



# Innovative Learning Arts and Culture during the Pandemic in Junior High School

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Received 22 May 2022; accepted 19 Juny 2022; published 20 July 2022

## ABSTRACT

*The online learning is a new thing in learning cultural arts at Islamic Junior High School Al-Azhar BSB City Semarang, it is an interesting and challenging things because of the presence of students who come from several different places. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the teacher applied several different methods to make students more pro-active and think critically. Innovation begins with changing learning strategies, learning patterns and assessments in the learning process. This study aims to determine learning innovations in cultural arts subjects during the COVID-19 pandemic by using a qualitative descriptive approach method which interviews directly with teacher at Al-Azhar 29 Islamic Junior High School, BSB City Semarang. Data analysis using data triangulation with data processing techniques using data reduction, display data and conclusions. The results of this study indicate the existence of innovations in learning cultural arts at Al-Azhar 29 Islamic Junior High School, BSB City Semarang, including: improving learning strategies, learning media, learning management, and critical assessment systems for students.*

## KEYWORDS

Learning Arts  
Culture,  
Learning Innovation,  
Covid-19 Pandemic

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## 1. Introduction

The atypical and person-to-person outbreak of pneumonia caused by the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-COV-2, also known as 2019-nCov) has caused global alarm. There have been almost 64,000 confirmed cases of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) in China, since February 14, 2020. In addition, China also has more than 14,000 other suspected cases. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Novel coronavirus 2019 (2019-nCoV) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) (Wang et al. 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic, which has yet to end, has had a very influential impact on almost all of sectors, the economy, trade, and even in the world of education. In education, educators and students are required to be able to do online learning or with an online system. Not only in the higher education but also in primary and secondary education. The government has also made several efforts to tackle the spread of the COVID-19 virus, one of strategy is implementing lockdowns and restrictions on community activities in several areas. This is also stated in the guidelines for implementing learning during the pandemic and Circular No.4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Education Policies in the Emergency of the spread of Corona Virus Disease (COVID-19) issued by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia.

Junior high schools are one of the centers of education that feel the COVID-19 pandemic and change learning strategies from initially face-to-face offline to online meetings and distance learning. Schools and Educators implement several strategies to help students learn from home.

This becomes a big obstacle for learning art. The most important thing in art is finding space for self-expression, meaning that art becomes a vehicle for expressing desires, feelings, thoughts through various forms of artistic activity that lead to pleasure and satisfaction. Expressing fine art through visual elements in the form of lines, colors, fields, textures, volumes, and spaces (Fauziah and Fitriyah 2020). Cultural Art is the embodiment of a beautiful sense contained in the soul of a



person who is born through communication tools in a form that can be captured by the listener's senses (sound art), sight (fine art), or being born by means of movement (dance, drama). Arts also can be said to be an expression or impression received by the five senses, soul, and human feelings. Art is born from the process of transitioning human ideas or ideas into a more real form of expression. Cultural arts education is always present in the school curriculum, because art is part of human needs (Simanjuntak and Hamid K 2016).

Online learning is a learning system that is carried out not face to face, but using a platform that can help the teaching and learning process that is carried out even though it is a distance. The purpose of online learning is to provide quality learning services in a network that is massive and open to reach more and wider learning space enthusiasts (Sofyana and Rozaq 2019). In practice, it requires educators and students to interact and transfer knowledge online. Online learning can take advantage of platforms in the form of applications, websites, social networks and learning management systems (Gunawan, Yeni Suranti, and Fathoroni 2020). This is supported by technological developments that are not limited to the current 4.0 industrial revolution. Online learning is effective for implementing learning even though educators and students are in different places (Verawardina et al. 2020). This is able to solve the problem of students' delay in acquiring knowledge.

Like previous research (Simamora 2020) online learning has become interesting and challenging, with effective and efficient learning methods, activities and media. But in reality, it is not enough to just provide opportunities for students to adapt. Meanwhile, in another study (Dewi 2020) mentioned in the study, it was assessed that online learning using the Whatsapp group as a learning tool in addition to using the YouTube media for reference in learning dance in particular. In this study, the results of the implementation of online learning were considered less effective because the teacher was more comfortable learning offline. The same thing was mentioned in the research (Widyanti and Putra 2020) which used a qualitative descriptive approach. The online learning of Cultural Arts is carried out using the Whatsapp Group online media application as recommended by the Deputy Head of Curriculum. SMP N 7 Padang. The learning went smoothly and simply, but the experienced several obstacles, because learning activities did not pay attention to the standards for online learning arrangements.

Based on this description, educators and education providers in the Pandemic Era and the Industrial Revolution Era 4.0 are required to be more creative in developing learning innovations. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to determine the innovation of learning arts and culture during the COVID-19 pandemic at Islamic Junior High School 29 BSB City Semarang.

## 2. Method

To get a deep understanding of the implementation of learning arts and culture at Islamic Junior High School Al Azhar 29 BSB City Semarang. The approach used by the researcher is a qualitative approach through the form of phenomenological research. The relevance of choosing this approach is that qualitative research is principally observing people's behavior in their environment, interacting with them, and trying to understand their activities with the world around them (Arikunto 2010).

This research was conducted by conducting direct interviews with the teachers of Cultural Arts at Islamic Junior High School Al-Azhar 29 BSB City Semarang, using the technique of recording, listening and taking notes, and described using qualitative descriptive because the data obtained were not numbers. SMP Islam Al-Azhar 29 BSB City Semarang was chosen because it has used online learning methods in the subject of online cultural arts during the COVID-19 pandemic. This study uses data analysis: data triangulation with data processing techniques using data reduction, presenting data for conclusions.



### 3. Results and Discussion

#### 3.1. Online Learning Strategies at SMP Islam Al-Azhar 29 BSB City

Cultural arts learning is basically a culture-based art education (Sachari 2006). A planned strategy plays an important role in the learning process. Strategy is closely related to the technicalities in carrying out this learning. So that the strategy does not move away from the target to be achieved, it needs more understanding. This understanding begins with a stimulus to each individual in encouraging or motivating so as to respond to learning activities (Fatimah and Kartikasari 2018).

During the COVID-19 pandemic, online learning is mandatory, and which is considered the most effective way to carry out this learning. Several learning strategies are implemented and are classified as varied. At SMP Islam Al-Azhar 29 BSB City, using an online learning strategy that is not much different from offline learning. Educators use the lecture method as usual to start learning and continue to develop several new methods to understand students' different thought processes, for example by provoking a review of previous material by appointing one student to answer and using the *welovename* apps. This application is used so that students do not feel forced to be appointed or feel overwhelmed by it. To focus attention during learning, educators also use the guessing game application, namely *kahoot!* and *quizzes* with reference to the independent learning curriculum that has been established by the Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia. For online learning meetings using the *google meet* and *google classroom* apps. Students are also given a stimulant to solve problems in learning using the discovery learning method.

#### 3.2. Online Learning Media at SMP Islam Al-Azhar 29 BSB City

Learning media is a tool that plays a very important role in the learning process. A study (Saripuddin, Haris, and Nurhadi 2014) shows: "Learning media is a means of delivering learning messages in relation to the direct learning model, namely by the way the teacher acts as a conveyor of information and in this case the teacher should use a variety of suitable media." basic (Cultural Arts and Skills Education) is different from art education in junior and senior high schools (Cultural Arts Education) (Rohidi 2014).

Fun learning cannot be separated from the media used to carry out the learning. In this case, the media used to support the effectiveness and continuity of learning cultural arts is by showing students the musical instruments used and showing pictures or practicing musical instruments by using them by educators.

For vocal learning, educators use the method by stimulating students to imitate what is seen on television, and giving assignments to sing together online and later compile it into one video that can be enjoyed together.

The two learning media above are intended so that students are more active and not monotonous during the learning process.

#### 3.3. Online Learning Management at SMP Islam Al-Azhar 29 BSB City

Proper learning management is expected to improve the quality of learning. Learning activities in schools are the main activity in the educational process in general which aims to bring students or students to a better state. The success of a learning process is measured by the achievement of students in participating in learning activities. The intended success can be observed from two sides, namely from the level of understanding and mastery of the material provided by the teacher (Isten, Rohiat, and Djuwita 2017).

In implementing online learning, students must always turn on the camera to monitor the activeness and presence of students. By carrying out the learning process as usual, starting with a smile, greeting, greeting. Students are asked not to turn on the microphone when they have no need to ask or answer questions from the educator.



### 3.4. Online Learning Assessment at SMP Islam Al-Azhar 29 BSB City

The assessment system in the learning process of cultural arts at Al-Azhar 29 Islamic Junior High School is carried out every two weeks with the educators collecting learning outcomes which consist of several aspects of assessment, including aspects of assessment of both cognitive activeness and the skills of students. In addition, educators also assessed the several quizzes that had been given, related to singing material and the musical instruments being played.

Among the successes of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, there are several obstacles, the obstacles encountered for online learning are technical ones that come from the existence of students, the existence of networks of students from several different places, Lack of focus of students in listening to the material provided makes students the student does not listen to the material in full. As educators who aim to understand learning, they must explain again what has been conveyed previously, in order to make students think more critically.

### 4. Conclusion

Online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic is considered to be very effective because like it or not this can be done with restrictions to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus Desaease (COVID-19). Learning innovation in innovative learning of Cultural Arts at Al-Azhar 29 Islamic Junior High School in Semarang City conducts online learning using several methods and treatments to make students more active in learning and become students with critical thinking. Regarding the obstacles encountered for online learning, it is not far from previous researches, namely that it is constrained by networks where there are different students. Assessment during the COVID 19 pandemic was carried out every two weeks by paying attention to aspects of activity, creativity, and came from several quizzes given by educators.

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