USING FREE ONLINE FORM TO ENHANCING THE STUDENT ADMISSION IN ISLAMIC BOARDING SCHOOL

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ABSTRACT:
This study explores new media for the admission system at Darul Falah Islamic Boarding School, Tulungagung. Innovations in registering new students need to be carried out to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Islamic boarding schools require a registration form that can be accessed online to accept new students. This study uses a qualitative method. The data was collected through interviews, observation, and documentation. The waterfall analysis model is used for analyzing the admission system. The interactive analysis model is used for the data analysis technique. The validity of the data is done by triangulation of techniques and sources. The study results: The service for accepting new students during the COVID-19 pandemic was carried out online using the google form media. The use of the media is effortless, so it is easy to apply. However, parents of prospective students need a long time to use the online form. This research implies that the free online form provided by Google can be a practical and easy solution for Islamic boarding schools that have limited resources in accepting new students during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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INTRODUCTION

The existence of pesantren as an educational institution is no less attractive than public schools. Islamic boarding schools provide facilities that support learning progress (Hidayat & Seftiani, 2018). Pesantren has a leader called Kyai. He always protects and includes innovation for the progress of the pesantren (Khoiri, 2017). The government also supports the existence of pesantren by enacting a pesantren law as a form of clarity in carrying out pesantren activities (Setyawan, 2019).

The presence of the Covid-19 pandemic also impacts Islamic boarding schools, especially in carrying out the teaching and learning process and accepting new students. Learning activities are usually carried out face-to-face, and acceptance of new students is done manually and conventionally. With this pandemic, Islamic boarding schools need to make updates so that teaching and learning activities and the process of accepting new students continue to be carried out.

These conditions make technology significant during the pandemic (Gerakoudi-Ventouri, 2021). It follows the government’s recommendation to limit direct interaction activities, thus requiring all parties to carry out all educational activities online (Gozali & Munawaroh, 2021; Vidya & Prabheesh, 2020). This activity restriction regulation has been in place since the emergence of the Covid-19 pandemic that spread in Indonesia in 2019. The implementation of 3M (Wearing masks, washing hands and maintaining
The increasing number of positive Covid-19 patients has affected activities in various sectors so that the Restrictions on the Implementation of Community Activities or PPKM are enforced. These activities must be stopped or transferred online (in the network). Teaching and learning activities are forced to be carried out online and virtual through various media implemented by schools during the implementation of PPKM regulations by the government (Alhouti, 2020; Choi & Chiu, 2021; Gray & Jourdan, 2021).

The discourse for holding face-to-face meetings is always postponed in line with the extension of the PPKM period. All activities are carried out online for ongoing services within the scope of education. It follows educational institutions’ task to provide good service and teach their students in various conditions (Anthony & Antony, 2021; Sultan & Wong, 2013).

Based on a survey conducted by UNICEF, the biggest obstacle students face while studying at home is the lack of internet access and electronic devices (UNICEF, 2021). The government has overcome this obstacle by providing study quota assistance. Students must appropriately use this assistance. In addition, the support and enthusiasm for learning that grows in students is also a driving force to facilitate the teaching and learning process during the pandemic (Sánchez-Elvira Paniagua & Simpson, 2018).

The pandemic also impacts the marketing of educational institutions, where marketing is aimed at stabilizing school conditions. Still, it is a situation that makes it difficult to carry out the marketing (Yıldırım et al., 2021). Current conditions require all parties to cooperate in rising and advancing in responding to challenges during the Covid-19 pandemic (Messias et al., 2015; Stiburek & Švec, 2017).

The new school year continues for all students, both in public schools and Islamic boarding schools, during the Covid-19 pandemic. Before starting the first semester at the beginning of the new school year, educational institutions must adopt the New Santri Admission System abbreviated as SPSB. This system is part of the selection process for new students who will continue their education.
Generally, the implementation of SPSB requires parents and prospective students to come to Islamic boarding schools to register. The registration is done by collecting administrative or registration files such as diplomas, photocopies of ID cards (Kartu Identity), photocopies of KK (Family Cards), birth certificates and other supporting documents. (Utomo, 2011). It takes a lot of time, effort, and money. There must also be a lot of time because the acceptance process needs only 5 or 10 minutes (Sridevi, 2014). It is necessary to check the selection file. If there is a shortage, it must be completed immediately and a separate note for the admissions committee or prospective new students who register. In addition, the costs incurred are also not small, ranging from transportation to duplicating files (Ajoye & Nwagwu, 2014).

Currently, the new student registration process will undoubtedly be different from usual. This process is carried out online according to government recommendations to break the chain of the spread of Covid-19. Nevertheless, Islamic boarding schools carry out this SPSB process accountable, open, and accessible way (Yulianeu & Sodik, 2019). An easy, open process that does not require a lot of time and money can be an advantage that can be assessed from the implementation of this SPSB. Ease and speed are the main points in its performance (Mulyani & F. N Ramadhan, 2017).

From registration by prospective students, verification by the operator or the new student admissions committee, seeing the election results, to conducting self-reports. Advances in technology provide support to improve the quality of education (Zuhairi et al., 2019). The ease of internet access and the need for online information can be a solution in registering new students for Islamic boarding schools. The implementation of SPSB in Islamic boarding schools online will make people think that pesantren, known to be traditional, can also adapt according to the situations and conditions they face (Kholis & Firliana, 2018).

The demands of the times and circumstances have forced Darul Falah Tulungagung Islamic boarding school to escape the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. It requires Islamic boarding schools to innovate in dealing with these conditions, especially in implementing the acceptance of new students.

Several studies related to the new student admission system have been carried out. Mulyani, in her research, suggested that an online-based system be
created for unique student admissions at Islamic Elementary Schools. This system can speed up and simplify the process of accepting new students. In addition, the data generated from the system becomes more accessible and up-to-date (Mulyani & F. N Ramadhan, 2017).

Hasanah also studied the new student admission system. It uses the fuzzy Tahani model. Fuzzy Tahani is a system used in decision-making (Khotimatul Hasanah, 2018). The manual selection process for new students has many administrative problems, so that the selection process does not run effectively and efficiently. This problem can be solved by using the fuzzy Tahani model. This model will produce a list of prospective new students who passed and did not pass correctly and accurately.

Azizah, in her research, discusses the use of website-based applications to carry out the selection process for new student admissions (Azizah, 2012). This application dramatically facilitates the boarding school's selection process for accepting new students.

Based on the description above, researchers are interested in researching the new student admission system in Islamic boarding schools. This study aims to analyze, study and design the application of a new student admission system using Google form media at the Darul Falah Islamic Boarding School Tulungagung. Google form is one of the Google application media that can be used to accept new students. This platform provides online form creation services. The implementation of SPSB using the google form is still rarely used in Islamic boarding schools. It is the novelty of this research.

Darul Falah Islamic Boarding School is one educational institution that oversees MTs Darul Falah. This school is a boarding school that applies the principles and values of pesantren into all its activities. The application of SPSB through the google form application at Darul Falah Islamic Boarding School seeks to reduce direct interaction with prospective new students during the pandemic and align with technological advances that have developed rapidly at this time.
METHODS

This study uses qualitative methods to analyze the problems being solved (Snodgrass et al., 2020). This method uses the waterfall model to develop the system used for the selection process for the admission of new students at the Darul Falah Islamic Boarding School, Tulungagung. The form of this model includes specification, development, validation and evolution. The stages carried out consist of analyzing the provisions that must be completed, software design, application implementation, application testing, and carrying out maintenance (Arisanti, 2018). This waterfall model can be seen in chart 1.

Chart 1. Waterfall Model

FINDINGS

The system for accepting new students at the Darul Falah Islamic boarding school in Tulungagung uses the google form application. The use of this application is analyzed using the waterfall model. The following is a description of the results of the analysis.

1. Analysis Stage

This stage identifies the need for an online-based system. The analysis carried out is the analysis of user needs and device requirements.

This analysis aims to obtain information about users’ needs in accessing the google new student registration form. The following is an excerpt from an interview with one of the prospective new students of the Darul Falah Tulungagung Islamic boarding school and the parents of the students:


The results of the needs analysis explain that the difficulties faced by prospective new students are the ability to use information technology and parents of students. Those who are not from the technology literate group will require a third party to register. Even though you already have the facilities and complete data at registration, knowledge and mastery of technology are also needed.

b. Device Needs Analysis

The device is the main requirement in conducting an online-based system. The instrument used will determine the decision in carrying out the plans that have been made in implementing an
online-based system. The results of the analysis of device requirements can be seen in chart 2.

Hypothesis testing in this study is as many as seven hypotheses stating the effect of exogenous variables on endogenous variables is carried out through a structural model if P-Value < 0.05, then the relationship is significant and vice versa. The results of the structural model coefficient analysis can be seen in the following table.

Chart 2. System Requirements Analysis

Chart 2 shows the system requirements for the new student registration process. Admin requires Islamic boarding schools, such as achievement data, institutional management data, and the institution's Vision & Mission. Data entry for prospective students only includes account registration, registration, and uploading the required data. The registration process can be done anywhere and anytime so that the Covid-19 pandemic situation does not interfere with the SPSB process at Darul Falah Tulungagung.
2. System Design

The Google Form application is designed simply by the provider (Google company) so that it is easy to apply for users. The use of these applications also does not require a lot of money. Thus, this google form is considered the easiest and friendliest for prospective new students of Darul Fallah.

3. Implementation

The implementation stage is the stage of implementing the system design determined based on the needs analysis. The SPSB team conveyed the google form link through the pesantren website. Prospective new students who will register at Darul Falah must first open the pesantren website. The appearance of the website can be seen in Figure 1.

![Figure 1. Main Page of Darul Falah Islamic Boarding School Website](image)

The entire SPSB process, from registration using the google form, file submission, selection to the announcement stage, is carried out through the website. Students who want to register do not have a unique link to write but must enter the main website. It aims to introduce Darul Falah to prospective students before becoming part of Darul Falah. Thus, prospective students register and understand Darul Falah (Tf, 2021).
After the website display appears, students click PPDB and can choose what information is needed regarding the admission of new students. If a prospective student wants to register immediately, he must click "Register" so that a google form display will appear, such as Figures 2 and 3, to register for new student registration.

**Figure 2.**
Google New Santri Registration Form (Filling in prospective student data)

**Figure 3.** Google New Student Registration Form (send required documents)
The new student registration page contains menus consisting of personal data and the completeness of the files. As are necessary for the registration, Files must be uploaded according to the menu provided. Thus, prospective new students do not need to come to the Islamic boarding school to complete the registration file during this pandemic.

4. Verification/Test

At this stage, the program function will be tested. There are two ways of trying the system determined, namely internal testing and external testing. The internal testing stage consists of an assessment of 3 test units, namely the menu display, the availability of pages according to the menu, and log-in access for admins according to needs. The results of internal testing can be seen in table 1.

Table 1. Internal Test (Researcher, 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Unit Test</th>
<th>Achievement Target</th>
<th>Applied Result</th>
<th>Compatibility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Menu</td>
<td>Can display the new student registration menu</td>
<td>The system can display the PSB menu</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Page</td>
<td>Pages according to the menu display</td>
<td>Enter the PSB page according to your choice</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>Can display the admin log-in menu</td>
<td>Log-in as admin</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

External testing was carried out by conducting direct interviews with several sources which could be found and understood the new student admission system used at Darul Falah Tulungagung. External test results can be seen in Table 2.
Table 2. External Test (Researcher, 2021)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>NN (new student)</th>
<th>NN's Father</th>
<th>BS (new student)</th>
<th>CA (new student)</th>
<th>AA (website manager)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Google registration form can be used easily</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Website display is easy to understand</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Registration information is easy to find</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
<td>v</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The external testing results indicate that prospective new students do not have problems accessing the website and carrying out the registration process for new students. However, it is different from the parents of students who have difficulty accessing the website because they do not master technology and do not understand the website’s contents.

5. Maintenance

This stage is done by updating the application and always being ready to handle when the system experiences problems. The existence of an admin indicates that the system is given to officers who master their fields and understand the system they are holding.

DISCUSSION

Using an online-based new student registration system makes it easier for new students to carry out the registration process. Especially when prospective students register, use the google form application on the Islamic boarding school website page. The presented display is light and fast, making it easier and quicker for the registration process.

This google form application is quite familiar among academics because the served pages are light and fast. However, for some people, especially parents, this google form application is still rarely accessed, making it difficult to use. The menus presented on the website are straightforward to understand.
It is difficult for the older generation of society to master the technology that is developing. Even when faced with easy and light applications, they are still challenging to use. When faced with technology, they tend to take a long time to understand its use.

The use of technology in accepting new students is the authority of the pesantren, especially the manager of the student department. Even though it is done online, the pesantren has experienced obstacles and carrying capacity when accepting new students. These obstacles include:

1. Lack of coordination between activity committees is done online using the Whatsapp application and zoom meeting.
2. Many schools have not received socialization from Islamic boarding schools because of the current corona pandemic.
3. Prospective new students have signal problems when registering because many prospective students come from areas with internet network difficulties.

The application of registration that changes from offline to online is quite awaited by some new students because there is no need to come directly to the pesantren. This change tends to be favored by prospective new students who are Generation Z with their nature of wanting everything to be easy. This convenience can be felt by presenting an online registration process that can provide savings in various aspects.

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit the world for more than two years. All sectors have also felt the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The education sector, especially Islamic boarding schools, is no exception. Registration of new students is also adjusted to the current conditions. Restrictions on activities carried out make services that can initially be done manually have to be done online. Darul Falah Tulungagung has implemented a new student registration service online through the google form found on the main pesantren website. This system will make it easier for new students to register during the Covid-19 pandemic.

With the new admission information system at Darul Falah Tulungagung integrating diploma number validation, the service process can be more straightforward and get optimal results. This system can select regular paths and achievements based on the policies and conditions set by the
Islamic Boarding School. Prospective new students can find out the class distribution information that the new student admissions committee has issued through the system.

The Web-Based (Online) New Student Admission System in Darul Falah Tulungagung can handle the registration activities of prospective students. The main output of this system is to present the results of prospective new students registrants via the internet or online media and ease of registration without having to come in person. There is a system that can perform data input, filter registrant data. The web-based admission information system for new students via Google Form is a new means of accepting new students. The web-based admissions information system for new students through Google Forms helps administrative tasks process every incoming student candidate data. The system also helps prospective students who want to register online without coming to Darul Falah Tulungagung.

CONCLUSION

The new student registration system at Darul Falah Tulungagung is carried out using the website. This website has a link that connects to the google form to register for new student registration. This system is innovation and service provided by Islamic boarding schools during the Covid-19 pandemic. Test results internally and externally also show promising results in every menu and page presented on the website. The use of the online system that has been tested can be declared transparent, easy and efficient in its use.

Furthermore, Islamic boarding schools need to make their unique system for conducting the registration process for new students outside the school website. It can also make it easier and faster for prospective new students to get information related to registration. If it is connected to the main website, it is pretty difficult for prospective students because it contains much information on new student admissions.
REFERENCES


