Implementation of Digital Literacy in Elementary Schools

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Abstract

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Digital literacy is one form of development in the 4.0 revolution era where we can access various desired information quickly. Of course, the digital literacy school environment impacts the learning process significantly. This study aims to analyze how the implementation of digital literacy in elementary schools. This type of research is qualitative with a research design in 4 stages: first, research focus. Second, research implementation (Observation, Interview). Third, data analysis. Fourth, the study results, the research subjects were 1 principal, 6 teachers and 6 students. Data collection techniques and research instruments include observation sheets and interview guidelines—data analysis using an interactive analysis model from Miles and Huberman. The study results show that the application of digital literacy in elementary schools is still not optimal. It is proven when conducting interviews and observations that the learning process is still teacher-centred and generally uses what app group digital literacy media. In addition, the breakthrough about digital literacy in the school environment is still lacking, so that the implementation of digital literacy is only limited to understanding. Barriers experienced include students having difficulty understanding the material and limited internet quota. Therefore, to maximize the implementation of digital literacy in elementary schools, programs such as conducting training, manuals and digital literacy infrastructure are needed.

1. INTRODUCTION

Currently, distance learning is applied during the pandemic. There are several determinants of distance learning success, including teachers, learners, and technology (Basar, 2021; Monitorir, 2020; Simanjuntak et al., 2020). Technology can support the implementation of digital literacy in schools (Hanik, 2020; Sari, 2019). However, the online learning process harms students, especially those who cannot use supporting facilities during online learning (Arizona et al., 2020; Hutauruk & Sidabutar, 2020; Windhiyana, 2020). The 21st century, known as the information and technology era, brings new changes in the order of human life (Benbow et al., 2021; Chai & Kong, 2017; Gürsoy, 2021) Information sources occur so quickly that the distance limits are getting narrower because they are connected by technology and information. The 2013 curriculum was formed as a school literacy movement that places students as subjects in learning, not objects (Aiman et al., 2020; Suyono et al., 2017). The teacher acts as a facilitator, not an object.

So, with this digital era, digital literacy is very much needed in helping the learning process and school services run (Hanik, 2020; Putri, 2020). Various studies related to digital literacy discussed increasing and measuring digital literacy during the pandemic, which discussed that there was an increase in digital literacy (Rochadiani et al., 2020; Irhandayaningsih, 2020). Based on other research results, students who are good at utilizing digital literacy benefit from having more sources of information and tend
to have exemplary achievements in the learning process (Rastati, 2018; Santos & Lestari, 2019). It is supported because digital literacy plays a vital role as a form of independent learning (Banyu Biru et al., 2020; Kurnia & Astuti, 2017a). So that students can access various quality learning resources not only at school but also outside of school independently (Irnadayaningsih, 2020; Nahdi & Jatisunda, 2020). The 21st-century learning model, namely, learning, is no longer centred on the teacher but through the students independently (Hanik, 2020).

However, based on the initial interviews that the researchers conducted with homeroom teachers, it was found that the implementation of digital literacy during online learning was still not optimal. Among the contributing factors is a lack of understanding and unfamiliarity with digital literacy. However, in utilizing electronic media such as accessing various games and social media, students generally have shrewdness in using it. The existence of electronic media certainly makes implementing digital literacy easier. It is just that the overall understanding and knowledge of digital literacy is not evenly distributed. It is also in line with the results of previous research, which explained that there are still many schools that do not contribute to the application of digital literacy. Data evidence that universities (56.4%) are the primary users of digital literacy, followed by the government (14.34%), non-governmental organizations (5.32%), schools and corporations respectively (3.68%), professional associations and mass organizations (2.86%), then the media (0.4%), and others (2.86%) (Desi, 2020; Kurnia & Astuti, 2017).

Of course, breakthroughs and actions are needed to implement digital literacy in schools to achieve digital literacy-based learning activities. It can be done by conducting teacher training, teacher and student manuals and directives. The results of previous research on increasing digital literacy during the COVID-19 pandemic provide digital content and online seminars conducted in the community (Rochadiani et al., 2020).

Digital literacy plays an essential role in acquiring knowledge with a broader scope. Digital literacy can help children learn (Kurnia & Astuti, 2017a; Masith, 2018; Safitri et al., 2020). In addition, it makes it easier for teachers and students to conduct distance learning during the pandemic. Digital literacy can be defined as a competency to know and understand and use information that can be accessed through digital technology (Angrasari, 2020; Sahidilah & Miftahursiqi, 2019). Students can access, manage, analyze and develop new knowledge by communicating with new people to be involved in the community (Fatimah, 2020; Asari et al., 2019). So, it can be said that digital literacy can make it easier for students and teachers to be able to use, create information, and information through digital media intelligently and intelligently during the learning process and activities at school (Huseyni et al., 2015; Purnama et al., 2021; Rizaldi et al., 2020). Indeed, during the pandemic, the use of information and communication technology (I.C.T.) in online learning is an innovation in education (Ghory & Ghafor, 2021; Maulana & Padang, 2021; Teräs et al., 2020). This technology is a trigger for the emergence of digital literacy to increase reading interest in Indonesian children (Balan et al., 2019; I. I. M. Putri et al., 2020). In addition, digital literacy is also needed by individuals to know the development of the world and make individuals wiser in understanding all the problems found (Balan et al., 2019; Safitri et al., 2020). Reading literacy also influences student achievement (Koyuncu & Frat, 2020). The digital era can also be used in schools by borrowing digital-based books (Kurnianingsih et al., 2017). However, there are still a few schools that implement this program.

The implementation of digital literacy has an influence on teachers to look for information technology (IT)-based teaching patterns so that teachers can search for information and learning resources not only in libraries but also through the use of technology (Pohan & Suparman, 2020; Sujendra Diputra et al., 2020; Tse et al., 2019). Apart from teachers, parents also guide children in using digital media carefully (Garbacz et al., 2015; Nur Ika Fatmawati, 2019). Digital literacy plays a crucial role in the formation of students’ character. Therefore, it is necessary to assist not only teachers but also to involve parents. For this reason, a strategy for implementing digital literacy in schools is needed, which includes, first, strengthening the provision of facilitators; several ways to develop digital literacy, training and assistance for e-resource search strategies are explained—technology-based media preparation training. Second, increasing the level and variety of quality learning resources; More digital literacy reading materials in the library; Provision of educational sites as a source of learning for school residents; The use of educational applications during online learning as a source of learning for school residents; Carry out activities to make school bulletins and class bulletins. Third, expanding access to quality learning resources and the scope of learning participants; Provision of computers and internet access in schools; Provision of information through digital media (Hanik, 2020; Purnama et al., 2021; Rizaldi et al., 2020). So, the teacher as a facilitator in developing student knowledge is assisted by using digital literacy, which will include broader knowledge tailored to students’ characteristics to generate student interest in learning (Awe & Benge, 2017; Febriliani, 2018; Radyuli & Rahmat, 2017). If children’s interest in learning increases, learning outcomes will also increase.
Digital literacy can be implied in several forms, such as using google apps, using what’s app as a digital literacy media and then digital literacy through social media youtube (Khosiyah & Gunawan, 2019; Sahidillah & Miftahurrsqi, 2019; Salehudin, 2020). In this case, it is necessary to supervise teachers and parents because children tend to develop skills and competencies through technology without any prior discussion (Marsh, 2016; Pramudyan, 2020). Besides that, the role of parents in assisting and guiding and directing students to study at home is quite effective in overcoming student learning difficulties (Akhyar et al., 2021; S. W. Anggraeni et al., 2021). Parents feel some of the obstacles are time problems, the ability to use technology, and the lack of ability to be a teacher while at home (Lase et al., 2021). Therefore, understanding technology and understanding the role of being a teacher for children at home is necessary to support online learning activities.

This study will describe the implementation of digital literacy specifically in elementary schools so that the implementation process can be considered before implementing digital literacy. Therefore, it is necessary to research so that all obstacles and problems in the implementation of digital literacy can be known. Based on the problems above, this study aims to analyze how implementing digital literacy in elementary schools during online learning, be it for teachers or students and education staff. So, research was conducted to review how to implement digital literacy in elementary schools.

2. METHOD

This type of research is qualitative with research procedures carried out in 4 stages: (1) Research focus, research focuses on class references and class culture references, (2) Research implementation, at SDN 21 Pekanbaru which includes (Observation, Interview) the principal, teachers, students (3) data analysis using the Miles and Huberman model, (4) research results, in the form of a collection of data in the form of field facts that researchers conclude based on the research conducted. Furthermore, the research subject, namely, 1 principal, 6 teachers and 6 students, then data collection techniques and research instruments include observation sheets and interview guidelines. Research indicators and sub-indicators are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. Research indicators and sub-indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Sub Indicator</th>
<th>Interview</th>
<th>Observation</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class reference</td>
<td>Total digital literacy training attended by principals, teachers, and education staff.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The intensity of the application and use of digital literacy in learning activities.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The level of understanding of principals, teachers, education staff, and students in using digital media and the internet.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reference school culture</td>
<td>Number and variety of digital-based reading materials and teaching aids.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Procedure for borrowing digital themed books.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of activities in schools that utilize technology and information</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of presentations of school information using digital media or web sites</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>√</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of school policies regarding the use and utilization of information and communication technology in the school environment.</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Level of utilization and application of information and communication technology in terms of school services</td>
<td>√</td>
<td>-</td>
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Kementrian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan (Ginanjar et al., 2019)

Analysis of the data used in this study is the model of Miles and Huberman. The sections in the first data analysis, data collection, were obtained through observations and interviews conducted on principals, teachers and students. Second; Data reduction, analyzing the data that has been collected, then processed and verified. Third; Presentation of data, compiling the information obtained in more detail to be presented. Fourth, drawing conclusions and verification, the final stage of data processing contains a conclusion based on data patterns arranged systematically. The technique used to analyze the data is descriptive qualitative and quantitative analysis.
3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the researchers' observations, the first finding was that the understanding of principals and teachers on technology was sound. It was seen when using technology in the form of laptops and cellphones—in the second finding, observing the application of technology into digital literacy is still lacking, especially in the learning process. It is evidenced when the learning process takes place. The use of digital literacy generally only uses what app group media is. Based on the interviews, it was found that teachers and students had difficulties using google apps. It is evidenced by the teacher only using the what’s app group as a digital literacy media during the learning process, where the teacher distributes material and youtube links as additional material. Based on the research results above, elementary school students generally use digital media in the form of WhatsApp, and one class uses google apps in the form of google classroom, where the teacher provides material and then conducts discussions. However, it did not run optimally because it was constrained in making e-mails, so the learning process returned to using WhatsApp.

The implementation of digital literacy is essential for the learning process, especially during online learning caused by the coronavirus disease (Covid-19), which causes all activities to be carried out virtually. Thus the implementation of digital literacy has a significant influence on the running of the online learning process. With the implementation of digital literacy, it is expected that students can do independent learning so that learning is not only teacher-centred. Students can find a problem then students determine the answer to the problem based on discussion with the teacher. The role of the teacher can be helped by implementing the implementation of digital literacy in the learning process. Reciprocal interactions between teachers and students also need to be considered to create productive learning. Based on the research conducted, the results are presented in Table 2.

Table 2. Source of research data processing

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Sub indicator</th>
<th>Observation</th>
<th>Interview</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>class reference</td>
<td>Total digital literacy training attended by principals, teachers, and education staff.</td>
<td>It went smoothly, it was just that there were some obstacles, such as the use of digital literacy through google apps, students were constrained in making emails, then in the learning process using what's app group students felt that there was still a lack of feedback.</td>
<td>The total digital literacy training attended by principals, teachers, and education personnel was approximately 3 times. The implementation is still not optimal in its implementation, especially in interactions during the subsequent learning process due to network limitations and quotas, but using digital literacy is very helpful in learning activities.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The intensity of the application and use of digital literacy in learning activities.</td>
<td>The principal has an understanding of using digital media and the internet. Teachers and students have an understanding of using what's app digital media during the learning process, on google apps only a few students use it.</td>
<td>The principal has an understanding of using digital media and the internet. While teachers and students are proficient in the learning process using what's app groups and youtube, it's just that they are still lacking in using the google app. This is done using electronic media such as cellphones and laptops.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class culture reference</td>
<td>Number and variety of digital-based reading materials and teaching aids. Procedure for borrowing digital themed books.</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>There are no digital-based reading materials and teaching aids Book lending is done manually. Students borrow textbooks through the homeroom teacher,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indicator</td>
<td>Sub indicator</td>
<td>Observation</td>
<td>Interview</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of activities in schools that utilize technology and information.</td>
<td>Activities in schools utilize technology and information such as in the learning process and delivery of information. Students are generally used to access WA groups, make learning videos, learning sites, e-books and play games.</td>
<td>while borrowing from the library through the librarian is then recorded on the loan card. There are two school activities that utilize technology and information, namely during the learning process and the delivery of school information.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>The number of presentations of school information using digital media or web sites.</td>
<td>Presentation of school information using WhatsApp groups, school web and using social media such as YouTube and Facebook.</td>
<td>School policy is to require teachers and school administration to use technology in the delivery of information.</td>
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digital literacy training dramatically influences the implementation of digital literacy in schools. With the training, the level of the teacher’s ability in managing learning activities will increase.

Discussion

Openness about deficiencies during the process of implementing digital literacy is also needed to evaluate and review any problems and obstacles during the online learning process. Electronic media and digital media to support digital literacy are good (Kurnia & Astuti, 2017a; Lacka et al., 2021; Ristanto et al., 2020). Of course, the ability to use electronic media is beneficial in applying digital literacy because electronic media supports the implementation of digital literacy (Agustini et al., 2020; Masitoh, 2018). Weaknesses such as the limitations of students in accessing digital literacy are also a note for teachers to provide an understanding of utilizing digital literacy in the learning process. This deficiency can be minimized with further guidance to students (Fatimah, 2020; Sahidillah & Miftahurrissqi, 2019). The application of digital literacy in the learning process, of course, must have preparation before its implementation, such as completing facilities and targets that support digital literacy, e-learning-based literacy and holding digital literacy-based training (Agustini et al., 2020; Kurnianingsih et al., 2017). Based on the above statement, there are obstacles to implementing digital literacy at SDN 21 Pekanbaru using the WhatsApp group media. Digital literacy is the ability to use digital media that aims to find, evaluate, utilize, share and create information and make good use of it through technology and the internet (H. Anggraeniet al., 2019; Fortuna et al., 2020; Masitoh, 2018). It is not by the situation in the field where the implementation of digital literacy has not run because there are several obstacles such as only being centred on WhatsApp groups and skills in utilizing digital literacy are still minimal, especially in the application during the learning process where there is a lack of feedback between teachers and students.

It is in line with previous research, which stated that the biggest challenge in implementing digital literacy in schools is based on internal schools, including the ability of the teachers (H. Anggraeni et al., 2019; Hanik, 2020; Lestari et al., 2020). It is less than optimal in terms of the intensity of the application and use of digital literacy in learning activities. Some contributing factors include students having difficulty asking the teacher and the lack of feedback during the online learning process. As a result, students find it difficult to interact online, unlike a classroom where students can interact easily. The teacher also said that digital literacy is still lacking because it only uses WhatsApp groups. It is because many students still do not understand using e-mail. In terms of the level of understanding of principals, teachers, education staff, and students in using digital media and the internet, the results show that respondents have an understanding of using digital media and the internet, only that their use and utilization is not optimal, especially in the learning process. It is evident when the learning process only uses WhatsApp group media to implement digital literacy. Meanwhile, the understanding of the internet is also good because in using the internet, school principals, teachers, education staff, and students access through electronic media such as cellphones, laptops and computers. Electronic media also has an essential role in implementing the implementation of digital literacy. Electronic media supports the application of digital literacy (Anggrasari, 2020; A. E. Putri, 2020; Sari, 2019). In terms of the number and variety of digital-based reading materials and teaching aids, they are not yet available in schools. Schools can hold a program of reading materials and digital-based teaching aids so that students get used to and have more understanding and abilities because there are already supports for the implementation of digital literacy (Kurnia & Astuti, 2017a; Rastati, 2018).

Teachers can combine it with other media such as google meet, zoom meeting and google classroom and also with the help of social media such as Facebook, youtube and Instagram (Bernadetha, 2020; Khoodi, 2020). However, it is also necessary to understand students’ understanding of using digital literacy by utilizing digital media. So, there needs to be an equality of understanding between teachers and students so that the learning process runs smoothly and creates feedback between teachers and students. With this habit, students can also access various quality learning resources at school and outside of school independently (Irhandayaningshih, 2020; Nahdi & Jatisunda, 2020). Success in the implementation of digital literacy is not obtained spontaneously, and several actions are needed to support the implementation of digital literacy so that it runs smoothly, such as holding training, manuals for using digital literacy and providing reading materials and digital-based teaching aids in schools.

4. CONCLUSION

The implementation of digital literacy in elementary schools is still not optimal in applying and utilising the learning process. It is due to several factors, such as the lack of digital literacy themed training so that knowledge about digital literacy is still minimal, the lack of direction and teaching about procedures for using digital literacy, the lack of reciprocity during the learning process between teachers and students. Thus, it is necessary to understand digital literacy further so that the type of digital literacy media used is
not focused on WhatsApp groups only. Meanwhile, in the use of technology, principals, teachers, students, and education staff are good because every activity uses electronic media in cellphones, laptops and computers.

5. REFERENCES


