

Digital Press Social Sciences and Humanities

Strengthening Digital Literacy During and Post Pandemic
Covid-19

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Proceeding of Non-Formal Education International Seminar 2021

Alim Harun Pamungkas, Jamaris, Solfema (eds)

Strengthening Digital Literacy During and Post Pandemic Covid-19

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Abstract

The Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak creates anxiety, panic, and fear for the public. The spread of the virus is rapid, which has caused the WHO to raise the status of the pandemic becoming global. Even though the amount recovered counted many, the mortality rate continues to increase. This is what makes people feel afraid and panicked. The panic itself is able to lower the power holding the body of man, which is where the power holds the body is very important for the prevention of Covid-19. Strengthening digital literacy is needed both during the pandemic and after the COVID-19 pandemic. The purpose of this paper is to describe the importance of strengthening digital literacy for the community. The method of writing this article is a qualitative review, which the data retrieval is using the secondary data derived from materials reading print or electronic. The results of the discussion are, first, the public demand should be proficient in filtering the information that they receive. Second, during this pandemic, people must remain creative and productive to improve their standard of living. Third, during this pandemic, people need "refreshing" media through digital literacy to maintain mental health. In conclusion, strengthening people's digital literacy can be one of the keys to preventing COVID-19.

Keywords

Strengthening Digital Literacy, During the Covid 19 Pandemic, Post the Covid 19 Pandemic

1 Introduction

Indonesia is one of the countries that have the largest population in the world. With the excess of human sources (HR), it could be a force for Indonesia itself. Getting the power that would be required for human source quality. To obtain human resources qualification is through education. The purpose of education is to educate the nation's life. It is also stated in the Preamble of The 1945 Constitution Republic Indonesia paragraph 4 which stated that "... to form a government of the state of Indonesia which shall protect all the people of Indonesia and all the independence and the land that has been struggled for, and to improve public welfare, to educate the life of the people and to participate toward the establishment of a world order based on freedom,... ". It mentioned one of the Indonesian visions is the intellectual life of the Indonesian nation. Educating the life of the Indonesian nation can also be done through literacy. Cultivating the spirit of literacy for the community is able to open the horizons of community knowledge. According to Alberta quoted from Sevima (2020), literacy is the ability to read and write, acquire knowledge and skills, think critically in solving problems, as well as the ability to communicate effectively, and develop the potential and participation of society. Literacy is divided into several types, namely basic literacy, literacy libraries, digital literacy of financial, science literacy, and culture literacy. Sixth literacy is a matter that is important and dominated by the public. In this case, the author will describe the importance of strengthening digital literacy in the new normal era.

In the digital era, digital literacy is important for the public to utilize and receive the information that is obtained. Digital information is literacy which refers to the use of computers and the internet. In a more comprehensive view, digital literacy means an ability to think critically, evaluate digital media, as well as making the content of the communication. Through digital media, information can be obtained from various circles. The information that is circulating is not necessarily the truth. Because of this, the community needs to filter the information. Based on the data from Kominfo.go.id, during the pandemic, the hoax news almost circulates every day on social media. Because of this, the public user's Journal of

Education and Empowerment Community (JPPM) Volume 7 (2): 120-132, November (2020) 122 digital obliged to apply the concept of digital literacy with a good and true (Sutrisna, 2020). The number of circulated hoaxes should be a concern for the community so that people do not easily believe the news that is generated. Strengthening digital literacy in filtering hoax information is very important. In addition to filtering that information during the new normal era, the society must remain creative and productive, even though they are in the middle of the Covid-19 pandemic. Digital literacy is the answer so that people can read the situation by exploring the information within the scientific knowledge.

Through digital literacy, a person can learn new things according to their talents and hobbies. If the case is continued to be improved, it will be able to add to the economy of the community. For example, a lot of people who started selling food in line learn recipes of food from the online media and can gather profits. It is certainly one of the forms of activity strengthening digital literacy that has been applied by the community. Astuti (2019) in their research initiated the System Information Potential Creative Village (Sipkades) as one of the forms of literacy digital capable of empowering the community village. The community can use The Sipkades to develop the potential of the village. This is an example that can be used by the community in strengthening the economy in times of pandemic Covid-19. Strengthening digital literacy by filtering the information is also strengthening the economy of the society. However, another thing that can be done to strengthen digital literacy is "refreshing" the media or entertainment for the community. Through news provided on social media and digital media, it plays as entertainment for the community. Entertainment can maintain public mental health during the pandemic. It is following the opinion Hidayani (2020) in the journal said with the development of technology that is rapidly facilitating the public to touch the applications that can be entertainment, media, social and application date is the most much visited by the people of the world. Further, she also argued that the public must be wise in using social media, one of the solutions it offers is through digital literacy.

Based on the data and problems above, the purpose of this article is to describe strategies for strengthening society's digital literacy during the pandemic through three aspects. First, filter the information that is circulating on digital media to avoid hoaxes. Second, to provide reinforcement of economic society through selling online during a pandemic Covid-19. Third, provide entertainment for the community in order to maintain the mental health of the community. The author hopes this article can provide an alternative solution to society, through health, activity, imagination, and productivity during a pandemic Covid - 19.

2 Methods

The method used in this research is a qualitative review. Literature is used to provide an overview of the things that have been known and who have not known of a particular phenomenon. Search and review of the wide range of literature that is relevant to a topic of research can be carried out before, during, and after the data retrieval and analysis of data research. In qualitative research, the use of literature has a wide range of purposes based on the type of research qualitative were conducted. In general, to maintain the naturalness of the data, extensive use of the literature was carried out after the research was conducted.

3 Results and Discussion

3.1 Digital Literacy

Digital literacy is growing very rapidly. Started from the Technology of Information and Communication (ICT), which combines the use of hardware and software for institutions and professionals. Through the Internet, ICTs have become part of daily needs of humans living in digital media society. Many needs are offered through this digital media, thus making people dependent and in need of this digital media. Through digital media, the community can gain the community's economy, besides that it is also a place for refreshing for the community because there is much interesting content available.

Digital literacy is the ability to use information technology to communicate information with technical and cognitive skills. Digital literacy can also be said as a public response to the ability to master technology to increase people's reading interest. Digital literacy is the knowledge and skills to use digital

media, communication tools, or networks in finding, evaluating, using, creating information, and utilizing it in a healthy, wise, intelligent, careful, precise, and law-abiding manner to foster communication and interaction in everyday life.

According to Paul Gilster in Ginting, Arindani, Lubis, and Shella (2021) and Harjono (2019), digital literacy is defined as the ability to understand and use information in various forms from various sources which are accessible through the computer devices. Digital literacy offers many to develop the skills in accessing, understanding, and delivering information through digital media. According Suwanto (2019) there are few types of digital media called the platform as follows: (a) Content - based website: ie a website that provides a variety of content for users to access. Example: *kompas.com*, and others.; (b) Search engine: a service that allows users to search for various information / content according to their needs. Example: Google, Yahoo, and others; (c) User generated content website terms this is a website that is provided to the user and can fill it with all that he wants. Examples: blogs, Wikipedia, and others; (d) social media: a digital media that is used for users to interact with each other. Example; Instagram, facebook, twitter, and others; (e) Website service: is a website where users can enjoy the services that exist therein. Example: email in Yahoo mail and Gmail, e-learning, m-banking, and the other - the other; (f) Marketplace: is a fairly large digital marketplace where buyers and sellers can interact. Example: Lazada, Shopee, Bukalapak, JD.id, and others; (g) Application Store: is an application that allows users to download the desired application. Example: Play Store; (h) Crowdsourcing: a digital market as well, but who provide services of the service. Example: Gojek, Grab, Maxim, and others; (i) Repository: is a content storage service that has been collected through an index / citation system. Example: Google Scholar, DOAJ, and others; (j) Cloud Computing: is a service that stores data that can be used by the user either in a paid or freeway. Example: google drive, azure, and others.

From the various types of digital literacy platforms above, people can use them according to their needs. The platform can be used by the community. To increase people's economic income, people can use social media and marketplaces as a place to promote the products they sell. People are also able to create a website selling to popularize merchandise. With their media literacy digital this, it is hoped the community can be productive and creative in using it.

3.2 Strengthening Digital Literacy in Society

The proliferation of digital literacy in the modern era during and after the pandemic is requiring people to be selective in terms of obtaining information. Digital services could provide a negative impact on people's lives. Nowadays, there are many online-based scams circulating in the community. Many people believe it is their friend's account. Today hackers are easy to hack the accounts of others and ask for help in the form of credit or borrowing money.

In the study by The Conservation (2020) mentioned that strengthening digital literacy will be able to increase public interest in reading. Non-formal education programs that are engaged in the field to increase the interest in reading is Taman Baca Masyarakat (Community Literacy Center) organized by community. It will quickly grow as it is held by Public Reading Space Eye Alphabet Yogyakarta.

The need to reinforce literacy in the society is critically important, so that the public is not easily fooled by false information. Digital literacy is not only from the aspect of avoiding fraud, but also from being confronted with news or information which is not true in the community. It can trigger a feud that long, and the loss of comfort and well-being socially for the entire people of Indonesia. This is what underlies the importance of strengthening digital literacy in the community.

Interest in digital literacy in society is to educate the public in using technology and communication to find, evaluate, use, manage, and make the information wisely and creatively. Besides, digital literacy has the purpose to use digital media with full responsibility, knowing the aspects and consequences of the laws associated with Law No. 19 Year 2016 on Information and Transactions Electronic (Sutrisna, 2020). In his journal, Sutrisna (2020) provides strategies that can be done in improving literacy digital during the pandemic, among others are (1) dissemination of materials reference on ethics and the law in using digital media, (2) using applications or internal devices such as Google Play books, Goodreads, and so on, (3) disseminating information through social media, but the public is required to be wise in its use. Based on the opinion on the above, the strengthening of digital literacy in the community needs to be done by considering various things. In past pandemics Covid-19's, people need to be given the knowledge and understanding that is good in the face of a pandemic. Educating the public through digital literacy can be through socialization, the use of applications, and social media. The third strategy is to be carried out either by the public to get information that is accurate and reliable.

3.3 Digital Literacy as Information Filter during and After the Pandemic

Literacy means the ability to read and write. Literacy experiences the expansion of meaning with the development of technology media to the digital age. Literacy is not just the ability to read and write alone, but the expansion of the meaning of literacy that has been penetrated by digitization. As has been mentioned by Potter (2004) which explains that some experts have expanded the meaning of literacy from what was originally only reading literacy, to visual literacy (referring to television and film) and computer literacy. These three aspects are not a synonym for literacy media, but only the components that stand alone.

Literacy media, incorporating the entire capabilities specifically mentioned and growing as something more general. The concept of literacy, which was originally associated with print media, has become more complete with the term media literacy because it is related to information processing in the form of filtering, matching meaning, and constructing meaning from the media (Potter, 2004).

More advanced again, potter also explained about media literacy, Media literacy is a perspective that we actively use when exposing ourselves to the media in order to interpret the meaning of the messages we encounter. We build our perspective from knowledge structures; we need tools and raw materials. The tools are our skills. The raw material is information from the media and from the world. Active use means that we are aware of the messages and are consciously interacting with them (Potter, 2004).

According to Sabrina (2019) in her study on digital literacy in tackling hoax stated that " Improved literacy digital as a form of self-control becomes a solution to prevent cases of circulation of false information (hoax) becoming repetitive and increasingly many. Digital literacy is effective to identify false information (hoax) in the era of post-truth, by introducing signs of it. The verification procedure is to follow up the information that would go in the category of hoaxes. In the era of post-truth, boundaries between truth and lies become blurred, so also with honesty and dishonesty, fiction and nonfiction, so it becomes a kind of a challenge in itself for the media of social"

According to Pamungkas and Wahyudi (2020) debriefing skills of literacy information on each member of the family is important. It is because of the mounting hoax news in the community, so people need information that can be trusted. Understanding of Covid-19 will help people to avoid fear, anxiety, and panic. From the above opinion, it can be described that the increase in digital literacy allows the suppression rate growth of hoax news. In the era of digitalization, a lot of false information is circulating in the community. If this continues, the fake news will be a scourge to society. Society's misunderstanding in accepting fake news will impact people's lives.

Based on the APJII 2016 survey, sharing information through social media is the highest activity reaching around 97.5%. Some of this has a negative impact. The information is shared or created in social media, just simply to raise the "status" of the information provider. Sharing information caused anxiety and discomfort in the community. When this sharing of information happens quickly without the need to sift true whether or not the information that had become the social activity. Retnowati in Pratiwi and Pritanova (2017) states in social media that both can improve achievement, otherwise using the bad can result in negative towards social life. From the data above can be concluded that people will be easily affected by the issues that circulate without seeing the truth of it. Especially during the pandemic and the new normal, people are living in fear because of the news that circulated through social media. On the other hand, the community is also required to meet their economic needs. The government has imposed a period of new normal, in which people can do activities as usual but with fixed attention to the health protocol. Certainly this needs to be done intelligently by the public order issues that evolved not to interfere with the activities of the community.

Through the strengthening of digital literacy given to the public, it can filter information circulated in social media and other digital platforms. Strengthening digital literacy can be done through reading the news from an accurate source, not participating in the distribution of the news that is not the clear source, and not joining comments that will cause public chaos. The third case should be given understanding to the public, so that people can understand and participate contributing to strengthening literacy digitally at the time of the pandemic.

3.4 Digital Literacy as a Tool to Increase Community Productivity during and Post Pandemic

In the new period of normal, the normalcy of the new society must be creative and productive, despite being in a pandemic Covid-19 that has not subsided. Digital literacy can be used as an answer so that

people are able to read the situation as well as possible. In addition, the community is also able to explore the knowledge of the more distant and can be transformed into a knowledge that can even be a product / service to improve the quality of life. In the world of digital literacy, there are 4 levels of literacy that can be understood by the public. Among them are (1) the ability to collect the sources of reading, (2) is able to understand what that implied from the express, (3) put forward the idea or the idea of a new, theory of new, creativity and innovation of new, and (4) finally were able to create goods or services are qualified for life (Widianto, 2020).

From the above opinion, it can be stripped more widely again, that in the world of literacy digital to improve the quality of life needs to do four stages. Starting from the beginning, collect the sources of materials read, and understand the ingredients of reading the both the implicit and the explicit, and then make the idea of new or innovation as a form of creativity, and the latter is able to create a product in the form of goods or services. After four stages have passed with good, then society will be benefited by the addition of an income economy that is new.

People can take advantage of digital applications to seek knowledge and practice it in their daily lives. For example, there are many interesting contents from YouTube that can be utilized by the public. Society can learn a variety of skills that empower them. Especially in the middle of the pandemic, buying and selling online is better because people do not need to mobilize to provide for their needs. The needs of the community for shopping online will keep increasing. It can be used by people to keep productive while in the pandemic.

3.5. Digital Literacy as a Refreshing Media in Maintaining Mental Health during Pandemic

In strengthening digital literacy, digital media can be used as a "refreshing" tool for the community. Social media platforms can be entertainment for people when a pandemic hits the world. Communities that are advised to stay at home could use such features. It is good for the mental health of society. The mental health of society has not been much discussed in various media, while most psychologists and doctors argue that the change in habits has an impact that is quite bad for the mental health of the public. Because of this, it takes a "refreshing" media. We recommend that the public could be more directed to see entertainment via digital media, than reading information from an unreliable source. It can lead to fear, anxiety, and panic in society.

Furthermore, Ratna, quoted in Agustini (2020) explained that people do not realize that they experience stress and even depression during activities at home. Stress may be triggered by economic, boredom, and negative information that it receives. During the pandemic, people's mental health deteriorated by about 80%. It is certainly a concern for us, to help the community in maintaining mental health. To maintain mental health requires tips and tricks. She provides some tips and tricks of which are as follows: 1. Soak under the sun rays for 15-20 minutes to get vitamin D for the immunity of the body, the levels of serotonin and melatonin (a hormone happy) 2. Consume healthy food especially that contains Vitamin B12, zinc, magnesium, and probiotics 3. Creating positive emotions, with trauma healing, namely acknowledging problems within yourself, focusing on the problems you want to overcome. 4. Use social media for entertainment during a pandemic. Maintaining mental health with "refreshing" on various platforms of digital media, can make people happier, more productive, think positively and perform its role with both so that it will create a community of nation that has the characteristics formidable and independent. And the thing is to need to be cultivated in life every day. Nations were great, originated from people who are happy and productive. Because of this, to create a state that is big and characterless then starts up first in the self alone, family, community, and country.

4 Conclusions

The Covid-19 outbreak needs attention from various perspectives. Misleading information or hoaxes are growing in society. It causes anxiety, panic, and fear for the community itself. Because of this, strengthening literacy is important. The reinforcement that is given to the community among others is digital literacy as filters of information. Digital literacy has a purpose to increase the productivity of society, and literacy digital as a medium of "refreshing" in maintaining public mental health during a pandemic. As for suggestions, the public needs digital literacy to escape hoaxes in digital media. The public must stay productive and keep mental health at the time of this pandemic.

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