

The Challenges in The Implementation of University's Tri Dharma during the Covid-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT:

The education sector is one of the sectors affected by Covid-19 pandemic. Education activities must be able to adapt to the new normal condition. The implementation of University's Tri Dharma has also changed. Teaching and learning activities usually were done face to face, but during the Covid-19 pandemic, the teaching and learning process must be conducted online including the guidance process for the final project as the final process that must be carried out by students. The research was carried out using a qualitative approach, data collection was taken by interview to the related university and the secondary data to support the research. The data could be analyzed and concluded, to describe how university's Tri Dharma was implemented. Overall, the implementation of university's Tri Dharma during the pandemic did not have any significant constraints. For teaching, each university has a policy to use many either paid or free software. Research and Community Service have also been carried out as the previous years. On average, universities have encountered setbacks from the initial schedule but it could still be implemented well despite various constraints during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Keywords: pandemic, teaching, research, community service

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Background

The world has been shocked by the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic. Indonesia is one of the countries affected by Covid-19. The increasing number of victims makes the government instructed the people to avoid the crowd or to apply social distancing to avoid human contact as one of the ways to reduce Covid-19 victims. Indonesia has been one of the countries with the most Covid-19 victims. Such an unfavorable condition has made education activities in Indonesia disturbed. Educational institutions have changed from offline to online is one way to contain the spread of the Covid-19 pandemic. (Aji, 2020)

According to Indrawati (2020), the Covid-19 pandemic has much affected human life. First, the economic declines in all sectors have caused many layoffs, unemployment, and the decreasing capacity in paying education cost affecting the increasing number of dropout students. Second, with what seems like an endless Covid-19 pandemic, students must learn using the online method. Students found

many difficulties to buy internet connections for their online learning needs. Third, students also had problems with guidance for their final project as one of the graduation requirements. Distance guidance made it difficult to intensely learn so that it slowed down their study term. Fourth, since the vaccine for the Covid-19 pandemic has not been found, it would affect the learning method which would still be with online learning. All the above points caused the changes in the implementation of University's Tri Dharma.

It is important to pay attention, the quality of human resources in Indonesia is still an obstacle to labor productivity. It is important to maintain quality, including during a pandemic (Baharin, 2020; Bobonis, et, al 2014; Carlsson, 2015).

Indonesia is one of the countries affected by the Covid-19 pandemic includin SMEs (Pinem, 2020). Beside that the educational sector is one of the sectors affected by Covid-19 pandemic. Education activities must be able to adapt to the new normal habit. The implementation of

University's Tri Dharma has also changed. In the field of teaching and learning which usually was carried out face to face, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the teaching and learning process must be conducted online including the guidance for the final project as the final process that must be carried out by students. Each university has its policy in the implementation of teaching and learning activities including the application that would be used for teaching and learning and the implementation of other activities. University's Tri Dharma hereinafter Tridharma is the university's obligation to conduct education, research, and community service (Act No. 12 of 2012, Article 1 Paragraph 9).

Besides teaching and learning, other activities of University's Tri Dharma such as research and community service have also changed. Lecturers must be able to adapt to the new normal habit. University as science society is required to play an active and positive role in solving the problem face by the community by producing applicable knowledge, in terms of problem finder (Yuliawati, 2012). Each lecturer must still conduct research and community service within the pandemic condition. The responsibility as a lecture to still conduct research and community service has another challenge in the middle of this Covid-19 pandemic condition. Lecturers must be able to conduct research and community service as the requirement to fulfill their responsibility as a lecturer.

Many changes must be adjusted by lecturers in succeeding the implementation of University's Tri Dharma during the pandemic. Many challenges must be faced by the university and the lecturers in meeting the annual target while protecting themselves from the Covid-19 pandemic. This research aims to explore how universities manage to implement University's Tri Dharma during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research may describe the condition of the universities which are still productive during the pandemic and find the solution around the existing problems. Community service is volunteering and participating in academic, sports, and cultural events organized

by/at schools for students with special needs, hospitals, and cultural clubs (Alimi, 2019). It is important to know that in the midst of a pandemic, the teaching staff can come up with ideas and increase creativity by utilizing existing resources amidst limitations (Wahab, 2020).

Methodology

This research was carried out in universities with legal statuses (PTNBH) such as Diponegoro University, Gajah Mada University, North Sumatera University, and Bogor Agricultural University of Farming. The four universities with legal status (PTNBH) were the research object and this research only focuses on state universities with legal status. The research was carried out using a qualitative approach, data collection was carried out through interviews with related universities and secondary data to support the research. The data obtained was analyzed and concluded, to describe how University's Tri Dharma was carried out on each campus.

Results

Based on the research result, the following is the interview result and data collection from various universities.

Diponegoro University

The increasing number of new cases of Covid-19 in Indonesia has caused the emergence of changes as well as rules to avoid the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Changes were also adapted in the education world in Indonesia by applying distance learning online. The implementation of online distance learning at Diponegoro University has been commenced since March. Teaching and learning were performed through software Kulon2 and Microsoft Team. Other activities such as final project guidance were also carried out online between the guiding lecturer and the student. Initially, the teaching and learning process needed some adjustments in terms of technology adaptation for it was carried out online. Teaching has been carried out as usual, lectures give some explanation and carried on with discussion in-

room chat. Mid-semester test and final test were also carried out.

Researches were also carried out as in the previous years, regular researches were usually still carried out. Some research skims were also carried out as usual. Research activities have indeed been affected by some adjustments for the new normal adaptation where lecturers must be creative with the research condition which was less conducive because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Pandemic has indeed made some researches must be postponed their schedules, even though they can still be conducted. Publications were also conducted including the execution of the International Conference. Community service was also affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Community service must be performed under different titles based on the condition in the field. Some locations of community service with red zone were shifted to other area or change the service method which was considered safe. Entirely, the implementation of University's Tri Dharma in Diponegoro University could run as the previous years.

Bogor Agricultural University (IPB)

Bogor Agricultural University conducted distance learning to implement University's Tri Dharma so that it could still run well. Teaching activities consisting of classroom activities, guidance, and trusteeship could still be conducted with an online system. The socialization of classroom system changes was conducted entirely to lectures and students through various communication technology media. However, the constraints face by lecturers and students were unstable internet and electricity networks, as well as a less interactive learning experience. Besides, lecturers must also be more prepared before the meeting. Less interaction between lecturers and the students has become one of the constraints in online guidance, yet as time went by, the current guidance condition is getting easier by using WhatsApp group and face time done regularly each week through google meet. During the pandemic, not only the zoom application was used

in learning activities, but also IPB's Lecture/Learning Management System application. LMS IPB is software made to support an online learning system, where it has a different display for the lecturers and the students.

Researches also have some changes in rules during the pandemic. There were some research cancellations, especially the ones conducted in the Covid-19 spread zone. The cancellations were performed until the condition allow. Covid-19 might trigger creativity in conducting the research, for example in the field of social studies, some have applied online survey method using big data. This caused some other changes in terms of substance and the research method adjusted with the current condition. Community service activities could not be avoided by the effect of Covid-19. These activities were postponed at the beginning of the pandemic, but currently, they were doable under tight health protocol. The community proposed tight rules to campus to permit the students to conduct community service. With Covid-19, it allowed the changes of the title of community services, the theme that could be implemented was directed to the solution in handling the effect of Covid-19. The positive thing from community service activities during the pandemic was that it emerged various creativity and collaboration with the community.

Gajah Mada University

Gajah Mada University also participates in the change, so that they could maximize the implementation of University's Tri Dharma. Since the beginning of the pandemic, UGM did not postpone the classroom activities since it was conducted online. The socialization of the system change for lecturers and students were conducted through Simaster. Simaster is an academic platform that has a function to provide information about academic activities in UGM. Within the platform, there are some menu options such as lectures, e-learning, final project, studentship, etc. However, complaints from lecturers during the process of the online class

were that they must adapt to the system and the preparation of online learning material that takes more time, while the complaint from students was they need to spend more money to buy internet connection. However, there are still other benefits from online classes for lecturers and students. Classrooms are more flexible and they could be conducted anywhere. In this condition, the guidance system may use video calls and email. The constraints experienced during online guidance are the limited opportunities to meet in person so that it is hard to have the lecturer signed a document. In a new normal condition, an online learning system has run smoothly. Lecturers and students have adapted to such conditions, guidance is carried out through email, video call, and other applications. For lectures during the pandemic, UGM collaborates with Webex to be their partner in online lectures. Webex has a function as the facilitator for video conference like zoom.

Researches in UGM during the pandemic are not postponed, the Rector, however, issues a policy extending the deadline for the research completion. The constraints faced by the lecturers and researchers are the field survey as they have limited time and activities. Yet, this condition, makes some researchers and lecturers change their research titles adjusted with the Covid-19 condition. Some of the researchers shifted to the Covid-19 problem-solving on a national scale. Community service may still be conducted online so that there is no cancellation and no objection from the community where the service is about to be provided. The policy issued by the Rector allows community service. There have not been any complaints from the lecturers. Pandemic condition emerges new programs adjusted with the current condition for community service.

University of Sumatera Utara

The online teaching process is conducted through google classroom, zoom, Gmeet, or other applications. Such online lectures have limitations, the presence of lectures through web

SSO. USU has E-Learning even though previously they used google classroom. E-Learning is not obligatory but it is recommended. There has been training for E-Learning. Complaints from lecturers are around the weak internet connection, adjustment towards the condition that is conducted online. There has been a support of internet connection funds from USU. Guidance is conducted online. The constraints during the guidance process are only on the process of self-adjustment during this pandemic time. Lectures control through lectures report from each lecturer. The distribution of circular through Whatsapp group held in each education program. There have been no constraints in the system of presence from young or old lecturers.

Constraints perceived by the lecturers during researches must have something to do with data collection; many overhead cost spent from their cash; it is difficult to obtain data from the village since they have to have a permit through BALITBANG District/City which then is forwarded to Sub-district and then a village, while they are used to be able to do that directly from USU to the village. In USU, November is the month where they prepare their final project, while October should be the report for progress. The positive thing of the research during the pandemic is that for Covid-19 researchers, it is easier to have output, the theme of discourse study is getting more various since the changes in technology. Services have no changes in their titles, however, there is one specific service for covid-19, one lecture one service. Multi-year based service, research, research center, Covid-19, and service responsibility, so the budget is increasing. Entirely, it could be conducted well.

Conclusion

Entirely, the conduction of University's Tri Dharma during the Pandemic did not have any significant constraints. Universities manage to overcome their problems quickly. For teaching, each university has their policy to use various either paid or free software such as Zoom,

Microsoft Team, Google Classroom, Webex, and other software and it is supported by some universities that have their system such as Diponegoro University with their Kulon2, Gajah Mada University with their Simaster, Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) with Lecture/Learning Management System. IPB and North Sumatera University have E-Learning. Those universities could quickly adjust to the technology adaptation and the pandemic to conduct the teaching successfully.

The conduction of research could also be run well in each campus just like the previous years. Indeed, there have been some setbacks from the initial schedule but in its implementation, it could run well. For the community service, it could also be done just like the previous years. Services are directed based on the pandemic condition. On average, universities have some setbacks from their original schedule, but the implementation could be done well. Therefore, it could be concluded that in general, State Universities with Legal Status manage to conduct the University's Tri Dharma well despite some constraints from the Covid-19 pandemic.

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