A quick study on SRL profiles of online learning participants during the anticipation of the spread of COVID-19

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ABSTRACT

The spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus occurs in all countries. This pandemic incident has been taken seriously by various sectors including in the world of education. This research is a quantitative descriptive study to explain the Self-Regulated Learning (SRL) profile of Indonesian students in online learning which is carried out in COVID-19 emergencies. The research commenced three days after the establishment of the WHO COVID-19 pandemic. The respondents were taken by accident sampling at several schools implementing online learning after the designation of this mode by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture on March 15, 2020. The schools comprised general high schools and vocational schools. The data were collected via Google Form filled out by 10th to 12th grade students. The instrument used was a questionnaire with a scale of 1 to 5 (from absolutely disagree to absolutely agree) consisting of planning, monitoring, controlling, and reflecting aspects. There were two analytical techniques used i.e., descriptive statistics and ANOVA. The results of this study indicate that students in Indonesia still need assistance and mentoring from teachers to improve SRL. Several mentoring strategies can be applied to manage active learning. The teachers should explicitly include the process of mentoring, strengthening the students’ SRL. Teachers need to be aware that online learning is not only to master certain subject matters but also to strengthen SRL.

Keywords: Active learning
COVID-19
Learning outcomes
Online learning
Self-regulated learning

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1. INTRODUCTION

The spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus occurs in all countries. This pandemic incident has been taken seriously by various sectors including in the world of education. Numerous nations have decided to choose to close schools, and colleges. The emergency takes shape, the predicament policymakers are looking between shutting schools and keeping them open [1, 2]. Indonesia, as a country with a substantial population, has issued various policies concerning learning. All schools in Indonesia are encouraged to implement distance learning by utilizing information technology. There are many public responses regarding this policy, and in general, all parties agree. The main obstacle to the implementation of this learning mode is the availability of facilities and infrastructure in several areas. To support this policy, several large
telecommunication industry providers in Indonesia have prepared a free bandwidth quota of up to 30 GB per person to join online learning freely. There is an assumption that in this social distancing setting, education is best delivered virtually as a transition situation [3, 4].

Policies in this emergency positively affect people's behavior. All educator and policymakers agree that classes may be suspended without stopping learning [5]. Educators and students hasten to be able to adjust to the new interaction behavior of online learning. Various applications begin to be learned quickly and are used in learning, such as Moodle, Edmodo, Google Classroom, Schoology, Zoom, and others. There is high optimism among educators in the implementation of this learning. The school management must ensure in this emergency student learning still sustain [6]. This learning certainly also has implications for students' readiness to engage in learning. Many research results show that online learning fails [7-9] because there is no social presence in learning. Students become burdened with academic assignments that sometimes exceed the burden when learning in class. This condition is because educators do not measure the learning load or capacity in an emergency. On the other hand, it is necessary to see whether or not the students have the ability to manage themselves.

The ability to manage oneself is an essential factor in achieving learning goals including in the COVID-19 mitigation [10]. One of the concepts on an overview of the ability to manage oneself is the concept of self-regulated learning (SRL). It can be used to measure how a person is planning goals, managing activities and behavior, controlling him/herself to stay in accordance with the objectives and also reflecting to make improvements in order to achieve goals [11, 12]. Students who have high ability in SRL will tend to be more successful in accomplishing the learning goals [11-13]. In online learning, where learning control is higher in students, SRL becomes an important issue to study. This research is a quantitative descriptive study to explain the SRL profile of Indonesian students in online learning is carried out in COVID-19 emergencies.  

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Self-regulated learning (SRL) is an essential factor in the learning process. SRL is determined by three important factors, they are aspects of self, behavior and environment. The interaction of these three factors will form individuals who can bring up certain self-behaviors leading to good performance [14]. Students who can manage themselves in learning well, they will be responsible for their learning activities. They define goals and problems to bear, develop a standard level of perfection in achieving the goals, and evaluate the best way to accomplish them. They not only apply these behaviors in classroom learning, but they can also implement them to online learning [13]. SRL students can be identified through their active participation in directing metacognitive processes, motivations and behavior while they are learning. From some literature studies about SRL, this concept refers to the deliberate and strategic adaptation of the learning process to change cognitive, motivational, and behavioral outcomes [14, 15]. In the context of education and learning, self-regulation refers to the proactive application of self-directive processes, cognitive behavior, and emotions to achieve goals, to learn skills, and to manage emotional reactions [15, 16]. This process is a process where students are able to direct themselves while learning, able to plan, organize, direct themselves and conduct self-evaluations at various levels during the process of information gathering [14, 16]. In online learning, where student focus becomes important, SRL becomes a factor that needs special attention by educators to ensure the success of the learning process [17, 18].

Simply, the process of self-regulation is defined as the activities of individuals in planning, monitoring the plans, making changes to stay on track, and reflecting on what works and what can be improved in the future [19-21]. One of the instruments used in SRL measurement is the Independent Regulatory Formative Questionnaire. This questionnaire measures the perception of students' proficiency levels in four crucial components of self-regulation: planning and articulating what the students want to achieve; immediately monitoring progress and disturbances related to the student goals; controlling changes by implementing specific strategies when things do not go as planned; and reflecting what works and what the students can do better in the future [15].

Self-regulation in online learning is the ability to reveal and monitor one's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors to achieve learning goals by using online applications and the features available. Self-regulation of learning is essential, so students have independence in learning to use information from the internet [22-24]. Self-regulation is the ability of a person to maintain or change his or her personality to follow moral values in society [25] using their competence [26] in the cyberspace. The aspects of SRL are metacognition, motivation, and affirmative action. Healthy self-regulation stages can encourage the achievement of expected learning goals [27, 28]. SRL can also be in the form of cognitive regulation, motivational regulation, behavioral regulation, and emotional regulation [15, 29] when individuals interact with other students and teachers [30]. It is inseparable from the social support provided to them. Considering this concept,
the teacher's ability to provide an online environment that is socially similar to real conditions is a crucial factor in the success of online learning that supports students' SRL.

In addition to the fact of SRL as a psychological concept, it is also a strategy in cognitive learning [16]. There is a very significant positive correlation between academic achievement and the use of self-regulation strategies in learning [17, 21, 22, 29]. The research findings show that although a student has high ability, his academic achievement will not be optimal if he or she is not able to regulate him/herself in learning. In many recommendations it has been suggested that SRL be used to improve academic achievement [20, 29]. Thus, teachers who explicitly emphasize the improvement of SRL when managing learning will be able to assist students in improving learning achievement. The role of teachers becomes important as students' social support in developing their SRL [27, 28].

The social support plays an important role for students in the online learning process and it can affect their learning achievement [31, 32]. Such support refers to the pleasure they felt, appreciation for caring, or helping the students accept other people or groups [33]. It can be seen as a social fact of support actually occurring or provided by others to individuals (perceived support) and as individual cognition it refers to perceptions of received support [34]. In another angle of view, social support is an interpersonal relationship where individuals provide assistance to other individuals and the assistance is in the form of participation, emancipation, motivation, availability of information, and appreciation or assessment of individuals. The social support in online learning can be obtained from teachers and peers. Good interaction between teachers and students in addition to increasing social support in increasing SLR, it will also be able to foster social presence in online learning that will affect learning comfort [35, 36]. This support can be seen in the choice of words, emoticons, language expressions, speed, and accuracy when responding to one's posts [37, 38].

3. RESEARCH METHOD
3.1. Research settings

The research commenced on March 16, 2020, three days after the establishment of the WHO COVID-19 pandemic. The respondents were taken by accident sampling at several schools implementing online learning after the designation of this mode by the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture on March 15, 2020. The schools consisted of general high schools (SMA-Sekolah Menengah Atas) and vocational schools (SMK-Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan). The data were collected via Google Form (from 16 to March 19, 2020) filled out by 10th to 12th-grade students through teachers carrying out online learning and willing to voluntarily get involved for this data collection.

Due to the limited time and bureaucracy during the online learning adjustment period, in this study there were only 15 schools out of 13 regencies in Indonesia that could participate (8 SMK and 7 SMA). All of these schools have never carried out online learning, therefore in this mitigation period they needed to make various adjustments both teachers and students. There were 81 students who filled out the questionnaire in this quick time (56 students from vocational schools, 25 students from general high schools, as the research samples).

3.2. Instruments

The instrument used was a questionnaire (see Table 1) with a scale of 1 to 5 (from absolutely disagree to absolutely agree). The overall self-regulation questionnaire was found to be highly reliable (22 items; \( \alpha = .896 \)) as tested previously. The planning subscale consisted of 5 items (\( \alpha = .632 \)), the monitoring subscale consisted of 6 items (\( \alpha = .704 \)), the controlling subscale consisted of 6 items (\( \alpha = .744 \)), and the reflecting subscale consisted of 5 items (\( \alpha = .682 \)). Table 1 shows the matrix for each factor and item of SRL.

There were two analytical techniques used i.e., descriptive statistics and MANOVA. First, descriptive data (average and standard deviation) were used for each factor in comparing the profiles among schools. Then, MANOVA on each SLR factor was used to see the effects of students' grades. This analysis was applied to see the differences in the effect of School Type on SRL factors.
Table 1. Questionnaire matrix

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item statements</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I plan out projects that I want to complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. If an important test is coming up, I create a study plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Before I do something fun, I consider all the things that I need to get done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. I can usually estimate how much time my homework will take to complete.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. I have trouble making plans to help me reach my goals. (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I keep track of how my projects are going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I know when I’m behind on a project.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I keep track of how my projects are going.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I know what my grades are at any given time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Daily, I identify things I need to get done and track what gets done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I have trouble remembering all the things I need to accomplish. (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. I do what it takes to get my homework done on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. I make choices to help me succeed, even when they aren’t the most fun right now.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. As soon as I see things aren’t going right, I want to do something about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. I keep trying as many different possibilities as necessary to succeed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. I have difficulty maintaining my focus on projects that take a long time to complete. (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. When I get behind on my work, I often give up. (-)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. I think about how well I’m doing on my assignments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. I feel a sense of accomplishment when I get everything done on time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. I think about how well I’ve done in the past when I set new goals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. When I fail at something, I try to learn from my mistake.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. I keep making the same mistake over and over again. (-)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Result

The data obtained through the Google Form filled out by students participating in online learning reveal SRL profiles in each aspect. They are presented in Table 2. Table 2 shows that overall each aspect of SRL has a relatively good score (more than 3.0), but only in the Reflecting aspect, it scores above 4. With a standard deviation between .51 to .77, the data depict that the students’ SRL on online learning is relatively even. How the means differences in all aspects of SRL are illustrated in Figure 1 to Figure 4.

Figure 1 to Figure 4 show that vocational students tend to be higher in all aspects of SRL except in the Reflecting aspect. However, further analysis using Multivariate Tests (Wilks’ Lambda) reveals no significant differences between vocational high schools and general high schools (F = 1.982, p-value = 0.05). This result means that SRL of vocational high school students is no different from that of the general high school students.

Tests of between-subjects effects were carried out to see more detailed differences among SRL aspects. The results of this test are presented in Table 3. From this table, there are no significant differences (p-value=0.05) between schools in all aspects (Sig. = 0.060 for Planning; Sig. = 0.864 for Monitoring; Sig. = 0.220 for Controlling and Sig. = 0.454 for Reflecting). The results from Table 3 implies that vocational and general schools have the same SRL on each factor. It also means that teachers may apply a generic strategy to improve the SRL for both school types.

Table 2. Descriptive statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School Type</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Std. Deviation</th>
<th>N</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>Vocational High School 3.6643</td>
<td>.52585</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General High School 3.3840</td>
<td>.77011</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total 3.5778</td>
<td>.62048</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring</td>
<td>Vocational High School 3.4315</td>
<td>.61609</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General High School 3.4067</td>
<td>.56536</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total 3.4239</td>
<td>.59748</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlling</td>
<td>Vocational High School 3.7440</td>
<td>.50848</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General High School 3.5667</td>
<td>.76073</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total 3.6893</td>
<td>.59847</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflecting</td>
<td>Vocational High School 3.9786</td>
<td>.60143</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>General High School 4.0880</td>
<td>.61395</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total 4.0123</td>
<td>.60361</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A quick study on SRL profiles of online learning participants during the anticipation of ... (Dwi Sulisworo)
the behaviors will change mental abilities with new skills and habits. In online (virtual) learning, students who have an excellent SRL will be better able to deal with the development of a learning environment that is different from their real world. With a good SRL, students can find, select, use any information from the internet to solve problems or achieve learning goals.

From this research results, as explained in the result section, it appears that high school students in Indonesia still need assistance to improve their SRL. Some findings in online learning during COVID-19 mitigation show that the teachers tend to give higher academic assignments (academics presence) to each subject matter or lesson. This finding will have an impact on the vast number of tasks to accomplish. With such inadequate SRL skills, the students can fail in this online learning. Students who have low SRL tend to be less responsible for the learning process [14, 16]. Some new challenges in online learning make them give up more quickly and they do not try to achieve the learning goals.

In certain cases when students need to search for information via the internet, they tend not to do so to strengthen learning performance. Such students depend on the content provided by the teacher. In addition, the lack of SRL also makes students not motivated in learning; this was seen in their intensity in interacting online on the learning platform used. Motivation is an important part of SRL [11, 14, 15]. Low motivation also results in low learning performance. In addition, students with low SRL have low cognitive management skills. This situation makes students less able to manage the learning process, the strategies chosen in completing assignments, and in directing their activities to achieve learning goals [20, 29].

The ability of SRL will determine learning outcomes, teachers and school policymakers need to consider including the process of assisting in strengthening the SRL in the learning design prepared for online learning. It is essential to determine the strategies that encourage students to apply when dealing with virtual information. The activities to encourage better SRL include explaining the benefits and importance of SRL, teaching SRL strategies explicitly, and helping identify when and how to use SRL when dealing with online information for their learning [12, 15]. Through these activities, it can be expected that there will be an improvement of SRL among high school students in Indonesia. Indeed, suddenly applied digital technology due to COVID-19 mitigation will affect students' daily activities and the achievement of their skills [1, 4, 5].

Based on experiences in joining and conducting e-learning courses, there were at least two critical points enabling learning to happen. Setting and informing explicitly the learning objectives helped the learners aware of what to achieve by the end of the learning process. Also, asking the learners to write their feedback was of significance. Through it, they can self assess what they learned and achieved, describe how students felt, inform what challenge or even difficulty they got during the learning session. Through the feedback, the students could self assess what they have learned and achieved. It described what the students have felt, informed what challenge or even difficulty they have got during the learning session.

At the same time, the teacher could also get the feedback to evaluate the program and measured the success or failure in facilitating the learners in achieving the objectives. The way the teachers organized online learning could have profound effects on the ability of students to become autonomous learners. The crucial factors in online learning were not only delivering the subject matters or problem-solving but also explicitly teaching students how to learn. When joining an e-course, the teacher provided the students with "happy online learning" before the e-learning sessions. The role of the teacher in online learning was providing a learning environment that allowed the students to be more capable in self-management by using the various facilities available in the online learning platform. The teacher gave a trigger so that the students could support one another both with motivating words (i.e. those that were not underestimating), positive emoticons, supporting feedback on an idea from their mates [18, 24]. This conducive atmosphere was one form of social support in online learning [31, 38]. Students felt satisfied in online learning when the level of 'attendance' of teachers and students in learning was quite high.

Furthermore, that was very helpful to make the student aware that teacher communicated with a human teacher through a machine i.e., computer. Furthermore, strategies in the form of "happy online learning" were very helpful as the introduction to interact during online learning sessions. In the strategies of "happy online learning" the students were provided with details of how to communicate with a human teacher and mates through a machine i.e. computer. Such strategies stimulated proper behaviours along the students' learning journey virtually. Since various online reports also occurred between the teacher and students and among students, problems in online learning emerged. This dynamic was managed by determining a particular approach to the problem. One of the techniques was conducting both synchronous and asynchronous dialogues to produce and evaluate shared ideas. The dialogues were about how the learning process or problem-solving in online interactions. The lesson learned is that when choosing a learning strategy, explain the reason why the approach is to be used in online learning. Students learning new materials generally do not know which strategy is best to apply. They may lose interest or motivation if they are not trained and encouraged [14]. Online communication to introduce and to make them understand that
idea is essential. When the techniques the students learned and understood are useful in a particular activity, motivation and self-satisfaction will increase [41].

5. CONCLUSION
Online learning carried out suddenly due to the anticipation of the spread (mitigation) of COVID-19 has provided many new opportunities even though it is with several obstacles encountered. Students’ SRL abilities also determine success in online learning. The results of this study indicate that students in Indonesia still need assistance and mentoring from teachers to improve SRL. Several mentoring strategies can be applied to manage active learning. In the learning design, the teachers should explicitly include the process of mentoring, strengthening the students’ SRL. Teachers need to be aware that online learning is not only to master certain subject matters but also to strengthen SRL. This awareness is leading to a long-term impact on students’ learning behaviors.

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