

THE USE OF SMART ONLINE TEACHER PORTAL (GURU PINTAR ONLINE/GPO) TO EXPLORE TEACHERS' INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS

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Abstract

People in this era have gotten much information from many sources. Therefore, people need to be selective in accepting an information. Information literacy is some skills needed by people who live in this era. Information literacy is a person's ability to articulate his information needs, identify, find, and evaluate the sources of information found and the ability to use that information. Universitas Terbuka (UT) through its faculty of Education has some information and provisions to help Indonesian teachers in improving their competencies. One of the efforts is to develop a smart online teacher portal (Guru Pintar Online/GPO). Smart Online Teacher Portal (GPO) is a scientific forum dedicated to teachers and others who are concerned with efforts to improve the quality of teacher education and the quality of learning in schools. This research was carried out to explore Early Childhood Education (ECE) students' teachers' information literacy skills. The respondents were observing, analyzing and writing an report about some videos from the GPO. The instruments used were open questions which was sent through online to the respondents. The answers were analyzed qualitatively by the researchers. The online questions were consisting of questions in exploring how the ECE student teachers can access the videos, how the videos can help the student teachers analyzed the teachers' teaching, and how the student teachers have learned from the videos. This research was held in Bekasi and through online. The respondents were UT's ECE student teachers. The results of the research were 1) the respondents can access the video via you tube, 2) the respondents can determined strengths and weaknesses of the teachers in the videos, 3) the respondents can wrote a written report about how to use GPO to help PAUD teachers to develop their abilities as PAUD teachers. The research showed that the ECE student teachers have already got some skills in information literacy.

Keywords: information literacy, ECE student teachers in UT, a smart online teacher portal, (Guru Pintar Online/GPO)

1 INTRODUCTION

Information literacy is a person's ability to articulate his information needs, identify, find, and evaluate the sources of information found and the ability to use that information. Advances in information technology and the principle of lifelong learning are two reasons for the importance of information literacy. Advances in information and communication technology make information abundant and can be communicated in a relatively short time without recognizing spatial or geographical boundaries. With the principle of lifelong learning, a person is required to be able to learn independently through available information sources from various media (<http://journal.uinjkt.ac.id/index.php/al-maktabah/article/view/1604>).

Education is central to improving human resources, whether or not the quality of education is inseparable from the responsibility of a teacher in transferring knowledge to students as future

generations of the nation (<http://www.gurupintar.ut.ac.id/index.php/en/85-news/263-workshop-teaching-with-technology-fkip-ut-2016> (<http://www.gurupintar.ut.ac.id/index.php/id/85-news/263-workshop-mengajar-dengan-teknologi-fkip-ut-tahun-2016>).

The Open University (UT) is a state university that implements the distance education system (SBJJ). UT has a teaching faculty where almost all of the students are teachers. With its distance learning system, UT has students all over Indonesia. To make it easier to reach and to help its students, UT uses a lot of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). ICT needs to be learned and utilized by everyone including teachers. Given that one of the biggest challenges in today's digital era that teachers and other education practitioners cannot avoid is the rapid development of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Increasing teacher competence in mastering technology in learning is not as fast as the development of technology itself. On the other hand, students are easier to adapt to technology because they are used to using digital technology in their daily life (<http://www.gurupintar.ut.ac.id/index.php/id/85-news/263-workshop-mengajar-dengan-teknologi-fkip-ut-tahun-2016>).

Along with these developments, teachers and education practitioners are required to have competence in applying the field of science by utilizing ICT advances. In addition, teachers are also expected to be able to adapt to the development of the digital era to produce graduates who are not only intelligent and skilled, but also have noble character and are devoted to God Almighty.

In this paper the researchers tried to investigate the ECE UT students information literacy skills using Guru Pintar Online Portal (GPO) as a tool to be used by the respondents.

One of the things that UT did to help Indonesian teachers was to develop a smart teacher portal (GPO). Smart Guru Online (GPO) is a scientific forum dedicated to teachers and others who are concerned with efforts to improve the quality of teacher education and the quality of learning in schools. The term "Smart" in Guru Pintar Online means "Door of Interaction Between Teachers", with the hope that this online media can be used as a means of interactive communication within the framework of fostering a culture of lifelong learning. The GPO portal provides access for teachers and teacher education observers to together contribute to efforts to increase knowledge and experience of good practice (Best Practices) in the field of education and learning. Contributions can be made through the GPO website, in particular through the Education Laboratory and Profile Gallery (<http://www.gurupintar.ut.ac.id/index.php/id>).

Information Literacy

According to the American Library Association, "Information literacy is a set of abilities requiring individuals to 'recognize when information is needed and have the ability to locate, evaluate, and use effectively the needed information (<https://libguides.madisoncollege.edu/InfoLitStudents>).

Information literacy is a person's ability to articulate his information needs, identify, find, and evaluate the sources of information found and the ability to use that information. Advances in information technology and the principle of lifelong learning are two reasons for the importance of information literacy.

Information Literacy Skill is an ability that must be possessed by everyone and from all age groups. In information literacy there is the ability to recognize when information is needed and then use it to initiate search strategies designed to find the information needed. This includes evaluating, synthesizing, and using information appropriately, ethically and legally after it has been accessed from the media, including electronic or printed sources of issues accurately and creatively in various information (https://dip.fisip.unair.ac.id/en_ID/importance-information-literacy-skills-in-the-globalization-era/)

Information literacy is also defined as information literacy, namely the ability to recognize information needs to solve problems, develop ideas, ask important questions, use various information gathering strategies, determine suitable, relevant and authentic information (BSN, 2009 in https://dip.fisip.unair.ac.id/id_ID/importance-information-literacy-skills-di-era-globalisasi/). In short it can be said that information literacy includes the ability to recognize what information needs, find where the information is, evaluate the content of information that is really needed, and then use and communicate it effectively.

ECE student teachers in UT

In Universitas Terbuka (UT) early childhood education teachers are students who already been a teachers at kindergarten or early childhood education schools.

A smart online teacher portal (Guru Pintar Online/GPO)

Universitas Terbuka (UT) through its faculty of Education has some information and provisions to help Indonesian teachers in improving their competencies. One of the efforts is to develop a smart online teacher portal (Guru Pintar Online/GPO). Smart Guru Online Portal (GPO) is a scientific forum dedicated to teachers and others who are concerned with efforts to improve the quality of teacher education and the quality of learning in schools (www.ut.ac.id).

2 METHODOLOGY

This research was carried out to provoke ECE students teachers' information literacy skills by observing some videos from the GPO. The instruments used were open questions which was sent through online to the respondents. The answers were analyzed qualitatively by the researchers. The online questions were consists of questions in exploring how the ECE student teachers can access the videos, how the videos can help the students teachers' analyzed the teachers' teaching, and how the student teachers have learned from the videos. This research was held in two modes. One was a face to face in Bekasi, Jawa Barat and the other mode was 2 online meetings. The respondents were UT's ECE student teachers. The research was conducted in August to November 2020. There were around 40 ECE UT students from Bekasi West Java who attended the webinar in the guiding the students to get access to Smart Teacher Online portal. However, only 15 ECE student teachers who did the assignment and sent their reports to the reseachers. The assignments was the ECE Students teacher should watched the videos, analyzed and wrote a small paper about what they did in learning from the ECE instructional video. In watching, analyzing and evaluating the video and finally they had to write a report about the video that they already observed.

The components assessed by ECE students using the GPO are:

1. Ability to access GPO PAUD series videos
2. Analyze 1 video and find the weaknesses and strengths of the video
3. Write a report on the results of observations and video analysis from the GPO
4. Send a report on the results of the analysis to the UT research team

3 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The findings of the research were 15 reports that were sent by the 15 out of 40 UT's ECE student teachers who attended the online and face to face meeting in Bekasi, West Java. The findings of the research were the respondents can access the video via you tube, the respondents can determined strengths and weaknesses of the teachers in the videos the respondents can wrote a written report about how to use GPO to help PAUD teachers to develop their abilities as PAUD teachers. The research showed that the ECE student teachers have already got some skills in information literacy.

From this research activity, the research team got the following results.

1. participants initially did not know what and why and how information literacy was, but from webinars and face-to-face activities as well as the existence of a WA group, then

most of the participants felt they had understood what and why they should learn about information literacy.

2. In addition, participants can find out about GPOs and can access videos from GPOs.
3. The participants' ability in information literacy is proven by their ability to make reports about the advantages and disadvantages of the videos they have learned and can provide suggestions for improvement in the form of word or video files.
4. In addition to helping students, the research team provided books on honesty and books on the environment to be studied and applied by early childhood teachers.

3.1 Discussion

From the findings it showed that the respondents of this study are ECE teachers who already got the information literacy skills. Even though the respondents got some small training from the researchers when the researchers and the respondents met directly, the respondents can do the assignments such as get access to the video through the GPO portal, then they can watch and analyze the videos to look for the weakness and the strengths and they can write a short report to inform what they think about the videos. These results show that they already got the information literacy skills. These findings also show that the video from UT's GPO portal can be used as a media for the ECE teachers to learn how to be a good ECE teachers.

4 CONCLUSION

UT has provided various sources of information, such as GPO, but without intensive socialization, information about the existence of GPO will not be widely known and used by the public, especially UT students. The results of this study indicate that PAUD UT students have information literacy skills which are indicated by the ability of students to access information from GPOs, analyze GPO videos and make reports on the results of the analysis of learning videos in PAUD.

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