

The Digital Literacy Skill Training for Aliran Kebatinan Perjalanan's Adherence to Verifying Hoax News

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Abstract

Information and communication technology advancement has made information dissemination rapid and massive. In addition, technology facilitates the large spread of hoax news which has sparked various kinds of riots in society. Yet, most people are prone to become exposed to hoax news because they tend to take information for granted from the internet without a critical process. This attitude drives them to any hazardous circumstances because hoax news has affected their perception of presuming phenomena in societies. Thus, a series of programs have been conducted, including the Community Service Program (PKM) by lecturers of the Communication Science Studies Program, at Telkom University, which was specifically carried out by providing training to Aliran Kebatinan Perjalanan's adherence in Bandung to verify hoax news and produce digital media positive contents. This training was conducted in two stages, through materials delivered by appointed presenters and two-way one-by-one coaching that is aimed to develop knowledge and solve problems without patronizing. The program was evaluated using a feedback survey. The result showed that the training had significantly answered the participants' needs in dealing with hoax news and producing digital media content responsibly.

Keywords: Community Service Program, Digital Literacy, Hoax.

INTRODUCTION

Lecturers are required to conduct a series of Community Service programs (PKM) as a form of dedication to national development (*Peraturan Universitas Telkom: Pedoman Akademik Universitas Telkom, 2020*). This activity is intended to literate people directly in order to advance science, technology, arts, and culture through institutional paths as part of the Tri Dharma (Bawa, 2020; Juddi et al., 2022). A community service program conducted by lecturers of the Communication Science Studies Program, at Telkom University, is focused on digital literacy in verifying hoax news in Aliran Kebatinan Perjalanan's adherence has a purpose to incline their understanding related to establishing the truth and accuracy of news or information, both in mass media or social media. Some digital literacy modules were provided at the training activities on January 8, 2023, directly to the adherents in Pasewakan "Kerta Tataning Hirup Linuwih" Bandung district relating to verification of hoax news and production of positive digital media content.

Currently, hoaxes, false news from ascertained sources that spread widely among the public (Tan & Pramudito, 2022), have been used as a political tool to insist opponents through slander, corruption, dividing, and conquering (Egelhofer & Lecheler, 2019; Simatupang, 2019). The strategy of producing publicity by presenting hoaxes as fact was used as propaganda in the first and second world wars. In the digital era, even though the usage purpose is close to the pre-digital (Tamara, 2021), hoax problems have become latent due to the advancement of digital technology, which can disseminate information rapidly and accessibly (Meel & Vishwakarma, 2020). Consequently, hoaxes are no longer related merely to politics but have also covered various aspects of human life, including religion and culture (Boiliu, 2020).

The advancement of information and communication technology has developed extremely fast. It has impacted human behavior and rural communities' interaction (Oztemel & Gursev, 2020; Widyatmoko, 2020). Unfortunately, this advance is not matched to the people's knowledge of how to use the technology effectively. Most Indonesians easily believe in information obtained from media on the internet, whether blogs, social media, or mainstream media, without cross-checking

(Hastini et al., 2020). This circumstance certainly has made people vulnerable to being exposed to hoaxes. Hence, they are prone to conflict because of an ineffective communication process (Juddi et al., 2021).

Some programs have been built, both by the government and non-governmental organizations, to deal with hoax news. The programs were conducted massively through various strategies by targeting audiences through mass media and specific organizations, communities, and groups, ranging from early childhood to the elderly, such as education and increasing digital literacy. However, academies and researchers have remained looking for a standard of effective tools to tackle hoax news, particularly on the internet.

METHOD

Steps to help the participants to deal with their problems, the solutions that have been offered through the literacy training program to increase understanding to verify hoax news and produce positive digital media content directly to Aliran Kebatinan Perjalanan's (AKP) adherence in Pasewakan "Kerta Tataning Hirup Linuwih "Bandung district, with details as follows:



Figure 1. The Training Program Flowchart

Hoax News Verification Training for the adherents

This activity was presented by Dr. Soni Sadono. He is a cultural academic at Telkom University who has focused on cultural studies and digital literacy, both in theory and in professional applications.

Digital Media Positive Content Production Training

The activity was conducted by Rana Akbari Fitriawan. He is an academic and media practitioner at Telkom University, which focuses on providing understanding to AKP adherents with an emphasis on understanding the ethics of digital media and positive producing digital content.

Sharing and one-by-one coaching session

At this stage, the speakers tried to provide special assistance to the participants after the training is over. This step aims to ensure participants understand the training material effectively. In this way, they can gain further correct understanding.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This program was initiated by lecturers of the Communication Science Studies Program, at Telkom University, through a series of training, which was successfully carried out on January 8, 2023. In this training, various topics, derivatives of the concept of digital literacy, have been given to AKP adherents, one of which is verifying hoax news and producing positive digital media content.

Table 1. The Rundown

Time	Themes	Descriptions
08.00 – 09.00	Registration	Filling in the Participants' Attendance and Morning Snacks
09.00 – 09.05	Opening	Opening by MC
09.05 – 09.10	Moment of silence	A moment of silence was led by a religious leader accompanied by rajah chanting

Time	Themes	Descriptions
09.10 – 09.15	singing song Indonesia Raya	Led by a Conductor
09.15 – 09.25	welcome speech	By an AKP leader and a PKM leader from Telkom University
09.25 – 09.35	Welcoming dance	Traditional dance performance from the AKP youth
09.35 – 10.45	The training program	Speaker: Dr. Soni Sadono Moderator : Moh. Faidol Juddi, S.I.Kom, M.I.Kom
10.45 – 11.00	Coffee Break	MC
11.00 – 12.30	The training program	Speaker : Rana Akbari Fitriawan, S.Sos, M.Si Moderator : Moh. Faidol Juddi, S.I.Kom, M.I.Kom
12.30 - End	Closing	Courteous: Submission of Participant Souvenirs, Group Photo and lunch

The program was carried out for about 4 hours starting at 08.00. This was divided into two stages, starting with the training sessions, verification of hoax news, and production of positive digital media content, subsequently, sharing and one-by-one coaching sessions.

Hoax News Verification Training for the adherents

Presenters provide knowledge about the definition, characteristics, and hoax news cases. This strategy was chosen because the internet usage data in Indonesia continues to increase. Moreover, people spend more than 3 hours a day surfing the internet (Pertiwi, 2018). In addition, this literacy does not only focus on the elaboration of hoax news on digital media, but the speaker connects this phenomenon, which is related to cultural cases (which are related to beliefs) and politics. Approaching the year of the general election (2024), various parties have started to develop strategies to attack their opponents from an identity perspective related to particular religions and ethnicities. This issue is sensitive because Indonesia has a plethora of different cultures. The increasing understanding of news verification through the Digital literacy program is an effective way to help participants not be trapped by hoaxes as political tools.



Figure 2. Hoax news verification training for the adherents

Digital Media Positive Content Production Training

Before deciding to upload content, such as writing, images, videos, and others, online (Falah & Setiawan, 2022), people need to understand ethics. Social media content, if not used wisely, has the potential to cause conflict in society. Understanding the ethics of social media usage, such

as maintaining online privacy, not injuring the rights of others, and avoiding Racist/discrimination, pornography, and others will encourage people to be wiser and more responsible in media. Hence, the various information disseminated will also be of positive value.

Irresponsible content on social media would drive panic in the real-society. Conflict in Yahukimo (Kamal, 2021), for instance, which have led to inter-tribal conflicts in Papua. These horizontal conflicts are triggered by false news posts that the truth has not been cross-checked on various social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Youtube, and TikTok. Furthermore, people who lack an understanding of news verification easily believe the news, giving rise to debate and anger that overflows in real life.

In addition, content selection is essential to develop an individual online image (Apriananta & Wijaya, 2018). Currently, internet users can freely judge others from what they post. If they are not wise in sorting content, they will be attacked by other users because of controversial posts that are contrary to the values shared by society. Even though the internet is anonymous (Thurlow, 2004), most people remain to maintain the ethics of appropriateness in interacting through online media.



Figure 3. Digital media positive content production training
Sharing and one-by-one coaching session

After the sessions are finished, sharing session is conducted subsequently. This session took place in two directions, starting with the participants conveying points that they did not understand during the previous sessions, their anxieties related to the phenomena that were happening related to hoax news, and solutions used in overcoming related social and cultural problems due to the impact of digital technology. During this session, the presenters tried to listen carefully to the questions raised by the participants with the assistance of a moderator, then tried to find solutions together through a process of further exploration with questions and answers, which aims to build knowledge and solve problems (Casero-Ripollés et al., 2016; Curtis et al., 2011; Järvinen, 2018; Juddi et al., 2021).



Figure 4. Sharing and coaching session

The evaluation was measured through a feedback questionnaire after the program was finished. The results showed that the training program was significantly following the participants' needs (score 99.42%), both in terms of time and place, answering the participants' needs,

friendliness, speed, and the accuracy of the presenters in providing solutions to the participants' problems.

Tabel 2. The feedback result

Essential Factors :	Each of Stressed Factors			
	Strongly Not Agree	Not Agree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. This program is under the aims.			14	20
2. This program is under the needs of participants.			13	21
3. The program time is under the participants' needs.		1	15	18
4. Speakers and organizers are friendly and responsive in helping the participants during the training.			11	23
5. Participants accept and expect training activities from Telkom University to be sustainable.			12	22
Amount	0	1	65	104
% (Amount of each:total)	0	0,58%	38,24%	61,18%
Total % agree and strongly agree				99,42%

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Information and communication technology advancement has transformed information dissemination rapidly. On the contrary, this advantage leads to hoaxes spreading massively, which has covered various human life. It also has sparked various kinds of riots in society. Most people have remained prone to be exposed to hoaxes because they could take information for granted from the internet without any critical thinking. This condition would drive people to hazardous situations because if hoaxes have influenced their perceptions, unexpected chaos will certainly occur. The digital literacy program aims to provide a series of training to particular community members, namely AKP, in verifying hoaxes and producing positive content in digital media. There were two stages, including the delivery of materials and sharing one-by-one coaching. The material delivery is aimed to increase the participants understanding, and the sharing is dedicated to helping them solve their problems. Ultimately, the evaluation, which was conducted through a feedback questionnaire, showed that the training activities had answered the participants' needs significantly. Literacy skill improvement will be beneficial for the program target so that they become wise citizens using digital media. This activity hopefully can be continued sustainably. The solutions, which have been developed while the program occurred, can be evaluated. Furthermore, the understanding of the trainees related to digital literacy and the production of positive content continues to increase.

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