

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the general context of this study. The chapter discusses the study's context, research questions, research objectives, significance, scope and limitations, and a definition of key terms.

### 1.1 Research Background

Initially, due to the Covid-19 virus outbreak which had an impact on educational aspects, students had to follow government policy, namely Physical Distancing by taking online classes. The Covid-19 virus case has caused a stir in almost all parts of the world, even causing a lot of controversy. Initially the Covid-19 virus came from a country in East Asia, especially in China. The origin of the Covid-19 virus in China came from wholesale fish markets that sell wild animals such as bats, snakes, and chickens, and also seafood in Wuhan City. From that, the Covid-19 virus is thought to have spread from animals to humans. The Covid-19 virus attacks human respiratory organs, posing a significant risk to the immune system, making individuals with weakened immune systems more susceptible to infection, with the worst-case scenario potentially leading to death. The Covid-19 virus spread to Indonesia, becoming a terrifying threat to Indonesian society. As a result, Indonesia had to implement physical distancing measures to minimize the spread of the Covid-19 virus in society and prevent the situation from worsening.

The outbreak of the Covid-19 virus which has a major impact on education. The impact that occurs is that students experience losses because they have to learning from home or attend online classes. The challenge of online learning is

also felt by students because they often complain about the methods of using supportive online learning media, still unable to manage time learning environment during online classes, and sometimes complain about technical problems. Online learning seems to be a serious challenge felt by students. Seeing this situation the researcher was interested in researching the previous activities of SMA students in 2021 and their perceptions of the three components of study while taking online classes at home. The researcher then analyzed the current learning process where some teachers still implement online classes for student learning. The researcher examines the effectiveness of online classes based on the perceptions of SMA students' perceptions of learning system in *Kurikulum Merdeka*.

### **1.2 Research Problem(s)**

In order to make discussion more organized, the researcher formulate the problems as follows:

- 1) What are the effect of online class on students learning at home?
- 2) What is the dominant perception felt by SMA students during online classes for learning at home?

### **1.3 Research Objectives**

In accordance with the formulation of the problem, the research objective is:

- 1) Find out the effect of online classes on students' learning at home.
- 2) Know the dominant perception felt by SMA students when online classes for learning at home.

### **1.4 Scope and Limitaton**

The scope of this research is a type of qualitative research, namely an empirical study of SMA students who participated in online classes during the Covid-19 outbreak. According to (McMillan and Schumacher, 2010) in (Rahadi, 2020) say that qualitative research is a concept of social science whose results are related to the observation of the object under study within the research area and involve all parties in the incident. This research was conducted to find out the challenges faced by SMA students in 2021 when taking online classes and the effectiveness according to SMA students of the application of online classes for current student learning based to *Kurikulum Merdeka*.

Based on this research process, there are limitations that may influence the research results, including:

1. There are limited respondents, in fact researchers need at least 30 people, but actually in the field they only found 15 until 20 respondents. When the number of respondents is less than the research plan prepared, you will get a limited amount of data which will affect data analysis and drawing conclusions as a result of the research.
2. This study only analyzed data by asking questions related to the challenges faced by SMA students graduating in 2021 and the effectiveness of online classes when implemented in *Kurikulum Merdeka*. Then, the data processing results from the questionnaire were analyzed based on three perceptions; cognitive, affective, and conative.

3. There is a lack of ability of respondents to understand the questions in the questionnaire and also honesty in filling out the questionnaire, so that there is a possibility that the results will be less accurate.

### **1.5 Research Significance**

The significance of this research is expected to contribute to the efforts made by SMA students in 2021. In this case, SMA students in this study are expected to be able to provide their opinions regarding the challenges faced in online classes, obstacles in understanding the material, and the level of effectiveness of online classes for learning in *Kurikulum Merdeka*. Whether this online classes will be effective or ineffective if applied during learning in *Kurikulum Merdeka*.

### **1.6 Definition of Key Terms**

To clarify the key terms used in this research, several definitions are put forward.

#### **1.6.1 Online Class**

According to (Liza, 2025) online class is an educational method that utilizes the internet and digital tools to deliver lessons virtually. This process allows communication between teachers and students without the need for face-to-face meetings in a traditional classroom.

#### **1.6.2 *Kurikulum Merdeka***

According to Darmawan and Winataputra (2020) in (Tuerah & Tuerah, 2023) *Kurikulum Merdeka* is a curriculum who designed to enhance student independence and support student-focused learning processes, with an emphasis on empowerment and enhancing 21st-century capabilities.

### 1.6.3 SMA

According to (Rasyid, 2025) SMA or Sekolah Menengah Atas is secondary education in Indonesia's formal education system follows completion of Junior High School (SMP) or its equivalent. Senior High School (SMA) is a part of secondary education designed to prepare students to continue their studies at a higher level, namely university.

### 1.6.4 Perception

According to Hamner and Organ in (Jayanti, 2018) perception is a way in which an individual organizes in his mind, interprets, feels a handles signs or everything that happens around him. Because of this, people can have different views even even though the object being viewed remains the same.

