

Understanding of Special School Teachers on the Use of Assistive Technology as a Learning Source for Children with Special Needs

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ABSTRACT

Assistive technology is needed to help children with special needs improve the quality of learning experiences obtained in the form of learning media. The use of technology is currently the main media in learning during the Covid 19 pandemic. In fact, special schools are equipped with wifi facilities and teachers use smartphones for their daily activities. The use of wifi and smartphones has not been optimized in learning for children with special needs. This activity aims to increase the knowledge and skills of teachers about the use of assistive technology as a learning medium. The target is for special school teachers in the Yogyakarta Special Region because they are at the location of the Covid 19 epidemic. Implementation is carried out through an online seminar using the YouTube channel plb uny platform. Participants were 113 teachers in the Special Region of Yogyakarta. The results of the activity showed an increase in participants' understanding of the benefits of assistive technology in their daily activities (97.35%), related to Activity Daily Living (93.81%), supporting the learning process (83.19%) and increasing academic achievement (93, 81%). Additional understanding is needed to provide a change in participants' perceptions because 61.95% think assistive technology is expensive.

Kata Kunci: *assistive technology, children with special needs*