

Perceptions of Parents on M-learning through WhatsApp Application

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Abstract — Mobile learning is a platform that has emerged today for many people to learn via smartphones. With the prevalence of the use of smartphones in various institutions, it has become an attractive and immediate tool for inclusion in teaching and learning programs. Here, in this study, we used one of the WhatsApp mobile communication applications to make one of the school programs with parents to improve understanding of child development in school. **Objective:** To determine parents' perceptions of learning through WhatsApp as an M-learning tool to understand the understanding of child development. **Method:** This research uses descriptive qualitative using survey method and only uses one variable. The instrument uses questionnaires designed in google form forms and entered into groups with requests for everyone to send their responses. Responses are filled in Google spreadsheets and then analyzed for a reported total percentage. The final open question is analyzed qualitatively. **Results:** Most parents like M-learning via WhatsApp. There is immediate acceptance for the implementation of the school program through the WhatsApp group. **Conclusion:** A positive attitude towards M-learning among medical students is very promising to change the E-learning paradigm to M-learning. With the rapid advancement of mobile technology and the availability of smartphones in everyone, we conclude that there is a large scope for this methodology that will be used to learn to improve understanding of child development.

Keyword: *Perceptions of parents, M-learning, WhatsApp.*

INTRODUCTION

The development of information technology in recent years has developed at a very high speed, so that with this development has changed the paradigm of the community in finding and obtaining information, which is no longer limited to

newspaper, audio visual and electronic information, but also other information sources that one of them through the Internet network. One field that gets a significant impact with the development of this technology is the field of education, where basically education is a process of communication and information from educators to students that contain educational information, which has educational elements as sources of information, media as a means of presenting ideas, ideas and educational material as well as students themselves, some parts of this element get a touch of information technology media, thus sparking the birth of the idea of e-learning [1].

E-learning is a platform that is used to help parents connect with teachers to find out information about their child's development at school. With the progress of the era that increasingly blanks humans to continue to be technologically literate so that e-learning media is replaced by m-learning. M-learning is an emerging methodology that follows all the principles of e-learning but with smaller electronic devices such as smartphones, tablets and others. M-learning attributes are spontaneous, personal, informal, contextual, portable, ubiquitous, ambient, non-intrusive or pervasive [2]. Social networking technology (SNT) includes a variety of web and cellular based applications that allow individuals to create, engage with, and share content in a digital environment through multi-directional communication [3]. Based on statistical data, internet usage in the world with a total of internet users was recorded at 3,448 billion. total number of social users accessing via mobile is 2,549 billion. active users of key global social platforms based on the most recently published monthly active user accounts for each platform, in millions, whatsapp users are only 38% [4].

The term M-Learning or Mobile Learning refers to the use of handheld devices such as PDAs, cellphones, laptops and information technology devices that are widely used in teaching and learning, in this case focused on mobile devices (mobile phones) [5].

Parental involvement in academic activities affects the academic performance of primary school students [6]. The biggest relationship is found when the family has high academic expectations in children, and develops and maintains communication with children about school activities. So far there has been synergism between parents and schools in the form of: [7]

- Invitation from schools such as report cards, school activities, and other official activities;
- Parents voluntarily come to school to ask about their child's progress;
- Information dissemination through leaflets containing appeals, motivation to study and extracurricular activities;
- Forms of communication between students and parents through text messages to greet, monitor children, ask about the progress of learning, call parents and consult

The use of mobile learning based on whatsapp applications has been used in education [8], secondary education (between teachers and students), and the general public (professionals with learning communities). However, it has not been used massively by schools to improve parents' understanding of children's development and matters related to school

Whats aap is a free mass application that works across multiple platforms like iPhone and Android phones, and this application is widely used among undergraduate student to multi media messages like photos, video, adios along with simple text messeges [9]. WhatsApp, as a 'simple social network', even though it was originally used to send messages via telephone books, has recently become an important communication tool that helps people access information quickly, especially by creating groups [10].

METHODS

This research is a qualitative descriptive study using survey methods and only uses one variable. Descriptive research is research conducted on independent variables, namely without making comparisons or connecting with other variables. This research is still a preliminary study to further

examine the perceptions of parents about understanding their child's development through whatsAap. The instrument used used a questionnaire distributed among parents of students, with the number of parents participating in this study were 91 people consisting of 14, 3% (male) 85.7% (female). In addition to tests, also use interviews with class teachers to obtain more accurate data collection. While the data analysis technique is done by checking the results of the questionnaire and analyzing the answers to interviews with the teacher.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the answers of all participants who answered the questionnaire. All parents agree to like the m-learning program based on whats aap. They agree that the existence of this application will help them to know the development of their children and will get more information other than their children's activities at school.

Parents agree to receive messages at each time point from the teacher, but they prefer to read the contents when they have free time. Parents also said that whats aap helps them when they are traveling and for those who are super busy with their work.

Among 102 parents in 6 provinces who participated in this survey only 6% reported that they were not in the group whats their children's school app. All participating students liked the WhatsApp-based (100%) M-learning program. Fifty-six percent of them agreed to have joined the WhatsApp group that discussed their child's development. eighty- four point five percent (84.5%) of them agreed to study through whats app group.

Seventy nine point eight percent (79.8%) of parents agree that learning about child development can be done in whats App group. Sixty-six point seven percent (66.7%) of them said that learning from whats app group at busy times could not be done. Ninety-one point seven percent (91.7%) of them said posting material from the group whats app would help improve their understanding of their child's development.

Of the three alternatives (effective, less effective and ineffective) about their assessment of learning through whats app group, fifty-one point two percent (51.2%) of them said effective, forty- five point two percent (45.2%) they said it was less effective, and three point 6 percent (3.6%) again said it was not effective.

According to them, the best time to post learning material in whats app group is at midnight, with a percentage of 61.9%, while during the day only 26.2% of those who agree and 11.9% of those who agree in the morning.

The parents agreed to read the message at regular intervals with a percentage of 72.6%, while at the time each message came in only 19% and 8.3% liked the end of the discussion post. They also agree that each of them will be connected with the speaker. With a percentage of 82.1% who think that they will be connected with the speaker. Eighty-five point seven percent (85.7%) of parents said that learning from the group whats the school app can be one of the school programs with parents. Then eight six point nine percent (86.9%) of them said that there needed to be a discussion group whats the school app to improve their child's development.

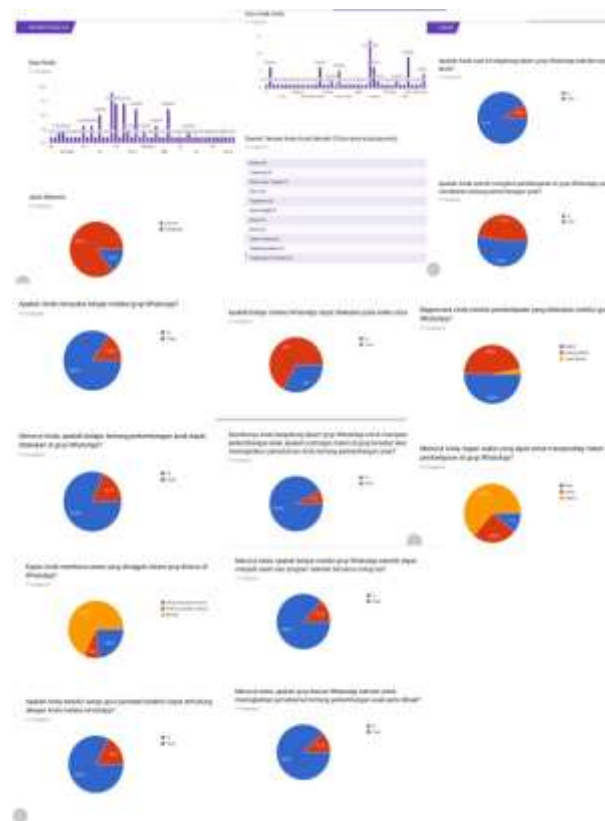
Survey we found that in accordance with the technological changes that have so peaked in our country, it gives us an understanding of the hope that parents are very busy with their activities it needs to be felt for M-Learning as a communication method especially the use of whats school app groups as a means for parents to be able to know their child's development.

This research is an eye-opener for us to understand that parents' activities cannot be avoided, while an understanding of their child's development must be monitored so that it needs a method and a medium to facilitate it all so that it can happen well. So we hereby recommend that the use and utilization of the group whats the school app is used as a place to get it all.

We believe the existence of E-learning through mobile, M-learning has been around since the introduction of the internet on mobile, with the time we expect M-learning to be adapted by students and educational institutions in the near future. Administrative support and training of facilitators will help to promote this methodology easily in any school.

We also believe that education in the future may depend on the discovery of technology and also with young intelligent generations who can adapt to this technology will surely provide their best services to the community. Although M-learning cannot replace conventional learning but it can certainly be a complement to parents to learn anything, anytime and anywhere.

Image1: The survey result



CONCLUSION

The results of this study conclude that parents agree that M-learning is a new and comfortable way of learning. They also want to have this method as part of their program. Their positive attitude to wards M-learning give us assurance that it will become part of the school program in the near future.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are very grateful to the teachers and parent’s who have helped and licensed us in our research.

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