Strategies for Parent Involvement During Distance Learning in Arabic Lessons in Elementary Schools

Amanda Kartel 1, Malcolm Charles 2, Hilsheimer Xiao 3, Debasish Sundi 4

1 Concordia University, Canada
2 DePaul University, United States
3 Deakin University, Australia
4 University of Warwick, United Kingdom

Corresponding Author: Amanda Kartel, E-mail: amandakartel@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This study aims to find various obstacles, describe, and provide strategies for parents when accompanying and providing direction to their children in distance learning. The method used in this research is the interview method. Interview, observation, listening, and note-taking techniques are data collection techniques used. The results of this study indicate that there are barriers for parents in distance learning. Among them are difficult internet signals, expensive internet quotas, and parents who are not able to fully guide and understand the material, so you have to ask your friends directly. The role of parents is very conducive to the academic success of a child. Always encourage and have innovations in child supervision so that children do not feel bored or even stressed in learning. There needs to be smooth coordination between parents and teachers. This assessment is needed to improve student learning outcomes. In the application of the home learning system, parents play an important role in the student learning process in the distance learning process at home today.

Keywords: Arabic Lessons, Distance Learning, Elementary Schools

INTRODUCTION

The role of people during a pandemic like this has many responsibilities for learning from home activities which have become government policies. Parents, together with children and teachers, play an important role in re-creating children's learning rights as they should. The interaction between children and parents will have a
positive impact on the development of future generations of children. As the time for playing and studying at home is decreasing, parents must strengthen their children's learning discipline skills. Not infrequently, when children learn, they lose the fun of playing at home. In this context, the role of parents is needed so that they continue to accompany the learning from home process (Yulianingsih et al.) existing. Communication (Burgoon et al., 2021) between parents and children is very important in the early stages of learning. Because parents are the first teachers to children (Baiocco et al., 2020), guidance and gratitude to children are very important in the development of children's education. For this reason, when learning is carried out, parents are the most important key in the process of encouraging children to learn. As a parent, it is important to understand the child's educational process provided by the teacher and how well the child is doing (Gurcan & Cagiltay, 2020) distance learning program.

One of the most important things parents can do is to encourage their children's growth and development, especially in terms of academic achievement and motivation. In other words, a child's motivation depends on the thoughts, treatment and care of his parents, as well as his environment (Phoenix et al., 2020). Being a parent in the era of globalization is indeed not easy (Parc, 2020), especially if parents hope and want their children to be not only smart but also obedient and follow the applicable rules. Surrendering education completely to the school (Kuhfeld et al., 2020) is not enough, especially during a pandemic that forces children to study at home online. Mentoring people to children consists of behavior (Faria-e-Castro, 2021), assistance in attitude, assistance in speaking, assistance in worship, and assistance in learning. These forms of assistance are also in line with those carried out by parents at elementary school, including building a sense of empathy (Decety, 2020), giving trust, setting good examples, giving Arabs a sense of responsibility and appreciation and reinforcement.

Accompanying children in the learning process can help develop children's relationships with their parents (Nofrika, 2022). An important thing for parents to do is raising and motivating children (Kwok et al., 2020) to provide a safe environment for them to study, discuss, and ask questions. Therefore, the role of parents as substitute teachers in schools is to teach and motivate children to learn (Lin et al., 2020) becomes very important (Wentzel, 2020). There are four roles of parents in distance learning (Bokayev et al., 2021), namely: 1) Parents have a role as teachers at home (Bubb & Jones, 2020), where parents can guide their children in learning remotely from home; 2) Parents as facilitators (Norheim & Moser, 2020), namely parents as facilities and infrastructure for their children in implementing distance learning; 3) Parents as motivators (Bubb & Jones, 2020), namely parents can provide enthusiasm and support to their children in carrying out learning, so that children have the enthusiasm to learn, and get good achievements. and 4) Parents as influence or director.

Parents and teachers should work together to help children with homework (Fonseca, 2021), especially elementary school students who are bored with studying and don't want to do homework from their teachers. The role of parents has an important
role in helping teachers who are struggling and helping their children achieve good academic results (Weinfeld et al., 2021). All elements of education are required to be able to provide learning facilities so that they can continue to run well even though it is done remotely. Parents are required to be able to guide children to learn from home and be able to replace teachers at school, so the role of parents in achieving online learning goals and guiding children during their learning is achieved. In the current pandemic period, parents and teachers have a great responsibility to educate elementary school children. Education during the pandemic is really different from before the pandemic.

Primary school-age children’s education basically includes all the efforts and actions of teachers and parents in the process of nurturing and educating children by creating an environment in which children (Bokayev et al., 2021; Decety, 2020; Lui et al., 2020) can explore experiences that provide opportunities to know and understand the learning experiences they get through the learning environment.

The face-to-face learning period (Lazarevic & Bentz, 2021) set by the government is aimed at all levels of education, from Kindergarten (TK) to university. This alternative was chosen due to the development of industrial revolution 4.0. This industrial revolution supports the implementation of distance learning carried out at home because distance learning is learning that eliminates time and distance with the help of a platform. (Peer et al., 2020) internet-based digital that can support learning to be carried out without any physical relationship between teachers and students.

At the end of 2019, the transmission of Covid-19 (Bokayev et al., 2021) spread rapidly. To prevent transmission from person to person, the government has issued a policy to carry out all activities at home to break the chain of the spread of Covid-19. Distance learning is carried out starting from the education level (Darling-Hammond, 2020) from Kindergarten (TK) to college. The transformation of elementary school-aged children's education learning, usually conventional (Vera et al., 2020), has become technology-based and mass-produced. Distance learning is actually not a new phenomenon in education in Indonesia. At college, University Open is accustomed to applying technology-based learning (Blankesteijn et al., 2021) and distance learning. This online teaching and learning situation has its own advantages, disadvantages, and limitations. The advantage of distance learning is the lack of budget (Huang et al., 2020), costs incurred for transportation from home to school (low cost) (Zhou et al., 2020), learning time (Joy & Pillai, 2021) is not rigid so that you can communicate and study anytime with the teacher (Darling-Hammond, 2020), Distance learning is not limited by space and distance. Students can access learning (Setiawan et al., 2020) from any source, and broad student access (Williams et al., 2020) and not limited by location. The advantages and disadvantages of distance learning for students, of course, vary depending on the area where the student (Strelan et al., 2020) attends school. There are always various advantages and disadvantages this distance learning and to be evaluated (Plompen et al., 2020) so that in the future, the world of education will be more advanced.
The results of this study are in line with the role of parents in children's lives as a facilitator, motivators, educators, mentors, protectors, and mentors. Good parents are parents who express love and affection, listen to children, help children feel safe, teach rules and boundaries, praise children, avoid criticism by focusing on behavior, are always consistent (Aoki et al., 2020), and spend time for children and provide spiritual understanding. In principle, parents (McQuillan et al., 2020) are Arab's responsibility to protect, educate, and nurture children. In general, parents are classified as mentors, educators, custodians, developers, and supervisors for their children. Specifically (Zhao et al., 2020) shows that the role of parents is to take care to ensure that children do assignments, carry out activities together while at home, create a comfortable environment for children, establish intense communication with children, be a role model for children, and guide and motivate children (Tezza et al., 2020). The role of parents towards children includes mentoring children, providing opportunities or trust, providing supervision so that children remain in good supervision and direction, providing motivation, directing children, and providing effective care and learning.

Based on the results of data analysis that learning assistance for children at elementary school parents always do. It is proven by Arabian parents at elementary school, who always prefer Arabian. Mentoring is an activity carried out through coaching, teaching, and directing individuals or groups. Learning is a factor that plays an important role in personal formation and individual behavior. The term learning mentoring (Denary et al., 2021) is closely related to the process and results of children's learning because mentoring is defined as a guidance that is closer to the intended subject, especially in terms of children's learning development. The assistance provided by parents at home can increase children's learning motivation (Choi & Cho, 2020). Mentoring is an effort made by educators both individually and collaboratively (Ansari & Khan, 2020) for the growth and development of children.

In this study, it was stated that child learning assistance (Rahmadani et al., 2021) includes helping children do their work, as a place for children to learn, explaining and providing explanations about the material being implemented, giving a good response to learning from school. Learning assistance (Zahabi et al., 2020) can shape the character of children (Shalev et al., 2020) who are able to do the tasks that have been ordered from school, are able to practice learning at home, and are responsive to creating works as learning implementations (Basir et al., 2021). This is in accordance with the explanation that the assistance of children in the family is realized through education (Carr, 2021) and parenting tips in educating children (Majoko & Dudu, 2020) so that they become better individuals in terms of growth and development. The function of learning assistance is to support and provide psychological satisfaction values for children so that children are happier to learn, do not experience boredom and minimize learning disorders (Matteucci & Soncini, 2021) that can arise in the future. The more intense parental learning assistance to children, the better the learning outcomes they will achieve, and conversely, the less mentoring parents provide, the less good the learning outcomes will be.
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The method used in this research is the interview method. Interview, observation, listening, and note-taking techniques are data collection techniques used in this study. The results of this study indicate that there are obstacles for parents in online/distance learning (Azhari & Fajri, 2022), including: sometimes the internet signal is difficult, internet limits are expensive, and parents cannot guide and understand all the material provided by the teacher, so have to ask directly to his friends. The very conducive role of parents is also needed for the academic success of a child. Always encourage and suggest innovation in child supervision so that children do not feel bored or even stressed in learning. It is necessary to have smooth coordination between parents and teachers. Assessment is needed to improve student learning outcomes (Logan et al., 2021). Researching in this way makes it easier for researchers to find or dig up information about the influence of the harmonious relationship between parents (Li & Liu, 2020) on children's independence when distance learning and this method is able to help researchers get a lot of things from articles, books and documents. - related documents. The research begins by determining the problem to be studied, namely the role of parents in motivating children to learn in distance learning. Researchers conducted an Arabian analysis to be able to get conclusions regarding the strategies of parents in assisting children's learning when distance learning takes place. The subjects of this study were Arabic teachers, parents, and students at elementary school.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research that has been done, it was found that there are several methods, approaches and strategies that can be used by parents to help their children study remotely at home during the pandemic. Learning from home is a teaching and learning activity carried out from home that requires direct guidance from parents. Therefore the role of parents is very important in the running of distance learning. With the government's policy to work from home and study at home, the role of parents as substitute teachers is very important. Therefore, in this case, parents need to spend time with their children and guide their children to learn so that their children's lessons or school materials are not left behind. Parents are the first and foremost teachers for children who have a very important role. Even in research, it is proven that parents who have involvement with colleagues between families, schools, and communities, as well as increase parental awareness of the benefits of involvement in the education of their children and guide them in children's skills. Cooperation between families, schools and communities redefines the boundaries and functions of education. Enhancing the capacity of parental assistance and authority. And create an atmosphere where children learn more effectively and comfortably.

In the distance learning process, the parents who will become teachers or educators, as well as guide the children, are the children themselves. Therefore, a parenting strategy is needed that is creative and not monotonous in teaching their
Strategies for Parent Involvement During Distance Learning in Arabic Lessons in Elementary Schools

children. One of them is by inviting children to seek knowledge from outside or in the natural surroundings because elementary school students will find it difficult to teach with media that are not visible (abstract). Therefore, children will need something that is clear (concrete) and can be seen by children directly and clearly. And one of the things that parents can do is to take their children for a walk around the outdoors while see if there are objects in the learning material. Another way that can be done by parents is to participate in looking for material from other sources to teach their children. Because the material is not explained directly by the teacher, parents find it difficult to explain the material to children, especially parents who have low education. Therefore, parents need to seek information from other sources about the subject matter, either through the Internet, books related to the child's material, YouTube, and other sources related to children's material.

Motivation is very important in education and is needed by children. This motivation serves to provide encouragement to children to stay enthusiastic about learning. In learning during the pandemic, it is important to give motivation so that they remain enthusiastic even though they are studying during the pandemic. Children who have a strong motivation to learn will be more active in learning and full of enthusiasm for learning achievement. Therefore, it is very necessary to give motivation to children. Motivation is not only in the form of giving advice or words of encouragement. Motivation can also be in the form of giving gifts or to children to achieve achievement. Learning is a process that lasts forever where and whenever, both in the school environment and in the community, but in the learning process, it takes intention and support so that the results in learning are easy to understand and easy to remember and give children a kind of enthusiasm to study hard. Therefore, giving motivation and rewards to children can make children more active and enthusiastic about participating in learning.

One of the supporting factors in children's learning motivation is the role of parents. The education of parents in the family is the first and main basis of education. A harmonious and happy family situation will give birth to a good and responsible child for the next generation. The role of parents should be as the first person to lay the foundations of education for their children. With this, family life, especially the role of parents, is the first educational environment that has an important role in determining and fostering the process of child development.

Based on the research that researchers have conducted, children's learning facilities such as books, stationery, and distance learning support facilities such as cellphones and internet quotas have been carried out. Smartphones can also be used by parents and children to find explaining material on the Internet or youtube if your child has difficulty retaining material. If children's learning facilities are adequate, learning can take place well. However, if the facilities provided by parents are not sufficient, studying at home will face many difficulties and obstacles. Barriers arise if children's learning media are not equipped. Because it is incomplete, children will be left behind in understanding the material given because distance learning requires devices such as
smartphones to facilitate interaction between teachers and students. Therefore, it is very important for parents to provide learning equipment and facilities for the implementation of face-to-face and distance learning.

Parents must play an active role in helping and exploring children's difficulties, especially in the implementation of learning from home. When my parents know about my problems and help children overcome difficulties, I feel cared for by their parents. If children feel cared for by their parents, they will feel happy and not afraid when there are problems in learning. The learning process of children can be hampered if parents do not recognize the difficulties faced by children. Therefore, parents should ask their children what difficulties are experienced in learning so that the learning process can run well. If there are no problems in the child's learning, the learning will run smoothly.

The role of parents during the Covid-19 pandemic does not only act as the first and foremost place for children's education in the formation of personality, religious values and character but now also has an additional role as teachers for both children in distance learning. The important role of parents in the learning process at home is to motivate children, create conducive conditions for children's learning, increase children's creativity, supervise children and evaluate learning outcomes. Mentoring children in learning is very important for children, namely to be able to create closeness between parents and children and invite children to find their way of thinking about the diagram.

KMA No. 183 2019 explained that Arabic lessons have the following objectives: 1) Develop Arabic language skills as a global communication tool, both oral and written, including four language skills, namely listening skills (istima'), speaking skills (kalam), reading skills (qira'ah), and writing skills (kitabah). 2) Increase awareness of the importance of Arabic as a foreign language to become the main learning tool, especially by looking at the sources of Islamic teachings that are continuously studied about their origins, namely the Qur'an and Hadith.

Learning at elementary school is done online or remotely by the teacher in different ways. Via WhatsApp, Google Classroom, Zoom Meeting, Google Meet, etc. There is controversy about this. In addition, the condition of parents who cannot always accompany and supervise their children in learning makes learning less effective. Because distance learning requires parental involvement, in this regard, the limitations and roles of parents in distance education will be discussed.

This research was conducted with an Arabic teacher and parents of students through face-to-face interviews and online interviews. The first parent is one of the Arabic teachers at elementary school. The following is an excerpt from an interview with parents:

Researcher: Was it during the pandemic yesterday that the students of elementary school conducted online or distance learning?
Arabic teacher: Yes, during the pandemic yesterday, the students of elementary school carried out online or remote learning
Researchers: What learning strategies are used by Arabic teachers in Indonesia? This school?

Arabic teacher: Because now students are learning the basics of distance learning, we use the teacher's strategy of sending assignments via WhatsApp. The work is done individually and sometimes in groups.

Researchers: Do you think online learning is effective for students? Students in this school?

Arabic teacher: For us, distance learning is effective considering the current situation during the pandemic. But it will be even more effective if parents guide and supervise their children studying at home.

Researchers: What are the obstacles for the students of this school in this distance learning?

Arabic teacher: What is an obstacle for the students of this school while learning long distance is like expensive internet quota, damaged cellphone, lost cellphone. Because the damaged cellphone made students miss their subjects and couldn't ask friends about the Arabic lessons that had been held.

Researchers: Apart from damaged cellphones, what are the obstacles for students? Arabic teacher: In addition to damaged cell phones, the obstacles experienced by students are signals hard or bad.

Researchers: During distance learning, do you see any changes in children's attitudes? After this distance learning?

Arabic teacher: Yes, but not much. It's just that when the task entrusted is difficult, and sometimes kids get emotional. My students sometimes ask me.

From the results of the interviews presented, it can be concluded that various types of obstacles were found, namely: the absence or not having a cellphone, forcing students to ask their friends for assignments about the material and homework given by the teacher. In addition, the signal is sometimes difficult. The homework given by the teacher is too much. Children are sometimes emotional when the task is too difficult.

The second interview was conducted with informants who are parents of students at elementary school. The following is an excerpt from his interview with the source:

Researchers: What are the basic obstacles for the students of this school in the distance learning process?

Parents: The most obvious obstacle and the most basic taste is the internet quota, which is expensive.

Researchers: Do you always accompany and supervise your children when studying at home?

Parents: No, it's just that the child asks if something is not understood. His father is also busy with his work, so it is very rare that he can't even accompany his son to study at home.

Researchers: How are the children's learning achievements? Is it increasing, or is the achievement decreasing because of this distance learning?
Parents: It doesn't decrease, sometimes children even sleep late at night because they study late.

Researcher: Are there any changes in attitude that you see in your children during this distance learning?

Parents: None, but our children sometimes feel annoyed if the assignments given by the teacher are too many and also have difficulty in doing the tasks given.

From the results of the interview, there are not too many obstacles. Only a few obstacles, namely: internet quota, which is expensive. Parents cannot fully help their children because they are busy with work. Sometimes, children ask questions related to subjects that parents also don't understand, namely Arabic. The negative point is that the child often sleeps in the middle of the night, and the child's psychology is easily disturbed because of too much work and difficulty in doing the task.

The third interview was conducted with parents (mother) who do not work or IRT and (father) who work. The following is an excerpt from an interview with parents:

Researcher: In distance learning, what are the main obstacles that parents find?

Parents: The internet signal is difficult.

Researcher: Do children still understand the material given by the teacher?

Parents: Sometimes not, and I also don't understand the material given by the teacher. So it can't completely help my son.

Researcher: If there are things related to the material that parents do not understand, what? What do you do?

Parents: I teach children as best as I can and to what extent I understand my child's material.

Researcher: Has the child's attitude changed after this distance learning?

Parents: As far as I have seen so far, there has been no change in the child.

Researcher: Do you have time to study with your children?

Parents: As time goes by, we feel overwhelmed when we distance learning. So we rarely have time to just watch our children study at home.

The results of the interviews made it possible to identify various types of obstacles, namely: internet signal is sometimes difficult. Parents can help, but not all children understand the material. So what is taught is the more, the better. Time spent caring for children becomes more burdensome than studying offline.

The fourth interview was conducted with a resource manager who is a parent of a child at the school. The following is an excerpt from an interview with parents:

Researcher: What are the basic obstacles in this online learning?

Parents: I can't fully supervise children in learning because I'm busy with work. The assignments given by the teacher are too many, and the children often complain about it.

Researcher: If the task is too much, what steps do you take as a parent?

Parents: Sometimes I even do the work, but not often. I take care of my child's emotions so that they are not stressed.

Researcher: How about his achievements?
Parents: His performance is decreasing. Children do not understand the material, so I can't always guide my son. So my child's achievement is decreasing
Researcher: Is there a problem with the Internet?
Parents: During distance learning, there are no significant problems regarding the Internet

The results of this interview made it possible to identify various types of barriers, namely: parents are not able to fully supervise their children adequately because both are busy working. Children often complain of being given too much homework. Sometimes parents do the work for their children. Too many tasks make parents anxious and worried that their children will be stressed. Therefore, parents try to prevent their children's emotions from becoming stressed. In this case, the success of the child is reduced because children are burdened with many tasks and do not understand the material and tasks at hand.

The next interview was conducted on parents ( mother ) who did not work and ( father ) who worked. The following is an excerpt from an interview with parents:
Researcher: Does the mother always supervise or accompany her child in learning? Online?
Parents: Only occasionally, I also do not understand the material.
Researcher: So you don't guide, do you?
Parents: No, I'm just reminding it. Is the task done? Worked on.
Researcher: Does your child often play instead of studying?
Parents: He often plays when I pay attention
Researcher: Are there any problems with the Internet?
Parents: The signal is sometimes difficult, and my son complains when his job is done too many.

The results of these interviews can be found in various kinds of obstacles, namely: parents only occasionally accompany their children because parents also do not understand or understand the material. So it's just a reminder related to whether the task has been done or not. In this regard, the internet signal is also sometimes difficult. The internet signal, which is sometimes difficult, will certainly hinder the learning process.

Some of the results of these interviews can be concluded that there are various kinds of obstacles faced by parents in the learning process carried out at home. Because the Internet is sometimes difficult, this certainly slows down the child's learning process. Some students even had their cell phones broken, so they had to ask and ask their friends about the material previously given. Too much homework makes students bored and even stressed. Parents who are busy working make children less attention, so the academic achievement of children to be down. Working parents will feel overwhelmed by this. Parents who have a low level of education and also the learning materials in the past and present are also different, making parents less understanding of their children's material. As a result, children's material is not in accordance with the abilities of their parents.
The role of parents is very important because parents are the first and foremost teachers of a child. Good or bad children depend on how parents raise their children. So the responsibilities of parents are complex. The responsibilities of parents have various aspects, such as education to the way of life. Education is not only formal; non-formal education is also the responsibility of parents. How can parents raise their children well? and can face the challenges that will come. The learning process carried out at home is a very good thing because family relationships are more visible. In addition, children become close to their parents. Many things happen during distance learning between parents and children. The sense of responsibility will be more visible, and motivating children is also important. Because children get bored easily when learning, here parents are required to be patient and have creativity in the teaching process. It is appropriate that parents play an important role in instilling habits and behavior, as well as instilling religious and moral values according to age and cultural background in the family.

Parents' support and enthusiasm for learning activities at home and teacher support in providing learning materials are very important for the continuity of children's education. This is supported by the increasing number of expert opinions, which show that building strong relationships between children, parents and schools to support the learning process can have a positive, positive effect on learning and accompany better learning outcomes. We know that parents are the primary educators for their children.

The learning process carried out at home is a very good thing because family relationships are more visible. In addition, children become close to their parents. Many things happen during homeschooling between parents and children. The sense of responsibility will be more visible, and always providing motivation is also important. Because it is easy to get bored while studying, here parents are required to be patient and have conditions in the learning process. Parents play an important role in instilling habits and behavior, as well as instilling values, religion and morality according to age and cultural background in the family.

CONCLUSION

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the world of education to act quickly, one of which is online learning or distance learning. So the learning continues and breaks the chain of virus transmission. It cannot be separated from this is the involvement of parents, so motivation is needed so that children remain enthusiastic about school even though they are studying online or remotely. Parents are asked to be able to guide and supervise children at home, as well as students or a child. Students must understand the material presented and complete the tasks given by the teacher. Good and correct coordination is also needed between parents and teachers. The final step is to develop an assessment to improve children's learning outcomes. Various obstacles faced by parents in online learning include: (1) difficult internet signal; (2) expensive quotas; (3) unable to adequately provide for their children; (4) Parents do not understand the material, so
they cannot maximize their children's education; (5) no cell phone, so you have to ask your classmates directly.

**SUGGESTION**

Proposals for future research should be maximized for research to obtain more complete data. One of the topics is that parents, especially when they accompany and supervise their children to learn from home, must be able to innovate, be creative, and become the greatest mentor. This attitude helps parents create a comfortable learning atmosphere and the achievement of children's learning facilities. So that children can learn optimally, in this way, don't worry, your child will lose enthusiasm for learning, and his intelligence will decrease.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The researcher would like to thank Mr. Taufiq and the Principal, and the staff of elementary school, who have given permission and ease of research. Hopefully, this research can be useful both for the public, the community, and all parties who can access the results of this research.

**REFERENCES**

Ansari, JAN, & Khan, NA (2020). Exploring the role of social media in collaborative learning the new domain of learning. Smart Learning Environments, 7 (1), 1–16.


Decety, J. (2020). Empathy in medicine: What it is, and how much we really need it. The American Journal of Medicine, 133 (5), 561–566.


McQuillan, M., Smernik, RJ, & Doolette, AL (2020). Partitioning of phosphorus between biochemical and storage compounds in leaves follows a consistent pattern across four Australian genera growing in native settings. Plants and Soil, 454 (1), 57–75.


Strategies for Parent Involvement During Distance Learning in Arabic Lessons in Elementary Schools


