

Strengthening the Professional Competence of Geography Teachers in Online Learning during the COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

This activity is motivated by the importance of continuously increasing the professional competence of geography teachers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, where learning is conducted online, upgrading and updating of geographic materials is urgently needed so that geography teachers can provide assistance and direction to students in accessing various learning resources available on the internet. This activity was carried out with the objectives of: (1) Increasing the understanding of geography teachers regarding theoretical developments in various aspects of geography studies, (2) Increasing the ability of geography teachers to implement the updates obtained in the learning carried out. The target audience of this activity are geography teachers from various provinces in Indonesia. The target audience from various provinces was determined with the consideration of obtaining representatives of geography teachers who represent various regions and socio-cultural backgrounds. In addition, it is also hoped that this training activity can provide broad benefits.

This activity is carried out in a webinar format. There are three webinar activities held as a series of PPM activities. This webinar activity has obtained the following results: (1) The first webinar will be held on June 30, 2021 with the topic "Essence of Physical Geography in Learning". This activity was attended by 108 participants (91.5% of registered participants). The second webinar will be held on July 7, 2021 with the topic "The Role of Human Geography in Learning". This activity was attended by 66 participants (82.5%). The third webinar will be held on July 14, 2021 with the topic "The Need for Technical Geography Skills for Students". This activity was attended by 74 participants (93.8%). (2) In addition to getting enrichment and deepening of material, participants in this webinar also get best practices from fellow geography teachers. After this webinar, it is hoped that participants will get inspiration and follow up by continuing to improve their professional competence both independently and through the MGMP forum and facilitation of assistance from various parties. The level of attendance and enthusiasm of the participants in participating in this activity was very good. In addition, participants also participated in the entire series of activities from beginning to end. Based on the evaluation results, it can be concluded that this webinar activity has been carried out well.

Kata Kunci: *professional competence, geography teacher, online learning, COVID-19 pandemic*