USE OF *WHATSAPP* AS A STUDENT LEARNING MEDIUM

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Abstract. Education is a process of teaching and learning activities that can lead to an expected change in behavior. In an effort to improve the quality of learning processes and outcomes in the classroom, considering that the process of learning activities is a communication process, the school is a small communication world of its own. Thiseducation has a very important supporting role for the success of the learning process. With learning media, it will increase students' enthusiasm and understanding of the subjects taught. Educators are individuals who are able to do in-depth educational work in an educational setting to achieve educational goals. While students are children who are growing and developing Growing physically and psychologically Mental and intellectual development. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to explain the use of social media in student learning activities in social studies subjects in class 4b MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi. The result of this study is that social media is very helpful for social studies learning activities in grade 4. Social media makes it very easy for students to understand and memorize what is given by the teacher. In this case, social media can be said to be very effective in helping teachers in delivering material

Keywords: Whatsapp, Learning Media, Students

INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of teaching and learning activities that can lead to an expected change in behavior. In an effort to improve the quality of learning processes and outcomes in the classroom, considering that the process of learning activities is a communication process, the school is a small communication world of its own. Teachers are a key to controlling the effectiveness and efficiency of this communication. With the increasing knowledge that must be provided by teachers, the increasing tasks of teachers both social and economic, there must be a way out to answer the challenge with the use of learning media.

Thiseducation has a very important supporting role for the success of the learning process. With learning media, it will increase students' enthusiasm and understanding of the subjects taught. Educators are individuals who are able to do in-depth educational work in an educational setting to achieve educational goals. While students are children who are growing and developing Growing physically and psychologically Mental and intellectual development. Every child has a different personality . So the teacher should always try to know the nature of each student. So that the educational services provided are in accordance with their respective conditions. (Hasanah, 2015)

Learning requires students to be physically and mentally active because students are the material within them Learning activities (student-centered). The essence of learning is the teacher's activity but his activity Students who include all sensory components Transform knowledge from various sources so that learning outcomes are optimal. Regarding the implementation of education at the basic education level, Suharjo revealed that basic education is referred to as an effort to equip students with basic abilities in the form of knowledge, skills and attitudes that benefit themselves according to their level of development and readiness to move to a higher level. Implementation of education at the elementary / mi elementary level Refers to the curriculum at the education unit level which contains several subjects, one of which is social science. (Suharjo, 2006)

The term social science in Indonesia has been known since the 1970s. And as an agreement of the academic community and together It began to be used in the national education system In the 1975 curriculum. In the curriculum document Social sciences is one of the names of subjects given at the primary and secondary education levels. The Sociology thread is the name of the integration

subjects of history, geography and economics subjects as well as other social science subjects. Every learning activity must be carried out systematically, systematically social studies learning integrates various learning components to achieve national education goals. The learning objectives of general sciences and social sciences in particular. (Sapriya, 2006)

Learning components should support each other creating a fun and interactive learning atmosphere. Social studies learning must involve students actively interacting during the learning process that is happening. This also means that social studies learning is a must centered around learners. Learning social studies should be fun as well as meet the principles of learning. One of the important competencies for teachers is mastering learning models as a means to encourage student involvement in the learning process, so as to improve learning outcomes. learning, in order to improve learning outcomes. The purpose of social studies teaching is to form and develop a good citizen. (Tjipto, 2003).

From the description above, it can be concluded that learning media can be a means of distributing learning messages and information. Well-designed learning media greatly helps students in understanding and understanding the subject matter. The function of the media in learning activities is not only as a teaching aid for teachers but as a carrier of educational information / messages. Each type of learning media has its own characteristics, advantages and disadvantages. Therefore, there is a need for systematic planning of the use of learning media.

From the observations that researchers have made in class 4b MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi, teachers use *Whtasap* social media as a learning medium. Teachers provide assignments or additional learning materials to increase students' interest in learning. The goal is that students not only play online games when opening *gadgets*, but students also learn to add insight and also increase knowledge, not only at school, but at home students can learn.

The word media comes from Latin and is the plural form of the word mediator which literally means intermediary or introducer. Media is one component of communication, which is to convey messages from communicator to communicant. Learning media is a learning resource that is a combination of software (teaching materials) with hardware (learning tools). Learning media is one of the important factors in the success of learning activities. With the existence of learning media, students will be motivated and participate actively physically and psychologically, utilizing all the senses of students and making learning activities meaningful. (Djamarah, 2006)

Media is a means of communication and a source of information. Derived from a Latin word meaning "between", this term refers to everything that carries information between source and receiver. It is said to be a learning medium, because everything brings a message for learning. Media is one of the determinants of learning success. Through media, the learning process can be more interesting and fun (playful education), for example students who are interested in colors can be given media with attractive colors. Similarly, students who like to be creative always want to create the shape or item they want. Another important aspect of using media is that it helps clarify learning messages. Sometimes students do not fully understand the information conveyed orally, especially if the teacher is not proficient in explaining the material. This is where the role of the media, as a tool to help clarify learning messages. (Riyana, 2009)

Media is important in the learning process. Media is also a key link in connecting students with learning centers and resources. Media is often the main support in traditional learning processes. Whereas in the traditional learning process, the learning strategy directly focuses on the teacher facing students, where the teacher is the source as well as the center of learning. However, the developments we are witnessing today and perhaps even in the future are always undergoing rapid changes. The development of information and communication technology has brought changes in all areas of life. Especially in the field of education (learning). Rohani in I Gde Wawan Sudatha and I Made Tegeh put forward several definitions of learning media, including the following:

types of educational facilities are used as intermediaries in the teaching and learning process to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of achieving educational goals. This includes graphic media, media using visualization tools, maps, models, globes, and so on.

Physical means for transmitting educational content, including books, films, videos, tapes, presentations, teachers, and non-verbal behavior. In other words, educational teaching aids include software and/or hardware that functions as learning aids.

Media used and combined with educational objectives and content are generally outlined in the Learning Guidelines Outline (GBPP) and are intended to improve the quality of teaching and learning activities.

Educational facilities used as intermediaries, using teaching aids in the teaching and learning process to increase effectiveness and efficiency in achieving educational goals, including tape, audio, slides, films, transparency, films, radio, television, and so on. (Tegeh, 2015)

From some of the definitions above, it can be concluded that the media is an intermediary tool used to convey information from the sender to the recipient of the message so that reciprocity occurs in communication.

1. Types Of Media And Learning Resources

Learning media, as is known, is the media used to deliver material. Learning media is very important to accommodate differences in student intelligence. According to Saifuddin, learning media is divided into 6 types, namely:

a. Visual media. Visual media serves as the delivery of messages from the source to the recipient. The message conveyed is poured into visual form. Types of visual media include: images or photos, sketches, diagrams, charts, graphs, cartoons, posters, maps or globes, panel boards, and bulletin boards.

b. Audio media. Auditory media is a type of media that deals with the sense of hearing. The message to be conveyed is poured through auditory symbols. Types of audio media include radio and tape recorders.

c. Silent projection media. Types of stationary projection media include frame film, chain film, OHP, opaque projector, microphysics.

d. Motion projection and audio-visual media. Motion projection and audiovisual media types include motion films, circle films, TV programs, and videos.

e. Multimedia. Multimedia is a combination of text, graphic arts, sound, animation, and video that users receive through their computers. Beyond that, multimedia refers to the merging or integration of two or more integrated media formats such as text, graphics, animation, and video to form information rules in a computer system.

f. Objects / objects. Objects in the natural environment, both real and man-made, can be used as learning media. (Saifuddin, 2014)

Then Muhammad Ali also suggested that the six learning resources that can be used are:

a. Message

A message is a learning resource that contains an official message, that is, a message issued by an official authority, such as a government, or a message conveyed by a teacher in a learning context. In addition to being communicated orally, these messages are also manifested in the form of documents such as curriculum, government regulations, laws and regulations, GBPP, syllabus, study units, etc. Informal messages, namely messages that exist in the wider community that can be used as learning materials such as folklore, legends, lectures by community leaders and scholars, inscriptions, temple reliefs, ancient books, and other historical artifacts.

b. People

Basically, everyone can be a source of learning, but in general it can be divided into two groups. The first is a group of people specifically designated as primary learning resources who are professionally trained to teach, such as teachers, counselors, instructors, and coaches. This includes principals, lab assistants, learning resource technicians, librarians, etc. The second group consists of people with professions other than staff in educational institutions, and the profession is not limited, for example, politicians, doctors, farmers, architects, psychologists, lieutenants, police, and business soldiers.

c. Ingredients

The materials in question are textbooks, textbooks, modules, video programs, films, OHT (Over Head Transparency), slide programs, props, and so on.

d. Tools

The equipment referred to here is a physical object and is often referred to as hardware. This tool serves to provide the items in point 3 above. These include multimedia projectors, slide projectors, OHPs, movie recorders, opaque projectors, etc. Included

e. Engineering

The technique in question is the method (approach) that people use in providing learning to achieve learning objectives. These include lectures, games/simulations, debriefing, social games, etc.

f. Background

The environment inside the school or the middle or out-of-school environment, not intentionally or specifically designed for learning; layout, lighting, classrooms, libraries, laboratories, workshops, school yards, school gardens, school yards, etc. (Ali, 2007).

2. Social Media As A Learning Medium

Currently, many new media have sprung up such as mass media, online communities. Social media is communication-based. This communication is essential to maintain a normal feeling of face-to-face conversation. Interactive conversations. It is actually very important to maintain a close relationship. It was a kind of close relationship that was maintained when communication stalled to build. So, the main function of social media is as a fertilizer for social bonds to have really been fulfilled. Through an internet connection, people can communicate quickly making connections with others, making a global effort.

Cyberspace, providing information and receiving information quickly regardless of distance and time. Many are also embracing social media as a tool to connect people. In the past we had to do this by sending letters by post, which of course took time. Communication channels such as telephones are readily available. However, using the phone requires a lot of credit. The situation is different if we use social networks. With each using only a relatively inexpensive data plan, individuals can quickly connect with other individuals. Two to send a letter we have to go to the post office, then with social networks we do not have to move from your place.

The mediating role of social media is another side that we cannot do sideways. The relationship of mutual hybridization between humans and technology (social media) allows us to evolve our understanding of the process of human interaction itself. Social media can reach a very much closer distance, which I don't know, you can get to know him. This is thanks to social interaction media, which is a communication interaction in the current era of globalization that can easily and quickly change your lifestyle and people's behavior through social media.

Research shows that social media has the same characteristics of confirmation or confirmation of others Communication in the use of social media can be done through registering friends who will establish relationships with users or rejecting requests as friends on users' social media accounts. The hallmark of social media today is that it can expand social networks, interactions and information among users of materials. This is in line with what some researchers report the relationship between social media users is still in the process that is not final, but at least they can comment on each other's timelines is a form of recognition.

Initially, social media was only limited to contact with media for people who were far away, but now social media has become a variety of functions, social media It has become a lifestyle of modern society. Social media creates patterns of behavior, people are undergoing changes in culture, ethics and existing norms, for example, from waking up to going back to sleep without using social media, or just look at the latest information or just to interact with family. The world of business, tourism as well as education has many uses of social media as a channel of Information.

The ease of use of social media is also a reason for people to be more interested in using social media. The types of teaching materials developed are teaching materials in the form of photos and videos to be posted on social media as online learning media. Social media used include TikTok, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube. Social media can support learning in a collaborative perspective and collaboratively make it more efficient by allowing students to talk and discuss remotely without the need to be around in the same place and by using social media to create interaction between teacher to student and student to teacher to more effectively increase the flexibility of student autonomy. (Adiasti, 2021)

RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research is often used and applied as a scientific method. A group of researchers in the field of social sciences, including the natural sciences of education. A number of reasons were also put forward, based on which the research qualitatively enriched the results of quantitative research. Qualitative research is used to build knowledge through understanding and discovery. The qualitative research approach is a process of research and understanding that is based on methods that investigate social phenomena and human problems.

Qualitative research is used when the problem is not yet clear. Study hidden meanings, understand social interactions, develop theories to ensure that data and research history are true developments. Given that this study aims to understand and interpret various phenomena that exist or occur in real life as a feature of qualitative research. (Iskandar, 2009)

In data collection techniques, researchers use 3 techniques, namely observation, interviews, and documentation. Interview is a question and answer process between interviewers and sources or informants to obtain information about events, symptoms or events being studied. Researchers conducted interviews with classroom teachers and guardians. Observation or what is often known as observation is the ability of researchers in terms of trust, attention, unconscious behavior, habits and so on. This observation technique is intended to collect data by directly observing the object under study to get the desired results. The observed data can be in the form of a picture of attitudes, behavior, behavior, actions, overall interactions between humans and can also be in the form of interactions in an organization or members' experiences in organizations. Researchers made observations in class 4b MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi. The researcher collects documentation to obtain data on the background of the object of study. Documentation is a search for sources of data information about something in the form of books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, meeting minutes, agendas and so on. Researchers searched for data by looking at whatsap groups that class teachers had created. (Moh, 2010)

RESULT AND ANALYSIS

Social media is an online media that is used as a means of online internet access. In social media we can communicate, interact, and interact with other users. In general, social media is only used by teenagers, but along with the times, social media is used as a learning medium by elementary school children. Many of them know what Google, Whatsapp, Tiktok, Youtube, Facebook, and other social media are not even a few of them already have these social media accounts. Usually they know social media from their peers, parents, siblings, or even from themselves.

Social media that is often used by elementary school children is YouTube and Google, they like to open YouTube because they can see videos, cartoons, movies, listen to songs, even subject matter. They also often access Google to find material information or assignments given by their teachers. After two years ago the occurrence of Covid-19 which required them to study at home, until now they carry out the learning process using social media such as WhatsApp, Zoom, Google meet, Clasroom, Youtube, and other social media. Even though elementary schools have implemented face-to-face learning or PTM, teachers still use this social media as a learning medium for students. Like the teacher in class 4b MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi, the teacher uses social media to provide additional material to students, but the social media used is only WhatsApp, the class 4b teacher uses Whatsapp to provide material that will be given to students the next day, with the hope that students study at home for the preparation of tomorrow's material, so when in class students are ready with the material that has been given by the teacher.

This research was conducted from February 26, 2023 to March 9, 2023 in Class 4b MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi with a total of 28 students. In this class, teachers use social media for teaching and learning activities to make it easier for students when studying at home. MI 4b homeroom teacher Al-Iman Sarwadadi hopes that students will not only study at school, but students also study at home. In this case, teachers try to use social media, especially *whatsapp* as a means to provide material to students. The material presented is almost the same as the material taught when students study at school. But there are a few additions such as songs taken from yutub such as songs to memorize the names of tribes in Indonesia, memorize the names of traditional houses in

Indonesia and much more. The goal is for students to know and be able to memorize the names of tribes and traditional houses in Indonesia.

The use of social media in social studies lessons in class 4b is certainly with parental permission so that students do not just play games when opening gadgets. Parents also feel happy with the learning done by the teacher. This is evidenced by the results of an interview with the parents of class 4b students of MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi "kulo nggih seneng pak, anak kulo dados sianu teng nggriyo, dolanan nggih keep dolanan but nggih seniki mendingan than riyen namung dolanan mawon mboten purun sinau" said the parents in kromo. The class teacher also said that children's development has greatly improved. This was conveyed by the homeroom teacher of class 4b "after I used social media as a medium for students to study at home, students became smarter, active in class, when asked about the material also students could answer well, yes even though there are still students who are a little behind because yes the abilities of students are different, sir, so yes Alhamdulillah now there is a lot of development." Researchers also conducted interviews with students regarding how students study at home "Yes, sir, I study at home because the teacher gives assignments in WA, usually told to do it, but often given videos containing traditional house songs, there are tribal songs in Indonesia, and many more sis" it proves that teachers really use WhatsApp social media for additional material to students.

In utilizing social media for learning, there are factors that hinder students from participating in learning activities, such as poor internet connection, limited phone memory, and so on. Economic factors also pose obstacles to these learning activities, as the lack of data quota greatly hampers learning activities. This was also expressed by one of the parents, "I am actually happy with the additional materials provided by the teacher, but sometimes when I don't have data package, my child cannot access the materials given by the teacher. Sometimes I don't have money to buy a data package, so I get confused, but Alhamdulillah, my child can still participate." From this interview, the researcher concluded that economic factors can indeed hinder students in utilizing social media as a learning tool.

In this regard, the researcher concludes that the use of WhatsApp as a learning tool for social studies is very effective, as evidenced by the interviews conducted by the researcher. Although there are still students who have difficulties in following the lessons, the use of social media greatly helps students in understanding and memorizing the materials provided by the teacher.

Using groups as a means of educational communication, such as asking questions and participating in discussions, is also in line with the explanation given by a teacher in the previous section. The use of social media can serve as an initial investment to enhance effective educational communication between teachers and students and educate them. Especially if other subject teachers also do the same to familiarize themselves with students and guide them towards educational communication outside school hours. For example, in class 4b of MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi, the teacher utilizes a WhatsApp group to conduct learning activities at home. The teacher provides materials such as questions, videos, or music for students to study the subjects that will be covered the next day. The teacher consistently provides materials to hold students accountable for the tasks assigned.

This method is certainly effective if developed in terms of media literacy understanding. At least, students need to understand that social media can be used in a positive way, even for learning purposes. So they should not always perceive social media as a means of socializing with others or merely for entertainment, as the concept of media literacy represented solely in social media has a broader meaning. However, they should also be able to use social media in a positive manner, as social media has both positive and negative impacts. Without the attention and guidance of teachers, it would be impossible to utilize social media and it may lead to various deviant behaviors, such as lack of manners and intellectual deviations like cheating, and so on. If left unattended, at higher education levels, they will be susceptible to plagiarism, especially when working on daily or final assignments, as this habit has been ingrained since their secondary education through the habit of cheating.

CONCLUSION

Social media greatly helps teachers in delivering materials to students. In this case, the social media platform used is WhatsApp. The use of groups as a means of educational communication, such as asking questions and engaging in discussions, aligns with the explanation given by a

teacher in the previous section. Utilizing social media can serve as an initial investment to enhance effective educational communication between teachers and students and to educate them. Moreover, if other subject teachers do the same, it becomes a habit to familiarize themselves with students and guide them towards educational communication outside of school hours. For example, in class 4b of MI Al-Iman Sarwadadi, the teacher utilizes a WhatsApp group to conduct learning activities at home. The teacher provides materials such as questions, videos, or music for students to study the subjects that will be covered the next day. The teacher consistently provides materials to hold students accountable for the tasks assigned by the teacher.

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