

## Consistency of Interest and Perseverance of Effort in Pharmacy Students During Online Learning



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**ABSTRACT:** Online learning has a serious impact on the world of education. Students' learning motivation decreases is one of the effects. This study aims to examine how the conditions of the two dimensions of Grit, namely Consistency of Interest and Perseverance of Effort in students during online learning. This research is quantitative descriptive research. A total of 754 students consisting of 176 males and 578 females, participated in this study. The GRIT-S scale is given online using the help of a google form. The results of this study indicate that the average dimension of Perseverance of Effort is higher than Consistency of Interest. In addition to the grit level categorization on the Consistency of Interest Dimension, moderate-level participants dominate this study. Meanwhile, the Low level on the Consistency of Interest dimension is higher than the participants at the high level. This shows that participants tend to have lower Consistency of Interest during a pandemic. On the Perseverance of Effort dimension, moderate level participants also dominate this study. However, on the Perseverance of Effort dimension, the High level of the Perseverance of Effort dimension is more than that of the Low level of participants. Theoretical and practical implications are discussed.

**KEYWORDS:** Grit, Consistency of Interest, Perseverance of Effort, online learning, pandemic COVID-19

### I. INTRODUCTION

The pandemic will still apply in a country as long as COVID-19 cannot be handled. Indonesia is one of the countries that, until now (April 2022), still feel how the pandemic is still going on. Education is still not fully for offline learning. While many feel that the impact of the pandemic is felt in various fields. The education sector is one of the most affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Examples of research results on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on school activities are limited time, facilities, different student conditions, and decreased student motivation (Muthmainnah et al., 2022). Nevertheless, online learning is one of the best ways to stop the spread of COVID-19,

It is undeniable that online learning cannot be effective because many research reports say that students' learning motivation decreases when participating in online learning (Agustina et al., 2021; Ahmadi & Syahrani, 2022; Izzatunnisa et al., 2021; Pahrji, 2021). ; Said, 2021; Tafdhila et al., 2021; Wahyudi & Yulianti, 2021; Zurriyati & Mudjiran, 2021). However, some students continue to study despite challenging circumstances, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This depends on the personality possessed by the student. Grit is a personality trait that can sustain the condition. Grit is defined as persistence and passion when working to achieve long-term goals (Nishikawa et al., 2022).

Initially, Grit was concerned with increasing the opportunities for disadvantaged students (Ris, 2015). But the concept of Grit is also useful and can be applied by middle- and upper-class adults to correct their own children's mistakes and perhaps overcome them. Grit serves for the development of character development (Ris, 2015). To have high Grit requires hard work against challenges, maintaining interest for years despite failure and ongoing difficulties (Duckworth et al., 2007).

Grit has two main dimensions: Consistency of Interest and Perseverance of Effort (Duckworth et al., 2007). Consistency of Interest means maintaining interest over time even when one faces setbacks and failures. In contrast, Perseverance of Effort refers to the tendency to work hard and maintain efforts even when one faces challenges (Duckworth et al., 2007). These two dimensions together form Grit. The results of previous studies said that Grit had a low correlation with IQ but could be a strong predictor of achievement, especially for GPA in college (Ris, 2015).

Based on the above background, this study explores how Consistency of Interest and Perseverance of Effort occur in students during the COVID-19 pandemic in online learning. Students with high Perseverance of Effort and Consistency of Interest will look

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different from other students because it makes obstacles in online learning a challenge. This is important to find out how the efforts made by students to keep trying to follow learning well in challenging times.

### II. METHOD

This study uses a descriptive quantitative approach. A descriptive quantitative method is a basic quantitative method whose description is numerical or numerical. The advantage of this method is that it can describe conditions in the general population. Participants in this study were 754 students consisting of 176 males and 578 females. Online students fill out questionnaires that have been compiled using google forms. Based on the demographic data shown in table 1. It can be seen that the age of the participants is from 17 to 24 years. Participants came from 9 majors, namely Islamic Religion (3.4%), Economic and Business (39.7%), Pharmacy (2.5%), Law (0.9%), Health Sciences (4%), Teacher training and education science (15%), Psychology (27.5%), Literature (5.7%), and Engineering and Science (1.3%). Participants were dominated by semester 4 (57.4%) and semester 2 (34%). The average participant had a GPA of 2.76 to 4.00. In addition, participants believe that the major is in accordance with passion as much as 89.4% while it is not suitable for much as 10.6%. Finally, demographics also asked about basic high school; information was obtained that 24.3% came from schools based on Islam and 57.3% from public schools.

**Table 1. Participant**

	Levels	Counts	% of Total	Cumulative %
AGE	17	2	0.3%	0.3%
	18	65	8.6%	8.9 %
	19	229	30.4%	39.3%
	20	278	36.9%	76.1 %
	21	143	19.0%	95.1 %
	22	24	3.2%	98.3%
	23	9	1.2%	99.5%
	24	4	0.5 %	100.0%
SEX	Male	176	23.3%	23.3%
	female	578	76.7 %	100.0%
Major	Islamic Religion	26	3.4%	3.4%
	Economics and Business	299	39.7%	43.1%
	Pharmacy	19	2.5%	45.6%
	Law	7	0.9%	46.6%
	Health sciences	30	4.0 %	50.5%
	Teacher training and education science	113	15.0%	65.5%
	Psychology	207	27.5%	93.0%
	Literature	43	5.7%	98.7%
	Engineering and science	10	1.3%	100.0%
Semester	2	256	34.0%	34.0%
	4	433	57.4%	91.4%
	6	39	5.2%	96.6%
	8	26	3.4%	100.0%
GPA	2.00 - 2.75	11	1.5%	1.5%
	2.76 - 3.50	330	43.8%	45.2%
	3.51 - 4.00	412	54.6%	99.9%
	<2.00	1	0.1 %	100.0%
Major suitable with passion?	1	674	89.4%	89.4%
	2	80	10.6%	100.0%
High school basic	Islamic	183	24.3%	24.3%
	Non-Islamic	571	75.7%	100.0%

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The data collection tool uses The Short Grit Scale (Duckworth & Quinn, 2009), adapted and translated into Indonesian. Grit-S measures two grit dimensions: Perseverance of Effort (4 items, for example, "I am diligent") and Consistency of Interest (4 items, for example, "I often set a goal but later choose to pursue a different one." The Consistency of Interest scale has a reliability of 0.72, and the Perseverance of Effort scale has a reliability of 0.79. Scoring data using a Likert scale from 1 (true) to 6 (not true) assessed Perseverance of Effort, reverse-scored for four Consistency of Interest items.

Data analysis uses quantitative descriptive analysis, which includes categorizing Grit levels based on the dimensions of Perseverance of Effort, and Consistency of Interest. The results of level categorization will be grouped based on demographic data such as age, sex, major, GPA, semester, Major passion, and high School basic. Data analysis was performed using the JAMOVI program.

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Before the main analysis, the descriptive minimum, maximum, mean, and standard deviation scores were analyzed first. The data is shown in table 2. Based on table 2, information can be obtained that the mean for the variable and Consistency of Interest is 11.8, and the Perseverance of Effort is 18.6. It can be concluded that the highest average value was obtained from the participants, namely the dimension of Perseverance of Effort. The standard deviation of Consistency of Interest is 3.71, and Perseverance of Effort is 3.31 and is not much different. The minimum value for Consistency of Interest is 4, and the maximum value is 24, while the minimum value for Perseverance of Effort is 7, and the maximum value is 24. The two maximum values in the dimensions of Perseverance of Effort and Consistency of Interest reach the highest value of the total score.

**Table 2. Descriptives**

	Consistency of Interest	Perseverance of Effort
N	754	754
missing	0	0
mean	11.8	18.6
median	12	19
Standard deviation	3.71	3.31
Minimum	4	7
Maximum	24	24

Table 3 shows the results of the grit level categorization in each dimension. Dimensions of Consistency of Interest, moderate-level participants dominate this study. Meanwhile, the Low level on the Consistency of Interest dimension is higher than the participants at the high level. This shows that participants tend to have lower Consistency of Interest during a pandemic. On the Perseverance of Effort dimension, moderate-level participants also dominate this study. However, on the Perseverance of Effort dimension, the High level of the Perseverance of Effort dimension is more than that of the Low level of participants. This shows that participants tend to have a higher Perseverance of Effort during a pandemic.

**Table 3. Category level by dimension**

Levels	Consistency of Interest		Perseverance of Effort	
	Counts	% of Total	Counts	% of Total
High	130	17.2%	147	19.5%
Moderate	485	64.3%	470	62.3%
Low	139	18.4%	137	18.2%

Furthermore, the table compares the two dimensions: Consistency of Interest and Perseverance of Effort. 3. The results show that participants at a high level in the Perseverance of Effort dimension are more than in the Consistency of Interest dimension. This result strengthens the mean on the Perseverance of Effort dimension, higher than the Consistency of Interest dimension. This can be interpreted that the dimension of Perseverance of Effort may be considered more important than Consistency of Interest.

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Table 4. Category Level of Grit Dimension

		Consistency of Interest			Perseverance of Effort		
		High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate	Low
Sex	Male	30	111	35	33	112	31
	Female	100	374	104	114	358	106
Semester	2	39	174	43	53	160	43
	4	81	269	83	82	270	81
	6	6	24	9	8	25	6
	8	4	18	4	4	15	7
GPA	2.00 - 2.75	2	8	1	2	8	1
	2.76 - 3.50	47	233	50	56	204	70
	3.51 - 4.00	80	244	88	89	257	66
	<2.00	1	0	0	0	1	0
Major Passion	yes	124	428	122	138	414	122
	no	6	57	17	9	56	15

Table 4. Shows the results of the level categorization of the Perseverance of Effort and Consistency of Interest dimensions based on demographic data. However, due to the disproportionate number of participants among demographics, the analysis results cannot be compared between demographics. However, table 4 explains that the high level in both dimensions is dominated by higher or more in the Perseverance of Effort dimension than Consistency of Interest.

Although the demographic data cannot be further analyzed due to the limited number of participants, it should be noted that sex has an important role in determining the high and low grit. This was found in previous studies, which said that Grit was more prominent in males than females (Tang et al., 2021). However, it is different from other studies, which say there is no difference in Grit between the sexes (Hodge et al., 2018). Another point to note is that our participants scored higher for Perseverance of Effort than Consistency of Interest. Because the previous literature said that only Perseverance of Effort was more prominent in predicting academic engagement and students' subjective well-being. Meanwhile, Consistency of Interest is not the case (Datu et al., 2016). Do we think that the collective culture in Indonesia is the answer to the results of this research? This study has limitations. Participants are not balanced based on demographics. Besides that, this study only reveals the condition of the two dimensions of Grit, namely Consistency of Interest and Perseverance of Effort, that students have during the COVID-19 pandemic during online learning. However, this research implies that during the COVID-19 pandemic, students must increase their learning motivation with their Perseverance of Effort. Because Grit has been shown to eliminate adverse environmental effects (Blalock et al., 2015), and Grit has a positive relationship with academic engagement and productivity (Hodge et al., 2018). In addition, Grit is positively related to all well-being factors (Vainio & Daukantaitė, 2016) so that students can still carry out their activities as mentally healthy students. As the results of previous studies said, Grit affected mental health (Musumari et al., 2018)

#### IV. CONCLUSIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic is still ongoing until the end of April 2022. The impact can still be felt in the implementation of online learning. Students who take online learning do not always have a strong learning motivation. On the other hand, online learning has a fairly serious impact on the effectiveness of learning. This study examines how Grit is a personality trait possessed by students during online learning. We find that the dimension of Perseverance of Effort is higher than Consistency of Interest. It can be concluded that during a pandemic, students in collective countries may emphasize perseverance than what is called passion.

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