Madrasah Head Leadership Strategy in Improving The Quality of Online Learning During the Coronavirus Disease Pandemic (Covid-19) In Mts Negeri 2 Langkat Regency

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Abstract

This study aims to find out how the leadership strategy of madrasah heads in improving the quality of online learning during the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) pandemic in MTs Negeri 2 Langkat Regency, this research was conducted using a descriptive qualitative approach, in this study emphasized more on the naturalistic meaning that means observing a subject of problems that arise naturally. The data collected in the form of narration, text, writing, oral or in the form of images. Qualitative research is conducted to understand the activities, behaviors and ways of life of others, social or other natural symptoms. The strategy of the head of *Madrasah* is the key to success in achieving the madrasah goals that have been set. The head of madrasah as the supreme leader in the education unit actually has a visionary mind in developing the madrasah that he leads such as having a surefire strategy in advancing his madrasah. Without a strategy, the madrasah program will not run. Strategi is the first and most important step when the leader intends to advance the madrasah. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the learning process should not be stopped even though educational institutions are temporarily closed, so online learning is applied from home. Chief *Madrasah* strategy to implement several applications such as 1) Zoom Meeting, 2) Google Classroom, 3) Google Meet, 4) WhatsApp Group, and 5) Email in supporting the online learning process in MTs Negeri 2 Langkat Regency. The strategy is a solution for students during the Covid-19 pandemic, students can learn from home online, so that they can interact through the media and can receive lesson materials provided by teachers.

Keywords: *Madrasah* Head Strategy, Learning Quality, Covid-19

INTRODUCTION

Education is an investment that provides social and personal benefits that make the nation eyed and make the individual into a human being who has a degree. As a manifestation of the seriousness of the government in handling education, we can know in the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003.

Education is a conscious effort made by the community and the government in the way of guidance, teaching, or training activities, which take place in schools and outside schools that are always done throughout life to prepare students to play a role in various environments appropriately in the future. Education is believed to be a strategic tool to improve human standard of living, through human education to be smart, have skills, good attitude of life so that it can get along well in the community and can help itself, family, and society, (Engkoswara, 2012).

The head of Madrasah as the leader who plays the most role in improving the quality of education. As the holder of control in the educational institution the head of madrasah is responsible for the quality of *Madrasah*. Head *Madrasah* determining factors in managing education that is expected to have adequate knowledge, ability, and skills in carrying out its duties.

The state of the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a fundamental policy change in our education. In this case the Minister of Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia, Nadiem Anwar Makarim announced several policies to regulate defense activities during this pandemic. It was issued through Circular Letter No. 4 of 2020, namely about the Implementation of Education Policy in the Emergency Period of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19), dated March 24, 2020, one of the prosecutors changed the way teachers learn and teach with the wisdom of learning at home.

During the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) pandemic all teachers or educators are required to change learning methods, using online learning is very different from face-to-face learning that occurs in madrasahs. There is no direct encounter between the Teacher and the student and the learning process takes place remotely allowing the teacher and the student to be in a different location. Utilization of modern media and technology and supported by a super-fast internet network such as using mobile communication tools wisely to support the learning process. Face-to-face online learning through the app is the most beneficial thing to stop the spread of Covid-19 and maintain the mental health of teachers and students from exposure to the virus, (Jamaluddin, 2020).

The strategy of madrasah heads in online learning during the covid 19 pandemic is expected to improve the quality of learning. As well as utilizing all components of education in madrasah in order to ensure the implementation of online learning with different atmosphere.

Madrasah Head Leadership Strategy

Strategy is an art of using the skills and resources of an organization to achieve its goals through its effective relationship with the environment in the most favorable conditions, strategy is the basic framework in which an organization continues its life with adjustments to the environment, (Hadijaya, 2013).

Furthermore, (Mulyasa, 2004) argues that the plan should describe the quality aspects of the process to be achieved, the activities carried out, who should

carry out, when and where to implement, and the costs required. Furthermore, (Rochaety, 2010) A strategy is a comprehensive and unified plan that connects the strengths of the organization's strategy with the environment it faces, all of which ensure that its organizational goals are achieved.

Strategi is a forum for organizations to carry out activities. To improve the quality, it takes an important role of members of the organization to connect a unity of plans and cooperation to achieve the goals that have been set. The leader's strategy is very influential on his subordinates to achieve the goals of the organization. Leadership is one's ability to encourage, invite, mobilize and influence others to implement something to shape the process of achieving the goals set in the organization.

Leadership is an important aspect in the school, leadership is a driving factor of the organization through the handling of changes and management carried out so that the existence of the leader is not only a symbol that exists or not, does not matter but its existence has a positive impact on the development of the organization. A leader is a person who actively makes plans, coordinates, conducts experiments, and leads the work to achieve goals together, (Mulyasa, 2004).

Leadership is an ability to take initiative in social situations to create new forms and procedures, as well as design and organize deeds by doing so in the spirit of work for members of the organization in achieving goals.

According to (Syafaruddin, 2013) educational leadership is a quality of activities and integration in educational situations. Here the principal has a responsibility to implement the policies and direction of the state in seeking the best education for school children. The community should actively participate in discussing various policies before they are addressed by the state, the principals need to keep up to date with the development of policy initiatives that are being considered by the government through local and national education associations, the schools have a voice in considering the policy.

In Article 12 Paragraph 1 of Government Regulation No. 28 of 1990 states that the principal is responsible for the implementation of educational activities, school administration, coaching other educational personnel and the use and maintenance of facilities and infrastructure.

Leadership is the intellectual quality of a leader used in influencing its members, motivating, and directing to members of the organization both individually and in groups and able to facilitate by coordinating all tasks and responsibilities that have been established to achieve common goals.

Improving The Quality of Learning

Quality improvement in madrasah will be carried out if supported by human resources (HR) who have high ability, integrity and ability, because otherwise, the

quality of Madrasah will only be eforia. One of the key factors of success to improve the quality of learning must be based on concept, technical and humane skills.

Education management in madrasah is the process of application of management functions in carrying out the teaching and learning process to achieve educational goals. To achieve the educational objectives in schools, the role of the principal in carrying out education management is very decisive in achieving the objectives with the support of personnel, materials, financial and community resources, (Sudaryono, 2012).

According to (Sallis, 2010), Mutu is a philosophy and methodology that helps institutions to plan for change and set the agenda in the face of excessive external pressures. In the context of education, the definition of quality, in this case refers to the educational *process* and *educational outcomes*. Quality in the context of "educational outcomes" refers to the achievements achieved by madrasahs at any given period of time.

Students are one of the objects directly involved in learning activities in madrasah. In the activity, the students initially realized the importance of learning. Thanks to the information reached by the teacher about the learning objectives, the students know the purpose of the learning materials. Education can be said to be good if the education has been achieved in accordance with the *Madrasah* objectives.

The head of the madrasah has a strong role in coordinating, mobilizing and completing all the educational resources available in the madrasah. The leadership of the head of madrasah is one of the factors that can encourage madrasah to be able to realize the quality of quality learning through programs implemented in a planned and gradual manner.

Online Learning

During the Covid 19 pandemic to break the chain of spread of Coronavirus Disease (Covid 19) online learning is an alternative in the learning process for learners in the continuity of the teaching and learning process, a type of teaching and learning which is the process of teaching and learning materials to students using the internet. According to Elyas (2018) Online learning emphasizes the learning process by using internet technology to transmit things that can improve knowledge and skills. (Yuniarto, 2015) added that learning using internet technology can provide a lot of information and learning resources as well as facilities that can support the learning process such as video tutorials, seminars, teaching materials can be downloaded and uploaded, and problem test materials for evaluation can also be done.

Online learning is internet learning with the accessibility, connectivity, flexibility, and ability to bring out different types of learning interactions, (Moore, J.L., Diskson-Deane, C., & Calyen, 2011). Furthermore, in the implementation of online learning requires the support of mobile devices such as smartphone or mobile

adroid, laptop, computer, tablet, and iphone that can be used to access information anytime and anywhere, (Gikas, J., & Grant, 2013).

According to (Maudiarti, 2018) that online learning or *e-learning* can be done for everyone, anytime and anywhere by using the attributes and learning resources of digital technology. E-learning is an innovation to distribute good, interactive and student-centered models. Furthermore, in the implementation of online learning there are six aspects that must be prepared by the organizers of educational institutions in the online learning process, as (Khan, 2005) explains that aspects of online learning, namely; 1) learning design, 2) Internet support equipment, 3) computer and setup, 4) service and provider creation, 5) management programs, planning software resources and standards, 6) services and connection applications.

Online learning is a model of online-based defense that emphasizes the use of internet technology to convey knowledge and is able to facilitate learning anywhere and anytime without any in-person meetings. In contrast to direct learning in conventional learning educators directly interact face-to-face with students by providing materials, tuags and even direct assessment.

Pandemi Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19)

Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) is a deadly virus outbreak for humans, providing its own challenges for educational institutions without exception impacting schools. Many countries are taking steps to close schools and universities as well as those of Indonesia. The step of closing the school temporarily until an uncertain period of time when it can resume activities is one of the efforts to reduce the spread of the Covid 19 virus.

Face-to-face learning that gathers a lot of mass in the classroom in the review ualang implementation to prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, WHO advises to stop events that can cause crowds. The government strives to prevent the spread of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) by prohibiting crowding, social restrictions (*Social Distancing*) and maintaining physical *distancing*, wearing masks and always washing hands.

As the Minister of Education and Culture issued circular No. 4 of 2020 on the Implementation of Education Policy in the Emergency Period of The Spread of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) signed on March 24, 2020 by the Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia Nadiem Makarim. The principles applied in the COVID-19 pandemic policy are the health and safety of students, educators, educational personnel, families, and the community is the top priority in setting learning policies.

METHOD

This research was conducted using descriptive qualitative approach, in this study emphasized more on naturalistic meaning which means observing a subject

of problems that arise naturally. The data collected in the form of narration, text, writing, oral or in the form of images. Qualitative research is conducted to understand the activities, behaviors and ways of life of others, social or other natural symptoms. (Sugiyono, 2015), Qualitative research is often called naturalistic research method because the research is done in natural conditions (*naturalsetting*) because the data collected and analysis is more qualitative. Qualitative research is considered relevant to describe the conditions that become the background of the research, namely, the leadership strategy of madrasah heads in improving the quality of online learning during the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) pandemic in MTs Negeri 2 Langkat Regency.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The success of educational institutions, especially madrasas, is determined by the success of madrasah heads in managing and empowering all madrasah residents. Strategy is the key to success in achieving the madrasah goals that have been set. The head of madrasah as the supreme leader in the education unit actually has a visionary mind in developing the madrasah that he leads such as having a surefire strategy in advancing his madrasah. Without a strategy, the madrasah program will not run. Strategy is the first and most important step when the leader intends to advance the madrasah.

During the Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) pandemic, as the Minister of Education and Culture circular issued No. 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policy in the Emergency Period of Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Spread. The learning process is not allowed face-to-face meetings so that the head of MTs Negeri 2 Langkat regency uses a strategy with the implementation of online learning can run well.

MTs Negeri 2 Langkat regency as an educational institution should be on standby to facilitate any changes related to the education of students. The development of technology, the flow of information acceleration and educational programs conducted madrasah must be really delivered to students, especially with online media still the madrasah really pay attention to ethics as an educational institution. The emphasis of learning at home to students really gets control so that teachers who teach through crisp media remain *smooth* and smart in delivering lessons that must be understood by students.

Furthermore, Strategy head of madrasah in MTs Negeri 2 Langkat District Made a policy to improve the quality of online learning so that the learning process can run well, the strategy of the head of *Madrasah* in MTs Negeri 2 Langkat for online learning using applications such as; 1) Zoom Meeting, 2) Google Classroom, 3) Google Meet, 4) WhatsApp Group, and 5) Email.

Zoom Meeting, aplikasi zoom is an app that allows its users to meet others through cyberspace. Zoom was founded in 2011 by Eric Yuan. Zoom became popular due to the Covid 19 outbreak the updated report shows that daily users of zoom reached 300 million in recent weeks. Currently zoom becomes the top number choice in the midst of a viral pandemic that weakens various sectors both economic, health and even education.

Google Classroom, aplikasi google classroom released first pada tanggal 12 agustus 2014 oleh google. Dengan google classroom seorang pengajar dapat save time and paper. A teacher can create classes, assign assignments, communicate, and manage everything in one place. The advantages of google classroom can store all materials, problems automatically in the google drive folder, plus google classroom affordable and safe provided free of charge accessible to individuals. Indonesia is one of the countries with a high number of google classroom users.

Google Meet application is one of the communication platforms popularized by google. The app allows its users to send instant messages, video conversations, SMS, and VOIP features. The first google meet app was launched in 2017. The app is free and its users can video conference with 100 members as well as quality video views.

WhatsApp is an app that allows users to chat. This app is the best seller in the world. WhatsApp application is supported with future audio calls and video calls. Currently whatsapp has allowed its users to make video calls with a maximum number of participants 4 people. But during this pandemic users can make video calls as many as 8 people.

Email An application that allows users to send mail as well as documents. This application is a built-in electronic mail program in Apple Inc's Mac OS X operating system. during the pandemic period many of the college lecturers use email as a medium to send documents.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, the learning process should not be stopped even though educational institutions are temporarily closed, so online learning is applied from home. Chief *Madrasah* strategy to implement several applications such as 1) Zoom Meeting, 2) Google Classroom, 3) Google Meet, 4) WhatsApp Group, and 5) Email in supporting the online learning process in MTs Negeri 2 Langkat Regency.

The strategy is a solution for students during the Covid-19 pandemic, students can learn from home online, so that they can interact through the media and can receive lesson materials provided by teachers.

CONCLUSION

The strategy of the head of *Madrasah* is the key to success in achieving the madrasah goals that have been set. The head of madrasah as the supreme leader in the education unit actually has a visionary mind in developing the madrasah that he leads such as having a surefire strategy in advancing his madrasah. Without a

strategy, the madrasah program will not run. Strategi is the first and most important step when the leader intends to advance the madrasah. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the learning process should not be stopped even though educational institutions are temporarily closed, so online learning is applied from home. Chief *Madrasah* strategy to implement several applications such as 1) Zoom Meeting, 2) Google Classroom, 3) Google Meet, 4) WhatsApp Group, and 5) Email in supporting the online learning process in MTs Negeri 2 Langkat Regency. The strategy is a solution for students during the Covid-19 pandemic, students can learn from home online, so that they can interact through the media and can receive lesson materials provided by teachers.

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