

THE ROLE OF TELEGRAM DIGITAL MEDIA FOR CLASS C STUDENTS OF UNIVERSITY DARUSSALAM GONTOR

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Abstract. Telegram is a social media to communicate for all female students of University Darussalam Gontor Class C. With the limited electronic and communication tools used by female students, they use a social application called telegram to communicate with each other. In this study, researchers explained about features that are accessed by all female students and can also be accessed by other users. The Services provided by telegram social media, to the benefits they get through telegram with its many bot features and various existing channels. This type of research is qualitative descriptive research, researchers use qualitative research methods because they want to explore a fact, symptom or event of the influence of the use of telegram chat media for students of Darussalam Gontor University Class C, as female students only use telegram chat media to connect with fellow students, even with lecturers of Darussalam Gontor University though. Researchers obtain results through observation and documentation validated by triangulation of sources, methods, and time. The results of the research needed by researchers are how important this digital media is for students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor Class C with the many features of this telegram and some of the benefits of the role of digital media for female students.

Keywords: Telegram, The Role of Digital Media, Online Communication, UNIDA

INTRODUCTION

Social media is an online medium, with users can easily participate, share, and create content including social networking blogs, forums and virtual worlds. Blogs and social networks are the most commonly used by people around the world. In Indonesia itself there are many social networks that connect messages from individuals to other individuals. As currently widely used include whatsapp, instagram, tiktok, even telegram.

Social media today cannot be limited by anything, all people from adults to children use social media. Not a few of the children at this time many use social media. And among adults, social media is very helpful for their work, having social media today is like a basic necessity. The development of smartphone use makes the development of social media become rapid as well. As a result, a lot of new media have sprung up and the development of old media has become more sophisticated. One of them is the telegram application, the telegram application can be downloaded on Android and iOS phones, even laptops.

Telegram was released by two brothers, Nikolai and Pavel Durov. Nikolai was Nicholas II, the last Tsar of the Russian Empire who supported peaceful politics in Europe, while Pavel Valeryevich Durov was a Russian entrepreneur best known as the founder of the social networking site VK and the Telegram messaging app in 2013. Previously, they had created a Russian social media platform called V Kontakte, which they left in 2014 because it was taken over by an ally of President Putin. Telegram was released in August 2013 and experienced a significant increase in users, so it is now a competitor to the WhatsApp application. Telegram users from all over the world reached more than 400 million, with an average increase of 1.5 million users per day. (Soffya Ranti, 2023)

Telegram is also a very popular social media among teenagers today. Which telegram is designed like whatsapp social media, to make it easier for users to communicate with each other such as sending text messages, audio, video, images and even emoji stickers and others. One of the social media whose advantages are very useful is telegram. Because telegram provides a multiplatform instant messaging service that is free and nirbala. It can even be connected to a laptop or PC, without having to activate the phone first. This application at a glance like WhatsApp, Line, WeChat and so on. However, this platform has good features in terms of security.

That is one of the reasons all female students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor Putri Campus use this telegram chat media, with limited electronic devices or communication tools held. They can still take advantage of this telegram chat media to connect with each other by still using social media. Telegram also allows female students to be able to use good and safe video call features. Students can also send each other texts, photos, videos, audio, documents, stickers, and various other file types.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Whatsapp Grub as an Online College Communication Media. Another study conducted by Reny Nabilla and Tina Kartika in its title "Whatsapp Grub as an Online College Communication Media" Master of Communication Science Study Program, University of Lampung, Bandar Lampung City in 2020. This research focuses on how the process and use of Whatsapp as an online lecture communication medium in lecture activities for students and students of the Master of Communication Sciences, University of Lampung, class of 2019. The method used by this study is descriptive qualitative method. In collecting data, this study made observations on the whatsapp group. While the data analysis technique of this research is qualitative descriptive. And research produces results that the whatsapp group feature is one of the good alternatives used in the online learning process. And there are so many benefits caused and also students become active in class even though they do not do face-to-face. (Nabilla, 2020)

The Role of Digital Communication Media in Teacher and Student Communication Patterns. Another research is owned by Rahajeng Puspitasari and Arbi Cristional Lokananta entitled "The Role of Digital Communication Media in Teacher and Student Communication Patterns" Budi Luhur University Jakarta in 2021. Today's technological developments make the dissemination of information easier. Likewise, digital media that can be accessed by the public through smart phones (smartphones) anytime and anywhere. However, it turns out that there is a change in communication patterns between teachers and students with the use of these new media. Distances and formal communication patterns are changing with this new medium. Therefore, this study uses theories and concepts related to new media, social media, and communication patterns. With the type of qualitative descriptive research with research results through data and interview results. (Puspitasari & Lokananta, 2021)

Utilization of Telegram Bots as File-Based Exam E-Learning. In previous studies, there has been a lot of discussion about education systems that implement electronic applications that support the improvement of education and learning exercises using internet media, as has been said in several previous studies that Telegram has various special features than other applications, namely robot and bot features. (Khariono DKK, 2021) Researchers want to know how useful and impactful this telegram application is for female students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor Kampus Putri, and what influence female students get from using this telegram application. Which, many other applications can be used by female students, but students of Darussalam Gontor University use the telegram platform to communicate with each other

METHOD

The research used to examine this article uses qualitative descriptive methods with a field research approach. According to Moleong, qualitative research is research that aims to understand an event, phenomenon, or social situation that occurs as a whole and by describing all these events. Descriptive Research Qualitative, descriptive is a problem formulation that guides research to explore or photograph social situations that will be researched thoroughly, broadly and deeply. This type of field research or field research is research whose object is about symptoms or events that occur in community groups. So this research is also called case research with qualitative descriptive methods. (Arikunto, 2002)

Qualitative methods develop on the principle as a continuous process (unfinished process). This method develops through attempts to search for and understand the meaning generated by reality and social phenomena. (Somantri, 2005) The focus of research in this study is how female students use this telegram platform for daily communication, and even find out why female students use this platform for their communication needs, both between female students themselves, or even with lecturers. The

data used is the data of female students who use telegrams at Darussalam Gontor University, Putri Campus. And what things do female students get in using this telegram platform. This discussion was chosen because all students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor Kampus Putri, used this telegram media. This research was conducted directly at Universitas Darussalam Gontor Kampus Putri, starting from situation analysis, field and interviews.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Understanding Telegram. Telegram is a multiplatform instant messaging application (can be used on many devices) that is easy and free.(Normadhoni et al., 2021) The Telegram application is also among the 10 most downloaded applications in the world, reported from the official Telegram page. Telegram believes that this application is safe and will not harm users. Telegram guarantees the privacy of its users so that its users feel safe. However, of course the telegram has a gap between his confessions. Reported in *tekno.kompas.com* news article, in July 2017 Telegram was blocked by the government.

Telegram has a lot of additional features. Telegram can send a lot of file formats such as doc, zip, mp3, mp4 and so on. This file will not be compressed, so the quality will remain the same. Large file sizes can be sent easily and do not decrease in quality. One of the advantages of this telegram feature is a chat group whose members can reach 200,000 members. There are also other common features such as, replies, mentions, hashtags, muting message notifications and message search.

The sticker and emoji features in Telegram can be said to be the same as other instant messaging applications. However, users can search and download stickers or emoticons in the search section according to the interests and matches of these users, it can be said that stickers and emoticons are more varied. Which is used to reply to messages either personally or in groups.

Telegram has long been popular long before the days of smartphones. Telegram used to be a post office facility used to send written messages over long distances quickly. After the development of technology, this facility was no longer used, and turned into a startup developed into an application. Telegram is designed to make it easy for users to securely send text, audio, video, images and various files to each other.

Social Media. Social media can be considered as one of the kinds of communication media. Social media in general is a media used to socialize (communicate, connect, both personally groups and so on) between users. Some of the terms in social media include social network, sns and communication network.(Fitriansyah & others, 2020) Broadly speaking, social media and social networks use the same system, namely online media connected to the internet. Someone can understand social media more clearly by knowing the characteristics of social media itself or deepening it through understanding the understanding of social media according to experts. Examples of social networks as well as SNS are Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, Youtube, Twitter, Telegram and others.

Social media has experienced a very significant development from year to year. In 2002, Friendster dominated social media as it became the main platform of the era. However, now there have emerged many social media with their own uniqueness and characteristics.(Sari et al., 2018) In a book entitled "Social Media" by Nasrullah (2015: 39), there are six major categories of social media, including Social Networking, Blogs, Microblogging, Media Sharing, Social Bookmarking, and Wikis.(Puspitarini & Nuraeni, 2019)

The core of social media is a site where anyone can create a personal web page, then connect with others to share information and communication. Social media is defined as the electronic tools available to help speed up and improve people's ability to connect, communicate, and collaborate with others. Currently, technological advances are also in line with the progress of social media, this is evidenced by the ease of accessing and using social media itself. The increasingly practical use of social media also helps the process of the rapid progress of social media itself.

This social media is also very instrumental among students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor, especially in terms of learning as a support for academic activities. In addition, female students also need social media to communicate both with fellow students and lecturers, to ask questions about assignments and learning activities in class. This is where there is a role for digital media for female students both positive and negative. How female students use social media properly and correctly, and shape the media plays a positive role in their own lives and becomes the fastest means of communication

for humans to share messages instantly and even share files.

Online Communication. Users of information technology such as the use of the internet that already have various applications such as social media, is one of the media where users can communicate with each other, find information and make friends.(Nabilla, 2020) The existence of Telegram social media is one proof of the development of technology and communication that must be addressed positively. The Telegram application is one of the applications that is often used by people in Indonesia, including by university academics such as students and lecturers at Darussalam Gontor University. The Telegram application, especially the Telegram Group feature, is considered ideal to be used as a means of student discussion and dissemination of academic information within the University of Darussalam Gontor as an effort made by the campus so that the continuity of the students' lectures continues to run effectively.

The essence of communication is the process of statements between people that are expressed are thoughts or feelings of a person to others using language as a channeling tool. And with online communication, students can communicate more easily with lecturers to discuss and ask questions both in general in class groups and by contacting lecturers personally.(Nabilla, 2020) Online communication is the same as virtual communication or communication done over the internet. Communication is often done after the development of internet technology by means of communication, where the delivery and reception of messages is carried out through the internet network.

There are two types of online communication. The first is synchronous online communication and the second is asynchronous communication. Synchronous communication itself is online communication that occurs simultaneously at the same time and is real time (direct) using electronic facilities as a medium. In synchronous communication, the communicating party interacts directly in the process of delivery, reception to giving feedback with internet rocks. While in asynchronous communication is the opposite of synchronous online communication, namely communication through the internet network that occurs not synchronously, indirectly, or delayed.

Darussalam Gontor University Class C. Universitas Darussalam Gontor is a university in Indonesia that since its inception uses Arabic and English as the language of learning and communication. The final project is written in these two languages, and daily communication is also carried out in these two languages. The full dormitory system implemented by Universitas Darussalam Gontor ensures the inculcation of values such as brotherhood, sincerity, simplicity, tolerance, independence, leadership, and others.(BAA, t.t.)

Universitas Darussalam Gontor is one of the pesantren-based universities, which applies various regulations in its daily life. Which rules are regulations in lectures and also boarding school regulations. Unlike other Islamic universities, Universitas Darussalam Gontor requires its students to live in dormitories provided by the University. This regulation was formed to foster a spirit of discipline in each student.

All regulations applied by students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor will always be read every semester, at the beginning of every meeting in each semester will be read by Tengko (teng komando) which contains regulations to create a disciplined environment in dormitory life on campus. This discipline is written or unwritten which is measured by dzomir.

Electronic devices are also one of the regulations applied at Darussalam Gontor University Class C. Where female students are not allowed to bring Smartphones for their daily activities. That way female students are still allowed to use laptops (PCs) for lectures and life in dormitories. This is why social media held by female students is also limited, not all social media can be opened by female students.

Telegram Chat Media at UNIDA Class C. The Telegram application is one of the instant messaging applications that is often used by many people for communication purposes, especially for female students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor Kampus Putri which requires its female students to use Telegram and not whatsapp. All female students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor use telegram for their communication advice. This application is indeed very comfortable to use in terms of communicating in a group or with individuals

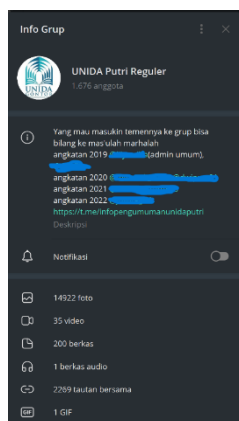


Figure 1. College Student Telegram Group
Source: Student Telegram, 2023

It can be seen from (figure 1.) that more than 1,500 female students are in one of the groups on telegram. With several people in charge of the group from each batch. This is one group where all female students can find out news or information about dormitory activities, campus activities, lecture schedules and so on. To get this information, female students can see what is sent in the group and communicate well.

The steps of its activities are as follows:

1. Students form a group on the telegram application whose members consist of all female students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor Kampus Putri.
2. The representative of each batch of female students becomes the admin of the group.
3. All information both in dormitories and lectures is disseminated in the group.
4. Students can read and provide responses related to information disseminated.
5. If there are things that have not been understood, they can be submitted in the group.

Personal contacts to communicate privately between individuals and other individuals. Not only groups and personal contacts but in the telegram application there are also some interesting features that are often tried by female students.

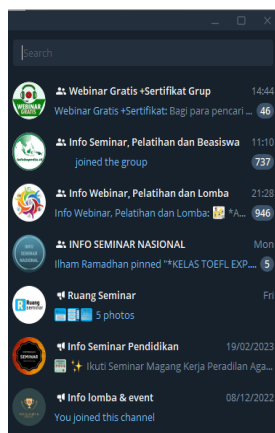


Figure 2. Telegram Features For College Students
Source: Student Telegram, 2023

(Figure 2.) are some examples of Telegram features that can be a benefit for female college students. Features in the form of information channels for competitions, scholarships and other learning that are interesting for student learning. Assisting female students in learning outside of lectures.



Figure 3. Telegram Features for Language Learning

Source: Student Telegram, 2023

(Figure 3.) This is a Telegram feature which is often used by female students at Darussalam Gontor University, this women's campus. Because UNIDA also applies language to all its students. Therefore, many students learn through one of these telegram features because there are quizzes or bots that can test our language. And in it is not only English but other languages we can also find such as Turkish, Arabic and so on.



Figure 4. Features of Telegram Job and Internship Info

Source: Student Telegram, 2023

(Figure 4.) This is a feature that provides information about job vacancies and internships. Which can make it easier for us to find out the jobs that are out there. And especially for final semester students who need info for internships.

Some of the benefits of using telegrams in learning are:

1. Privacy – Telegram messages are highly encrypted and can be deleted according to settings;
2. Cloud-based – Telegram allows accessing messages from multiple devices;
3. Fast – Telegram delivers messages faster than any other app;
4. Distributed – Telegram servers are spread all over the world for security and speed
5. Open – Telegram has an open API and free protocol for everyone;
6. Free – Telegram is free forever;
7. No ads – No subscription fees;
8. Secure – Telegram keeps messages safe from hacker attacks;
9. Powerful – Telegram has no limits on media and chat size.

It can be predicted how useful the group in this telegram application is. Which female students are very helpful, because they can receive various information both on campus and outside campus. And can easily share file formats, both documents and audio. It can be dictated quickly anytime and anywhere. There is no longer a limit to space with the features that are needed by digital citizens today.

Some of the results of this study show that the use of telegram to communicate between female students and lecturers increases the formation of effective online communication for the dormitory life of Darussalam Gontor Class C students. The perception of female students about the use of telegrams turned out to be effective and positive. Telegram also has an informative function, has an entertainment function where telegram as a medium that can present pleasant interaction between fellow students and lecturers. Based on the results of data analysis and observation, it shows that communication patterns that occur in telegram features used by female students occur in many directions, both vertically, horizontally and diagonally. Students become flexible when communicating with lecturers and fellow students using this application. Communication made through this application also has obstacles. The obstacles in communication using this media are due to network limitations or internet connections. So that the message or information conveyed is intermittent or unacceptable to female students.

CONCLUSION

Social media is an online platform that allows users to share and create content, such as blogs and social networks. Telegram, released by Nikolai and Pavel Durov in 2013, became popular with more than 400 million users. At Universitas Darussalam Gontor, Telegram is used by female students for effective communication, supports various message formats, and security features. Telegram plays a significant role as a digital medium among female students, especially in the academic and social spheres. The app enables fast and efficient communication, facilitating discussion and collaboration through group and channel features. Students can easily access important information about lectures, scholarships, and campus events, thanks to Telegram's ease of use across multiple devices and platforms. In addition, the security and privacy offered by Telegram, such as the implementation of encryption and decryption, provide a sense of security for users in sharing information. Telegram also helps form a solid community, where female students can support each other, exchange ideas, and develop social and professional networks. Overall, Telegram serves as a vital tool that supports interaction, collaboration, and community development among female college students. Thus, communication media plays an important role in people's lives, especially in the current era of digitalization. No exception in learning methods, where communication media are often used to share information. The use of telegram is a source of communication that makes it easier for female students to receive information on this campus. The purpose of this study is to find out some of the benefits of using telegram chat media for female students of Universitas Darussalam Gontor Kampus Putri who only use the telegram application to share information about campus.

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