

Students' Perception of Class V in Endemic Era: A Case Study of One Private University in Jambi, Indonesia

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Abstract: The purpose of this qualitative study was to investigate and understand the students' perception of Class V at one private university in Jambi. The qualitative method was used to carry out this study using semi-structured interview by asking questions to the participants in relation to what the students' perceived about subjects presented using Class V in the endemic era. A semi-structure interview was employed as the technique of collecting the data. There were four participants who were willing to join the interview process. The findings of this study depicted that the role of Class V is very helpful for the students related to their assignment, presence, module and others helpful features. Through Class V the students feel easy to get the material, they could download the material or upload the assignment anytime and anywhere as they have already dealt it with the lecturer. The three salient themes appeared in this research were general perceptions about Class V, the role of Class V and problems of using Class V and the solution. As a part of Blended Learning system Class V is an alternative way for students in this endemic era.

Keywords: Endemic Era, Private University, Students' Perception

A. Introduction

Indonesia is still on the way to endemic phase of Covid-19 so that the government begins to tolerate regarding the social distance among people in public places. People's activity is slowly back to normal just like before the pandemic era. As stated by Pontoh et al. (2022) Indonesia is in transition phase from pandemic to endemic era. It means Indonesia is in save category country but still aware of the health.

Perception is a direct acceptance of a process by which a person or individual knows things through their senses (Walgito, 2004). The stimulus that is sensed is then organized and interpreted by the individual, so that the individual is aware of, what is sensed, and this process is called perception. Letting someone experience something is also part of the stimulus. According to Rusman & Apriadi (2019)

explain that perception is the embodiment of human brain processes and will be seen as a view of events or phenomena.

Many literatures define perception as the individual process of interpreting, organising and emerging meanings to stimuli originating from the environment in which the individual's live is the result of the process of learning and experience. Perception is the process by which people attach meaning to experiences. after people attend to certain stimuli in their sensory memories, processing continues with perception. Perception is critical because it influences the information that enters working memory (Slameto, 2010). Because perception is an activity that integrated within the individual, so what is within the individual will also active in the perception. In view of this concept, perception can be stated as feelings, thinking abilities, individual experiences which are not the same, then in perceiving a stimulus, the results of perception may be different from one individual to another.

Based on the explanations about perceptions in relation to this research, It can be concluded that, Perception is the process of a person by how they feel, view, and think about a certain phenomenon they encounter. A person may have a different perception, even though in the same object. This is possible because of the differences in value systems and personality traits of the individual concerned. So, each people have perceptions about everything in this world. Beside that, individuals perceive something in different way. And this research try to find out Nurdin Hamzah university students' perception in teaching during endemic era.

B. Methods

In conducting this study, the researchers applied a qualitative case study approach (Creswell, 2007; Johnson & Christensen, 2008; Merriam, 1998; Patton, 1990; Tuckman, 1978) to examine the students' perception of Virtual Class in the endemic era. Moreover, according to Johnson and Christensen (2008), Creswell (2007), and Merriam (1998) stated that case study research involves the study of an issue explored to one or more cases within a bound system. In addition, Merriam (1998) said that gave intensive and holistic description, explanation as well as analysis of a "bounded system" or phenomenon like a person, a program, an institution, a process, a social unit, a group, and a policy. In this study, the researchers focused on examining students' perception of virtual classes in endemic era at one private university in Jambi, Indonesia. A semi-structure interview was employed as the technique of collecting the data. There were four participants who were willing to join the interview process. They were Dian, Eni, Yayuk, and Jajak, the fourth semester students of one private university in Jambi, Indonesia. All the participants' names used in this study were pseudonyms to keep them confidential.

C. Results and Discussion

The purpose of this qualitative study was to examine the students' perception of Class V in endemic era at one private university in Jambi. All the participants of this study were the fourth semester students from one private school in Jambi who were willing to be part of this research project. The interviewed was done using Indonesian and the Indonesian transcript was translated I English. They were three females and one male named Dian, Eni, Yayuk, and Jajak. The findings indicated that all of them enjoyed taking virtual classes at the university where they pursued their Bachelor of Arts degree. They stated that joining any subjects using Class V technique during endemic era was exciting and it was a new experience for them. They felt to obtain new learning experiences using Class V technique. To answer the question about their perception, the participants gave the answers as the following:

Dian: I like learning using Class V because it makes learning activities easier, and the application is also easy to operate. It is also useful to fill in the attendance, mmm ...to collect the assignments. Although it can be used only for typing, taking photos and videos. So, it doesn't need to be bothered using the other application since the Class V has complete features.

Enny: I like learning using Class V because it gives convenience.

Yayuk: I like learning using Class V because it helps students to collect assignments.

Jajak: I really like to learn using Class V because of the completeness of the features which enable me to access any type of learning materials.

The participants' statement above indicated that they were glad to study using Class V for various reasons such as getting the convenience of using the Class V features. In addition, they also get simple ways on how to carry out the learning process beginning from getting lectures from the lecturers, operating the program, doing the assignments, and finally collecting the assignments given by the lecturers.

Talking about the role of Class V itself, it seemed to the researchers that the Class V application helped the students a lot to do more things easier as the substitute of using textbooks in the form of hard cover.

Dian: It's helpful! Because most of the lecturers upload the module through v-class for the summary only. So, a hard copy of the module is needed since it is complete and details. But I love both.

Enny: In my opinion, it is helpful for us. Ehh hmm eh aha ah umm actually both, either a soft or a hardcopy is same. But maybe just a little bit different. In the v-class application, we only have the summary, and sometimes there is much important

information that the lecturers don't put in a hard copy. So, it helps us to open it easily just by opening it from our handphone.

Yayuk: Umm, it's helpful. It is a helpful application for collecting tasks, videos, or other activities. We also use it for our presence. Even though some of us sometimes forget to fill it. It's also helpful for us to download the material or module easily.

Jajak: It's good enough. Because the hard copy of the module as media is better for me, especially if there is no internet connection. Class V as an application will be helpful for us to get information such as tasks or other important news. It also provides the Zoom Meeting application for online classes.

From the statements above, we can conclude that the role of v-class application for the participants is helpful and solutive enough. They use it to collect assignments and videos or to read important information from the lecturer. The lecturer also uploads the summary of the module and uses it to take the presence of the students or as a medium to have online classes such as the Zoom Meeting application.

Talking about problems and its solution

Dian: Hmm, it's all about the electricity. Once it is off, so we can't access the V-class. We must wait until it's back to normal.

Enny: Our hope is the campus will have a stable and unlimited internet connection.

Yayuk: Ummm, it is about time allocation that the lecturer provides us to fill the presence in or to collect the assignments. We have problems there. Most of the lecturers give us 15 minutes, while the tasks due are only a day which is not enough since we have signal and big data problems. V-class only has 250 GB capacity, while our assignments capacity can be more.

Jajak: For me, it's ok if the server is on, even though on a day off, due to a holiday, or any other reason. The point is we still have access to use the application.

Based on the participants' statements, it can be state that three big problems that needed to be solved by the campus are the internet signal, time allocation set for assignments due and the presence to fill in, and the bandwidth data capacity. The campus should consider the solution to the problems. First, provide a stable internet connection. For example, Wi-Fi or a server that is always ready to use anytime. Even on a day off due to a holiday or any other reason. The point is the participants can get access to the V-class whenever and wherever they are. The campus also should ask the lecturer to set the time allocation more flexibly for presence and assignment

features. Last, the campus should add a bandwidth data capacity of more than 250 GB.

From the participants, we have three main themes to discuss. **First**, the perspective about using V-class is enjoyable. The participants felt happy and enjoyed the V-class. They think that V-class is not only an alternative media during the pandemic. But also, it is helpful for them in this endemic era. They enjoy using the V-class, even though they have face-to-face classes 100 % now. A 2019 survey of more than 40,000 undergraduates studying a range of different subjects in post-secondary institutions across the United States showed that approximately 30 percent of students preferred all or most of their learning being online, and 56 percent preferred some form of blended learning (Day et al., 2023) . The researcher concluded that blended learning as a learning method in this endemic era is enjoyable. **Second**, the role of the V-class is helpful. It helped them do their work, collecting assignments, downloading the material, getting information, and filling their presence by clicking the application from their handphone. V-class is also a friendly application that is easy to use. There are many features available to full fill their needs. The role of the V-class is to make their work easier. By having it, they do not need to bring such a heavy book or search for some information by asking a friend. All they need is only opening the application, and everything is there. Blended learning, thoughtfully combining the best elements of online and face-to-face education, emerges as the predominant teaching model of the future (Poon, 2013). But in fact, the participants still have printed material as it is more detailed than the one, they have in V-class. **And third**, the problems that seem like the weaknesses of using technology like blended learning are the signal, time allocation set, and bandwidth data capacity (Ouma, 2020). The campus should consider the problems that might appear because of implementing this application. The stability of the internet connection and the bandwidth data capacity are the problems that need to be solved immediately. The campus should have a policy to overcome the time allocation for presence and assignments.

D. Conclusions

Despite the obstacles of the pandemic, facilities, and teaching materials, teaching, and learning process must go on whatever it takes. The positive and negative perceptions from the students of Nurdin Hamzah university must be taken into consideration as things to improve for the betterment of learning outcomes. In addition, it is also suggestable that campus also provide a big internet capacity to make the students have more experience in learning through technology.

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