

STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE ON "SPADA UMG" ONLINE LEARNING PLATFORM AT UNIVERSITY OF MUHAMMADIYAH GRESIK

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Abstrak

Pembelajaran online memiliki potensi besar untuk memberikan siswa pengalaman belajar yang bermakna. Penggunaan pembelajaran online yang disediakan oleh universitas memberikan dampak yang baik bagi mahasiswa dalam proses pembelajaran. Di Universitas Muhammadiyah Gresik, pembelajaran online telah diterapkan sebagai salah satu metode pengajaran. Universitas memiliki platform pembelajaran online sendiri "SPADA UMG". Penelitian ini difokuskan untuk menganalisis perspektif mahasiswa pada platform pembelajaran online SPADA UMG. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain penelitian kualitatif dan menggunakan teknik angket dan wawancara. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa respon mahasiswa terhadap perspektif pembelajaran online SPADA UMG bervariasi menjadi 4 indikator. Mereka; (1) kebutuhan belajar; SPADA UMG membantu mahasiswa mencapai kebutuhannya tetapi juga menyulitkan mereka dalam memahami materi, (2) efisiensi; mengikuti kuliah melalui SPADA UMG memberikan kondisi yang efisien bagi mahasiswa untuk belajar di mana saja dan memberikan mereka waktu tambahan, (3) fitur; meskipun fiturnya tidak sempurna, SPADA UMG mudah dioperasikan oleh mahasiswa, dan (4) akses; mahasiswa sering mengalami kendala dalam mengakses SPADA UMG karena server down atau koneksi internet. SPADA UMG juga memberikan keunggulan seperti efisiensi yang memberikan mahasiswa pengalaman belajar yang efisien dan kenyamanan sistem operasi. Di sisi lain, SPADA UMG juga memberikan kekurangan seperti masalah akses situs dan beberapa fitur error.

Katakunci: *perspektif mahasiswa, SPADA UMG, platform pembelajaran online.*

Abstract

Online learning has great potential to provide students with meaningful learning experience. The use of online learning provided by university has a good impact for students in learning process. In University of Muhammadiyah Gresik, online learning has been applied as one of the teaching method. The university has its own online learning platform "SPADA UMG". This research focused on analyzing the students' perspective on SPADA UMG online learning platform. This research applied qualitative research design and used questionnaire and interview techniques. The result showed that the students' responses on their perspective of SPADA UMG online learning varied into 4 indicators. They were; (1) learning needs; SPADA UMG helped students achieving their learning needs but also gave them difficulty to understand the material, (2) efficiency; taking course via SPADA UMG provided the students efficient condition to study anywhere and granted them additional time, (3) features; despite its imperfect features, SPADA UMG was easy for students to operate, and (4) access; students often got problem accessing SPADA UMG because of the server down or the internet connection. SPADA UMG also provided advantages such as its efficiency that granted students an efficient learning experience and convenience operating system. On the other hand, SPADA

UMG also provided disadvantages such as problems to access the site and some error features.

Keywords: students' perspective, SPADA UMG, online learning platform.

INTRODUCTION

Online learning has improved the way of teaching learning process. As Ellis and Phelps (1999) states that online learning gives teachers experiences to other methods of education. The challenges of online learning require teachers to improve their technical information skill in order to create a successful teaching learning process as Salmon (2000) in her book *e-Moderating* highlights the need for teachers to be trained in the skills of online facilitation. It is believed that the most important aspect of online learning is the human factor; the facilitator, the students, and the interaction (Spitzer, 2001).

In University of Muhammadiyah Gresik, online learning has been applied as one of the teaching method. The university has its own online learning platform "SPADA UMG". It is a site used by students and lectures to conduct a teaching learning process via online learning. The process of online learning by using SPADA UMG in University of Muhammadiyah Gresik is usually conducted by the lectures to replace conventional classroom

meeting, not to conduct it. Lectures also use SPADA UMG to allow students to submit assignments via online.

The use of SPADA UMG as online learning platform has been widely applied in University of Muhammadiyah Gresik and it is expected that the method can reduce time and distance constraints in teaching learning process. However, some problems also occur in the process of online learning such as students' lack of technical skill, internet connection speed, site problems, etc. Previous study by Coldwell (2006) pointed out that the main advantages of online learning are the flexibility that it provides and the ability to study when it suits students. The disadvantages include technical issues such as speed access, and the need to participate regularly. Johan (2014) also pointed out that the main advantage of online learning is it enables learning at any place and time while its disadvantages are the students may be required to buy computers or go to cyber cafes to use computers. Therefore, this research is aimed to find out the students' perspective on "SPADA UMG" online learning platform at University of Muhammadiyah Gresik.

ONLINE LEARNING

The use of online learning has been widely applied by teachers and has improved the way of teaching learning

process. It also has changed the way students interact with the teacher toward their studies. Anderson (1996) states that online learning has great potential to provide students with meaningful learning. Compared with a more traditional learning process, online learning can offer students an improved learning experience and provide a model for students on how to become self-directed independent learners, which may assist them to become lifelong learners (Singh, O'Donoghue and Worton, 2005).

Online learning has a good impact in teaching learning process. Ellis and Phelps (1999) also states that online learning gives teachers experiences to other methods of education. It is expected to provide instructional programs to teachers who are separated by distance from the students, and also to make the learning process easier and more enjoyable. Bill Gates (1996) states that information technology will empower people of all ages, both inside and outside classroom, to learn more easily, enjoyably, and successfully than ever before.

In order to conduct an online learning, some devices are required to be used for the process. Online learning is usually operated by using computer software applications. Chan (2007)

states that online learning includes computer-enhanced learning or training which is usually delivered via a personal computer. Online learning also refers to a wide range of devices or applications designed to deliver the process. (Johan, 2013) states that online learning includes web based training and computer based training. It means that online learning uses technology to improve classroom interaction through the internet, multimedia, etc. Online learning also comes together with interactive graphics, texts, sounds, videos, and others which can be accessed anywhere and anytime with internet connection. This method leads to an improving teaching learning process in terms of exploitation of informatics technology as Kamil (2009) states that online learning may enhance quality of teaching and learning.

SPADA UMG

SPADA UMG is a site or learning platform provided by University of Muhammadiyah Gresik for lectures and students to conduct online learning process. Lectures usually conduct online learning process by using SPADA UMG to replace conventional classroom meeting. The process in conducting online learning

using SPADA UMG can be done by using devices such as computers, tablets, or smartphones. SPADA UMG also provides a feature called live chat interaction to make students able to interact each other while in online learning process. Students can also upload their files or documents in SPADA UMG to submit their tasks required in online learning process. The use of SPADA UMG as online learning process is expected that the method can reduce time and distance constraints in teaching learning process.

METHOD

This research applied qualitative research design in order to identify students' perspective on "SPADA UMG" online learning. According to Christensen (2004), qualitative research is defined as the approach to empirical research that relies primarily on the collection of qualitative data.

The subject of this research was the students in University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. The students were chosen under such criteria as: (1) they have been obtaining courses for 1 year; therefore, it is assumed that they have been familiar with the teaching learning process in University of Muhammadiyah Gresik. (2) They have

been taught by using "SPADA UMG" online learning platform.

The techniques included questionnaire and interview whereas the instruments consisted of questionnaire template list and interview guide. In this research, the researcher used structured questionnaire as the technique to collect the data and *Likert* questionnaire was used as the template. The researcher also chose semi-structured interview as the technique to collect the data. Semi-structured interview is an interview in which the area of interest is chosen and question are formulated but the interviewer may modify the format or questions during the interview process.

FINDING

Based on the result of data analysis, the students' responses on their perspective of SPADA UMG online learning varied. The result showed 4 indicators of students' perspective towards SPADA UMG online learning platform.

The first indicator described the students' perspective on SPADA UMG in term of its relation with the learning needs. The result showed 66.7% of the students responded that SPADA UMG helped students achieving their learning needs. However, the result was

different in term of their understanding of the materials which showed 60% of the students responded that it was difficult for them to understand the materials via SPADA UMG. Students responded that learning via SPADA UMG gave them difficulty in understanding the material.

Second indicator described the efficiency of SPADA UMG. The result showed 73.4% of the students responded that SPADA UMG gave them a good learning efficiency especially in term of time management. Students responded that taking course via SPADA UMG gave them access to study anywhere and granted them additional time.

Third indicator described the features of SPADA UMG. The result showed 66.7% of the students responded that it was easy for them to operate SPADA UMG. However, most of the students stated their problems of the SPADA UMG were on its error features.

Forth indicator described the access of SPADA UMG. The result showed 53.3% of the students were normally able to access the SPADA UMG. However, most of the students also stated that they often got problem accessing SPADA UMG because of the server down.

Another result showed 93.4% of the students responded that SPADA UMG gave students some significant advantages. Students responded that the advantage of SPADA UMG mostly was its efficiency because SPADA UMG grants them efficient learning experience. The result also showed 66.7% of the students responded that the feature of SPADA UMG was easy for students to operate without the needs of advanced computer skill.

The result also showed 60% of the students responded that there were no significant disadvantages of SPADA UMG. However, some students stated that most of the problems were on the features especially on the limitation for file submission and the absence of video call.

CONCLUSION

The result showed 4 indicators related to the students' perspective on SPADA UMG, they were (1) learning needs; SPADA UMG helped students achieving their learning needs but also gave them difficulty to understand the material, (2) efficiency; taking course via SPADA UMG provided the students efficient condition to study anywhere and granted them additional time, (3) features; despite its imperfect features, SPADA UMG was easy for students to

operate, and (4) access; students often got problem accessing SPADA UMG because of the server down or the internet connection.

SPADA UMG provided advantages such as its efficiency that granted students an efficient learning experience and convenience operating system. On the other hand, SPADA UMG also provided disadvantages such as problems to access the site and some error features.

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