Academic Procrastination of Bekasi City Students during the Covid-19 Pandemic

Yussie Novitasari, Edy Prihantoro
Master of Communication Science, Gunadarma University
edipri@staff.gunadarma.ac.id

Abstract. This research was conducted because the phenomenon of academic procrastination is a common thing and almost every student has done it. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, all Teaching and Learning Activities (KBM) were conducted online, resulting in higher levels of academic procrastination. The purpose of this study was to determine the level of academic procrastination of Bekasi City Vocational High School (SMK) students during the COVID-19 pandemic and what efforts were made by the school to overcome it. The research approach used is qualitative with Field Research (Field Research). The informants in this study included: Vocational High School students, Regional III Branch Office Staff, Vocational Supervisors, Vocational School Principals, Vocational Productive Subject Teachers, and Parents of Vocational School Students in Bekasi City. Data collection by interview technique, while the discussion using descriptive method that describes the situation in the field systematically. The results showed that the academic procrastination of Bekasi City Vocational High School students experienced an increase during learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic, including: Delays in starting and completing assignments; Delay in completing tasks; Time gap between planned and actual performance; and engage in more enjoyable activities. Countermeasures carried out by the school include: Providing interesting learning materials; Provide deadlines for each task; Conduct intensive communication with students and parents as well as conduct home visits for students with problems.

Keywords. Academic Procrastination, Students, Bekasi City, Pandemic, Covid-19

Introduction

Procrastination is the act of putting off tasks until the last minute, or past the given deadline. Some researchers define procrastination as a form of self-regulation failure which is characterized by irrational delays in tasks even though they have the potential to cause negative consequences (Prihantoro, 2021).

Procrastination is common among students. Almost every student must have done procrastination, especially academic procrastination. Steel (2007) defines procrastination as a behavior that is carried out intentionally in delaying the completion of tasks, even though in the end it will have a negative impact on individuals. Academic procrastination is a form of delaying assignments or homework given by the school related to academics. Muyana (2018) says that academic procrastination can be considered an obstacle in the process of achieving...
academic success, because procrastination can reduce the quality and quantity of learning, increase stress, and also have a negative impact on student life.

Several studies have shown that procrastination is not only defined as a form of delaying a task, delaying doing something that should be done immediately is also a form of procrastination (Yudistiro, 2016). For example, when a student delays going to school immediately on the grounds that the distance between his house and the school is close, it doesn't take long to reach it. So the student decided to go to school at a very tight time with school hours. Or when a student chooses not to do homework right away because it won't be due in any time soon. So that students choose to do the assignment the day before the assignment collection day.

Steel (2007) says that procrastination is deliberately delaying desired activities even though individuals know that their delaying behavior can have a bad effect on today and even in the future. Procrastination is associated with various psychiatric syndromes, a procrastinator usually also has unhealthy sleep, causes stress and other psychological behavioral disorders. The antecedents of this procrastination behavior are related to anxiety disorder, disliking tasks, having dependency and difficulties in making decisions. Academic procrastination is also synonymous with a form of laziness in the student environment. Many studies reveal that academic procrastination behavior plays a role in academic achievement, so that academic procrastination is an important problem that needs attention because it affects students and results that are less than optimal which will ultimately have an impact on other people and their environment.

Distance education is carried out by utilizing the use of technology, including software, hardware and internet networks. The use of this technology allows teachers and students to be able to communicate and meet face to face from their respective homes. Submission of material from the teacher can be in the form of learning videos or can also be delivered directly in a video call connection using several available online meeting application software options such as Zoom, Google Meet, Microsoft Teams, Jitsi Meet, Skype, Blue Jeans, Webex. As for techniques for working on or submitting assignments given by the teacher to students, you can use E-Mail or several applications including Google Forms, Moodle, Edmodo, Sevima EdLink, Zenius Education, Quipper, with a predetermined time limit (Prihantoro, 2022).

Distance education has two contradictory sides when it comes to the phenomenon of procrastination among students during a pandemic. On the positive side, learning time becomes effective and student learning independence increases, as well as providing opportunities for students to explore technology that develops over time. On the negative side, the interaction between teachers and students directly becomes very low, the limitations of technological tools owned by students result in frequent skipping of learning activities, while technological advances tend to drain students' time to access entertainment rather than subject matter (Wulandari, 2021).

**Method**

The research object refers to the problem being investigated in the study, while the research subject refers more to the informant who is the source of the research data.

In this study, the object of this study was Academic Procrastination during the Covid 19 Pandemic. Meanwhile, the research subjects were divided into two categories, namely key informants and informants as sources relevant to the issues discussed by the researchers.

1. Key informants are vocational students in the Bekasi City area.
2. Informants are Staff of the West Java Province Education Office Branch Office (KCD) Region III (Bekasi Regency and Bekasi City), Bekasi City Vocational School Supervisors, Bekasi City Vocational School Heads, Productive Subject Teachers at Bekasi City Vocational Schools, and Parents of Vocational High School students in Bekasi City.

Results and Discussion

After conducting in-depth interviews with the informants, the next step is to analyze the data obtained from the interviews to support this research. The researcher determined that the informants interviewed were involved and related to the phenomenon of academic procrastination of Bekasi City Vocational High School students during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Based on the results of the research conducted, the researchers obtained several findings regarding the required data. In a study conducted on SMK students in Bekasi City, researchers obtained data about the academic procrastination of SMK students in Bekasi City during the COVID-19 Pandemic. As for checking the validity of the data, in addition to obtaining information from students, the researchers triangulated the data on several informants such as: Managers of the Bekasi Region III Service Branch Office West Java, Supervisors of Vocational Schools in Bekasi City, Head of Bekasi City Vocational Schools, Productive Subject Teachers of City Vocational Schools Bekasi, and parents of Bekasi City Vocational High School students. For more details below, the researcher will describe one by one the findings during field interviews.

SMK Learning in Bekasi City during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Since the President of the Republic of Indonesia announced information on the COVID-19 case in March 2020, since then Indonesia has experienced many changes in the way of life. The outbreak of the Corona virus in society has had a major impact on all sectors, including education. Learning that was originally carried out in the classroom is now being replaced by distance learning or what is known as online learning. The presence of changes in learning patterns teaches us more or less about one thing, namely that we must always upgrade our abilities according to the demands of the times.

This online learning policy is carried out simultaneously by the Central Government, which is then strengthened and supervised by the respective Regional Education Service Branch Offices. Every school throughout Indonesia is required to carry out online learning as determined by the Ministry of Education and Culture. And the implementation of the implementation is returned to each school to package its learning.

Within the scope of the city of Bekasi, the SMKs in Bekasi City are under the guidance of the Education Service Branch Office (KCD) of West Java Province, Region III (Regency/City of Bekasi). Regarding this online learning policy, the Bekasi City Vocational School Supervisor said in an interview with researchers,

"KCD Region III makes policies related to the implementation of learning during the COVID-19 pandemic, namely that each school must prepare all administration and learning support infrastructure as well as health protocols." (Interview, 21 July 2022: 14.20 WIB)

This policy is carried out as a form of school responsibility in preparing learning in accordance with central government regulations. Of course, this preparation process requires quite a long time. As the transition from offline to online is not as easy as turning the palm of the hand, of course a lot of effort needs to be made in the implementation process.

In an interview with the management of KCD Region III Bekasi, West Java, which was conducted on July 21, 2022, it was stated that,

"Indeed, online learning requires special adaptations for its implementation. Especially in the Bekasi area, there are still several schools that do not have adequate facilities so they
need support to support their teaching and learning activities. In addition, the quality of human resources is also one of the things that must be considered. Mastery of technology and information can at least increase the level of effectiveness of learning so that it is able to anticipate problems in this online learning. (Interview, 21 July 2022: 08.47 WIB)

Academic Procrastination of High School Students (SMK) in Bekasi City during the COVID-19 Pandemic

Academic procrastination can simply be interpreted as a behavior carried out by individuals to procrastinate both in starting work on and completing academic assignments given by the teacher and choosing to do other things that are more fun than making assignments. Academic procrastination can be in the form of delays related to academic assignments such as homework, school assignments and group assignments. There were several findings that researchers got about student academic procrastination in Bekasi City during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

1. Delays in Starting and Completing Tasks

Someone who does procrastination tends to procrastinate in starting and completing tasks. The tendency to wait for the mood causes the procrastinator not to immediately start doing his job. This has an impact on the completion of tasks that tend to approach the deadline. Based on the results of research that has been done, it was found that students often delay starting and completing assignments. This is as conveyed by Maska Habibie, a TJS Vocational High School student during an interview with researchers on July 20 2022 who said that, "Sometimes when I get an assignment, I immediately do the assignment given, sometimes I also postpone it until it's close to the deadline." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 17.25 WIB).

From the perspective of teaching staff, Dela Chaerani, a teacher at SMK Negeri 1 Bekasi City, said that,
"In the field, there are more students who postpone related assignments, especially given projects." (Interview, 20 July 2021: 15.05 WIB).

The same thing was conveyed by Mrs. Turyani, a teacher at SMK Negeri 1 Bekasi City who said that,
"Procrastination that often occurs in students is delaying starting and completing assignments given by the teacher." (Interview, 20 July 2021: 09.36 WIB).

From the three opinions above, it can be seen that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Bekasi City Vocational School students experienced academic procrastination by delaying starting and completing assignments. As this is reinforced by the opinion of parents of TJS Vocational High School students, namely Mrs. Dini, in an interview with researchers on July 20, 2022, who said that,
"During this pandemic, children underestimate the assignments given, tend to procrastinate, because all information is easier to get by simply surfing the internet which in turn is more fun towards social media and online games." (Interview, 20 July 2021: 13.52 WIB).

It is indeed something that cannot be denied, that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had a significant impact on changing people's lifestyles, including students. The wide learning distance between students and teachers in teaching and learning activities is the main trigger for the decline in the effectiveness and efficiency of learning. Where it contains things related to academic procrastination that students do on the assignments they get. The reason for the delay
in starting and completing assignments was conveyed by Maska Habibie, a TJS Vocational High School student in an interview with researchers conducted on July 20 2021 by saying that, "Sometimes I postpone my assignments because friends invite me, play online games, and also occasionally go out with my family." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 17.36 WIB).

This is also in line with what was conveyed by Vladimir, a TJS Vocational High School student who said that, "I try to complete assignments as quickly as possible but if there are delays it's because I have a project or life outside of school." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 08.10 WIB).

From another perspective, Sulaenah as a parent of TJS Vocational High School students said that, "My child has experienced delays in school work due to problems with the home internet network, namely wifi." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 21.32 WIB).

From some of the opinions above, apart from internal factors to delay starting and completing assignments, there are also external factors that cause students to procrastinate academically in terms of delays starting and completing assignments. These external factors include the occurrence of internet constraints which are the most important part of online learning. This should be an interesting note in learning during the COVID-19 pandemic which is carried out online.

2. Delay in Doing Assignments

A procrastinator takes a long time to do his job. They plan their assignments and pay little attention to the available time so they experience delays in processing time and feel that the time that should be enough to do the task is lacking. As stated by Maska Habibie, a TJS Vocational High School student during an interview with researchers on 20 July 2022 who said that, "I'm late completing assignments because I can't understand the material, communicate less with the teacher, feel more lazy, and usually assignments take longer to complete." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 08.45 WIB).

A similar opinion was conveyed by Vladimir, a TJS Vocational High School student during an interview with researchers on 20 July 2022 who said that, "There are high difficulties because there is no direct communication with the teachers who teach, so that's the reason for being late." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 08.14 WIB). Meanwhile, according to Naomi Monalisa, TJS Vocational High School students said that, "Usually when I'm late doing assignments because I'm not focused due to the many distractions at home that distract me, as well as an unstable internet network that makes me miss the material being explained by the teacher." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 18.50 WIB).

From the three opinions above, there are several reasons students experience delays in doing school assignments, especially during vocational productive lessons. One of the reasons for the delay in completing assignments is the lack of students' understanding of the material being taught. It cannot be denied that to understand learning material in face-to-face classes requires considerable concentration, especially when learning is carried out outside face-to-face classes certainly requires considerable effort.

Structurally the curriculum, productive subjects contain a greater percentage of practical activities than theory so it takes a special time to provide a comprehensive
understanding of each vocational productive subject. From this, students often experience delays in submitting assignments given by their teacher.

However, the best efforts have been made by teachers in providing excellent service to students for the effectiveness and efficiency of online learning. As stated by Mrs. Turyani, a teacher at SMK Negeri 1 Bekasi City who said that,

"In order for teaching and learning activities to be carried out properly, the teacher prepares teaching materials that will be uploaded or distributed to students through the selected learning media or application, determines learning media that is appropriate to the conditions of students so that studying at home can run effectively, then uploads learning media in the form of modules, tutorials, videos, practice questions, student worksheets to media that have been determined or mutually agreed upon, providing explanations for questions submitted by students” (Interview, 20 July 2022: 09.00 WIB).

3. Time Gap between Plan and Actual Performance

A procrastinator usually feels lacking with the allotted time. Previously they had set a time to do their job. Plans to carry out tasks in such a way and manages the time according to the tasks to be carried out, but in practice a procrastinator is unable to carry out tasks according to the original plan.

The existence of a time gap between plans and actual performance often occurs in SMK students in Bekasi City, as stated by Naomi Monalisa, a TJS Vocational High School student who said that,

"Usually, before starting a task, I always make a daily agenda, look for ideas regarding the general description of the tasks assigned, and prepare the equipment needed." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 19.02 WIB)

The same thing was conveyed by Maska Habibie, a TJS Vocational High School student who, in an interview with researchers on July 20 2022, said that,

"I need to know what material to study, and look for more information on the internet.". (Interview, 20 July 2022: 08.59 WIB).

3. Do More Fun Activities

A procrastinator usually prefers to do activities that he considers more enjoyable than doing assignments. Divert time to do things like watching, reading, playing. So that these things take up time to do their assignments.

According to Maska Habibie, a TJS Vocational High School student said that,
"Usually I often chat with friends and also play games, because usually it's more fun to do than school work." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 08.19 WIB).

The same thing was conveyed by Naomi Monalisa, a TJS Vocational High School student who said that,
"The activities that I do that hinder me from doing my schoolwork are usually when I'm playing on my cell phone or reading a book that makes me lose track of time." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 19.12 WIB).

This was reinforced by the opinion of the parents of TJS Vocational High School students, namely Mrs. Dini, in the interviews that the researchers conducted, she said that,
"My child is currently playing more games than completing assignments given by the teacher, because physical activity is limited, so they do activities that they think are interesting." (Interview, 20 July 2022: 13.25 WIB).
On the other hand, according to Sulaenah as the parents of the TJS Vocational High School students, said that,

"As long as I accompany my child in participating in online learning, it turns out that my child goes to school while playing just like a kindergarten child. This was done to reduce boredom. (Interview, 20 July 2022: 20.25 WIB).

From some of the opinions above, it is clear that online learning tends to be boring because students are very limited in interacting with their friends, so this tendency makes students prefer to do activities that they think are more fun than completing the assignments given.

**Conclusion**

Based on the findings and the author's analysis of research data, several conclusions can be put forward, namely that Vocational High School (SMK) students in Bekasi City experienced an increase in academic procrastination during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

a. The background of academic procrastination in SMK students in Bekasi City during the COVID-19 Pandemic was the Teaching and Learning Activities (KBM) which were carried out online which triggered students to commit fraud in the use of study time.

b. Based on information from three key informants, namely vocational students in Bekasi City, academic procrastination that occurs includes:
- Delays in starting and completing tasks
- Delay in doing assignments
- Time gap between plan and actual performance
- Do more fun activities

**References**


