



Massive Open Online Course: Opportunities and Challenges in State Islamic Higher Education in Indonesia

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Bio Profile:

Muhaemin is a senior lecturer at IAIN Palopo, South Sulawesi-Indonesia. His research interests include Islamic higher education and the social history of Islamic education. He took a PhD. in Islamic education at Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta.

Abstract

Online learning has become one of the most desirable learning media for the millennial generation, compared to offline options. This indicates a major change in current main learning media. This paper focuses on mapping the opportunities and challenges in Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) media for lecturers and students at Institut Agama Islam Negeri Palopo (IAIN Palopo). This study applies qualitative research by interviewing lecturers and students from the English department, and observing the teaching and learning process in the classrooms. The findings of this study show that MOOC has not been applied extensively as a medium of learning in the department. The main constraint found was the lack of information about MOOC; the lecturer and students were not well trained in applying MOOC in teaching and learning. Several MOOC programmes likely to be followed by both lecturers and students in the IAIN Palopo English department include English for Islamic education departments, English for Islamic history and culture, and language testing and assessment. Finally, this research also recommends that state Islamic higher education should create a MOOC programme for any department that can support quality improvements in its graduates.

Introduction

A unique feature of educational institutions in Indonesia is the existence of universities under the guidance of the Ministry of Religion. Institut Agama Islam Negeri Palopo is one such campus, and it fosters several study programmes, including those in the English department.