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THE CHALLENGES OF ENGLISH TEACHERS IN TEACHING ONLINE ENGLISH BY USING EDULEARNING APPLICATION AT SMP MUHAMMADIYAH 4

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Abstract

This study aims to find out about the challenges of English teachers in teaching online English by using EduLearning application, where the study examines what kind of challenges that the English teachers face during the online course using EduLearning application and also how do they deal with the challenges itself, There are two objectives in this study, they are 1) To know what are the challenges that English teachers face in online teaching using EduLearning application. 2) To know how do English Teachers deal with the challenges in online teaching using EduLearning at SMP Muhammadiyah 4. The researcher used data collection techniques, namely Interview and questionnaire. The interview was conducted online to three English teachers with the same questions and the questionnaire was given through Google form. From the first question shows that there are five challenges that were encountered by the English Teachers by using EduLearning application, namely internet connection, media, lack of interaction between students and teachers, limited ability and technical problem. And for the second question shows that there are four solutions, namely school provided computer laboratory to be used by students, the variation in teaching online, the shifting application, and the needed of training.

Keywords: Online teaching, EduLearning application, Challenges.

1. Introduction

The outbreak of coronavirus hit the world, it drastically changed the human's activities, the pandemic surely cause a negative impact not only on healthcare field, but also in many sectors, such as social, economic, science, and even education itself. To prevent the virus transmission, the government decided to limit and restrict the human activities and direct interaction by doing social distancing. In education sectors, because of the sudden spread of the pandemic, face to face learning had been shifted to online learning, because of the new change of learning system, it resulted to the emergence of challenges in implementing the online learning itself.

The implementation of online learning didn't always go well, schools or institutions that haven't experienced online learning, or unprepared to implement online learning would experience several challenges and difficulties, however the research that was conducted in SMP Muhammadiyah 4, surely found several challenges that faced by English teachers while implementing the online learning.

In addition, during the implementation of online learning, there are some online applications that can be used, such as Whatsapp, Google classroom, etc. However, in SMP Muhammadiyah 4 have been using EduLearning application to support online learning. Clarissa et al (2021) stated that EduLearning is an application that similar to Moodle,

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EduLearning is an application system in online or website-based learning. It can be used by schools and universities to support online learning activities, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic situation which demands distance education.

However, this application was developed in 2020 since the outbreak started, the app is kind of new, so that there are some deficiencies on that, which resulted to the challenge itself, challenge is the condition which makes someone feels harder to make progress or to pursue goals. (Marzuki, H. et.al 2021). Therefore, with the new kind of challenges in online learning, surely make the school as well as educators must to think hard what are the solution for the challenges they face during the process of online teaching and learning, especially using EduLearning application.

Furthermore, the researcher conducts this study in order to identify and find out the English Teachers' challenges in teaching online English by using EduLearning Application at SMP Muhammadiyah 4 and also how do the teachers deal and overcome with the challenges. In this study, the research subjects are all the English teachers of SMP Muhammadiyah 4.

The researcher found that some English teachers still had difficulty to overcome the challenges and create the interactive way to teach the students using EduLearning application and any other online learning application, due to some aspects from both teachers and students, and different background of students.

Hence, with the new challenges and obstacles that the teachers have never had it or experienced it before, the challenges could be varied in certain aspects, therefore the teachers need to think twice to teach or what kind of method that they are going to use for the new teaching style process, the teachers also need to know even though they are going to teach online, they also should create the effective and interactive way of teaching by not forgetting the purposes and goals in teaching and learning process,

Judging from the case above, the aim of the study is reveal some facts that can answer the following research questions: (1). What are the challenges that English teachers face in teaching Online English using EduLearning application? (2). How do the teachers deal with the challenges?

2. Literature review

Online Teaching

Usman (2016) argued that the teaching and learning process is a process that contains a series of actions by the teacher and students in a reciprocal relationship that takes place in an educational situation to achieve certain goals. and also teaching is the interaction or reciprocal relationship between the teacher and students is the main requirement for the learning and teaching process to take place.

According to Sadiku, et.al (2018, p. 73) stated that Online learning has been referred to as a form of distance education and as web-based learning, e-learning, and digital learning. It used internet and web-based materials and activities.

In addition Ally, (2008) recited by Atmojo and Nugroho (2020, p. 53) stated that Online learning is also perceived as the utilization of internet in accessing materials, having interaction with contents, teachers, and other students and gaining assistance in learning process to gain knowledge, make meaning, and progress through learning experience.

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Moreover, Boettcher and Conrad (2016, p. 8) stated that there are several differences between online courses and traditional or face-to-face course. There are:

1) The faculty role shifts to more coaching, guiding, and mentoring.

In the side of the teacher or instructor, they shift the method of teaching into more guiding and mentoring, they will less preparing fifty minutes lectures, the teacher will prepare short concept and introductions and challenging, discussion that focused on concept, monitor discussions, manage student interactions, and will support their creative work. With the shifting of teachers role, it can boost the students to follow their own lines of thinking by talking to peers and immersing themselves in resources and material, instead of listening to the delivery of content from an instructor or teacher for long periods.

2) Learners are more active and direct more of their own learning experiences.

The online course is intentionally designed to emphasize on student choice and personal learning decisions, so that learner's activity are often likely to be found in online teaching and learning process, the learner must do more thinking, doing, writing, sharing and reflecting, collaborating and peer-reviewing as part of community of learners.

3) Content resources are flexible and virtually infinite

The main differences for online teaching and learning process tend to be that the students in online likely can use a variety and content resources. The material or content resources are easily accessed on smartphones, and other devices, it means that the learners have many options to explore the content and material flexibly.

From the statements above, we know that online teaching and learning has certain differences comparing to face-to-face or traditional teaching and learning, the design of material and its implementation in online courses are very different rather than in offline courses, and the teachers need to be a good facilitator and also a guide as well as a mentor to their students, the content and the material sources in online teaching and learning is easily to access and more flexible.

The Challenges of English Teachers

There are definitely several and kinds of challenges that can be found in this new teaching and learning system that the teachers never done and had before, according to Assareh & Bidokht (2011) classified that the challenges in online teaching and learning into four, namely "students, teachers, curriculum, and school."

Moreover, Ghavifekr, et.al (2016, p. 41) classified the challenges in implementing online teaching and learning process using ICT tools (software), namely:

- Limited accessibility and network connection
 For instance, one of a number of factors such as poor resource organization, poor
 quality hardware, inappropriate software, or lack of personal access for teachers and
 also that having no access to the Internet during the school day and lack of hardware
 were hampering technology integration in online teaching and learning process.
 School with limited technical support
- 2. Technical problems were considered to be a major barrier and challenges for teachers. The technical barriers are including, waiting for websites to open, failing to connect to the Internet, printers not printing, malfunctioning computers, and teachers having to

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work on old computers. "Technical barriers impeded the smooth delivery of the lesson or the natural flow of the classroom activity. And also in implementing online teaching and learning using ICT tools (software) requires a technician and if one is unavailable the lack of technical support can be an obstacle.

3. Lack of effective training

Lack of training is often referred to the challenge in implementing online teaching and learning process, the issue of training is definitely complex since it is important to consider several aspects to ensure training effectiveness. These were time for training, pedagogical training, skills training, and an ICT use in initial teacher training.

4. Limited time

The most common challenge for teachers was the lack of time which they had to plan technology lessons, explore the different Internet sites, or look at various aspects of educational software.

5. Lack of teachers' competency

Another challenge related to teacher confidence is teacher competence in integrating ICT into pedagogical practice. Many teachers lack the knowledge and skills to use computers and are not enthusiastic about the changes and additional learning integration associated with bringing computers into their teaching practice.

In conclusion, it can be known that the kind of challenges in online teaching can be classified into: 1. Limited accessibility and Internet connection, 2.Technical problem 3.Lack of Training. 4.Limited of time, and 5.Lack of teachers' competency.

Table 1
The challenges in Online teaching Indicator

NO	Indicator	Sub Indicator
1		Internet Connection and limited
		accessibility
	Challenges in Online Teaching	Technical Problem
		Lack of Training
		Limited of Time
		Lack of Teachers' Competency

EduLearnig

Based on EduLearning, (2020) recited by Clarrisa & Wulandari (2021, p. 55) said that EduLearning has several advantages compared to other similar applications, namely:

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- 1) Improving the image of the school, because it can be included with the branding of the school logo
- 2) Customize, menus or facilities can be added according to the wishes and needs of the school
- 3) Log activity of learning activities, there is statistical data containing student activities starting from students entering class, downloading materials, collecting assignments, to being active in discussion forums.

EduLearning is an application system in online or website-based learning that has been developed recently in 2020, and also has some advantages then other application do not, this application can be used by schools and universities to support the implementation of online teaching and learning activities, especially in this pandemic situation that requires online or distance learning.

3. Methodology

In this study, the researcher used a qualitative descriptive method to examine the challenges that faced by English Teachers in online learning by using EduLearning application and how do they deal with the challenges itself (solution).

Sharan B. and Elizabeth (2016) stated Qualitative researchers are interested in understanding how people interpret their experiences, how they construct their worlds, and what meaning they attribute to their experiences. In addition Creswell (2009) stated that qualitative research is a means for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem.

In this study, there are three English teachers as participants, the data were taken by using online interview and online questionnaire to each participants with the same questions, the primary data sources were interview and questionnaire along with the secondary data were e-journal and e-book, the interview session, the researcher asked the participants about what challenges they faced during online learning using EduLearning application, and also how do they deal with that (the solutions), and in Questionnaire, the participants were asked about their own personal experience, opinions, thoughts in online teaching and learning. in this study, the technique of analyzing the data used several steps, they are data reduction, data display, and drawing/ conclusions.

4. Result and Finding

In this section, the results and findings are portrayed concerning challenged in teaching English online.

Challenges that faced by English Teachers

• What are the challenges that you face in teaching online English?

From the question above, the participants were asked about the challenges they face during online learning, the first participants answered that the challenges that found were related to the internet connection, media (smartphone), lack and limited of interaction between teachers and students, limited ability of students and teachers in using digital technology, meanwhile the second and the third participants stated that the challenges were mostly found related to the internet connection and media as well.

• Did you encounter any challenges in using EduLearning application for online teaching? What are they?

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From the question above, the participants were asked about their challenges while using EduLearning application, it can be concluded that the participants said that for the first time using the application seemed difficult, but they are used to it, since SMP Muhammadiyah used the same application, such as Google classroom, moreover, since the application is kind of new, sometimes if it used together in the morning, the technical problem appeared, such as the servers and connection often down and failed to connect to internet.

• What is your solution the challenges you have dealt with?

From the question above, the participants were asked about their solution to the challenges they faced before, from the answers of all the participants, it can be concluded that, the solution or the way how to deal with the challenges generally the teachers will tell the students to come over to the school computer laboratory to freely use the computer (media) and internet connection at school, and another solution is by giving a new variation in the online material to the students, so that the students will not get bored easily and also students can be contacted personally to attend the online learning and submit their assignments. And regarding to the application, the shifted to Whatsapp application if there was a problem with EduLearning application.

The researcher will describe it in points, each points has the answer from all participants. The answers of all participants will be described in points, below are some examples of the interview result of the participants, as follows:

1.	What do you know about online teaching?
a.	First Participant:
	Online teaching is the process of teaching and learning that use internet media
b.	Second Participant
	Online teaching is teaching students virtually by using media, such as, Webinar, Google Meet, EduLearning, Google classroom and etc.
c.	Third Participant
	She stated that online teaching is teaching that is done using another media based on internet, and not based on face to face.
Based on the answers above from all participants regarding to the question, it can be concluded that online teaching is the teaching that is done by the teachers by using internet media and online application and it can be done anytime and anywhere.	

2		your opinion, what are the differences between online teaching and face-face / offline teaching?
a	. Fii	rst Participant

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She stated that the differences between online teaching and face to face is online teaching is the interaction by using internet media or digital, and face to face teaching is the direct interaction between two people or more at one time and one place.

b. Second Participant

He said that the differences between online teaching and face to face is the location, the location for online teaching and learning can be done anytime and anywhere, at house and other places, meanwhile face to face is the students must come to the place of learning, such as school, course, and college.

c. Third Participant

She said that the differences between online teaching and face to face is, in online teaching we can teach anytime and anywhere as long as there is a media, such as internet, smartphone and laptop, but in face to face, the teacher and the students must be in the same place.

Based on the answers above, it can be concluded that the differences between online teaching and face to face is generally based on the different interaction between teachers and students, in online teaching, the interaction is done through internet media, virtually learning, students and teachers don't meet directly, and it can be done anytime anywhere, but in face to face, the students and teachers are in the same place in the real-time, they meet and talk directly.

3. What are the challenges that you face in teaching online English?

a. | First Participant

The challenges are, firstly sometimes the students don't want to do online meeting, secondly the limited of internet quota because of the parents economical state, secondly, the media or smartphone sometimes is used by both parent and students, fourthly, the laziness of students while studying at home since they don't meet with their friends and teachers since there is no direct interaction, fifthly the limited of ability of students and teachers in using digital technology, and the last one is the internet connection sometimes is bad so that hard to understand the material.

b. Second Participant

The common challenges in teaching online are on the media or gadget and the internet connection. Sometimes the gadget and internet connection can be a challenge so that the teachers can't give and teach the material maximally as well as students can't learn maximally.

c. | Third Participant

A lot, since not all students have the proper gadget and not all students have a good internet connection as well.

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Based on the answers above, it can be concluded that the challenges that the participants face in online teaching are generally related to the internet connection and the media itself, such as gadget. As it lines with the statement of Ghavifekr (2016) that stated about the challenges in online teaching and learning, Internet connection is often poor, so the process of teaching and learning is slowed down, and the gadget of the students often be used by parents, the students don't have their own smartphone, And another challenge is related to the lack of interaction and feedback between teachers and students during the teaching and learning process so that students often feel lazy and boring since they don't meet their friends and teachers, and also the limited ability of students and teachers in using digital technology for online teaching and learning.

4. What is your solution to the challenges that you have dealt with?

a. First Participant

I will contact my students in personal to tell them to submit their assignments and the second one is I will send the task via Whatsapp group, if there is a difficulty in EduLearning, thirdly, surely the teachers and students will always keep practicing to use digital technology, and the last one is the students will be called and pleased to come over to the school computer laboratory, to use the computer and internet if there is a problem with internet connection and media.

b. Second Participant

He said that the solution is, the students can come over to the school computer laboratory to freely use the computer if the students don't have a gadget and good and stable internet connection, and I will give and teach the material in something new and variation, can use video, Google classroom and etc, so that students will not get bored in learning online.

c. Third Participant

For me usually if it is related to my subject, I will tell my students to come over to the school computer laboratory, because there is an internet connection at school, and for those who don't have gadget, there is a computer to use in lab, so they can learn directly from there, and surely not all students come over, since not all students don't have gadget and internet.

Based on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can be concluded that the solution or the way how to deal with the challenges generally the teachers will tell the students to come over to the school computer laboratory to freely use the computer (media) and internet connection at school, and another solution is by giving a new variation in the online material to the students, so that the students will not get bored easily and also students can be contacted personally to attend the online learning and submit their assignments.

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5.	Do you think the course design for online teaching are more difficult and take up much time to create than offline course design? Why?	
a.	First Participant	
	I personally say yes, because there is a lot of factors can be affected, such as internet connection, internet data and the absence of students in online learning.	
b.	Second Participant	
	I personally say it's easy, because there is a lot of application for learning and teaching media, but the problem is we can't teach and give the material maximally since we can't meet and interact directly with our students.	
c.	Third Participant	
	I personally say it's not, because in online course is more efficient and easier, such as we only create a power point to be given to the students, and I personally understand enough to use the computer and software so it makes me easier	

Based on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can be concluded that the second and third participant said it's easy, since there are lots of application that can be used for the material of online teaching and learning, and also they capable enough to use the computer and software, meanwhile the first participant said yes, she said that lots of factors that affected such as internet connection, data and the students factors.

6.	In your opinion what are the advantages of online teaching for teachers?
a.	First Participant
	For me the advantages are we can stay at home, we can teach from home, we can accompany our children at home during the pandemic time.
b.	Second Participant
	For me, surely we can improve our skills in using online application that during offline learning we never use it at all, so we can get a new knowledge and skill during this pandemic time.
c.	Third Participant
	Personally, maybe the short time of the process in online learning, such as in explaining the material, giving the material, so we can choose the right and the proper words and the summary in the teaching and learning process.
be the	sed on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can concluded that the advantages of online teaching for the teachers are, related to clocation and place, teachers can teach anytime and anywhere, such as at home, d also they can improve their skills in using online application that they have

never used it before, they can get the new knowledge and skill to use online

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application and software, and also the efficiency of time as well as the course management, so that the teachers can teach efficiently and carefully

7.	In your opinion, what are the disadvantages of online teaching for teachers?
a.	First Participant
	The teachers need to create a video for learning, and the interaction to the students is very limited, then the lack of supervision to the students while doing online learning.
b.	Second Participant
	The teachers need to create a video for learning, and the interaction to the students is very limited, then the lack of supervision to the students while doing online learning.
c.	Third Participant
	Personally, when there is a test or the examination, the teachers need much time to check one by one before we give it back to the students.

Based on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can be concluded that there are several disadvantages of online teaching for teachers namely, teachers must to make or create a video for online learning and also the lack of interaction between students and teachers, and the internet connection takes a part as well as the disadvantages of online teaching, the poor internet connection can be a significant disadvantages for both teachers and students, and when it comes to the test or exam, the teachers need time to check one by one before given to the students.

8.	In your opinion, what are the advantages of online teaching for students?
a.	First Participant
	Don't need to go to school, just learn at home by using internet media, so it can be more efficient.
b.	Second Participant
	The students can learn and study independently through internet, and students are taught to use technology and information by online learning, in order they can use the online application for online learning.
c.	Third Participant
	In my opinion, they can get the short period of time in online learning, so they should be having much free time to learn the material at home.

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Based on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can be concluded that there also lots of advantages of online teaching for students, namely the flexibility of time, they don't need to come over to school to study, it can be more efficient, and also the students can work and study independently as well as they can learn to use technology and information in online learning, and they got enough free time at home to learn the material.

9.	In your opinion, what are the disadvantages of online teaching for students?	
a.	First Participant	
	The lack of interaction between students to students, students to teachers, and also the student's problem in internet connection in learning online	
b.	Second Participant	
	In my opinion, the lack of interaction and supervision between students and teachers in the process of online teaching and learning, and teachers can't supervise and interact directly because it is online learning, there is a distance between teachers and students.	
c.	Third Participant	
	In my opinion, the interaction and feedback between students and teachers is very limited, so that the students did not get the explanation well.	
Ra	Rased on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can	

Based on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can be concluded that the disadvantages of online teaching for students mostly related to the lack or the limited of interaction and feedback between students to teachers, the communication didn't go well.

10.	What do you know about challenges?
a.	First Participant
	In my opinion, challenge is a thing or an activity that has an aim that can improve the ability.
b.	Second Participant
	I personally challenge is coming from the outside, to measure our ability as an educator, and how far we can overcome that challenge.
c.	Third Participant
	I personally think challenge is something that makes us feel to be more courageous to do something and to solve a problem.

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Based on the statements above from all participants regarding to the question, it can be concluded that each of the participant answered with the different opinions and perception, in short, the challenge is something that makes us to feel more difficult and challenged to do something, make a progress and to achieve goals.

5. Discussion

The teachers have very important role during the process of teaching and learning, where the teacher must be able to coordinate and lead the course of learning. During this pandemic, surely teachers have their own challenges. Teachers must carry out dual role, namely as a coach and guider during the online learning. Based on the results of interviews, the challenges faced by teachers are as follows:

1. Internet Connection.

The internet connection is one of the challenges that often be encountered and happened during the online learning, since the requirement to do online learning needs a good and stable internet connection, the poor internet connection can hamper the process of online teaching and learning, resulted to the delay of the sound, video streaming, and the disruption of the process of conveying the material, surely it can slow down the online learning process. based on the data Simin Ghavifekr, et.al (2016) that stated about the challenges of online teaching and learning, one of them are related to the internet connection.

2. Media

Media also considered as the significant challenge in online teaching, since the media, such as gadget or smartphone as a tool for doing online learning, if the media is not compatible, poor quality of hardware (gadget) it can surely slow down the process of online teaching and learning, for instance the poor quality of gadget, low memory capacity or low RAM, when it used to download or run certain online application, it may not or cannot work properly. It's based on the statement of Suhery, et.al (2020) that mentioned related to the media considered as a challenge in implementing online learning.

3. Lack of Interaction between students and teachers.

Lack of interaction also considered as a challenge for doing online teaching and learning, since the online learning is done virtually, students don't meet their friends directly, no direct communication between students and their classmates and between teachers and students as well, it also can affect the students too, such as the students often get bored, don't want to attend online learning and lazy, the teachers communication to students is very limited. It lines with the statement of Simin Ghavifekr, et.al (2016) and Suhery, et.al (2020) [6,7] that mentioned about one of the challenges of online learning is limited of interaction.

4. Limited of ability of teachers and students.

Limited ability came from teachers and students, it means when doing online learning and teaching, both must know how to use the online application, it also related to the teachers skills and knowledge in online teaching especially for using online application. According to the statement of Simin Ghavifekr, et.al (2016) that mentioned regarding to the challenges of online teaching and learning, namely the limited of ability from teachers and students.

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5. Technical Problem.

It also considered as a challenge in online teaching and learning, since online learning use application, sometimes the application encountered some problems, such as the server is down, failed to load and connect to internet, it also related to the usage of EduLearning application, since the application is kind of new, and many schools or institutions have started to use the app, sometimes the server is down, cant load and connect to the application itself. As it lines with the statement of Simin Ghavifekr, et.al (2016) that said related to the challenges in online teaching and learning, namely technical problem.

And for the solution of the participants that was stated above, from that we know the solutions of theirs, as follows:

- 1) They will tell the students to come over to the school computer laboratory, since the school has provided the computers and internet connection to those students who don't have a smartphone and good internet connection, surely they can use the computer freely as long as for online learning.
- 2) The participants will do a variation in online teaching, so that students will not get bored in learning online. Since the online learning has no direct interaction, the interactive learning is needed to attract the students.
- 3) The shifting application from EduLearning to Whatsapp application, in this case, if there is a problem with EduLearning application, teachers will tell the students to submit the assignments via Whatsapp, or to continue the process of learning in Whatsapp group.
- 4) The needed to undergo a training and keeps practicing, training is definitely a must, since the online learning use the application, so that in this case, the participants always keeps practicing and training in using digital and technology, and also asking the colleagues if they find the difficulties in using the app.

5. Conclusion

After describing and analyzing the data result and discussion, the researcher has drawn the conclusions, namely, the first challenges mostly came from internet connection and the second one was media or the smartphone itself, the third one came from the lack of interaction between students and teachers and the fourth was the limited ability of teachers and students, and the last one is related to the technical problem, and for the solution, the first one is the school and the teachers will tell the students to come over to the school computer laboratory to freely use internet and computer, the second one is, teacher will do a variation in online teaching, so the students will not get bored, thirdly is the shifting application from EduLearning to Whatsapp application, in this case, if there is a problem with EduLearning application, teachers will tell the students to submit the assignments via Whatsapp, or to continue the process of learning in Whatsapp group, the last one was the needed to undergo a training and keeps practicing, the participants always keeps practicing and training in using digital and technology, and also asking the colleagues if they find the difficulties in using the app.

Doing online teaching is not that easy, the sudden shift of teaching method from offline to online resulted to much of confusion and challenges that faced by both sides, teachers and students, so that the support from the government and also from the family of students will greatly affect to the process of online teaching and learning. Parents need to supervise and watch over their children while studying at home, since teachers can't watch over their students directly from school.

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