

## The Role of Teachers in Educational Innovation During the Covid-19 Pandemic

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### Abstrak

Peran guru dalam inovasi dan pengembangan media pembelajaran sangat diperlukan mengingat guru dapat dikatakan sebagai pemain yang memegang peranan yang sangat penting dalam proses belajar mengajar di kelas, harus mampu menumbuhkembangkan kemampuannya untuk menciptakan media pembelajaran yang efektif dan efisien. Oleh karena itu, perkembangan yang sangat penting adalah inovasi pendidikan di bidang pendidikan atau inovasi untuk memecahkan masalah pendidikan. Jadi inovasi pendidikan adalah suatu ide, item, metode, yang dirasakan atau diamati sebagai suatu hal yang baru. Guru memiliki banyak peran dalam mendidik siswanya, diantaranya sebagai fasilitator dan mediator. Di masa pandemi saat ini, guru dituntut untuk beradaptasi dengan teknologi. Belajar adalah suatu proses perubahan perilaku dalam interaksi proses pembelajaran antara pendidik dan peserta didik dalam rangka membentuk dan mengembangkan cara berpikir peserta didik dalam meningkatkan dan mengkonstruksi pengetahuan baru yang diperoleh peserta didik. Sehingga pembelajaran dalam keadaan apapun tetap berjalan.

**Kata kunci:** Peran Guru, Inovasi Pendidikan, Pandemi Covid-19

### Abstract

The role of the teacher in innovation and development of learning media is very necessary considering that the teacher can be said to be a player who plays a very important role in the teaching and learning process in the classroom, should be able to cultivate his ability to create effective and efficient learning media. Therefore, a very important development is educational innovation in the field of education or innovation to solve educational problems. So educational innovation is an idea, item, method, which is felt or observed as a new thing. Teachers have many roles in educating their students, including as facilitators and mediators. During the current pandemic, teachers are required to adapt to technology. Learning is a process of behavior change in the interaction of the learning process between educators and students in order to form and develop students' ways of thinking in improving and constructing new knowledge gained by students. So that learning under any circumstances continues.

**Keywords:** the role of teachers, educational innovation, the covid-19 pandemic

### PRELIMINARY

Educational innovation can simply be interpreted as innovation in the field of education. According to Ibrahim, (1988: 51) educational innovation is an idea, item, method, which is felt or observed as new for a person or group of people (society) either in the form of an invention or discovery, which is used to achieve educational goals or solve problems. education. Thus, innovation is expected to improve the quality of education or learning, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, one must really develop new ideas so that learning continues even though learning is carried out remotely. This means that any innovation that cannot improve the quality of education or learning should not be adopted, and in this context the role of the teacher will be very decisive in the adoption of innovations in the education or learning process. Therefore, in responding to an innovation, it is necessary to have a good

understanding of the substance of the innovation itself, this is intended so that innovation can really add value to life.

The teacher as the spearhead in the application of learning is a very influential party in the teaching and learning process. The expertise and authority of the teacher greatly determines the continuity of the teaching and learning process in the classroom or its effects outside the classroom. Teachers must be good at bringing their students to the goals to be achieved. There are several things that can shape the authority of teachers, including the ability of the modules taught, teaching procedures that are suitable for the atmosphere and circumstances of students, bonds between people, both with students or between teachers and other factors that participate in the learning process such as administrators, for example the principal and administration and surrounding residents, the experience and expertise of the teacher himself. Thus, in the renewal of learning, teacher involvement from planning learning innovations to its implementation and evaluation plays a very large position for the success of an educational innovation. Without linking them, it is very likely that they will reject the innovation that is introduced to them. This is as described earlier, because they think innovations that do not connect them are not theirs that must be carried out, but on the contrary they think it will disturb the peace and smoothness of their work. Therefore, in a learning innovation, the teacher is the first and foremost part because the teacher has a broad position as an educator, as a parent, as a friend, as a doctor, as a motivator and so on. (Wright 1987) Development of Teacher Professionalism for experts, professionalism emphasizes the ability of science or management expertise and implementation strategies. Maister (1997) argues that professionalism is not merely knowledge of technology and management but rather is behavior, professional development is more than a technician not only has great skills but has a required behavior. If teachers in Indonesia have met the reliable standards of teachers, then the quality of Indonesian Human Energy Resources continues to be good. In addition to having reliable standards of teachers as described in the Daily Educational Leadership 1993 (in Supriadi 1998) it is explained that to become reliable a teacher is required to have 5 things: (1) Teachers are committed to students and the learning process, (2) Teachers understand thoroughly in depth the materials/subjects they teach and teaching methods to students, (3) the teacher is responsible for monitoring student learning outcomes through various assessment methods, (4) the teacher is able to think systematically about what he is doing and learn from his experience, (5) the teacher should be part of the learning community in their professional area. Arifin (2000) states that reliable Indonesian teachers are required to have; (1) a solid scientific basis as the embodiment of technology citizens and scientists in the 21st century; (2) the ability to use professional tips based on studies and learning praxis is learning science as Practical science is not just mere concepts. Learning is a process that occurs in the field and has a scientific nature, and learning studies should be shown in the learning praxis of Indonesian citizens; (3) continuous development of reliable skills, the teaching profession is a profession that grows continuously and continuously between LPTKs and learning practices. The dwarfism of the teaching profession and learning science is caused by the disconnection of pre-service and in-service programs due to rigid bureaucratic considerations or weak learning management. Given the requirements for teacher professionalism, a new paradigm is needed to create a reliable profile of Indonesian teachers in the 21st century, namely; (1) have a mature and growing character; (2) a strong scientific ability; (3) the ability to awaken students to science and technology; and (4) professional development

Minister of Education and Culture (Mendikbud), Nadiem Anwar Makarim said the role of teachers was getting nobler in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Where teachers not only ensure the continuity of learning, but also play a greater role in supporting the mental health and well-being of students. Teachers do not only focus on working alone, but also move collectively to find solutions to challenges to produce meaningful and fun teaching and learning innovations. The policy of learning from home is a challenge for teachers, where teachers have to conduct remote debriefing with the demand that there is a change in the character of students for the better without being able to touch students. However, the role of teachers and parents must still have the same goal so that the expected education can be

achieved. Online learning during this pandemic is not easy, there needs to be good cooperation from various educational subjects. Good education is not just a process of giving and receiving learning, but behind that there is a positive attitude that must grow, namely good and polite character. Online learning will not be difficult if it is responded to and faced with the right attitude so that it can be a good learning method.

The benefits of this research are to produce an overview of teachers' knowledge of how distance learning is, produce an overview of teachers how to use online learning applications, conduct online assessments and what strategies for distance learning are as a solution in the current pandemic, because at this time in the midst of the COVID outbreak. -19 provides an overview of the inhibiting and supporting factors in the current implementation of distance learning for teachers.

## **METHOD**

Indonesia and all countries in the world, since the global COVID-19 pandemic, have implemented online learning for students. So that in this study using a qualitative type of research with data collection methods vote or poll using google form by asking questions about the role of teachers in mentoring during online learning. Sources of data are teachers consisting of 5 teachers at SDN Jomin Barat II.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the results of the study, many teachers are used to dealing with the learning process of their children (students) during the COVID-19 pandemic and adapting to new habits. This can be seen in the teacher's role table. Teachers who are more ready to develop their ideas or new ideas in educational innovations face situations and conditions in the learning process for their students. However, it is undeniable, the pandemic has changed the situation in various aspects. However, educators, both teachers and parents, must understand the management of student development through the teacher's role in the learning process, both before the pandemic and with the COVID-19 pandemic. Yunita et al., (2020), in essence education is something that is always needed by society from time to time. According to (F. Wajdi, 2020), education is the most important element that a person must have. With education, humans can have intelligence, values, personality, spiritual strength, civilization, and skills that are very beneficial for themselves, the environment, culture, society, religion, nation and state. Education is called a necessity because in general people also need education to be able to keep abreast of the times that have been equipped with very sophisticated technology. Education is also an effort made by humans to always improve their lives. Education is carried out by humans consciously to form a strong and noble personality.

In the present era, children from low school education (SD) to high school, even early childhood have started to attach themselves to technological developments such as cellphones or sophisticated tools that can occupy themselves to neglect their learning tasks. That is very important management of student development through the role of teachers and parents in dealing with and managing the learning process of children. With the hope of not changing the habits (behavior) that cause the child's personality to be bad. Gunawan & Argadinata, (2020), students who are currently commonly referred to as the millennial generation, must also have a strong character, so that they are not uprooted from the noble cultural roots of the Indonesian nation. Learning organized by schools today must be able to understand the characteristics of millennial generation students.

The role is an integrated interaction activity that is reflected in a person's behavior towards tasks and responsibilities in achieving a goal. In the perspective of education, this role is reflected in a process of activity between the interaction of the behavior of teachers (educators) and students in the teaching and learning process. (Suhardono, 2016) explains, the role is a set of benchmarks, which limits what behavior should be done by someone who occupies a position.

The importance of the role of management (management) of student development (students) carried out by teachers and parents properly, will create an effective, friendly, and even polite learning atmosphere, especially education at school and at home. Moh. Dwi

Kurniyawan, Sultoni Sultoni, (2020), the implementation of education aims to educate and improve the lives of children so that they become human beings who are faithful, pious, responsible, noble, happy, and prosperous in accordance with human rights. For this reason, it is important for schools to prioritize an education system that is oriented to the best interests of children, one of which is by creating child-friendly schools. Putra, (2020), polite behavior does not just happen but can be influenced by the surrounding environment and friends. It can be said that the role of the teacher is very necessary to train the character of students so that they can become good individuals in the future.

The COVID-19 pandemic and the adaptation of new habits that occur, teachers and parents are required to be able and understand how to use and realize online learning with existing educational applications. With the hope that students can participate in online learning provided by the teacher. (Sang Chan, 2010), the use of this strategy will create a more engaging and practical learning environment, which can lead to creativity and innovation in the classroom and, ultimately, competent individuals prepare to compete in the 21st century workforce. To understand teacher learning, it must be studied in these various contexts. Promoting self-directed learning as an aspect of teacher professional development fosters higher levels of engagement with professional learning, meaningful self-learning experiences, and greater links between professional knowledge and teacher practice. As (Chametzky, 2014), involvement in professional development increases when the material is personally relevant and meaningful. (Kuo et al., 2014), peer-to-peer dialogue is critical to course success and to overall student satisfaction. (Wei et al., 2019), schools and teachers can encourage youth to play a more active role in inviting parents to communicate with them about education. This strategy can utilize parents as a resource in adolescent learning, especially when adolescents reach adolescence when they often need support from parents, but also want independence from them.

Online learning applied by teachers must be varied, so that there is no saturation experienced by students. So that will appear fun online learning. Online learning during the pandemic has many impacts, including: many teachers are not ready with online learning applications, many parents feel heavy and overwhelmed in accompanying children during online learning due to the many tasks that have piled up for their children, so that parents' emotions do not change. unstoppable, and the same goes for students who feel overwhelmed by internet quotas and assignments given by their teachers. In fact, students are happier with online games. Some of the observations of researchers, many students, especially elementary school students, tend to spend their time at home coolly playing online games. For this reason, assistance is needed, especially parents who are always with their children. However, since the rise of smart phones, there are also several families, especially parents, when they are at home, their lives are busy with their smart phones. Thus, the lack of communication between them, even life in the family is indifferent to each other since the existence of smart phones. With the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of parents must change and are expected to be a companion for their children in online learning.

Online learning assistance played by teachers and parents has been inaugurated by the minister of learning and culture through Circular Message No. 15 of 2020 concerning guidelines for organizing learning from home (BDR) in the emergency period of the spread of corona virus disease 19 (covid-19) in Chapter I point The purpose of implementing learning from home (BDR) No. 1 and 4 states: (1) to ensure the fulfillment of the rights of students to obtain learning services during the covid-19 emergency; and (4) confirming the fulfillment of psycho-social support for educators, student participants and parents/guardians (Department of Learning and Culture, 2020).

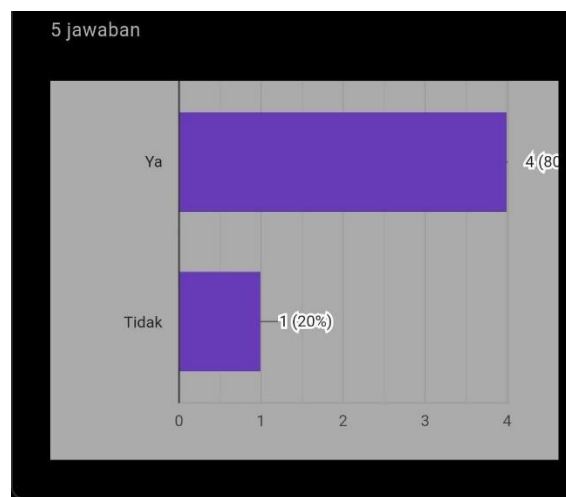
Ketelhut & Schifter (2011), helping teachers master how to use this new pedagogy is meaningful. Successful development of skills requires attention to several aspects including the effectiveness of teachers in using software, pedagogical issues and school culture. For (Chauhan, 2017), if technology is comprehensively woven into pedagogy, it can serve as an effective tool for efficient education for elementary school students and technology has another influence on the learning effectiveness of elementary school students. Teachers play a very big role in the modern education system, especially during the pandemic where

students and teachers carry out online education. Therefore, teachers are required to prepare plans, learning innovations, and assessments in order to achieve success and achieve goals. Teachers have a very broad position as educators, parents, friends, doctors, motivators, and so on (Wright, 1987).

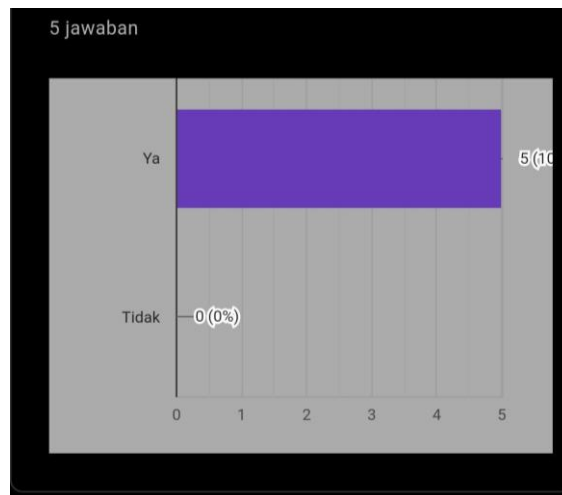
Education during a pandemic can actually help teachers as educators, because there are many learning aids such as media, especially online applications that have many methods of using them. For this reason, the teacher has limited expertise (Groundwater-Smith et al., 2011), the teacher's expertise in delivering lessons has limitations, especially the skill of articulating materials in verbal form. The teacher functions as the spearhead of learning. Not only must it be reliable, a teacher (educator) must have expertise and expertise in the educational process both in the classroom and outside the classroom (online education). Parents also have a very important position for their family. A mother is a school or an early learning component for her children at home. Because parents have almost the same function as a teacher (educator) at school. With parental learning, a child's personality or attitude is created as a result of the interaction between the family and the immediate area. The stages of implementing character building are learning experiences and teaching and learning processes that are directed at creating personality values which are tried in 3 areas, namely formal (school), informal (family) and non-formal (citizen) learning (J Jasrudin, Z Putera, 2020).

**Table 1. Teacher's Role**

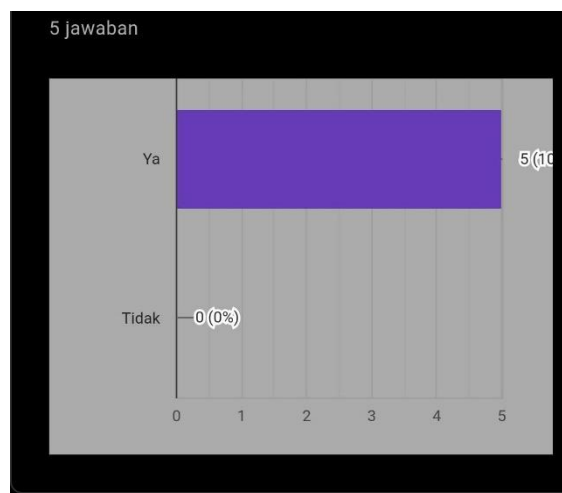
Component	Teacher Says "Yes"	Teacher Says "No"
Competent in Online learning	4	1
Using online learning strategies	5	0
Using online learning apps	5	0
Doing online learning	5	0
Applying online assessment	4	1



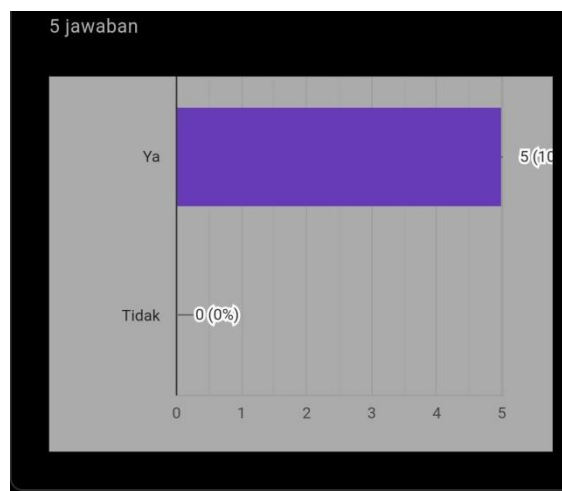
**Figure 1. Competent in Online Learning**



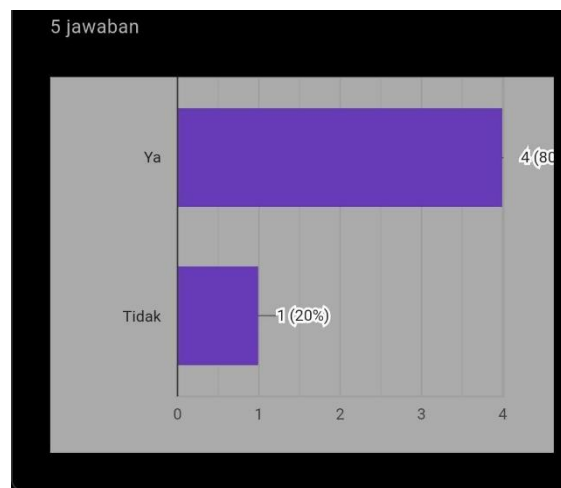
**Figure 2. Using Online Learning Strategies**



**Figure 3. Using online learning applications**



**Figure 4. Doing online learning**



**Figure 5. Applying online assessment**

## CONCLUSION

Taking into account the role of the teacher and the duties of the teacher as one of the factors for the success of education, the existence and improvement of the teaching profession becomes a very important discourse. Education in the age of knowledge demands modern and professional educational management with an educational atmosphere. The decline in education is not caused by the curriculum but by the lack of professionalism of teachers and student reluctance to learn. Professionalism emphasizes the mastery of knowledge or management skills and their implementation strategies. Professionalism is not just knowledge of technology and management but rather an attitude, professional development is more than a technician not only having high skills but having a required behavior. Professional teachers are basically determined by their attitude which means at the level of maturity which requires willingness and ability, both intellectually and in excellent condition. Professionalization should be viewed as a continuous process. The development of students (students) through the role of teachers is very important in assisting student learning, especially at the elementary school level, especially with the COVID-19 pandemic and the new normal. Online learning as a future learning strategy for students. However, facilities and infrastructure, educators, and assistants must support and understand how to use online learning applications. Without the role of mentoring parents and teachers in online learning, it will not run well, so the online learning process will be in vain. In fact, with online learning (on the network) there are cases in several areas due to the large burdens received by students (school assignments), the occurrence of violence in children due to parents being impatient with them, and some ending their lives tragically. If the assistance is carried out properly and correctly, students will enjoy (comfortably) doing learning during the pandemic and adapting to a new life. Because, the future is in the hands of the nation's young people who are ready to face global challenges and pandemics. The government must be more selective in the cadre of professional young educators and education personnel.

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