

# A Mother's Role in The Child's Safety and Care During Online Learning

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**Abstract.** The Covid-19 pandemic has given birth to a new consensus, namely "Back home" where all activities that are commonly carried out outside the household are now all carried out indoors, which includes schooling. This makes parenting function even more comprehensive towards the responsibility of parents at home, especially in learning. Conditions like this certainly have a direct impact on students, that the existence of online learning has a big influence on cultural issues, values, attitudes, mindsets and identities. One and a half years of the pandemic, have brought out many problems in the teaching and learning process where the assignments given by the teacher have increased, causing students to deviate, where the use of services in completing school assignments has been identified. The purpose of this study was to determine the extent of roles of mothers in accompanying children during online learning. The method used in this research is a case study with an informant of a mother who is at home. The data in this study was obtained using survey, interview and observation techniques. Nine mothers voluntarily became primary informants during the interviewed of this research which represents rural and urban communities spread across West Java. The results of this study have reveal that, with the use of online learning that has been going on for 1 year, the role of mothers is very much needed in assisting children during learning, many things happen when mothers do not accompany or guide their children in learning. The factors behind a mother's optimal roles at home include the mother's knowledge and socioeconomic factors. The existing age gap between mother and child result in communication difficulties in learning, as mothers assume the child's maturity age doesn't need any necessary supervision in learning, and finally the mother's educational background is one of many crucial factors in the weak social control of their children.

**Keywords:** social control, online learning, mother's role

## 1 Introduction

In March 2020 the Indonesian government stated that the Covid-19 virus had entered Indonesia, this was evidenced by the presence of cases of people exposed to the Covid-19 virus. (Olivia et al., 2020). After the first case was put forward by the media, the latest cases emerged and there was a lot of news about the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Responding to the rapid spread of the virus, the government swiftly took policies to reduce all forms of community activities, one of which was all education activities (Sparrow et al., 2020).

The impact of limiting & restricting social activities (Pradana et al., 2020), in the education sector resulting in all learning activities being conducted online (Yuda et al., 2021). The

Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud) has implemented a long-distance policy. This online learning is applied to all education sectors, from elementary students to university students throughout Indonesia. This is expected to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus and save the community from the virus. As previously stated, one of the most crucial aspects that is impacted during this pandemic is the education sector (Hamad, 2021), Learning that was originally face-to-face is now drastically changed both in the school and campus environment, as a substitute for face-to-face learning, learning is replaced with an online system that requires students to carry out learning at home (home learning). (Bowdle & Munoz-Price, 2020, hlm. 1-2).

However, Online learning is not a new thing in the world of education. As it has been reported that, many universities have conducted distance learning to make it easier for students to study (Adedoyin & Soykan, 2020). In this case, facilities that support the success of online learning must include aspects such as a stable internet connection, computers, competent teachers, and parental support. All of these elements must synergize with each other to achieve the expected quality of learning (Adedoyin & Soykan, 2020). The online learning process is an effort between educators and students to change the previous style of learning from face-to-face to distance learning (Dinh & Nguyen, 2020), in its implementation there are obstacles such as signal interference, quotas, uncreative or uninteresting learning methods, to the absence of students. This requires coordination between parents, students, and the university for academic success (Toldson & Lemmons, 2013).

In addition, there are also obstacles that are felt by parents, namely the ability for parents to be fully able to participate and provide maximum assistance, considering that there are parents who work and have to share their attention with other children, therefore it requires cooperation between teachers and parents, because teachers cannot accompany students while learning continuously online, which causes teachers and parents to rely on each other (Dewi, 2020, hlm 2-5).

It has been reported that, conditions like this certainly have a direct impact on students who are strengthened in previous research Finland, which illustrates that the existence of online learning has a major impact on cultural issues, values, attitudes, mindsets and identity. (Livari dkk, 2020, hlm. 1-3). This is reinforced by public opinion which agrees with the decrease in the quality of the character of students, including the decrease in students' self-confidence in online learning, the value of honesty and the value of caring which is very visible because during the pandemic, it has really distanced students from teachers and peers, even online learning builds more frequent conflicts between students and parents than face-to-face learning.

Parents who pay attention to their children, such as asking assignments, asking for attendance at each lesson, encourage superior academic performance for students (Toldson & Lemmons, 2013), but in reality many parents are ignorant and tend to not pay attention to the child's learning process at home. In previous research regarding the decline in character education in online learning, (Sita, 2021) argues that there has been a decline in character, one of which is dishonesty. Because the given school assignments are too much for students to handle, students dare to use the services of a jockey to do school assignments. In this case, social control carried out by parents is an element of student learning success, the role of mothers in assisting their children is needed to improve the quality of student learning. This study focuses on the role of the mother as social control in the family.

## 2 Research Method

This study uses a qualitative approach using a case study descriptive method. In searching for information for this research, interviews, observations, and library studies were conducted, the informant we found was a mother who visited her son in an online study. We interviewed ten people aged 40 to 54, with different educational backgrounds, marriage status, and informants spread in the city or in the village, so in this study, you can see the various kinds of problems that your mother has when she comes to the child in secondary school and is seen from the different backgrounds of each of her informants.

## 3 Result and Discussion

The role of mothers as social control in the family during online learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic. The results obtained from the research namely the supervision in terms of learning is the responsibility of parents both fathers and mothers, but the results obtained in the field show that in supervising children when learning is commonly identified as the full responsibility of the mother. (Harris & Goodall, 2008). The role of a mother as one of the social controls in the family during their child's online learning have shown that the mother's role is very important to control how the activities are carried out by children while at home.

Online learning requires good cooperation between educators, students and parents, usually during face-to-face learning, children tend to be more focused and supervised by teachers and parents do not interfere in the learning process. This is because, parents fully entrust the learning process to schools and teachers, parents are calmer in entrusting their children to teachers, especially working parents (Toldson & Lemmons, 2013) .

Basically, in paying attention to children, especially during learning, it is the responsibility of parents, both father and mother. However, the data obtained in the field shows that of all the informants, the mother plays more of a role in the continuity of the child's online learning. Mothers can negotiate more with children regarding discipline, for now it is no longer the age to use violence, but punishments that take away children's privileges such as cutting pocket money or reducing playing time is applied (Tompkins & Villaruel, 2020), hence the child becomes more obedient to what the mother says.

The table below shows the background of the informants in this study. Of the six categories that underlie how the process of a mother in exercising social control over her child in terms of age, occupation, economic status, employment status, etc.

**Table 1. Informant's background (Mothers) Researcher's data, 2021**

No	Category	Number of Respondents
	Age	
	• 40 years old	1
	• 41 years old	1
	• 45 years old	1
1	• 47 years old	1
	• 48 years old	1
	• 49 years old	1
	• 50 years old	2
	• 53 years old	1

	• 54 years old	1
	Place of Origin	
	• Bandung	3
	• Bogor	1
2	• Cimahi	2
	• Tasikmalaya	1
	• Majalengka	1
	• Sumedang	2
	Mother's Last Education	
3	• Bachelor	3
	• High School	5
	• Middle School	2
	Mother's occupation	
4	• Teacher	2
	• Housewife	7
	• Office Worker	1
	Income	
	• Rp.200.000- Rp.500.000	
	• Rp.500.000- Rp.1.500.000	1
5	• Rp.1.500.000- Rp.3.000.000	5
	• Rp.3.000.000- Rp5.000.000	2
	• Rp.3.000.000- Rp5.000.000	1
	• Rp. 5.000.000 and above	1
	Marital status	
6	• Married	5
	• Divorce	2
	• Widow	3

It can be seen from the table above that the mother's age affects the control carried out by the mother, the older the mother is, the less attention is paid to her child's learning. In addition, they assume that their children are adults, so they do not need to be supervised in terms of learning. In contrast to mothers who are still young, they still pay attention to their children by simply asking questions or communicating with the teacher because young mothers also have skills in using communication tools so that they can be used to discuss with parents.

Different regional backgrounds also affect the control exercised by the mother. If we see that children living in big cities, access to education and supporting facilities for online learning can be enjoyed differently than in villages which have limited access and facilities. One of the facilities offered in the city is the existence of private teachers and tutoring institutions. For working mothers, they can find a companion teacher for their child as a substitute for him in supervising the child's learning. However, if in the village there is no access to it and considering the economic limitations, it is also a reason.

Economic factors are supporting factors for children in learning. Of the ten informants we interviewed, they had different educational backgrounds from high school to college which of course would have an effect on the work of parents. Educational background also influences the supervision of children When learning takes place, when a mother who has a middle

school-high school graduate background cannot accompany her child due to the mother's ignorance in terms of learning materials, the assistance provided is only limited to asking and telling her child to study, while the mother who is highly educated can accompany the child and even many tasks are done by the mother because the child is lazy in learning.

The results of the study also indicate that, the socio-economic family also affects the learning process. Online learning requires supporting facilities such as computers, alongside the geographical location that spreads both in cities and rural areas which influences stability of the internet network (Adedoyin & Soykan, 2020). To get all these facilities requires a lot of financial spending, the given data of income of many parents are mostly below the regional minimum wage and from the data obtained many mothers who do not work mostly rely on income from their working husband. Hence, this will slow down the online learning process.

In this case, there are five informants who are single parents, most of them have to work from early in morning to night, just to meet the needs of their families, therefore there is a lack of control over their children's learning. Meeting needs in learning is one form of support provided by single parents (Voigt Wedmeyer & Johnson, 1982). Mothers as a woman in their families can optimize their roles, apart from providing capital to help the family economy, mothers also continue to educate their children. As mentioned, the dual role they have to earn money while still taking care of the household. (Nurbayani et al., 2019)

Online learning felt by students is not as strict and disciplined as face-to-face learning (Zapata-Cuervo et al., 2021), as online learning limits the task of an educator. Face-to-face learning allows the educator to reprimand students, the role of the mother is needed to help the continuity of the learning process (von Otter & Stenberg, 2015). For example, asking the assignments given by the teacher to students. The response of parents towards the children's tasks is limited to just asking if they have completed their task, moreover some informants don't even know that their school tasks are carried out by children.

Many factors influence why mothers do not have much role in assisting children's learning, one of which is the education factor. Of the ten informants interviewed, two had graduated with their junior high school background, therefore mothers tended to let their children learn on their own, mothers who had a high school education background or a bachelor's degree did not involve much in assisting their children's school assignments and only interact by asking questions if they have finished their assignments or not.

The results of this study indicate that when mothers accompany their children to study, not a few mothers become emotional which have an impact by venting it to their children, the best way to keep emotions under control is not to be too much involved in assisting children in learning. The emotions of parents greatly affect the condition of the child in learning. When the mother gives joy when accompanying the child, the child will feel comfortable and have success in learning (Thomas et al., 2021).

Many problems arise due to online learning, one of which is a character crisis. The focus of this research is limited on one of the characters that must be possessed by a student. Honesty is a character that must be possessed by students, but in reality, with a large task load it creates a new problem, namely "jockey services in completing schoolwork" this is currently being carried out by students, with this incident showing that there is a character crisis for students.

How this can happen? what are the factors that influence students to do things they shouldn't? Self-control is formed early in life between parents and children. The parenting pattern given by parents to children is the origin of self-control and argues that the lack of supervision, discipline and parental love creates low self-control. Parental control in self-control provides a significant role in the formation of self-control (Ellonen et al., 2020).

Social control given by parents will make children more active, the attention given by parents and interaction between parents and children to discuss learning will improve the academic quality of children (Spink et al., 2008) a mother who is at home ideally can pay attention to their child completely, but the findings obtain by the researchers prove that there are that many affecting factors, one of them age. The age gap that is too far between mother and child makes communication in the learning process ineffective. There are different information gaps that cause communication to not work properly. Thus, mothers are limited to only knowing if her child is following the lesson.

The age of students is around 18-24 years where the generation is closely attached to the internet. In this day and age, information can be obtaining through the palm of the hand, the flow of information can be accessed anytime and anywhere. This should also be the focus of mothers to control their children's activities through the use of the internet. In addition, it's reported that children's online learning is very attached to gadgets and the internet (Young & Tully, 2019).

Parents cannot fully supervise children's activities, because there are external factors that can affect children's behaviour (Rork & Morris, 2009) When children socialize with their peers there will be an intertwined socialization process. Therefore, the synergy between parents, teachers and children must be well established in order to be able to produce children who have good social skills (Challita et al., 2019) and to produce a superior academic atmosphere.

#### **4 Conclusion**

The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in rapid changes, one of which is in the field of education, learning that was initially carried out face-to-face has now become distance learning or also known as online learning. Many educators and students were surprised for the transformation in learning. Whereas children usually go to school to study, now all activities are carried out at home, this also includes studying. This change has made parents, especially mothers, overwhelmed because they have additional tasks, namely having to accompany their children to study from home, plus having to control attendance and other tasks. Mothers as a woman performs dual roles, which she also performs other tasks such as earning a living, taking care of the household plus being a companion for children when online learning takes place.

Online learning continues until now, it has been almost a year, this makes students feel ineffective in learning because they think that learning is only about the given class assignments. The large number of assignments loads given towards students have made interestingly new behaviors appear, namely the widespread use of jockey services to do their tasks. The increase behavior of dishonesty carried out by students indicates a character crisis due to this online learning. Parents who are at home should be able to control all their children's activities are proven to be difficult to optimize, this is due to factors that influences such as parental education, socio-economic factors, mother's occupation, and the wide age gap between mother and their children which could decreases the optimal control given by parents towards their children.

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