

# Parents' Difficulties in Learning Assistance during COVID-19 Era

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**Abstract.** This research aimed at describing difficulties faced by parents of State Elementary School of Rejodadi, Kasihan Sub-district, Bantul Regency, Special Region of Yogyakarta in learning assistance during COVID-19 pandemic era. The descriptive survey of quantitative method was employed to carry out this research. The data collecting technique was done by filling out an online questionnaire through Google Form. The collected data reached were 124 of 178 parents. Data analyses used were data collection, reduction, data display, and conclusion. The data analysis technique used was modus and percentage. This research revealed that there were several difficulties faced by parents in doing learning assistance including internet data (28%), time (28%), knowledge (23%), and communication device (15%). Besides, school subject was also included as one of parents' difficulties where mathematics (46%) and local language (25%). **Keywords:** parents' difficulties, learning assistance, COVID-19 era.

## 1. Introduction

Since March, 12<sup>th</sup> 2020, World Health Organization (WHO) decided Corona Virus Disease-19 (COVID-19) as a pandemic [1] knocking down most countries of the world. Numerous anticipation ways are carried out by Indonesia government to avoid COVID-19 spreading through 'stay at home' campaign, physical distancing, massive social restriction, and the closing of public facilities. Those policies were appointed to decrease social mobility outside of home. Consequently, all activities as working, learning, and praying were done at home.

This condition directly affects society need sector as commerce, economic, and education. Viewed from economic side, Ministry of Finance through a press conference revealed that COVID-19 threatens health disorder, income loss to meet daily needs, and the decrease of purchasing power[2]. In educational field, Education and Culture Ministry released a Circular Letter No.4 on March, 24<sup>th</sup> 2020 related to the policy implementation of education in emergency period of COVID-19 spreading including the cancelation of national examination and the implementation of learning activities process at home[3]. Learning process commonly carried out face to face between teacher and students with determined schedule and place now has to be conducted online. Online learning can be inferred as learning

experience in the form of synchronous and asynchronous by means of communication device and internet access [4].

Online learning requires proper collaboration between teachers, parents, and students. Besides, teachers and students need supporting means as cell phone, computer, and internet access to ease communication and learning material comprehension.

Qualified education is not only achieved from school environment, but also home and society. During COVID-19 pandemic era, parents' attention and assistance is highly needed. Teachers and parents should provide more support toward children learning assistance to make them feel comfortable [5]. Learning assistance is conducted as an effort providing children guides to avoid learning difficulties. Learning assistance done by parents is closely related to children learning competence [6]. Besides, parents' assistance in children learning is a form of sincere attention and affection of parents that tighten the bonds between both of them. In learning assistance, parents should provide their knowledge and experience to ease their children in comprehending learning material conveyed by the teacher. Without parents' learning assistance, children will face difficulties in learning process.

Assistance activity to children at certain educational stage gives big influence toward children's academic development [7]. Parents whose children are at elementary school age will devote more attention during study at home period. Assisting children in learning process shows parents' attention and affection.

Parents' roles in providing children learning assistance is actually a must [8]. Parents' roles done for children consist of preparing need required during studying at home, making sure them to learn, providing permission limits in doing outdoor activity, providing the cell phone use limits, and doing coordination with teacher. Therefore, assisting children to learn is a must for parents.

Another research related to learning assistance, Online Learning Obstacles Faced by Elementary School in Banjarnegara [9], discusses difficulties in online learning process from the teacher point of view. Additionally, another research online learning during COVID-19 pandemic entitled Online Learning during COVID-19 Pandemic toward Pre-service Teacher: Obstacle, Solution, and Projection of discusses obstacles faced by pre-service teachers during online learning which affect psychological condition [10]. In order to obtain optimal development and competence, parents support is crucial to encourage children's learning achievement. This research aimed at describing difficulties faced by parents in assisting their children to learn during COVID-19 pandemic era.

## 2. Methods

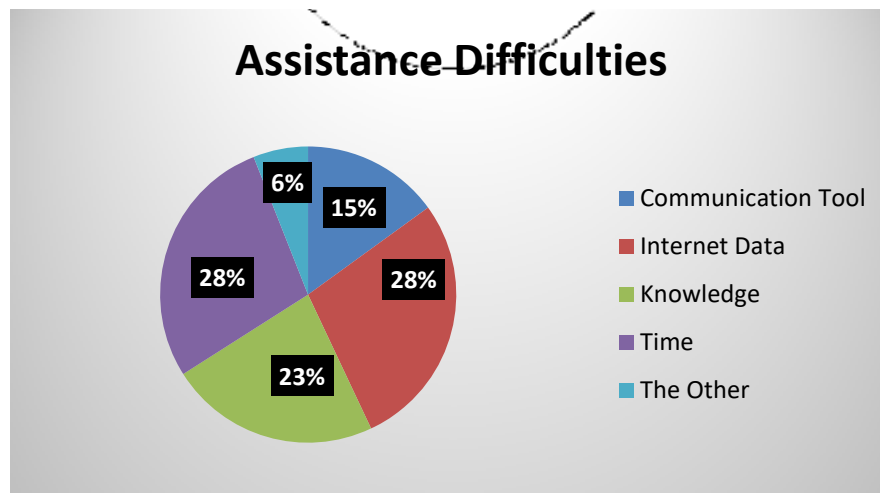
To provide description of difficulties faced by parents in children learning assistance, the descriptive survey of quantitative method was employed to carry out this research. Population of this research was 178 parents of State Elementary School of Rejodadi students consisting both father and mother. In this research, 124 parents filled out the online questionnaire through Google Form. The data analysis technique used include modus and percentage.

The data collecting technique was done by filling out an online questionnaire through Google Form. The collected data reached were 124 of 178 parents. Data analyses used were data collection, reduction, data display, and conclusion. The data analysis technique used in this research was modus and percentage. Modus is score that shows the highest frequency between the other score in a measurement [11]. Besides, percentage used in this research is as the following.

$$\text{Percentage (\%)} = \frac{\text{value for part of the whole}}{\text{value of the whole}} \times 100\%$$

### 3. Discussion

Learning activities using online system is a new and challenging experience for parents whose children are at elementary school stage. In a glance, online learning seems trouble-free where it can be implemented by using electronic device. In fact, online learning has a number restriction as expense, time, teachers' and students' readiness, competence, technical supports, learning material availability, teachers' feedback postponement, evaluation, and assessment [12]. However, as the extension of emergency period of COVID-19 pandemic, online learning difficulties are not only experienced by teachers, but also parents. Difficulties faced by the parents of Rejodadi 2 State Elementary School students are as the following (Figure 1).



**Figure 1.** Difficulties Faced by Parents in Learning Assistance

Based on the figure above, it shows several difficulties faced by parents in assisting their children to learn as follows.

#### 3.1. Internet Data

COVID-19 pandemic impact in educational field can be seen in the implementation of online learning system as the only way used to connect learning material conveyed by teachers to students. Through online learning, parents are not doubt of their children pocket money in each day. However, online learning implementation increases other expense for parents as purchasing internet data to create proper online learning.

Based on figure 1, 28% parents state that they faced difficulties related to the use of internet data. Parents were complaining the increase of the internet data use since the online learning was implemented.

**Table 1.** Parents' Income

| Income in a Month           | Percentage (%) |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| < Rp 500.00                 | 10             |
| Rp 500.000 – Rp 1.000.000   | 35             |
| Rp 1.000.000 – Rp 2.500.000 | 41             |
| Rp 2.500.000 – Rp 5.000.000 | 11             |
| >Rp 5.000.000               | 3              |

Online learning in the form asynchronous learning needs big enough additional expens [13]. Based on the table above, 45% parents work as labor spent Rp 50.000,00 – Rp 100.000,00 for internet data in each month. It becomes a new problem and must be provided whereas most of economic sector were affected by COVID-19 pandemic. Parents should provide internet data continuously to create proper online learning process. On the other hand, parents should devote their attention to the use of internet data from online game played by children.

### 3.2 Time

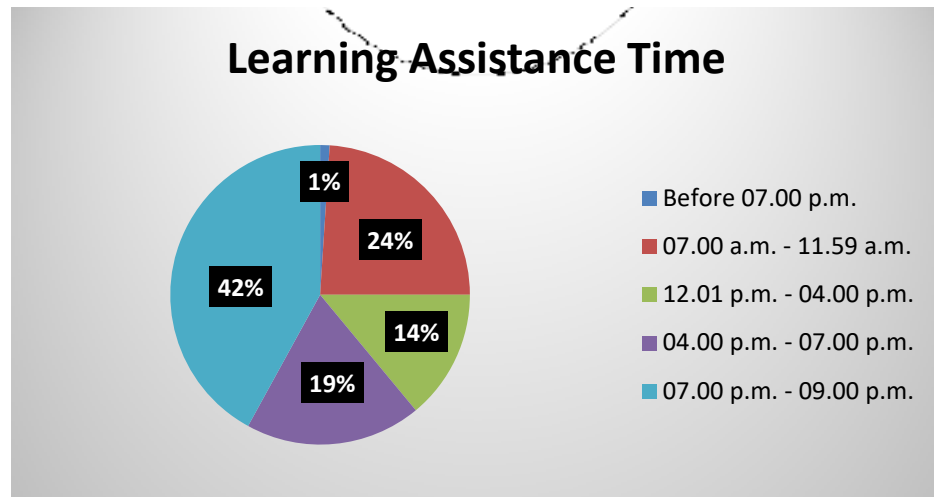
Parents' assistance roles in learning process are significant as parents are main educators for children. [14] states that parents involvement is important factor in children's acceleration and academic achievement. Therefore, parents whose children are at elementary school age should provide exclusive time used to assist their children learning process started from learning preparation until learning result reporting. It hopes can maximize children learning process and its achievement result.

The research result shown by figure 1 above revealed that parents faced difficulties in time management used to assist their children learning process.

**Table 2.** Parents' Occupation

| Kinds of Occupation | Father's Occupation (%) | Mother's Occupation (%) |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Civil Servant       | 4                       | 3                       |
| Laborer             | 45                      | 22                      |
| Trader              | 12                      | 9                       |
| General Employees   | 33                      | 16                      |
| Farmer              | 5                       | -                       |
| Housewife           | -                       | -                       |
| Unemployment        | 1                       | 50                      |

Table 2 above shows that the inadequate time felt by parents in assisting their children to learn is caused by parents' occupation which requires them to work outside of home in the morning until evening. Accordingly, there is no one assisting children to learn at home when the teacher conveyed learning material or assignments of the day. This reality became an obstacle for students, parents, and teacher. Nevertheless, the parents kept providing learning assistance for their children every day. The parents' involvement shows value, attitude, and commitment of parents toward their children's education [15].



**Figure 2.** Learning Assistance Time

Based on figure 2, it reveals that 42% parents did learning assistance in the evening to night started at 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Principally, learning is a process done by someone to look for new information. In this case, there is no time limit to do learning activities. Deciding time to learn at the time is suitable for most those parents. Moreover, if we consider elementary students' age, they need assistance from adults as parents' time, efforts, and commitment are highly needed to enhance children's learning attitude and achievement [16].

### *3.3 Knowledge*

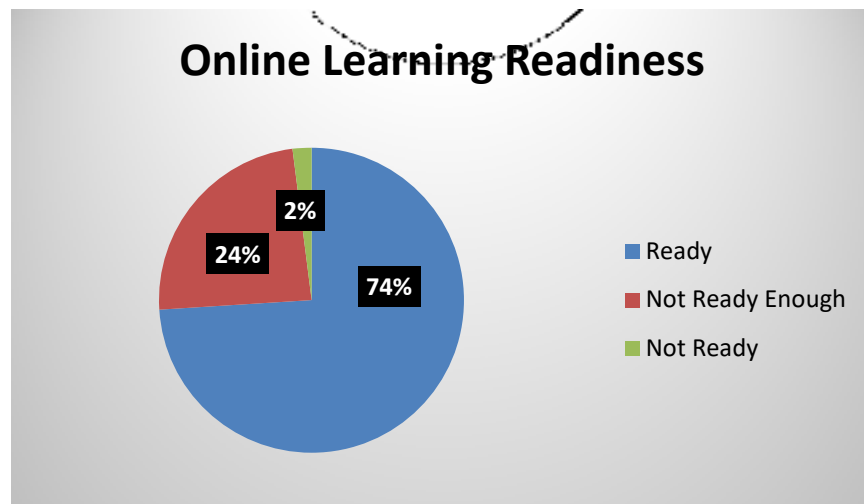
Knowledge is crucial thing for parents in helping their children to comprehend learning materials and accomplish assignments conveyed by the teacher. Besides, assignments conveyed by the teacher to the students are assumed as homework [17]. The greater knowledge parents have, the easier parents assist their children in learning activities [18]. However, the fact shows that knowledge is the third biggest difficulty faced by the parents of Rejodadi State Elementary School students during assisting their children to study at home in COVID-19 pandemic. This reality shows inadequate knowledge of Rejodadi State Elementary School students' parents toward elementary school subjects.

Since there are various subjects at elementary school, not all of the parents understand them properly. This condition is increasingly influenced by parents' occupation of the students. As shown in table 2, most parents of Rejodadi State Elementary School students work as laborer and general employees. Thus, it can be deduced that the parents have inadequate knowledge in pedagogical field and subjects competency. Consequently, the parents cannot teach their children how to learn and understand learning material conveyed by the teacher profoundly.

### *3.4 Communication Device*

COVID-19 spreading in most country of the world encourages society to do physical distancing in order to prevent the higher spreading of COVID-19 cases. Consequently, most of social activity is obstructed and it increases communication through internet access more intensively. In this COVID-19 pandemic era, every single one is encouraged to utilize the use of technology in each activity including teaching and learning process. This leads to the implementation of online learning. Nevertheless, the rapid of technology development creates easier online learning process [19]. Online learning is chosen

as the best decision to relate the teacher and the students by means of communication device and internet access.



**Figure 3.** Online Learning Readiness

Online learning is a set of learning system including the use of technology and learning process in it whether in the form computer, web, virtual class or digital collaboration-based [20]. Therefore, readiness is significant thing in the implementation of online learning to decide the use and adoption of online learning system [21]. Based on figure 3, 74% parents of Rejodadi State Elementary School students show readiness in online learning implementation by means of communication device to relate their children and the teacher. If we notice the parents' communication device, most the students' parents have communication device supporting online learning implementation.

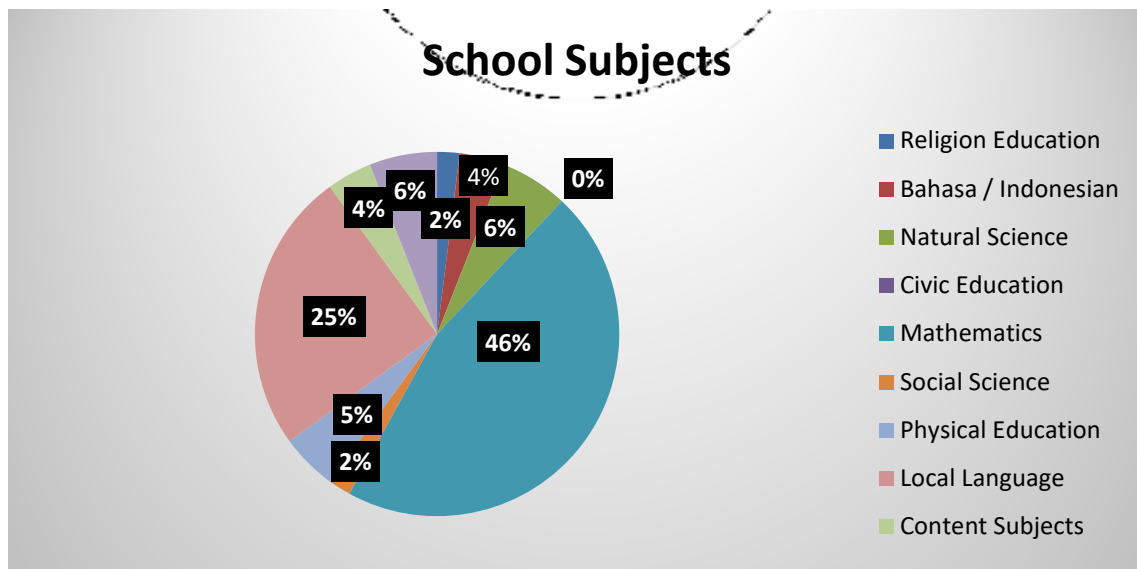
| <b>Communication Device</b>   | <b>Percentage (%)</b> |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Non-android Cell Phone</b> | 1                     |
| <b>Android Cell Phone</b>     | 85                    |
| <b>Laptop</b>                 | 11                    |
| <b>Computer/PC</b>            | 3                     |
| <b>None</b>                   | 0                     |

Table 3 shows that most parents are ready to online learning implementation and have communication device as supporting means in the learning process. It gives the school benefits that ease the teacher in implementing the online learning

### *3.5 School Subjects*

Parents as the school at home have significant roles in forming children character through education [22]. It means that parents should provide their children guides and assistance to comprehend new knowledge. However, online learning fact reveals that 46% parents faced difficulties in doing learning assistance, especially in Mathematics. Based on the parents' point of view, inadequate knowledge and skill to convey explanation related to learning material become difficulties in assisting their children to

learn Mathematics at home [23] whereas parents' role and involvement are crucial to obtain the best learning achievement in Mathematics [24].



**Figure 4.** The Difficult School Subjects

Based on figure 4, it is found another interesting fact that 25% parents faced difficulties in local language learning assistance. These problems were caused by their habits that use Bahasa in their daily life both in family and society setting. The parents seldom use local language while there is obligation to learn local language. This led to difficulties both for the parents and children.

#### 4. Conclusion

Parents' difficulties in learning assistance during COVID-19 pandemic include internet data (28%), time (28%), knowledge (23%), and communication device (15%). Besides, school subjects especially Mathematics become the toughest subjects. 46% parents faced difficulties in doing Mathematics learning assistance. Moreover, local language subjects become the second toughest subjects where 25% parents feel difficult in assisting their children to learn it.

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