcement in the "share something with your class" section. In writing, it can be arranged which students can see this announcement and can also add files.

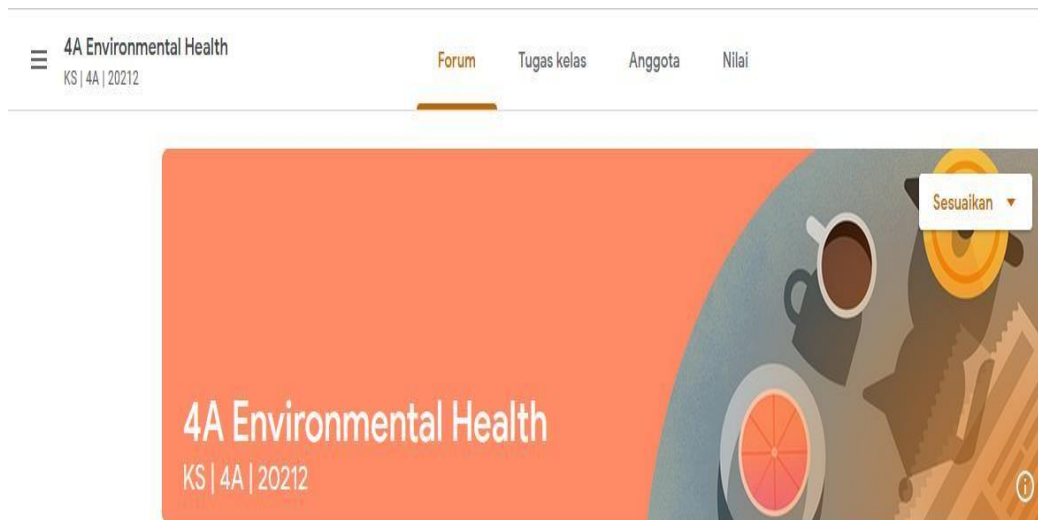


Figure 3. Making Announcements

4. Providing Material

Click classwork then click "+" select the material category and fill in the material to be delivered, you can attach files, URLs, or other settings.

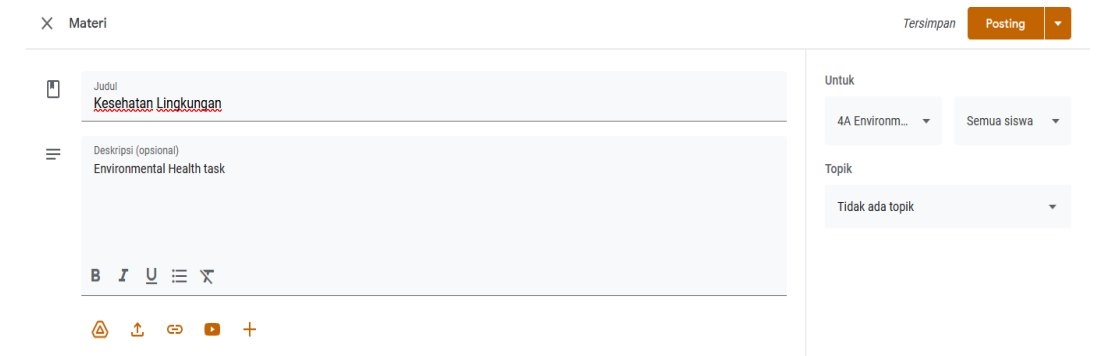


Figure 4. Giving Material

Creating Tasks

Click classwork then click "+" select the Assignment category if you want to make assignments and Quiz Assignment if you want to make quizzes. Then adjust as needed.

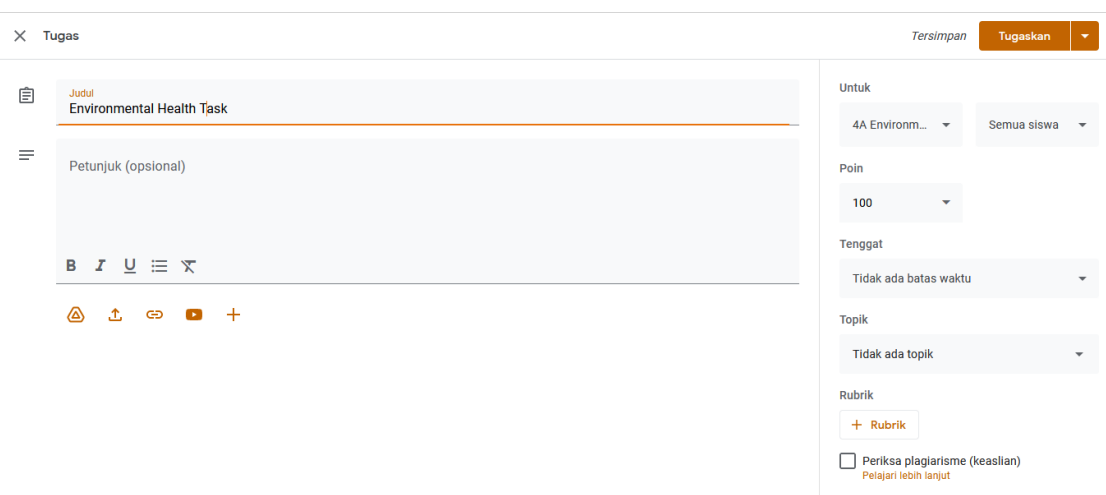


Figure 5. Creating Tasks

The following are the advantages of the Google Classroom platform :

1. Simple
Google designed the Google Classroom application with very simple integration with G suite for education, so that with this technology educators can focus on carrying out their duties as educators.
2. Safe
In addition, Google also guarantees a high level of security when using the Google Classroom application because this service is integrated with the Gmail service, which has a very good reputation in terms of security. This technology also functions as a storage medium or digital archive for students or educators.
3. Extensive Integration
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medium or digital archive for students or educators which, if needed, can be accessed anytime and anywhere.

Google Classroom is also integrated with several other learning applications from Google, such as classcraft, Pear Deck, Quizizz, Tynker, Kami, and Little SIS. The collaboration between Google Classroom and the application will greatly assist educators in providing learning materials.

4. Cross Platform

The next advantage is that this application can be accessed on a PC (personal computer) or smartphone. So that educators and students can study, do assignments, and see announcements anywhere without having to meet face to face. So that its use is very efficient in delivering learning materials, assignments and announcements.

5. Easy to Use

The next advantage is its very friendly use. Starting from creating a new class to personalizing the class. All can be done with very simple steps.

So that educators can focus on the goal of making the class. Educators are not preoccupied with the complexity of personalization of an application they use.

In addition, Google Classroom is also economical in terms of internet quota usage. This is because this application focuses on learning, both in delivering material and in giving assignments. Although there is a material link that is shared, the link can be accessed offline after students download the material or assignment.

Based on the results of interviews with lecturers in the Environmental Health course at Sari Mulia University, that Google Classroom is easy to use in learning. Because at the start of the pandemic, all Sari Mulia University lecturers received training and assistance in using Google Classroom. lecturers are expected to be able and understand how to use Google Classroom to support learning after conducting the training.

At the beginning of the use of Google Classroom during the Covid-19 pandemic, there were obstacles for lecturers who were not familiar with online learning media. This was quickly overcome by the school by intensively assisting lecturers who were constrained in using Google Classroom. The application of Google Classroom in the Environmental Health course is quite easy. In a meeting, the lecturer provides material in the form of reading modules and youtube links to study. Then the teacher gives students the opportunity to ask questions for material that they do not understand. After it was felt that all students understood, the lecturer gave assignments in the form of quizzes through the quiz feature found in Google Classroom, so that the scores would automatically be captured in the learning media.

In the Google Classroom for the Environmental Health course at Sari Mulia University, each class has a lecturer, who is the tutor of the course. This is used to monitor student activities in Google Classroom during the learning process. The student activities include attendance, discussions and assignments that are automatically captured in the Google Classroom feature.

From the description above, it can be seen that the online learning media Google Classroom is indeed quite easy to use for lecturers in Environmental Health courses. It can be said that Google Classroom makes it easier for lecturers to save time, manage classes, and improve communication with students. The learning media used has an effect on the effectiveness of student learning. Google Classroom with features that are easy to learn and easy to use makes students enthusiastic about learning. It can be seen that the use of Google Classroom has a positive effect on the effectiveness of student learning, which means that if the use of Google Classroom increases, the effectiveness of student learning will also increase.

CONCLUSION

The research concluded that the use of online learning media via Google Classroom is relatively easy to use and understand by the lecturer in each course. This is because the available features are quite complete and easy to understand for new users.

It can be concluded that Google Classroom has easy access to it and online learning, is considered quite good and effective. If the lecturer uses this online online learning media, it will make it easier for the lecturer in the learning process.

SUGGESTION

It is hoped that future research will be able to describe how to use online learning media other than Google Classroom for the online lecturer learning process.

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