

# Effect of Learning Christian Religious Education in Pandemic of Covid-19 on Youth Faith Growth in Church

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**Abstract.** This research is conducted at the Church of HKI Resort Lubukpakam to determine how learning Christian religious education during the Covid-19 pandemic affects youth faith growth. The method used is descriptive quantitative. The data collection method used is a questionnaire with a population of 50, as a sample of 50 people or as much as the total population. The results were obtained: (1) Teaching of Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 (X) pandemic affected youth the faith growth (Y) at HKI Resort Lubukpakam by 0.817. (2) The magnitude of the contribution made by the teaching of Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 (X) pandemic to the youth faith growth (Y) at HKI Resort Lubukpakam was 54.4%. Based on the existing research results, it can be seen that the teaching of Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 pandemic is a highly significant effect.

**Keywords:** Covid 19; Christian Religious Education; Faith Growth

## 1 Introduction

The presence of covid-19 (Coronavirus diseases-19) in this world is a disaster that afflicts human life in general. Humans on this earth, whether individually, in groups, ethnic groups, religions, ages, social status, and as well as nations, will never be separated from natural disasters. Natural disasters occur due to natural factors and events because this earth is one of the planets in the universe, continually moving. Disasters can occur in various forms because they are caused by human negligence, by nature, or other factors [1]. Natural disasters often occur, such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, floods, landslides, hurricanes, and extreme weather anomalies until a virus appears [2].

In this case, humans are the parties who play a major role in the destruction of nature, which triggers the occurrence of natural disasters so far. Natural disasters cannot be separated from human error in managing the environment [3] Humans exploit nature in such a great way without considering the preservation of nature. Humans only think about controlling these natural resources as much as possible without caring about severe natural damage, which threatens human life [4].

Disasters continue to exist in human life, where a very terrible disaster is currently shaking the earth. The disaster shook human life on this earth, and even the Indonesian nation

experienced an unavoidable disaster. The disaster on earth where humans live today is an epidemic or disease caused by the coronavirus or known as Covid 19 [5]. Covid-19 is a virus that attacks the respiratory system with symptoms of fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, shortness of breath, fatigue, and lethargy. It can cause pneumonia, acute respiratory syndrome, and even death in severe cases [6]. Coronavirus disease 2019 (covid-19) is a new coronavirus discovered in 2019 and has never been identified in humans.

Coronavirus is zoonotic, meaning it is transmitted between animals and humans. (Protocol for the Acceleration of Handling the Pandemic Covid-19 (Corona Virus Disease 2019) Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling Covid-19, 4., n.d.) In this case, the coronavirus is a new type of virus that has been found in humans since an extraordinary event appeared in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, later named Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus2 (Sars- Cov2), and it causes Corona-virus Disease-2019 (covid-19).

Covid 19 belongs to the genus with elliptic flora and is often pleomorphic in shape and is 60-140 nm in diameter. This virus is genetically very different from SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV [7]. In its development, the Covid 19 disease outbreak that first occurred in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, until April 2020, spread to 210 countries (Worldometers 2020). The characteristics of its speedy spread between humans, coupled with the very high mobility of humans and across national borders, make this virus even more dangerous [8]

Covid 19 on the earth's surface eliminates human lives regardless of age, religion, and social status. Covid 19 has also wholly paralyzed all human activities in various aspects, including religion. Therefore, to overcome the rate of spread of the coronavirus, it is necessary to play the role of all components of the nation, both the people, the government, and religion (churches). In this case, the Church also has a vital role to help the government in dealing with Covid 19. What is the role of the Church in dealing with Covid 19? The Church must see a situation as an opportunity to apply a trick or strategy in serving God.

Therefore, in the Covid-19 pandemic, churches carry out worship at home or house churches, and worship is carried out online or virtual to maintain the faith or belief of believers in the Creator. In this case, changes in worship that occur suddenly will undoubtedly have an impact on the growth of the congregation's faith, so this study aims to determine the effect of learning from Christian religious education carried out by a special church, namely the Huria Kristen Indonesia Resort Lubukpakam during the Covid-19 pandemic on youth faith growth.

## **2 Research Methods**

The method used in this research is quantitative research. The type of data in this study is primary data, namely, data obtained directly from the source or directly from the research subject [9]. The data collection method used in this study is a questionnaire, in which the data is collected using a closed questionnaire. The closed questionnaire is a questionnaire in which the researcher has provided the answer choices, and the respondent only chooses from the answer choices provided.

The population is the entire area of objects and research subjects determined to be analyzed and concluded by researchers [10]. The population in this study was all youth of the special HKI Resort church, Lubukpakam, North Sumatra, totaling 50 people. The sampling technique used in this study is non-probability sampling, which is a sampling technique that does not provide equal opportunities for each element or member of the population to be selected as samples [11].

The sampling technique used in this study is a saturated sample, which is a sampling technique in which all populations are used as samples [11] because, in this study, the population is relatively small, the number of samples to be used is 50 people or as many as the total population.

### 3 Result and Finding

#### 3.1 Research Instrument Test

##### Validity test

The validity test used was Pearson's Product moment correlation in this study. A measurement scale is valid if it does what it should do and measures what it should measure. If the measurement scale is not valid, then it is not helpful for the researcher because it does not measure what it should measure or do what it should do.

The instrument test conducted in this study was aimed at 50 respondents with a significance level of 5%, with  $n=50$ ,  $df = n-2$ , or in this case  $df = 50-2 = 48$  and  $p = 0,05$  then obtained  $r_{table} = 0,2787$  [10]. The results of the validity testing carried out with the help of the SPSS for windows version 22.0 program are as follows:

**Table 1.** Validity Test Results

Variable		Question Items	r-count	r-table	Criteria
		$\alpha=5\%$			
Learning	Christian	X1.1	0,933	0,2787	Valid
Religious	Education	X1.2	0,952	0,2787	Valid
during the Covid 19		X1.3	0,905	0,2787	Valid
Pandemic					
Youth Faith Growth		Y1.1	0,926	0,2787	Valid
		Y1.2	0,937	0,2787	Valid
		Y1.3	0,950	0,2787	Valid

Source: Primary Data Processed 2021

As shown in Table 1.1, if the correlation coefficient is the same as the critical correlation coefficient (table = 0,2787 or more), then the item of the instrument is declared valid. From the results of the validity test, it turns out that the correlation coefficient of all questions has an r-count value (table = 0,2787) so that all question instrument items related to learning Christian Religious Education during the Covid-19 (X) pandemic and youth faith growth (Y) can be declared valid and can be used in this study.

##### Reliability Test

Reliability testing in this study was carried out by calculating the value of Cronbach's Alpha from each variable tested. If the Cronbach's Alpha value is more significant than 0.60, then the questionnaire as a measuring tool is declared reliable. Conversely, if the Cronbach's Alpha value is less than 0.60, then the questionnaire as a measuring tool is declared unreliable. The results of the reliability test can be seen in Table 1.2 below:

Table 2. Reliability Test Results

<i>Variable</i>	<i>N Of Item</i>	<i>Cronbach Alfa</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Criteria</i>
Learning Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 (X) Pandemic	3	0,922	0,60	Reliable
Youth Faith Growth (Y)	3	0,930	0,60	Reliable

Source: Primary Data Processed 2021

Based on the summary of the reliability test results as summarized in Table 4.2, it can be seen that the value of the Cronbach's Alpha coefficient on each variable is more significant than 0.60. Therefore, all the questions in the research variables are reliable so that the questions in the research variables can be used in this research.

#### Normality Test

The purpose of this analysis is to limit the findings of the problem so that it becomes orderly, structured, and more meaningful data. The tool used to test the normality of the data is the Graph Analysis method. For example, suppose the data shows that there are points that spread around the diagonal line, and the distribution follows the direction of the diagonal line. In that case, it can be concluded that the data model in this study meets the assumption of normality.

The results of normality testing using the SPSS for Windows 22.0 computer program are as follows:

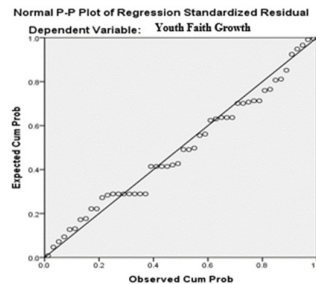


Fig 1. Normal Graphics P-Plot (Primary Data Processed 2021)

Based on the picture above, it is known that the distribution of data is spread around a straight line and follows the direction of a straight line, so it can be said that the data normality requirements have been met.

### 3.2 Quantitative Analysis

#### Simple Linear Regression Analysis

Simple linear regression is used if the dependent variable is influenced by only one independent variable [12]. Because there is only one independent variable in the study, the researcher uses simple linear regression analysis to predict the dependent variable. According to [11], a simple linear regression equation for one independent variable is formulated as follows:

$$Y = a + bX + \epsilon$$

Where:

Y: The dependent variable assessment is the youth faith growth

a: Constant Value

b: Independent Regression Coefficient

X: Christian Religious Education learning during the Covid 19 Pandemic

c: The error term for calculation purposes is assumed 0.

To find out and determine the direction of the magnitude of the coefficient between the independent variable and the dependent variable, the SPSS version 22.0 for the windows assistance technique is used. The results of simple linear regression analysis can be seen in Table 1.3 below, namely:

**Table 1.3 Simple Linear Regression Analysis Results**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	2.949	.834		3.534	0.001
Learning Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 Pandemic	0.677	0.089	0.738	7.572	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Youth Faith Growth

Source: Primary Data Processed in 2021.

Based on the results of the calculation of simple linear regression analysis above, mathematically, it can be written into the following equation:

$$Y = 2.949 + 0,677X$$

The equation above shows the influence of the independent variable, namely the learning of Christian religious education during the Covid 19 pandemic (X), on the dependent variable, namely the youth faith growth (Y).

The meaning of the regression coefficient is as follows:

a. Constant (a)

In the regression equation above, a constant of 2,949 is obtained. This means that if the learning variable for Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 pandemic does not exist or is equal to zero (0), then the youth faith growth (Y) at the special HKI Resort of Lubukpakam, North Sumatra, is 2,949.

b. Regression Coefficient of Learning of Christian Religious Education during the covid 19 pandemic (b)

The regression coefficient of the variable of Learning of Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 pandemic (X) of 0.677 means that the independent variable of learning Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 (X) pandemic has a positive and significant influence on the faith growth of youth (Y) at special HKI Resorts-Lubukpakam North Sumatra, where every one unit increase in the Learning of Christian Religious Education variable during the Covid 19 (X) Pandemic period will increase the youth faith growth (Y) at special HKI Resort - Lubukpakam North Sumatra, assuming the variable Learning of Christian Religious Education in North Sumatra. During the COVID-19 (X) pandemic, the value is fixed or constant at 0.677 units.

### 3.3 Hypothesis Test

#### Partial Test Results (t-Test)

The t-test determines whether the independent variable is partially a good predictor or not for the dependent variable. This test aims to determine whether there is a partial influence between the teaching of Christian Religious Education (X) on the youth faith growth (Y) at HKI Resort - Lubukpakam.

The results of the partial test (t-test) can be seen in Table 1.4 below:

**Table 4. Partial Test Results (T-Test)**

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1 (Constant)	2.949	.834		3.534	0.001
Learning of Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 Pandemic	0.677	0.089	0.738	7.572	0.000

a. Dependent Variable: Youth Faith Growth

Source: Primary Data Processed 2021

#### Testing the learning variables for Christian Religious Education during the covid 19 pandemic (X)

The test steps are as follows:

##### a. Determining the hypothesis

1)  $H_0: \beta = 0$ . This means that learning of Christian Religious Education during the COVID-19 pandemic (X) does not affect the youth faith growth (Y) at HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam, North Sumatra.

2)  $H_0: \beta \neq 0$ . This means that learning of Christian Religious Education during the COVID-19 pandemic (X) affects the youth faith growth (Y) at the HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam, North Sumatra.

##### b. The level of significance using $\alpha = 0,05$ .

##### c. Determine the value of t table

The value of  $t_{table}$  obtained from the degrees of freedom that is  $df=n-2$  or  $50-2=48$  (n is the number of samples),  $\alpha = 5\%$ , because it is a 2-sided test then  $\alpha/2 = 5\%/2 = 0,025$ , so  $t_{table} = 2,0106$ .

##### d. Decision Making

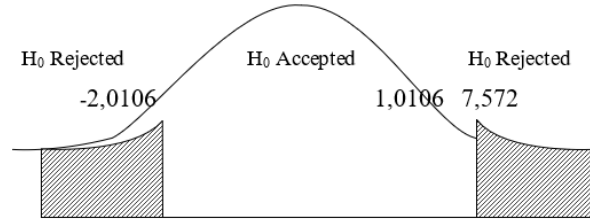
1) If  $t_{count} \leq t_{table}$ , then  $H_0$  accepted. This means learning that Christian Religious Education during the COVID-19 pandemic (X) does not affect the youth faith growth (Y) at HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam North Sumatra.

2) If  $t_{count} > t_{table}$ , then  $H_0$  is rejected. This means that Christian Religious Education during the COVID-19 pandemic (X) affects the youth faith growth (Y) at HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam, North Sumatra.

##### e. Conclusion

It can be known that  $t_{COUNT} (7,572) > t_{table} (2,0106)$  so the null hypothesis is rejected. Therefore, the conclusion is that learning from Christian religious education during the covid 19 pandemic (X) affects the youth faith growth (Y) at HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam, North Sumatra.

The following is a figure of the acceptance and rejection curve based on the  $t_{table}$ :



**Fig 2.** Acceptance And Rejection Curve Based On  $t_{Table}$

### 3.4 Coefficient of Determination

The coefficient of determination ( $R^2$ ) is used to determine how big the percentage contribution of the overall influence of the independent variable is on the independent variable. The following are the results of the coefficient of determination test ( $R^2$ ), which can be seen below:

**Table 5.** Result of Determination Test ( $R^2$ ) (Primary Data Processed in 2021)

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	0.738 <sup>a</sup>	0.544	0.535	1.817

a. Predictors: (Constant), learning of Christian Religious Education in the Covid-19 Pandemic Period

b. Dependent Variable: Youth Faith Growth

From the test results, the determination coefficient value ( $R^2$ ) is 0.544, which means that the contribution of the influence given by learning of Christian Religious Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic Period (X) on the growth of youth faith (Y) at HKI Resort specifically Lubukpakam North Sumatra is 54.4%, while other factors influence the rest (100% - 54.4% = 45.6%).

## 4 Discussion

### 4.1 The Impact of the Covid 19 Pandemic on the Church

Covid 19 has had a huge impact on the Church in worship. In this case, worship that was previously carried out face-to-face at the Church, Covid 19, and according to government regulations, worship was carried out at home virtually. Worship at home or Church is not new because the Bible has explained house worship [13]. Worship in the Bible is known as communal (congregational) and personal. Communal worship is church services and household services. In this case, communal worship has existed since the time of Abram where worship is only carried out within the family or tribe [14].

Abram, for example, several times built an altar on his way with his family when he responded to the call of Yahweh God to go to the land that he would lead. Abram, Ancestral father recorded in Genesis.12:8 east of Bethel; then 13:18 in Mamre set up a tent for worshipping his family and those with him [15].

The impact of Covid 19 in the Church was a change in worship, namely worship in the church building turning to worship at home. Therefore, the existence of Covid 19 is not a barrier to not worshipping God, but as Christians, we must raise the Spirit to always be diligent in

worshipping God [16]. Worship during the Covid 19 pandemic with policies issued by the government is not a barrier for Christians in carrying out worship because worship is done to draw us closer to God. Worship is worship and a call for believers to bring others closer to God. Worship during the Covid-19 pandemic began to be transferred digitally through live streaming technology. Services can be done digitally because the problem of physical distancing or social distancing can be overcome with virtual meetings in the style of digital technology through video conferencing applications (Charstar Arstilo Rumbay, 2020).

Worship carried out digitally during the Covid-19 pandemic is a positive thing. It can be said that the Church penetrates physical boundaries by being present in a wider space so that anyone can enjoy it. In addition, the emergence of house worship harks back to the time of the apostles, when they built house churches [18]. This means that worship during the Covid 19 pandemic can be done digitally at home via zoom, YouTube, Facebook, Microsoft 365, and so on. [19].

#### *4.2 Learning of Christian Religious Education in the Covid-19 Pandemic Period in the Church*

Covid 19 had a significant impact on the Church, and there was a total change in the scope of the Church related to the learning of Christian Religious Education in the Church (Boiliu, 2020). In this case, the learning of Christian Religious Education for youth in the Church, which was previously carried out in the church building face-to-face, has now changed at home and is carried out virtually or online [21]. Therefore, the learning changes in the Church during the COVID-19 pandemic require appropriate learning strategies for youth. This means that the current pandemic conditions require the Church to innovate in changing the face-to-face learning pattern of Christian Religious Education for youth into a face-to-face learning pattern [22].

In this case, the task of church teachers becomes problematic when the Covid-19 pandemic appears and changes the learning system for youth. Therefore, the Church does not remain silent and forgets this noble responsibility and is responsible for delivering teaching materials and being skilled in overcoming all learning barriers, including overcoming the learning barriers of Christian Religious Education for youth during the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, teaching Christian Religious Education to youth during the Covid 19 pandemic requires creativity.

Therefore, teaching creativity was an essential part of the online learning system during the Covid-19 period. Creativity is the ability to provide new ideas and apply them in problem-solving, and teaching creativity from the Church for youth is essential in dealing with the Covid-19 problem. Problems will arise in the implementation of online learning if Christian Religious Education teachers' creativity is low [23].

Learning Christian religious education during the COVID-19 pandemic [24] is not the only core learning to shape youth faith. Still, Christian religious education is an inseparable part of youth's life. In this case, Christian religious education exists to complement academic knowledge and teach Christian values sourced from the Bible. [25].

Therefore, the teaching of Christian Religious Education during the Covid-19 pandemic had a very big influence on the faith of youth, especially for youth in the Church, because through Christian religious learning, the youth had faith that matched expectations. That's why the essence of Christian Religious Education must prioritize the faith dimension [26].

The role of an educator is needed in conveying the essential values contained in the learning of Christian Religious Education. Therefore, the Church (Pastor) who teaches Christian religious education during the COVID-19 period has good academic abilities and spiritual values. Furthermore, the teacher of Christian Religious Education in the Church is a born-again person who will play an essential role in forming youth faith through knowing and obeying



Christ [27]. The process of delivering Christian values to youth occurs when there is good interaction between teachers in the Church and youth, both interactions in classroom learning and interactions outside of learning.

Therefore, the teachers in the Church must have creativity and skills in designing and implementing the learning methods used because the quality of the learning methods chosen by the teachers of Christian Religious Education in the Church during the Covid-19 pandemic will affect the faith of the youth [28].

In this case, online learning of Christian religious education during the Covid-19 pandemic for youth can make it easier for churches to carry out online learning, ease of building communication, and the impact of online learning on youth faith growth during youth the Covid 19 pandemic. Thus, this impacts online learning of Christian religious education during the Covid 19 pandemic on the growth of youth faith in the Church.

#### *4.3 Youth Faith Growth in the Covid-19 Pandemic Period*

Covid 19 has had a huge impact on the Church, especially worship. In this case, the impact on the Church during a pandemic will undoubtedly influence faith growth. Following the research results, it was found that online learning of Christian religious education during the Covid 19 pandemic for youth at HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam North Sumatra, had a significant effect. This means that although there was a change in the way of worshipping in the Church during the Covid 19 pandemic, there was no negative influence or growth of faith during the Covid 19 pandemic.

The growth of faith is a suffering that befalls a person but still has a strong belief in a trusted God. This means that the growth of one's faith will look solid or not when faced with any situation and condition, such as the current Covid 19. Faith is the basis of all that we hope for and the evidence of all we do not see. The basis of this belief is the Word of God (Ibrani 11:1). In Ibrani 11:1, It is said: "Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen". Faith contains divine and human elements. Faith is a gift from God as well as a human act. The foundation of faith is the Word of God (Roma 4: 20-21).

In this case, Christian faith as a real experience has three essential dimensions, namely: (a) A belief; (b) A trusting relationship (c) A life lived in agape love. Thus, the growth of faith can be concluded that someone who grows in knowing God and understands God's Word truly so that Jesus as Lord is in his life who works in his life to produce the fruit of the Spirit. Thus, his life is pleasing and glorifying to God [29].

The growth of youth faith during the Covid-19 pandemic is the duty and responsibility of the Church. Therefore, the Church must provide effective and efficient Christian religious education for youth during the Covid-19 pandemic to have solid faith in God. Therefore, Christian education must refer to and be centered on the learning process, in general, to increase the spirituality of the Christian faith. In contrast, Christian education is more focused on the specialization of the learning process itself. Christian religious education must earnestly seek to guide students towards the growth of faith love. Christian religious education has the role of educating and increasing the knowledge of God as a top priority [30].

Christian religious education must encourage them to express their faith in the minor environment from the family to a large environment to bring good news in worship in God that makes believers both in the family stand firm and not worry or worry about Covid-19. Christian Religious Education is an educational effort to develop a Christian personality in youth [31].

## 5 Conclusion

Based on the results of the analysis conducted regarding the effect of learning from Christian religious education during the Covid 19 pandemic on the growth of youth faith at HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam North Sumatra, the following conclusions can be drawn:

- a. Learning for Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 (X) pandemic affected the faith growth of youth (Y) HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam North Sumatra was 0.817.
- b. The magnitude of the contribution made by Learning for Christian Religious Education during the Covid 19 (X) pandemic to the growth of youth faith (Y) HKI Resort, specifically Lubukpakam North Sumatra, was 54.4%.

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