The Evaluation of Ed-Link Implementation in Teaching Students at STAIN Majene

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1. Introduction

Information technology is rapidly developed in the current era of globalization. An example of the technology is the development of website technology which has a big impact, especially internet users. Along with the development of website technology that is getting widely, the number of websites is increasing and the impact that often occurs among students is difficult in finding material that are exactly same as those taught by their lecturers. Thus, a platform is needed to accommodate the material taught by the lecturer so that students can access it anytime and anywhere. In this era of information technology, most university
students nowadays also have access to the internet as their university provides internet access. University students are mostly independent in their learning as lecturers usually give out lecture notes, and further information are left for the students to discover on their own. Online learning is one of the 14 learning principles regulated in (Kemendikbud, 2016) number 22, learning can be delivered anyways by utilizing technology and communication.

One of the methods that can be used to accommodate learning materials is the Learning Management System (LMS). The Learning Management System (LMS) has been applied to help students and lecturers without the confines of the traditional classroom. LMS has been applied by several universities, such as Indonesian Education University that applied LMS Moodle, Makassar Public University that applied SYAM-OK (System and Application Management Open Knowledge), Hasanuddin University that applied SIKOLA LMS, UIN Alauddin University that applied LMS flowchar design, and etc. It is a portal that enables lecturers and students to interact out of the classroom, having discussions through forums that could otherwise take up too much of the time supposed to be spent learning in the classroom.

As well as one of the universities in Indonesia, STAIN Majene has started to use LMS to support the learning process. The LMS in STAIN Majene is officially used in the early 2022. Ed-Link is a Learning Management System (LMS) that is developed by STAIN Majene in the Sevima siakad cloud (Academic Information System). This LMS is useful in learning management such as attendance, delivery material, collect assignment and student learning outcomes and also the other administrations. This link is available on the siakad account of every students and lecturer so that they can access it anytime and anywhere by using internet network to connect. The existence of Ed-Link as a learning Management System is also support the development of ICT-based Learning among students and lecturers at STAIN Majene. Technology that is increasingly developing needs to be used as an innovation in learning to motivate students in learning process. As newly established university, this is certainly the most important aspect in developing the learning process for ICT-Based at STAIN Majene campus.

Currently, lecturers at STAIN Majene are starting to use Ed-Link LMS in teaching and learning process in the classroom. Interestingly, students will not only access it during learning process with the lecturer, but they can access it anytime and anywhere when they need. Procurement of Ed-Link as LMS in STAIN Majene requires as a fairly high cost, and as a new campus in the province of West Sulawesi, this is a great achievement for a university. Seeing from the function of Ed-Link as Learning Management System, of course this really helps the academic process. Therefore, it is very unfortunate if Ed-Link is not used properly. This is the background so that the researchers is interested to conduct this research under the title “The Evaluation of Ed-Link Implementation Ed-Link as LMS in Teaching Students at STAIN Majene”

2. Methods

Qualitative descriptive method used by the researchers in conducting this research. Qualitative research is a research with procedures that produces descriptive data in the form of writings, utterances, and the behaviour of people who are observed through an individual, group, society, or even an organization in
a certain context which is studied with a complete perspective (Raco, 2018). This research also used descriptive method to examine the current state of a group of people, an object, a set of conditions, a system of thought, or a series of events. A descriptive qualitative approach is a research approach that aims to describe or uncover and solve problems with quality measurement or the quality of the object of research in a systematic or factual and accurate manner, and not emphasize the value in the form of numbers natural method (Anggit, 2013).

The data were collected by carrying out by observing, interviewing, and documenting. This research aims to find the Implementation of Ed-Link LMS in teaching students at STAIN Majene. The researchers used purposive sampling in conducting this research. Purposive sampling is a nonprobability sampling technique where the researchers relies on their direction to choose variables for the sample population. Purposive sampling was used in this study, because based on the results of observations in the field. It was found that only a few of lecturers actively used Ed-Link in teaching and learning process in the classroom. So, the researchers chose the lecturer who used Ed-Link the most and select the students from the class taught by that lecturer. Here, the entire sampling process depends on the researchers’s judgment and knowledge of the context. The research subject in this study is six lecturers who are representatives from each department in STAIN Majene, and also six students from each department. The object of this research is to know the Implementation of Ed-Link as LMS in Teaching Students.

3. Findings and Discussions

This research was conducted for one month, from June 27th to 27th July 2022. Firstly, the researchers began the observation on June 27th to 2nd July 2022 and conducted the observations in four Classes. In the observation activity, the researchers joined the learning process in the classroom. Then, on 10th July 2022, the researchers started to interview students and the lecturer. Observational data, student interviews and lecturer interviews were used to obtain the research findings and answered the research question.

3.1 Findings

The Implementation of Ed-Link

Observations were conducted on June 27th-27th July 2022. At the first, the researchers took permission from the lecturer to join the class. After that, the researchers followed the class and observed the learning process. The observation method that the researchers used is unstructured observation, so the researchers monitored all aspects of the phenomena that seem relevant to the problem at the implementation of Ed-Link, how the lecturer teach them, and delivered the materials during the class. The researchers also interviewed six students and six lecturers which consist from each department of STAIN Majene. The reason why the researchers chose six students and six lecturers was that the results had been saturated.
The researchers also interviewed six students and six lecturers which consist from each department of STAIN Majene. The reason why the researchers chose six students and six lecturers was that the results had been saturated. These interviews have been conducted to gain answers on how is the implementation of Ed-Link in teaching students at STAIN Majene. The interview results described based on the features as follows:

In this section, the researchers asked lecturers about their perception of Ed-Link as Learning Management system (LMS) that is connected to SIAKAD STAIN Majene. The lecturers give their perception about Ed-Link and based on what they get while teaching using Ed-Link.

“Ed link is a learning application that is integrated with SIAKAD cloud. So the data entered in the SIAKAD account will be read automatically in Ed-Link.” (NH)

“Ed-Link is an e-learning owned by Stain Majene which is an application from the collaboration with SEVIMA. So Ed-link is a learning medium which is uses the internet network.” (IS)

“Ed-Link is a digital-based media or platform that makes it easier for lecturers and students in the lecture process.” (AN)

From the perspective of lecturers above, researchers can conclude that Ed-Link is an application that becomes an e-learning-based learning media that is used to facilitate the learning process. Ed-Link is intended for the world of education to help implement better and easier learning by relying on collaboration.
between lecturers and students. This application is very suitable for use by lecturers and will certainly help full in administration process.

There are several features in Ed-link, as follows:

1. Learning Material

This feature is a feature for sending learning material. Lecturers could send the learning material, and students will get notifications in their account to open the material, as said by the informants:

“The learning material feature is for inputting material. In this feature, you can upload material in the form of PDF, PPT, MP4, and video and can also only share links and students can access material through the link that has been sent to this feature. In this feature, we can upload material before class starts, so students can access the material and study it before class starts.” (NH)

“Lecturers send learning module materials, or provide links for learning via zoom.” (Students)

Based on the explanation of informants above, the researchers can conclude that the learning material features are used to send learning materials based on their respective classes. Lecturers can send material in the form of PDF, word, excel, PPT files and others before the class started, and learn before enter the class. The submitted material can not only be accessed online via Ed-Link but can be downloaded so that it can be accessed offline. However, the file is also stored properly in Ed-Link, so they can learn it when they need wherever and wherever.

2. Assignment

This feature is a feature for send assignment from the lecturer and also for submit students assignment, as said by the informants:

“When the class is about to end or before it ends, usually there will be assignments that will be given directly on Ed-Link with the submission deadline included.” (Student)

In the assignment feature section, the lecturer can set the deadline for collecting assignments, so students will still be able to be disciplined in collecting assignments according to the time determined by the lecturer in the course, as said by one of the lecturers during the interview.

“In this feature, we can give a deadline for the collection of assignments, and when the time limit has been set, it will automatically close itself and students cannot submit their assignments again, so here also train student discipline ”(NH)

From the interview explanation above, the researchers can conclude that this feature is a feature for assigning assignments where the lecturer will send the assignment form and set the deadline for submitting then students will collect it before the deadline. The problem that often affects students' score is from assignments, sometimes lecturers also give a score depending on the time of collection of assignments, when students quickly collect assignments, and their scores will automatically be different from students who are late in submitting assignments. Here it is also possible to give score directly by the lecturer so that
students can see their respective scores. So here students will pay more attention to the time of collecting their assignments so that they will be more disciplined.

3. Quiz

This feature is a feature for giving quiz as a games evaluation of learning to students. This quiz will be filled by the lecturer with questions and along with several answer choices. As said by the informant:

“In this feature, we will fill in questions and answer choices as student practice material” (HN)

This quiz feature is very helpful in the learning process, such as in the evaluation process at the end of the lesson. However, due to several obstacles in maximizing the use of the feature, this feature has not been used by lecturers in the learning process as said by the informant:

“There is also a quiz feature, but I haven’t used it yet because I don’t really need it, and students aren’t really able to use Ed-Link. (AN)

Based on the information above, the author can conclude that this feature has not been used at all because so far in the learning process students need adaptation to this new application and lecturers only use the features they need most in the learning process.

4. Live Conference

This feature is a feature to do learning process through virtual videos. In this feature, is same as other live conference features such as zoom and Google meet, as said by the informants:

“This feature is for conducting learning through live video but this is still limited because of the limited campus funding so access to live video conference is also still limited to only 40 minutes. (NH)

“Live conference, this is a zoom feature to do learning via video but the time is limited to only 40 minutes.” (IS)

From the statements above, the researchers can conclude that this feature is to do learning through video to support distance learning or online learning, but the time is limited, which is only 40 minutes. Seeing the existing situation and conditions, the learning process after going through distance learning due to COVID-19 has returned to face-to-face learning in the classroom, so this feature is not used.

5. Information

This feature section, the lecturer can provide information and it will appear in the section home Ed-Link. The display of this feature looks like the homepage on Facebook account, as said by the informant:

“Ed-link is a kind of social media, so when uploading any material or information, it will appear on the homepage of each student’s account and they can comment, and give likes to the post” (FH)

So, this feature is to provide information to students. The information entered by the lecturer will appear on the Ed-Link homepage of each student and will be
known through notifications in each account. Here, students can comment or like the information on the homepage.

6. Survey

This feature is to conduct a survey. As said by the informant:

“In the survey feature section, it can be done by lecturers and students. When it comes to surveys during the learning process, students can fill in based on the direction of the lecturer concerned. (NH)

So this feature is for conducting surveys and this is a part for lecturers when they want to conduct a survey, this also can be accessed by students if the lecturer involves students in the survey. Moreover, the use of the Ed-Link application has only been in the last few months, and there is nothing to survey so this feature is not used, but in the future it will be easier if there are activities to conduct surveys.

Based on the results of interviews with lecturers and students regarding Ed-Link, there are two perceptions that found by the researchers and they are positive and negative perception.

a. Positive perception:

Ed-link is easy to access and also makes the learning process paperless because all files that require paper can be accessed in the form of soft files in the Ed-Link application.

“So with this Ed-link everything makes it easier, so it's paper less. It's easier to open on a laptop or on a cell phone." (FH)

“This is a practical matter because usually the material given by the lecturer must be photocopied, but with this Ed-Link, it must be used as best as possible to destroy lectures in class. (WI)

From the result of the interview, researchers can conclude that with the Ed-Link application, lecturers and students are easy to access and can no longer to use paper. For example, for printing or photo copying lecture materials. All files that have been uploaded in Ed-Link can be accessed via soft file. And also this is very practical because all files will be stored properly, so everything can be accessed through the soft file and also this is very practical because all files will be stored properly without fear of losing the files.

b. Negative Perception

Ed-Link in its general function is very easy for lecturers and students, but there are also some complaints from lecturers and students when they first use Ed-Link. Some of these complaints were conveyed during the interviews.

“Students are sometimes overwhelmed when entering Ed-link, they sometimes ask how to open the material, how to submit assignments, etc. So I usually screen shot the procedure." (FH)

“Ed-link is easy for lecturers, but if they are students they still need more direction because there is no socialization yet." (AN)

Based on the statement from the students, it can be concluded that Ed-Link is not easy to access by several students. Students feel over helmed in access Ed-link. From the complaints submitted by students and lecturers above, the
researchers can conclude that Ed-Link is a new platform used in the STAIN Majene academic environment. Currently only a few lecturers use it in teaching and there are still many students who are confused when they first access Ed-Link because they have not been able to adapt. Students are not used to it because of their habit of always learning with the lecture or conventional classroom learning method, so they have not been able to master technology quickly. And also there is no socialization from campus about the way to use Ed-link. This is an evaluation material for the university because before use Ed-link, there should have been socialization to lecturers and students regarding this application, so that obstacles do not occur in the learning process.

3.2 Discussions

Based on the results of research, it can be seen that lecturers used Ed-Link as Learning Management System to conduct learning process. This is in accordance with the statement of Abdul Hamid (2019) that: Learning Management System in this case can be regarded as e-learning for students in schools, namely 1) students have the opportunity to learn independently without any limitations of space and time; 2) learning resources for students are not limited to one source, but can be obtained from a variety of different sources; 3) students through virtual classes can freely repeat material that they have not understood in conventional learning on a regular basis; 4) students will be more motivated to learn because there are many innovations that can be done in virtual classrooms, depending on how teachers make innovations in learning that are able to make students interested in the material they teach. This requires teacher and students to continue to carry out the teaching and learning process with the help of online media that can support learning process.

Based on the results of observations and interviews, it is known that the learning process by using Ed-Link as a platform media, includes 3 stages, namely first, preparation where the Lecturer need to synchronizing his personal SIAKAD account with Ed-Link. The account synchronization process starts by logging into the SIAKAD account then syncing the account with Ed-Link. Second, the implementation includes preliminary activities in learning that begin with opening by saying greetings "... Assalamu'alaikum wr wb ...", "good morning", and students are required to respond it quietly. Lecturer also takes attendance by filling out a list name in the form of Ed-Link presence. Next is the core activity, the lecturer gives directions to login to Ed-Link and access the learning materials that have been sent. The last step is a closing activity which ends with greetings and the assignment by informing that the assignment is sent via Ed-link and also collected there. "...Well, that's all for today's meeting, don't forget to submit your assignment before the deadline. Thank you, let's end the lesson, Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakaatu". Third, the evaluation process is carried out by asking again or repeating the material that has been studied to see whether students have understood the material or not. This is in accordance with the opinion Nursyaidah (2019) that there are three stages in the learning process, namely planning, implementation and evaluation. The three stages are carried out by teachers and students before, during and after learning.
Based on the results of observations and interviews conducted with students and lecturer, it is known that there are several features in Ed-link, and in this section the researchers will give the evaluation on the Implementation of Ed-link in teaching process. They are:

Evaluation of the Implementation of Ed-Link: The evaluation process is carried out to know whether the Implementation of Ed-Link is effective or not in teaching process and whether the Ed-link as learning management system is quite good than other platform. This is in accordance with Supriyadi (2011) that evaluation is an activity or process of determining the value of education so that its quality and results can be known. The results of interview and observation that conducted by researchers, it was found that there are evaluation for teaching process and evaluation for the Ed-link application.

Evaluation teaching process

Based on the result of observation that related to the implementation of Ed-Link in the learning process at the classroom, lecturers are less than optimal in using Ed-Link because of the four classes occupied by the researchers to conduct research there are only three features used, which are attendance feature, learning material feature, and assignment feature.

The result of the interview also show that lecturers and students only use Ed-link as a data repository, for example, for absenteeism, it is only to store students attendance data carried out by lecturers, while for the feature of providing material, it is only the provision of material is also only used to store teaching materials and for assignment feature it is only used to store student assignment as not to scattered.

“Ed-Link only used as a medium for collect materials and assignment” (YA)

So based on the statements above, it can be concluded that the lecturer did not maximize the use of Ed-link in the teaching and learning process at the classroom. They did not use all the features and were considered not innovative in using existing on Ed-Link, even though the university has paid for this application features at an expensive price. So it really unfortunate if Ed-Link is not use properly.

Evaluation of Ed-Link

1. Learning material

This feature is used to submit material in the form of word, PDF, excel, PPT, audio and video. This is acquired with the statement Learning management systems are used for E-Learning purposes, which enable adult learners to acquire college education face-to-face or through distance learning (Cudanov et al., 2012).

The function of this feature is the same as other platforms such as google classroom, which can also store learning materials. Moreover, the types of material mentioned above can also be accessed directly by students when the lecturer sends via whatsapp, blootooth, or even just transfers the files from the lecturer’s computer to the student’s computer.

“Lecturers in using Ed-Link are by sending learning module materials, providing links for learning via zoom, sending assignments” (AA)
Based on the function of this feature, it turns out that it is still same as other platforms where students are used to using it and also other platforms do not cost much compared to Ed-Link. And also, in this feature you cannot receive audio material in MP3 format, as conveyed by the informant.

“I have to send material in audio form and Ed-Link doesn’t provide MP3, so I have to convert it to MP4 before it can be uploaded. Students can download materials that have been sent so they can access them offline.” (FH)

So this will certainly be an evaluation material for Ed-Link application that there is no uniqueness that makes it more superior compared to other application.

2. Assignment

This feature is used to give and submit assignment from lecturers and students. As expressed by Kumari that The learning management system platforms have learning tools and resources which enable adult learners to complete and submit assigned tasks for evaluation and grading by the instructor. (Kumari, 2016). The function of this feature is exactly same as GOOGLE classroom platform. The deadline to collect the assignment could be set.

“Lecturer send assignments on Ed-link then we as students will also submit them according to the specified time” (WI)

Based on the result of the interviews from the informant above, it can be concluded that the function of this feature is no different from other platforms, such as GOOGLE CLASSROOM and WHATSAPP which only includes materials and assignments. This will certainly be an evaluation material because Ed-link has been paid with high cost by the university. But unfortunately its function is same as other platforms that are not paid.

3. Quiz

This feature is used to give quizzes to students as practice or evaluation material. Lecturers will fill in questions and answer choices into this feature manually and determine an answer. Based on the result of observations and interviews, it was found that this feature has not been used it is not needed in the teaching and learning process. And also students still over helmed in the process of accessing Ed-link, so the lecturer thinks that the use of this feature does not support the effectiveness of the teaching and learning process at the classroom because to find out the learning outcome, the lecturers did not use evaluations in the form of multiple choice questions. Therefore this feature is not needed by the lecturer.

“There is also a quiz feature, but I haven’t used it yet because I don’t really need it, and students aren’t really able to use Ed-Link.” (AN)

“There are even some feature that I don’t use because cannot be matched by students like Quiz “ (HN)

This is in accordance with Rastina (2020) with the development of technology that we cannot ignore and of course because technology is increasingly being used by individuals, it will form our habits and dependence on technology. So, in various activities we must adapt to technological developments.
4. Live conference

This feature is used to do learning process by using video that support distance learning. Based on the result of observation and interview, this feature has drawbacks, which is only has forty minutes for the time. And that time is not cover one credit which has fifty minutes, while each subject has an average of two credits in each meeting. Lecturers prefer to use the other platform such as ZOOM MEETING or GOOGLE MEET when conducted virtual learning. Based on the result found from this feature, it can be concluded that this feature is not optimal in helping the effectiveness of learning process. So the evaluation for this feature is the need to upgrade this feature so that it can be maximized.

"The time duration for the video features is still very limited, so I prefer to use other alternatives" (MR)

"Ed-link has not fulfilled teaching needs, for example in the limited live conference feature. So maybe here it needs to be upgraded to fulfill the use in learning according to the credits." (IS)

This is justified in the statement about E-learning that E-learning is a learning activity that uses networks (Internet, LAN, WAN) as a means of delivering, interacting, and providing various forms of learning services and other supporting methods (Brown, 2000)

From the statement, the researchers concludes that Ed-Link as a learning management system has several features that support the learning process in the classroom. Ed-Link facilitates the learning process, assists the administrative process and becomes an alternative online learning that can be accessed anytime and anywhere.

4. Conclusion

Based on the research, it can be concluded that Ed-link has several features, they are learning material, assignment, quiz, live video conference, information, and survey. There are also positive and negative perceptions about Ed-link from the informants. The positive perception showed that lecturers and students are easy to access Ed-link, and this is very practical.the negative perception showed that Ed-Link is not easy to access by several students. Students feel over helmed in access Ed-link. From that statements, researcher give evaluation in teaching process and evaluation of the features in Ed-link. The evaluation in teaching process showed that lecturer did not maximize to use Ed-link in the teaching and learning process at the classroom. They did not use all the features and were considered not innovative in using existing on Ed-Link, even though the university has paid for this application features at an expensive price. And the evaluation for the feature showed that the feature is not optimal in helping the effectiveness of learning process such as live video conference feature that only has forty minutes and it does not cover the credit of each subjects, so it is need to upgrade this feature so that it can be maximized. And also some features such as learning material, assignment, and quiz are same with the other platforms. This will certainly be an evaluation material because Ed-link has been paid with high cost by the university. But unfortunately its function is same as other platforms that are not paid.
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