

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the background of the study, formulation of research problem, purpose of the study, significance of the research, Scope and Limitations of The Research, Definition of Key Terms.

A. Background of The Study

Teacher professionalism is intended as a plan implemented by teachers to improve teacher competencies and work-related skills. Professional development plays an important role in increasing the capacity of school organizations in improving the quality of teachers. Professional development is an activity that is defined to improve the teaching and educating profession. This professional development can arise from external and internal aspects. The external aspect is from the leadership who encourages teachers to take up training or academic activities that provide opportunities for teachers to be able to learn again, while from the internal side the teacher tries himself to learn so that he can develop in his position.

The teacher professional development program that was attended by teachers prior to the Covid-19 pandemic to improve their performance is contained in Law Number (14 of 2005) concerning Teachers and Lecturers, which states that teachers can develop their professionalism through training programs, research, and subject teachers' meetings (MGMP). The Indonesian government has provided a platform for teachers to develop their professionalism. Efforts to improve teacher professionalism can also be carried out with In House Training (IHT) held in Teacher Working Groups (KKG) or Subject Teacher Consultations (MGMP). In this IHT activity, competent teachers can share knowledge and exchange ideas with other teachers. The teacher profession program organized by the government and schools is expected to facilitate teachers to improve their competence.

The professional development of teachers during the COVID-19 pandemic is that teachers who are accustomed to teaching face-to-face must renew themselves

to integrate pedagogic skills with information and communication technology (ICT) skills. For this reason, a transition process is needed that requires training or workshops on how to apply Information and Communication Technology-based learning models. Then the Directorate General of Teachers and Education Personnel (GTK) of the Ministry of Education and Culture (Kemendikbud) launched a series of webinars or teacher web-seminars. The webinar series was launched directly by the Director General of GTK, Ministry of Education and Culture, Dr. Iwan Syahril, Ph.D. The professional development of teachers during the Covid-19 pandemic is carried out by participating in online workshops.

The gap between the previous researchers and this researcher is in the research design. The previous researcher used a quantitative research design while the researcher here used a qualitative research design, then the quantitative research respondents were more than 78 English teachers because the quality of quantitative research was determined by the number of research respondents involved while the respondents in the qualitative research design were fewer than 4 English teachers because The quality of qualitative research is not determined by the number of sources involved but how deep the researcher digs into specific information from the selected sources. Fields that have not been explored by other researchers and exist in this research are in the development of teacher professionalism during the Covid 19 pandemic in participating in Webinar trainings.

This descriptive qualitative research is used to describe the professional development carried out by English teachers before and during the Covid-19 pandemic so that they can always develop their careers. Furthermore, researchers will look from various perspectives regarding the professional development of English teachers needed today by looking at existing phenomena or realities. Therefore, the researcher made the title of the study entitled "*Professional Development of English Teachers During the Covid 19 Pandemic at SMAN 1 Gondang Tulungagung*".

B. Formulation of Research Problem

This research is focused on developing the professionalism of English teachers at SMAN 1 Gondang Tulungagung before and during the Covid 19 pandemic. Based on the background of this research, the researcher has determined the research problem that is the subject of this research. The formulation of the problem in this study are:

1. How did the English teachers at SMAN 1 Gondang Tulungagung develop their professionalism before and during the Covid 19 pandemic?
2. What are the difficulties of the English teachers at SMAN 1 Gondang Tulungagung in developing their professionalism before and during the Covid 19 pandemic?

C. Purpose of The Study

From the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this study is to find out how English teachers develop their professionalism to improve their career competencies before and during the Covid 19 pandemic, and can also find out what obstacles/difficulties are experienced by English teachers in improving their skills. their professionalism before and during the Covid 19 pandemic.

D. Significance of The Research

This research is expected that researchers can contribute to:

1. Teacher

The professional development of English teachers is very much needed as a form of the quality of an educator in providing quality teaching or material intake to their students. Giving birth to a generation who is able to speak English also requires the skills of a teacher who is smart, creative, innovative in presenting the material presented. So that teachers can still hone their professional development during the Covid 19 period as an educator through trainings held by schools or the government.

2. Researcher

Researcher can apply the findings of this study as insights for researcher in developing professionalism as English teachers in the future or in unpredictable times such as during the Covid 19 pandemic, in any situation a teacher must be ready to develop his professionalism. Of course this is also very helpful for researchers in adding references to become an educator who has qualified qualities in their field in providing material to all their students.

3. Next Researchers

Researcher hope that the results of this study can also be useful for future researchers or new teachers in finding a reference on how to become a teacher who always develops their professionalism as an educator, especially for English teachers in any situation or like the Covid 19 pandemic that we are currently experiencing.

E. Scope and Limitations of The Research

The scope of this research is on the professional development of English teachers before and during the Covid 19 pandemic and also the difficulties of teachers in developing their professionalism as a career improvement before and during the Covid 19 pandemic. This study involved four English teachers at SMAN 1 Gondang Tulungagung as research subjects. .

F. Definition of Key Terms

The definitions of the main terms of this research to provide clear information are as follows:

1. English Teacher

English teachers are teachers who have a duty to guide students in learning English. Not only guiding and teaching grammar and pronunciation, but the English teacher also conveyed the customs and culture of the language of the country they are learning. Fluent in using the language being taught and having in-depth mastery

of the knowledge and knowledge gained are qualities an English teacher must possess.

2. Professional

Professionals are people who carry out a profession according to high expertise, behave honestly, objectively, complement each other, support each other, share experiences based on good faith and positive thinking carried out optimally and stick to the moral values that direct and underlie actions.

3. Professional Development

Professional development is defined as the constant development of knowledge and professional skills throughout one's career in education. Professional development must begin with training for the role of teacher, and continue throughout the course of teachers' professional service. Bolam (2002:103) states as follows "Professional development is an ongoing process of education that includes teaching practice and support activities". The development process may not be done once at the beginning of the career, but must be carried out continuously. Currently, the development of science and technology is not limited and continues to develop all the time. Like this, skills, knowledge and experience must also be adjusted to the dynamic times.

4. Pandemic Covid 19

A pandemic is the occurrence of a disease outbreak that attacks many victims, simultaneously in various countries. While the COVID-19 virus is a disease that is very dangerous for humans because this disease can be transmitted to other people, all citizens of the world have the potential to be infected with the COVID-19 disease.