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Improvement of students' soft skills (honesty and motivation) using edmodo by Blended Learning Method

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Improvement of students' soft skills (honesty and motivation) using edmodo by Blended Learning Method

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Abstract. Edmodo is a website that can be applied in learning as an effort to improve student soft skills using Edmodo based on blended learning, combining direct learning and online learning. The formulation of the problem in this study is how is the effort to improve student soft skills using Edmodo based on blended learning? This study aims to improve student soft skills using Edmodo based on blended learning at the PGRI University in Palembang. The method used in this research is classroom action research. This method is based on a cycle with stages: planning, action, observation, reflection. Data collection techniques in this study are observation and questionnaire. The results of this study indicate that student soft skills using Edmodo based on blended learning increase after implementing learning and achieve a minimum completeness of more than 80% at the second meeting in the second cycle. in the aspect of student discipline increased by 87.4% from 67.5%; student honesty increased by 85% from 72.8%; Student motivation increased 85.4% from 71.7%. Thus, it can be concluded that the use of Edmodo based on blended learning method can improve the soft skills of geography education students.

1. Introduction

Technology can improve the quality of human life in meeting their daily needs, such as communication, learning until shopping. The use of technology students can find the information needed and discussion partners. That is, every user gets a positive impact on its users. The positive use of technology is very helpful for educators, especially lecturers to teach in the classroom. Because the lecturer as an educator should transform the knowledge or technology under his control to realize the learning atmosphere so that students can develop their potential. This is in line with Law No.12 of 2012 on Higher Education, stating that lecturers as members of the Academic Community have the task of transforming the Science and/or Technology to create a learning atmosphere so that students actively develop their potential[1].

Technology has become one of the facilities for lecturers in developing student potential. Potential is an ability that can be developed by individuals. Potential abilities of students can be developed so that they become graduates who have competence and competitiveness. Based on the results of the evaluation of learning for one semester shows that students lack discipline in collecting assignments due to forgetfulness, many assignments, and assignments left at home. Meanwhile, the expected



competence in ICT-based learning media courses is to improve students' hard skills but also soft skills. Based on these problems, efforts are needed in increasing the potential of students to develop their competencies. one of them is through the role of lecturers in fostering, guiding, and helping develop the potential of students' hard skills and soft skills during learning and other academic activities.

Elfindri says that successful people are determined 18% of the role of science and 82% are determined by emotional soft skills[2]. The world of work states that what is meant by high-competent graduates are those who have the ability in technical aspects and attitudes. According to Spencer said that soft skills contribute 70% in supporting one's success and hard skills (knowledge, skills and expertise) only contribute 30%. While our education system in developing hard skills reaches 90% and soft skills 10%[3].

Kaipa & Milus revealed that soft skills are the key to success including leadership, decision making, conflict resolution, communication, creativity, presentation skills, humility and self-confidence, emotional intelligence, integrity, commitment, and hard work[4]. Aribowo; Illah revealed that soft skills are one's skills in dealing with others (including oneself). Soft skills attributes, including values, motivation, behavior, habits, character, and attitude[5].

Soft skills are owned by everyone with a different level one of them, influenced by habits of thinking, saying, acting and behaving. this ability can change if someone wants to change it by practicing and getting used to new things. So that, it can be concluded that soft skills are one's skills in dealing with others (including with themselves) to achieve success in the form of characters and attitudes such as honesty, discipline, motivation, commitment, hard work, responsibility, self-confidence, humility. Therefore, the focus of soft skills in this study is honesty and motivation in using Edmodo.

The use of Edmodo can improve student soft skills. Murjainah's research shows that 84% of students can work on problems in Edmodo features very well. then the cognitive abilities of students after working on the questions showed an average of 70 in grade 5.A, 80 in grade 5.B, and 84 in grade 5.C [6]. Furthermore, Murjainah said that geography education students' skills were quite good in using edmodo features both in account creation skills, using edmodo profiles, quizzes, assignments, notes, and accessing grades (report feature)[7]. Meanwhile, Uzun revealed that after using Edmodo students have a positive attitude, they think Edmodo can improve student learning through active and communicative participation. They want to be active in the classroom and they want to develop a warm relationship with the instructor through this kind of learning management tool[8].

Edmodo has advantages for users, in this case, lecturers can create classes virtually. Lecturers can enter assignments; provide notes and share learning materials so that students can work on the website and obtain lecture materials and student ability tests. In doing so it can be done using a laptop or smartphone. The use of Edmodo provides wider opportunities for students to take advantage of existing facilities so that unlimited sources of reference can be obtained[9].

Blended learning is a mix of face-to-face learning process online, so it becomes a unique learning experience[10]. The basic principle is the occurrence of direct communication, written and integrated communication so that it becomes a unique learning experience according to educational goals[7]. Based on this description, it is necessary to conduct research to determine the use of edmodo in increasing the soft skills of geography education students, especially honesty and motivation in the use of edmodo. The purpose of this study is to improve the Soft Skill of Geography Education Students in using Edmodo with the Blended Learning method. This research is expected to improve the Soft Skill of Geography Education students in the world of work.

2. Method

The method used in this research is classroom action research. This research is in principle intended to overcome a problem that is in the classroom (Uno, et.al, 2012)[11]. This research was conducted at Palembang PGRI University in the even semester of the 2018/2019 school year. The sample in this study were Geography education students who took the ICT-Based Geography Learning Media subject. The variables observed in this study are; a) Input variables: Geography Education Students;

b) Process variables: use of Edmodo based on Blended Learning; c) Variable output: soft skills of students Geography education in the form of honesty, and student motivation.

Data collection included observations, questionnaire, and documentation. a) The observation used aims to observe students while using Edmodo. The process observed was student activity during the learning process in using Edmodo by blended learning method; b) The questionnaire is conducted aiming to find out student soft skills especially solving problems in using Edmodo, an honest attitude, a motivation that arises when using Edmodo. This questionnaire is in the form of a statement regarding honesty, motivation in the use of Edmodo using the Likert scale; c) Documentation is carried out aiming to find out the soft skills of students in using Edmodo collected in Edmodo. Therefore, the use of Edmodo is intended to know the motivation and honesty of students in doing assignments and has advantages in digital documentation.

This study uses a qualitative approach that aims to describe the process of using Edmodo by the blended learning method. Data obtained using observations and questionnaires. then, the results of the analysis are converted into the following assessment intervals.

If the implementation of class actions has reached the minimum completeness with a percentage of 80%, then the implementation of learning using Edmodo by blended learning method is subsequently terminated. The determination is based on the importance of soft skills for individuals in achieving success. In addition, the availability of adequate technology (handphone) for students is also a consideration for researchers. The flow of this research can be seen in Figure 1 below.

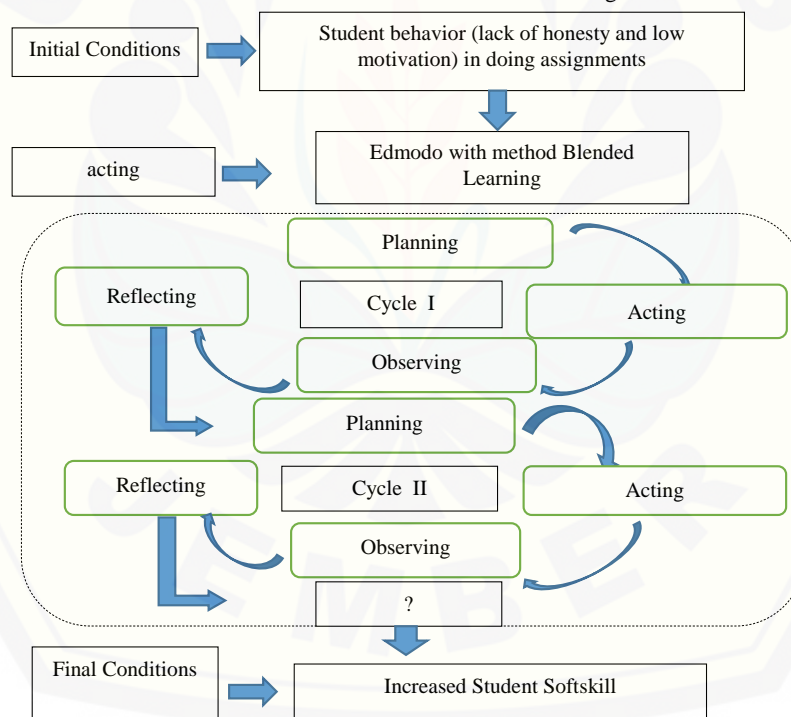


Figure 1. Research Flow (Adopted from Arikunto, Suhardjono and Supardi, 2015)[12]

3. Result and Discussion

Soft skills are possessed by individuals in the form of character/attitude. Enhanced character/attitude in using Edmodo with the Blended Learning method such as of honest attitude and student motivation.

This research was conducted by considering the features available and the advantages of Edmodo. The use of Edmodo can develop learning especially with the availability of the lock on the task feature which functions to lock automatically if it reaches a specified time limit so that to motivate students to be honest in using Edmodo.

By using of the blended learning method, students can not only access teaching material but do activities such as; a) interacting, either via email, chat or discussion forums. Besides that, students can ask questions and opinions about a problem both with the lecturer and his friend; b) assignments, users will get assignments either individually or in groups; c) answering practice questions, each topic will be provided with several practice questions that must be answered by the user[13].

In this study, an increase in student soft skills using of Edmodo was carried out consisting of 2 cycles, namely cycle I and cycle II. Each cycle was held 2 meetings consisting of several stages, namely the planning stage, implementation of actions, observation, and reflection. The implementation of learning in cycle II is an improvement in the actions of the results of reflection in cycle I. The improvement of students' soft skills in using Edmodo with the Blended Learning method is as follows:

3.1. Improvement of Student Soft Skills (Honesty) Using Edmodo by Blended Learning Method

Honesty is the most important part for individuals to achieve success. Honestly is a person's decision to express his feelings, words or actions that the existing reality is not manipulated by lying or deceiving others for his benefit[14]. The results of an analysis of student soft skills improvement using Edmodo with method blended learning can be seen in Figure 2 below.

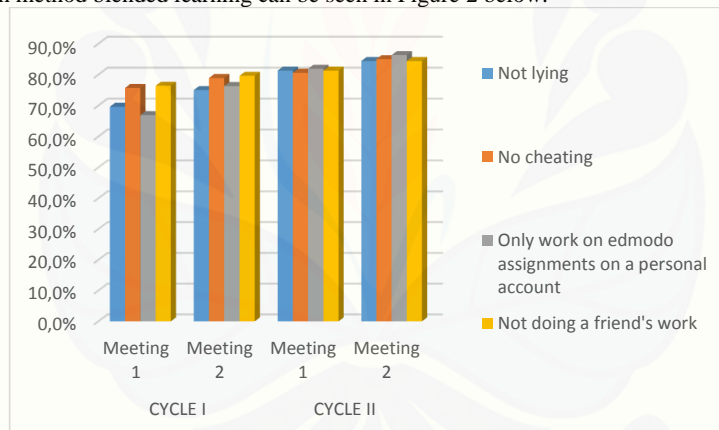


Figure 2. Improvement of Students' Soft Skills (Honesty Attitude) Using Edmodo by Blended Learning Method (Source: Data Processing Results, 2019)

The analysis results in Figure 4 above show that students have an honest attitude in using Edmodo so that in completing their assignments they tend to increase until the second cycle at the second meeting. The results based on attitude showed an increase of 84% of students not lying when they missed a given assignment; 85% of students do not cheat on peer assignments when given an assignment; 86.3% only did Edmodo assignments on student accounts and 84.4% did not work on peers' assignments (other people's accounts). Thus, overall, the average level of honesty possessed by students through the using of Edmodo by the blended learning method at the second cycle meeting was 85%. These percentages when converted in interval assessments are in either category. Thus, the use of Edmodo based on blended learning method can improve students' honesty such as not lying, not cheating, and not doing a friend's assignment (on someone else's account). Lange, Paul & Kulman; Tamayo revealed that someone who is honest is more cooperative than someone who is dishonest, individualistic and competitive[15].

3.2. Improvement of Students' Soft skill (Motivation) Using Edmodo by Blended Learning Method
 The results of the questionnaire analysis regarding students' soft skills (motivation) using Edmodo by blended learning method can be seen in Figure 3 below.

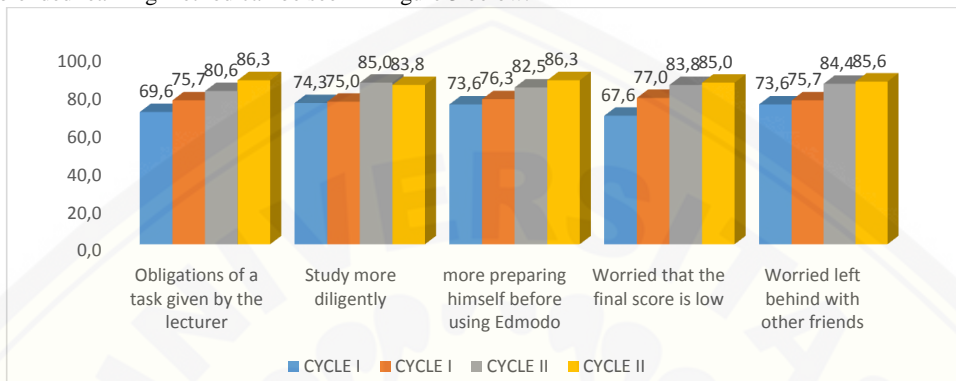


Figure 3. Improvement of Students' Soft skills (Motivation) Using Edmodo by Blended Learning method (Source: Data Processing Results, 2019)

In Figure 5, students' soft skills of motivation using Edmodo shows an increase in every meeting both in cycle I and cycle II. These improvements including using Edmodo as the duties from lecturers showing 86.3% compared to the previous cycle of 69.6%; students in using Edmodo to become more diligent in learning increased by 83.8% from 73.6%; more prepared before using Edmodo increased by 86.3% from 73.6%; students do not worry about getting a low final grade increased 85% from 67.6% and students did not worry about falling behind other friends increased 85.6% from 73.6%.

The increase in student soft skills on the motivational aspect using Edmodo showed 85.4% of 71.7% compared to the previous cycle. According to Lee motivation occurs when someone pursues a higher level of development after basic needs are met[16]. High and low motivation at the level of education influences on the success of students[17]. Motivation can also increase learning activities because it increases the students' ability to achieve their assignments[18]. Based on the results of the study, students' soft skills in the aspects of discipline, honesty and student motivation through the use of Edmodo based on blended learning showed an increase in each meeting both in cycle I and cycle II (can be seen in Figure 4).

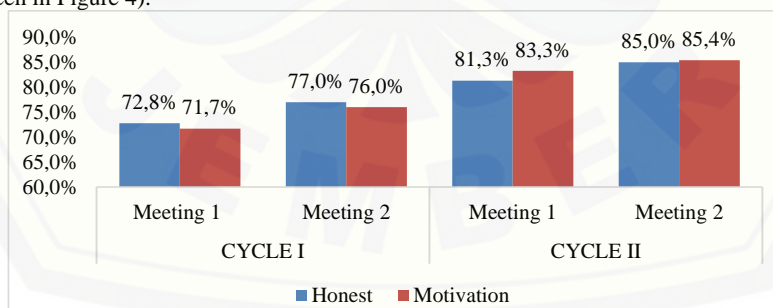


Figure 4. Improvement Students' Soft Skills of Cycle I and Cycle II Students (Source: Data Processing Results, 2019).

In the figure 6, shows that the increase of soft skills in the discipline aspects and actions increased 87.4% from the previous cycle 67.5%, while in the honest aspect it increased to 85% from the previous 72.8% and the motivation aspect through the use of Edmodo based on blended learning

increased by 85.4% of 71.7%. The increase occurred because of the evaluation on the implementation of learning in every meeting both cycle I and cycle II. In addition, the lecturer make improvements by displaying the Edmodo application to students through a class projector by showing the tasks that are done in a timely manner and not collecting assignments, assignments have in common (plagiarism) or just copying assignments from the internet or the assignments of friends.

4. Conclusions

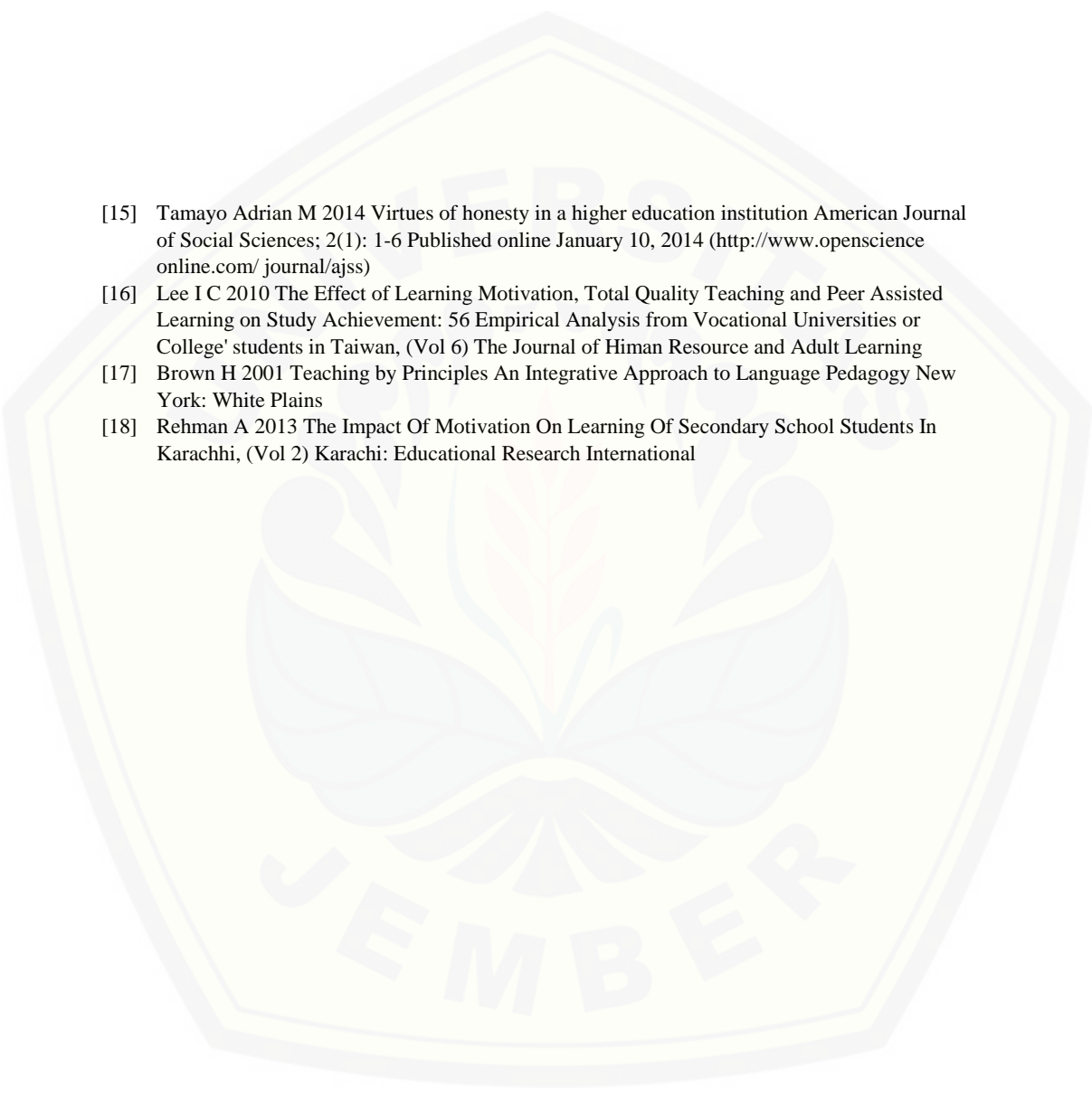
This research was conducted in two cycles, namely the first and second cycles. After the two-cycle meeting, it was found that there was an increase in student soft skills through the use of Edmodo based on blended learning, including student discipline increased by 87.4% from 67.5%; student honesty increased by 85% from 72.8%; student motivation increased 85.4% from 71.7%. These results indicate a minimum completeness above 80%. Thus, it can be concluded that the use of Edmodo based on blended learning method can improve the soft skills of geography education students.

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