



Effective Online Learning: Basics and Strategies for Muslim Students' Success

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Abstrak

Kemajuan teknologi telah memudahkan manusia secara global, termasuk pendidikan, terutama di masa pandemi, di mana beberapa kampus yang menawarkan sertifikat setingkat sarjana siap menghadapi tantangan dan hambatan yang muncul di seluruh dunia. Hal tersebut juga dapat dirasakan oleh banyak kampus lain yang mulai beralih mengadopsi perkuliahan online agar operasional belajar mengajar tetap berjalan sebagaimana mestinya. Selain itu, terdapat beberapa tantangan bagi banyak orang yang belum terbiasa menghadapi kelas online, yang menuntut diadakannya manajemen waktu yang tepat, komitmen dan konsistensi dalam mengikuti perkuliahan pada waktunya masing-masing agar dapat menyelesaikan studi hingga selesai. Outputnya mengikuti rencana tujuan. Makalah ini akan menjelaskan dasar-dasar dan strategi khususnya untuk keberhasilan mahasiswa Muslim dalam mengikuti kuliah online dan memaksimalkan efektivitas dengan menggunakan waktu secara efisien untuk mencapai tujuan yang tepat dan menjadi pemimpin yang andal sebagai salah satu output dari menjadi menjadi khalifah dan memelihara amanah dalam keluarga dan masyarakat.

Kata Kunci: *Pembelajaran Online, Gelar Online, Keberhasilan Mahasiswa, Strategi Pembelajaran*

Abstract

Technological advances have made it easier for humans globally, including education, especially during the pandemic, where several campuses that offer degree-level certificates are ready to face the challenges and obstacles that arise worldwide. It can also be felt by many other campuses that are shifting to adopt online lectures so that teaching and learning operations continue to run accordingly. In addition, there are several challenges for many who are not used to dealing with online classes, which require holding the correct time management, commitment and consistency in attending lectures at their respective times so that they can complete the study to completion. The output follows the objectives plan. This paper will explain the basics and strategies, especially for Muslim students' success in following online lectures and maximising effectiveness by using time efficiently to achieve the right goals and become a reliable leader as one of the outputs of being a *Khalifah* and maintaining trust in the family and society.

Keywords: *Online Learning, Online Degree, Student Success, Learning Strategies*

INTRODUCTION

The pandemic has advantages and disadvantages in various ways; even in the world of education, it has also had a significant impact. With much research providing a way to face the most challenging test for humankind, there is a lot of invention and development in all sectors and industries involving many people's lives. Including education, even in the digital and post-pandemic era, many teaching and learning activities are carried out online, from light discussion classes to doctoral degrees that can be obtained online. The ease of innovation in dealing with the pandemic has made life easier, especially in the education sector, both degree and non-degree globally (Maspul & Amalia, 2021a).

Several campuses before the pandemic were already operating online, such as the International Open University Gambia and the University of the People in the US, which had students from International students and by using Moodle operations to coordinate lecture classes, from academic records, and learning schedules to discussions, assignments, and portfolios. Apart from that, Al Madinah International University has been operating in Malaysia for a long time with global students. It is enough to attract attention from the many offline campuses during the pandemic, requiring them to continue to operate by launching online lecture classes globally. So here, lectures through the online system not only provide solutions in world conditions that are in a pandemic but are also an educational innovation that is sustainable and without any obstacles for global students to participate anytime and anywhere (Maspul & Amalia, 2021).

Based on student status on online campuses, most students have working status, and not even a few are married. This is also one of the challenges in making time management sort and choosing the right time to take classes in online lectures. So not a few of the enrolled students have been unable to adapt to the online lecture environment and have not been able to complete courses to the finish line. In addition, not a few students are fresh graduates interested in online-based campuses with easy time management and affordable tuition fees that are different from traditional lectures in general. This classification certainly has an imbalance with each other, so here basics and strategies are needed in finding a line that can be followed so that with different student statuses, each individual who takes online lectures can complete lectures with successful outputs as well.

However, the rise of online classes cannot be separated from challenges that must be conquered, including difficulty concentrating, feeling lazy, procrastination and others. It is regarded by many students who have participated in online learning seek degrees at several world universities, making it the biggest challenge to complete lectures. Likewise, writing reports, assignments, discussions and portfolios require students to adapt to making well-structured and proportional articles. With the number of complaints, it is necessary to look at the readiness capacity of individuals to face the convenience and challenges of online learning, both degree and non-degree-seeking students.

The success that is certainly expected for each individual is in progress, where through observation, to make self-paced online learning, it is necessary to be prepared for each individual. So that in completing the progress, it can provide satisfactory results in the form of student success and give rewards to each individual who has struggled in the progress phase so that it can positively impact the successors of other individuals in participating in online learning. In addition, success also demands the quality of each individual to have a positive impact and produce phenomenal work so that the online

learning facility can be on par with degree-seeking students who follow the progress of offline lectures on campus.

METHODS

This writing is a qualitative study that discusses the problems related to self-improvement and by referring to several literature reviews in explaining more deeply concept analysis associated with the discussion of online learning and objectives for individuals. The structure of the study writing refers to the literature review and open observation in answering the problems that arise in the topic as the primary data source. This writing is a report from a live talk that the author brought in presenting an online study with the same issue in Indonesian Bahasa and attended by Indonesian students studying at the bachelors level degree and master level degree level at the International Open University Gambia and also attended by the public on this day. Friday, October 21, 2022, via Zoom conference.

RESULT AND DISCUSSIONS

Accepting Challenges to Achieve Best Life Values

In devoting oneself as a servant of Allah in the world and making a Muslim's life productive here, it is necessary to make the values in life more meaningful, especially in carrying out the mandate as a Muslim. Where the task of intelligent beings has been given an excellent study in carrying out life in the world, as the word of Allah *Ta'ala*:

﴿ ٥٦ ﴾ وَمَا خَلَقْتُ الْجِنَّ وَالْإِنْسَ إِلَّا لِيَعْبُدُونِ

I did not create jinn and humans except to worship Me. (Adz Dzariyat: 56)

Through the verse, Muslims have been required from the beginning of their creation to worship Allah Almighty, and part of servitude to Allah other than monotheism is to carry out the mandate of Allah in the world as long as life is still in the human body. In addition, a Muslim has always been required to make his deeds always good (*shalih*) and can have an impact on those who are with him, as Allah *Ta'ala* has stated:

﴿ ٢١٤ ﴾ وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ

And warn your near relatives. (QS As Shu'araa: 214)

Humans generally underestimate time so that it doesn't even have value because no improvement makes that time a value for humans. Apart from that, life values can only be obtained once, so it is imperative to see challenges and accept them to learn and achieve success. So that in making time meaningful, Muslims are required to complete the behaviour of Muslims expressive but also how to use time management. So here it has been mentioned as well in Quran:

﴿ ١ ﴾ إِنَّ الْإِنْسَانَ لَفِي خُسْرٍ ﴿ ٢ ﴾ إِلَّا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَعَمِلُوا الصَّالِحَاتِ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالْحَقِّ وَتَوَاصَوْا بِالصَّبْرِ ﴿ ٣ ﴾

By the time (1) Indeed, mankind is at a loss, (2) Except for those who have believed and done righteous deeds and advised each other to truth and advised each other to patience. (3) (QS Al Ashr: 1 – 3)

In the use of time, humans have been given much time, which is rarely felt, especially for the millennial group who currently make time a very ordinary thing. Unlike the *Salaf* or earlier groups, where time is highly valued, it is related to human obligations in living life and adapting to the cycle of life. Time

is an abstract thing but becomes the foundation of humans foundation in living and living; especially the essential thing for Muslims is the time of prayer, Hajj and Umrah, fasting and zakat, all of which are most crucial related to time, and Muslims must follow them in carrying out their duties essential worship. So it is necessary to go deeper into how to accept challenges and make them valuable as a form of servitude to Allah *Ta'ala*.

In addition to that, being a true Muslim who carries out orders from Allah and His Apostle will always be curious to understand things that are always found in the world, both in understanding true Islam and daily *muamalah* from personal and family as well as in society as well as curious in emphasising science as critical thinking for humans. It is illustrated in monotheism's journey from Ibrahim *Alaihissalam* in seeking his Lord from the sun and moon to finally understanding that they are all creatures and Allah is the Creator of the universe. Likewise, the science is told from the pious in the story of the Prophet Sulaiman, who can move the kingdom of Bilqis in the blink of an eye from Yemen to Sham. Of course, science has become a relationship that should be strong in Muslim behaviour in bringing up the why and how in interpreting everything in nature that can be learned. It is where the importance of being a lifelong learner in human behaviour lies.

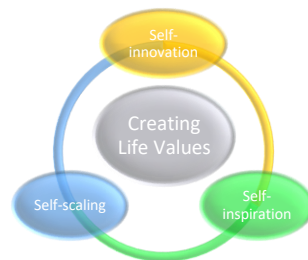


Fig. 1, Creating Life Values Design

In creating life values based on the virtues of being a Muslim who is responsible for becoming a *Khalifah*, it is necessary to explain here through components that make life values more meaningful for themselves and can provide benefits for those around them:

1. Self-innovation

Developing self-innovation in each individual has significantly invested in noble personal development. Of course, the more innovative the individual is in seeing the problem and providing solution steps to keep him from falling from the brink of failure. Emotionally trained with innovation and moving through the process will make a solid personal asset who will always be hungry to learn the process and new things. The more innovations created in each individual, the stronger the individual's personality in living a noble character to interpret life values.

2. Self-scaling

With this component, each individual will be accustomed to making general and specific life skills, which are carried out daily, weekly and long term, creating a strong personality. Get acquainted with new things to start skills so that every person can master them quickly and precisely so that in the future, it will be easy to scale others, including family and relatives, to strengthen each individual's *Khalifah* personality.

3. Self-inspiring

With this component, each individual will be confident in strengthening self-awareness and personality and trying to transform the problem by progressing it by trying to find a way out

without disturbing the people around, and independent in leading himself from interests, values and passion. The resulting habits will make the skills, knowledge and behaviour that are run daily become inspiration and motivation for themselves and energise others to have strong ambitions in creating life values.

Creating life values with the above components will provide self-development with a secure environment to continuously provide a positive magnet for oneself and those around each individual. Developing these components will also strengthen steady productivity and provide output in producing various inspiring life values every day, ready to become lifelong learners and maintaining the *Khalifah* personality.

Confident Become a Lifelong Learner

In utilising time, Muslims need to understand their obligations to be leaders in their families. Of course, a fundamental capacity is required to guide families in practising a religion which is crucial here. Besides that, it also guides the family in carrying out a balanced life by teaching applied sciences that are generally needed in daily human life. In this case, Allah *Ta'ala* has also said:

وَأُذِ قَال رَبُّكَ لِمَلَأَكُتِبَ إِتِي جَاعِلٌ فِي الْأَرْضِ خَلِيفَةً ۗ قَالُوا أَتَجْعَلُ فِيهَا مَنْ يُفْسِدُ فِيهَا وَيَسْفِكُ الدِّمَاءَ وَنَحْنُ نُسَبِّحُ بِحَمْدِكَ وَنُقَدِّسُ لَكَ ۗ قَال إِي أَعْلَمُ مَا لَا تَعْلَمُونَ ﴿٣٠﴾

When your Lord said to the angels, "I am placing a successor on earth." They said, "Will You place in it someone who will work corruption in it, and shed blood, while we declare Your praises and sanctify You?" He said, "I know what you do not know." (QS Al Baqarah: 30)

The nature given to humans in the form of naming the *Khalifah* personality in themselves is certainly a crucial thing for Muslims themselves to lead in an empty state. Of course, it takes essential capacity to advance knowledge in guiding family and closest relatives, which has become an obligation for each individual (Maspul, 2022a; Tambak *et al.*, 2021). In addition, it has become a fundamental obligation that should be understood by Muslims in the obligation to pursue both religious and applied knowledge where the Messenger of Allah has said:

حَدَّثَنَا هِشَامُ بْنُ عَمَّارٍ، حَدَّثَنَا حَفْصُ بْنُ سُلَيْمَانَ، حَدَّثَنَا كَثِيرُ بْنُ شَيْطَانَ، عَنْ مُحَمَّدِ بْنِ سِيرِينَ، عَنْ أَنَسِ بْنِ مَالِكٍ، قَالَ قَالَ رَسُولُ اللَّهِ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ . " ظَلَبُ الْعِلْمِ فَرِيضَةٌ عَلَى كُلِّ مُسْلِمٍ وَوَأَضِعِ الْعِلْمَ عِنْدَ غَيْرِ أَهْلِهِ كَمَقْلَدِ الْحَنَازِيرِ الْجَوْهَرَ وَاللُّؤْلُؤَ وَالذَّهَبَ " .

It was narrated from Anas bin Malik that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "Seeking knowledge is a duty upon every Muslim, and he who imparts knowledge to those who do not deserve it, is like one who puts a necklace of jewels, pearls and gold around the neck of swine." (Sunan Ibn Majah 224)

In addition, in playing the caliphate in carrying out the mandate in the world, both in the family and in society, Muslims are asked not only to advise each other but also in their role of competing in the goodness of one another, which will have a good impact on the community and be more sustainable in the future. in making life values at it best. Allah *Ta'ala* says:

فَاسْتَبِقُوا الْخَيْرَاتِ ۗ إِلَى اللَّهِ مَرْجِعُكُمْ جَمِيعًا فَيُنَبِّئُكُمْ بِمَا كُنْتُمْ فِيهِ تَخْتَلِفُونَ ﴿٤٨﴾

So compete in righteousness. To Allah is your return, all of you—then He will inform you regarding your differences. (QS Al Maaidah: 48)

It has become substantial for Muslims to live with knowledge so that they always walk in the corridors of Islam and can make life balance the goal of living as long as humans are in the world. Therefore, here Muslims must play two behaviours for themselves to proportionate the goals that will be achieved, namely:

1. Empower the Mindset

In acting out the need for personal and family leadership, it has become the basis for humans to develop a mindset of thinking in how to become a person who has wisdom in carrying out his personality and developing his capacity. Empowering the stand can be done in a work environment by attending non-degree lectures or even becoming a degree-seeking student. Developing a perspective is also needed to master religious and applied knowledge while being able to drive it in the appropriate Islamic corridor. In addition, it is also necessary to strengthen the scientific basis both from religion and application. This is crucial for Muslims, where seeking knowledge is a human need apart from the commands of Allah and His Messenger. They all have an essential circulation in developing perspectives and deepening critical thinking to strengthen Muslim behaviour with an appropriate and measurable foundation.

2. Grow the Asset and Resources to Lead

In expanding the mindset, it is also necessary to grow the assets and resources to lead, where with a commitment to studying itself, the outcomes can be an essential component to become a human asset in leading family and closest relatives to people who have communication and social relationships daily many of them. Assets owned include tangible and intangible, in addition to those that do not materialise. Such as the degree that has been achieved, which will help in navigating the following degree pathway to be taken next. Every day, of course, Muslims will always grow uniquely and in different ways in managing assets and resources to become *Khaifah* (leaders) in all matters personally and with family and closest relatives.

In the making lifelong learning the primary commitment for Muslims, it is necessary to collect data from the personal capacity of humans through their ability to develop an empowerment mindset and grow the asset to lead, as described previously. In making it essential in the two cases above, here for Muslims, have been able to make themselves confident to become lifelong learners. Among them are in classifying through three challenges as described below in mitigating risk in self-improvement failure:

1. Self-Improvisational Risk

In everyday life, humans will find challenges in making each experience difficulty in improvising behaviour and energy in achieving the goals of a plan that has been prepared with a good mindset. In this case, each individual must cultivate improvisation daily to strengthen each behaviour, which needs to be maintained daily. In sustaining improvisation to mitigate the risks for individual Muslims, it can be done by starting time discipline from prayer times and following daily studies that have become routine online and offline. Apart from that, we can record data from the daily to-do list to avoid the improvisational risks that appear in the middle of the road every day; every individual can see this with laziness which is a common problem for every human being.

2. Self-Operational Risk

Meanwhile, from the perspective of each individual dealing with daily activities, there will always be challenges that allow the daily activities previously scheduled to fail to be carried out. This is with the emergence of risk both from personal internal dynamics with problems from health issues, anxiety, and others. Likewise, the emergence of external from each individual that emerges from the

environment or relatives provides additional behavioural problems and negatively affects our daily self-operation. So it is necessary to return to the original intention and open the list that has been previously planned to make sure with the use of time whether each of the previously planned portions of the activity has received a reasonable and proportional daily achievement. Binding oneself with time and a written plan will help make it a solution to prevent self-operational risk from arising at any time for every Muslim individual.

3. Game-changing Risk

In addition, in making the daily behaviour following the plan-based that has been structured short and long term, both daily, weekly, and monthly, it is essential here to recap in mitigating game-changing risk which will appear at any time and destroy all plans. It is caused by the occurrence of a huge thing that has a sizeable negative effect on the self-improvement failure of each individual. For example, the inability to continue studying due to the collapse of the personal or family economy in funding studies is very often the case in middle to lower social communities at the level of third countries. Not only that, sometimes it arises from the personal externalities of each individual who gets a big disaster from the environment, for example, a natural disaster that appears suddenly.

In mitigating this game-changing risk for each Muslim, patience and prayer become the main focus in testing each Muslim's patience, which will provide a much better return in this world and the hereafter, as has been said by Allah Ta'ala. In addition, the Prophet received many tests that were far more severe than those who lived in the last days, and Allah had promised the best for the Messenger of Allah and his Companions and Islam itself until the end of time. In this case, the Muslim personality has been formed to be vital in mitigating game-changing risks at any time. Allah stated in Quran:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اسْتَعِينُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَالصَّلَاةِ إِنَّ اللَّهَ مَعَ الصَّابِرِينَ ﴿١٥٣﴾

O you who believe! Seek help through patience and prayers. Allah is with the patient. (QS Al Baqarah: 153)

Reviewing Outcomes of Lifelong Learner Goals

In making success a measure of a Muslim's lifelong learner, here we need measurable and sustainable goals for Muslims themselves. Each of these will strengthen through the behaviour process of the individual to run according to the corridor to make it more measurable and run according to what is expected, desired, religious and personal. In maximising the activities of each individual, the goal will help in making the sustainability of the behaviour of each individual through the economy of society and the environment. Without individual personal goals, the path of their efforts and efforts will not be directed toward pursuing the path to success as lifelong learners (Maspul & Amalia, 2022).

Furthermore, it is also necessary to develop critical thinking and make the mediums and objectives measurable in determining lifelong learner goals. This is also done by always tracing all the actors with the why, what, and how, which are crucial in knowing the priority scale. Besides that, getting used to critical thinking will also make it easier for each individual to explore the needs of the individual and the community, converting problems into sustainable innovation. Personal resilience will be solid and able to analyse strongly in dealing with matters relating to the socio-economic and environment that will connect to his future to become a lifelong learner (Paul & Elder, 1990).

Meanwhile, in strengthening the lifelong learner goals, it is necessary to classify the goals themselves in each individual's personality. In this case, the needs and processes owned by each individual differ depending on each person's circle of affiliation, internal and external, such as economic status,

family status, and position in the surrounding groups where all of them will not be separated from the personal resilience of Muslims in facing challenges in sustainability in their respective communities.

In addition, each individual has a different life cycle turnover in carrying out what percentage of daily activities both in the family atmosphere and work environment and its relation to other general levels of society. In addition, given the capacity of personnel to manage the process of the goal itself, it is necessary to classify the priority scale of the plans to be achieved, including the following:

1. Commit Goal

This goal is an absolute must be pursued and make a proportional and hooked set planning for each individual. Continuing online lectures is undoubtedly not the same as offline lectures due to each own pace in participating in the online lecture activities. This is also a challenge for many students who cannot complete college due to financial reasons or other things because of the lack of measurable discipline in setting up planning from the start of college. Another thing is also due to limitations in the ability to understand the structure of the syllabus that is already available, a lack of curiosity in learning other things related to the syllabus in other online resources.

The many challenges and gaps that arise from each individual must be mitigated as early as possible by making a setup plan which will be explained later. Commit goals can be carried out well even if there is a risk of self-improvement failure because with habituation in time discipline and being able to divide the classification of basic daily needs from personal, both internal and external, in the family environment, this goal will be achieved accordingly.

2. Stretch Goal

As for this goal, it has the potential to be successful, and the achievement will be successful both in the short term and long term, depending on the resilience strength of each individual in facing the threat of obstacles and challenges from risk self-implementation. The resilience of each individual will be strongly related to the social economy and environment to carry out this goal, even though the timeframe is longer and due to the stretch with the condition of the Muslim individual so that it does not become a crucial thing to change the individual massively in behaviour but make it a reinforcement of the basic concept of the life of the individuals concerned.

On the other hand, it can be exemplified by managing daily activities that are not urgent but develop more profound into the personality and behaviour of individuals in online learning, such as MOOC (Massive Open Online Courses), which is currently much in demand by Muslim youth with self-paced learning and learning concepts that are structured from each of the world's universities. Coursera, LinkedIn Learning, and others are some MOOC models that are very good at practising time management rules for students and are accessible online anywhere and anytime (Daradoumis *et al.*, 2013).

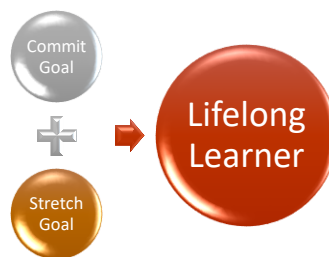


Fig. 2, Lifelong Learner Goals Design

The two types of personal goals mentioned above can be the basics in making Muslims personally train in managing self-improvement in strengthening the *Khalifah* personality for each individual as the primary goal of becoming a Muslim in the world.

SMART Objectives Implementing a Strategic Plan for Effective Online Learning

In designing a strategy for the effectiveness of online learning, the term here can be borrowed through SMART objectives, which effectively achieve the goals described previously and help strengthen each individual's productivity (Bovemd'Eerd et al., 2009). With SMART objectives, it will be easier to set goals, frame plans and mitigate existing risks. SMART here is the definition of five letters as described below:

1. Specific

Specifying what is achieved is very important in critical thinking in developing and designing greater possibilities in setting goals. This will not be separated from the what, why, where, when, and how of achieving the goal plan.

2. Measurable

Measuring the capacity of the goal plan is also a measure that is no less important in finding objectivity in aligning it with each individual's goal setup. This can be helped by quantitative methods where the number of sizes one wants to achieve can be aligned with numbers, such as how much it will cost to complete online learning programs, both degree and non-degree and how the cost payment system will be completed. Therefore, all cost sources used can be measured from the beginning of the program is followed until it is completed.

3. Reachable

In setting these goals, either stretch or commit goals must also be aligned with the ability to achieve them. Is this program following the major studied by the individual, or is it a cross major, which will later become an obstacle in its completion because it requires primary mastery that has never been taken before? Then how can each manage critical thinking about the process of completing this goal? It is also a crucial thing to think about as early as possible.

4. Relevant

The relevance of individual abilities must also be in line with the program to be followed, from answering why the online learning program is relevant and how it is related to individuals who participate in it. From the beginning, the logical framework has worked in aligning the relevance of the online learning program, which will have outputs that are not only appropriate but also strengthen the individual's personality in his overall personality.

5. Time-bounded

The last one is the suitability of the time in the completion of the program taken, which is crucial to recap all the cost-effectiveness and measure the program output from online learning, both degree and non-degree followed. Besides that, aligning with some critical thinking like what I will do today, tomorrow, next week and so on so that the program's achievements can be measured while taking the program from start to finish.

Each other has an attachment to their respective roles in helping behavioural Muslims in critical thinking to align online learning programs that will be taken from the beginning to the subsequent output. With the SMART above, it will help motivate individual Muslims in structuring the goals of each online

learning program, both degree and non-degree. Likewise, it will focus on aligning with the goal setup, both commit and stretch, to mitigate risks arising from each Muslim individual's internal and external natural behaviour.

In addition, with time management, which is vital in aligning with SMART Objectives, with time for a Muslim, there will be a firm commitment as a basis for accountability in seeking *Khalifah's* personality from each individual. The existence of time management will also link the character of each Muslim in a uniform restructuring of daily activities with his resilience as a Muslim in the social economy and environment. Time management associated with the five SMART above can help develop principles rather than productivity which is inseparable from place, mind and time. Assist in the most incredible opportunity to grow and be more valuable in structuring life values at their best in each *Khalifah's* personality in every Muslim.

CONCLUSION

In summarising the effectiveness of online learning, it is necessary to compile the personal basics of each individual who is ready to take online lectures because online lectures have more complex challenges than offline lectures in some developing countries such as Indonesia. In this case, the assignments in online classes are pretty challenging to use more profound studies for discussions, assignments and portfolios. So here is needed in addition to the readiness of the individual as well as a structured and proportional goal setup in mitigating self-improvement failure and making the right strategic objectives in helping to strengthen student personality so that they can complete lectures on the final line.

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