How Does Sustainability Concept Work At University In Pandemic Era?

Ni Made Indah Mentari[1,a)] and Kadek Indah Kusuma Dewi[2,b)]

[1,2] *Mahasaraswati University, Indonesia*

[a)] *indahmentari@unmas.ac.id*
[b)] *indahkusumadewi@unmas.ac.id*

Abstract: This research provides an overview of sustainability concept implementation in university. Currently, universities are increasingly aware of their roles and responsibilities in promoting this sustainability concept and are committed to being sustainable. Small things about this concept has done by university with community service activities which is part of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education. Covid-19 pandemic also gives impact for sustainability concept such as limited offline activities on campus which indirectly affect electricity and water use, pollution is also reduced due to limited vehicles entering campus, the teaching and learning process is carried out online, the decrease in the number of students.

Keyword: Sustainability Concept, University, Covid-19.

INTRODUCTION

The concept of sustainability is important nowadays considering the demands of many parties for the existence of corporate responsibility. Companies are increasingly and voluntarily engaging in actions that appear to promote some social activities, including environmental protection, community support, and fair employment practices (Stanford, 2011). The realization of sustainability concept is sustainability reporting that has become popular, especially in the last decade, emerging as a result of the evolution of environmental and corporate social responsibility reports (Jones et al., 2016; Uyar, 2016).

The demand for the implementation of sustainability concept in companies is not only addressed to the business sector but also to the education sector. University have an important role to play in promoting the concept of sustainability (Findler et al., 2019). University management should realize that their organization has this important role and should make initial steps to promote the concept of sustainability (Kurniawan, et al., 2019). Kurniawan, et al (2019) stated that university management can use sustainability reports as a tool in the reporting process, which in turn may have a strong impact on the relationship between university and outside organizations.

Sustainability concept at worldwide university has also been growing, as evidenced by the publication of sustainability reports at the following universities, for example: University of California at Berkeley (2013), University of Melbourne (2015), Deakin University (2017), and University of Plymouth. Universities in Indonesia themselves have also made sustainability reports, it was noted that the University of Indonesia in 2018 obtained high scores on performance, especially in the social, educational, and environmental fields. This is indicated by the community service activities that have been carried out, the university curriculum that has been integrated with the concept of sustainability, and the budget for sustainability.

Based on explanation above, it can be concluded that the implementation of the sustainability concept in university has not gone well because not all university have implemented this concept. In fact, considering how important the role of educational institutions especially university is to disseminate an understanding of sustainability concept. The current condition which is still unstable due to the Covid-19 pandemic makes it even more difficult to implement the concept of sustainability at university considering that almost all

sectors are affected. This research will discuss further regarding the application of the sustainability concept by university, especially during the pandemic.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The concept of sustainability in higher education is very often discussed in recent times. Karmel (1989) defined a college or university as a self-governing corporation of scholars, which means an association of educated people who organize themselves. Currently, there are many universities that apply the concept of sustainability and make sustainability reports.

The sustainability report is an annual report that contains all the activities and social responsibilities that have been carried out by the company. The Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) which concentrates on standardization of sustainability reports defines sustainability reports as a way to measure and disclose company activities as a form of responsibility to internal and external stakeholders regarding the company's performance in achieving sustainability goals.

The existence of a sustainability report allows internal companies to estimate the impact of their business on the economy, environment and society. Meanwhile, for external parties, the sustainability report has a strong impact on the company establishing good relationships with interested external parties.

METHODOLOGY

This research uses the literature review method. The research was conducted by looking at the previous literature that discussed the concept and development of sustainability in higher education.
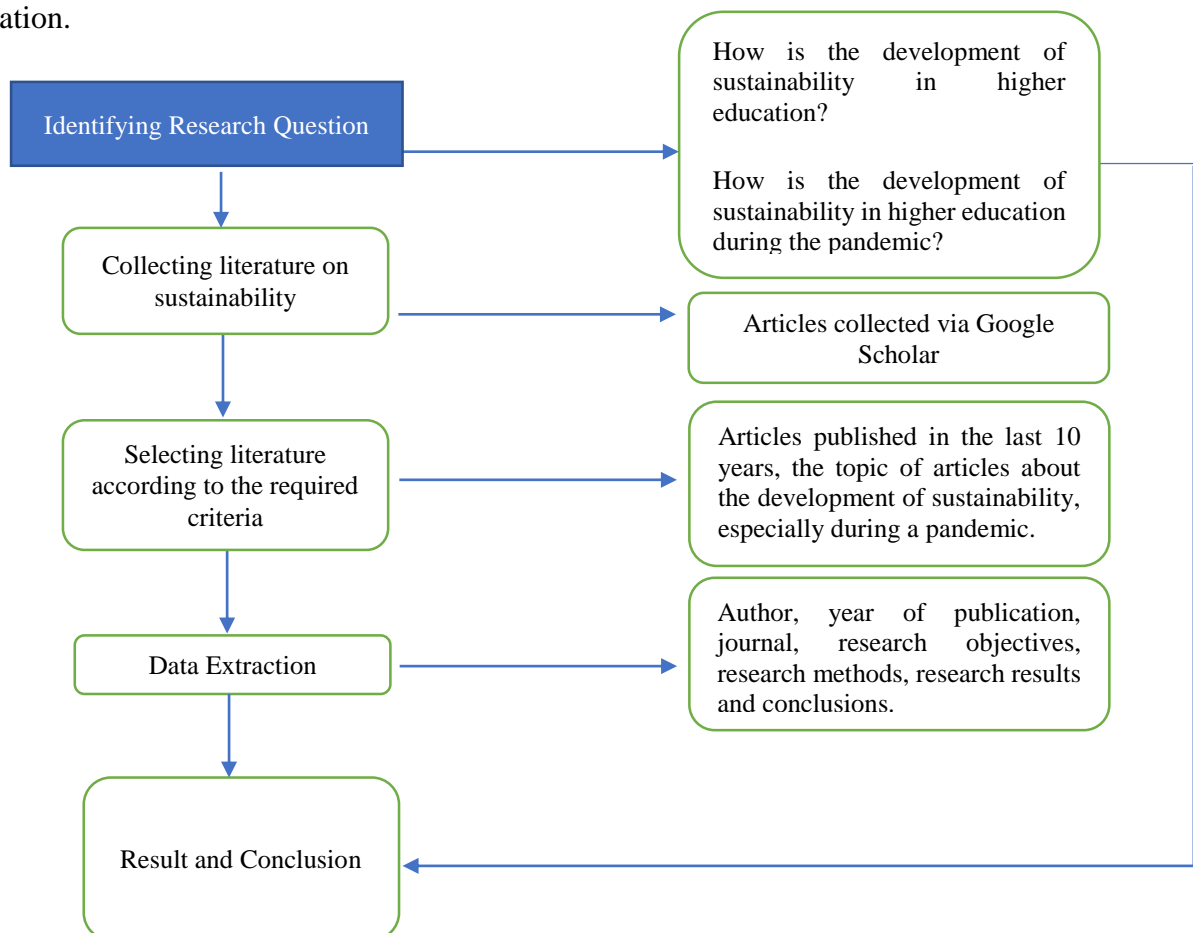

Figure 1. Literature Review Steps

The research method was adopted from research conducted by Jusuf et al (2020) on the

implementation of the concept of sustainability in universities. This research is also based on the research method by Menon & Suresh (2020) on synergizing education, research, campus operations, and community involvement in sustainability in universities.

The steps taken in conducting a literature review are adapted from the research of Nerantzidis et al (2020) which can be seen as shown in Figure 1. The first step after identifying the research question was to collect literature on the topic of sustainability. We collected literature through google scholar. Furthermore, after the literature was collected, we re-selected according to the established criteria. The criteria are literature published in the last 10 years and the topic is the development of sustainability, especially during the pandemic. Furthermore, performed data extraction, which identifies articles such as author, year of publication, journal, research objectives, research methods, research results and conclusions. The final step was discussed the results of the literature review found.

RESULT & DISCUSSION
The Concept of Sustainability in Higher Education

The concept has become quite a topic of discussion in recent years. The concept was first coined by world commission for Environment and Development in 1987. The practice of this concept is mostly carried out by companies as a manifestation of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) commitment which is a form of company concern for humans and the environment. This happens because the creation of the company is a balance between economic (business), environmental and community interests (Puspita & Daljono, 2014).

Not only companies, now the concept has also begun to enter college. Universities are considered capable of assessing this concept to the public. The demand for knowledge and skills on future business leaders makes universities realize their role and importance in promoting this concept and commit to being sustainable (Wang et al, 2020). Although not all universities are committed to implementing this concept, it is hoped that in the next few years all universities will be able to implement it.

Abu Bakar et al (2020) research in Saudi Arabia found that 72.7% of universities demonstrated a commitment to a sustainable campus by having a related vision. There are also some college that have coverage on their campus development plans or strategic plans, although there is no specific evidence of such plans. The literature review conducted by Berchin et al (2017) in Brazil is a concept that universities not only educate their members, but also focus on internal processes, as well as building and following the Institution's agenda. Internal institutions are converted into green campuses to reduce consumption and do more recycling. The good effects that occur also make students and professors begin to replicate this practice in everyday life.

Having an important role, the curriculum is combined with principles at the University of British Columbia Okanagan. This is done in increasing awareness about the use of natural resources and fostering responsible behavior for the sustainable use of natural resources at the national and local levels (Bilodeau et al, 2014). The application of the concept has three important points called the 3Ps, namely people, planet (environment), profit. Environmental issues are one that is quite a concern for the community, because community activities, both in business and in universities, have an impact on the environment.

To support the concept related to the environment, the commitment to go green in universities is very important. This is because universities are considered as institutions that have the driving force of civilization. The practice of higher education in Russia has improved over the years, indicating a growing awareness of the role of universities in combating the problem of environmental degradation. However, this practice is still far below the established global standards (Ali & Anuvrief, 2020).

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The Concept of Sustainability in Higher Education during the Covid-19 Pandemic

The challenge of implementing the concept of sustainability in higher education is even greater due to the Covid-19 pandemic that occurred in early 2020. The pandemic disrupted the Tri Dharma of higher education, such as the education calendar, research, community service and reduced or lost income streams and human resources. This condition is likely to have an effect on sustainability in higher education.

The impact of this pandemic has made university stakeholders ranging from students and lecturers to switching formats from face-to-face learning to online to prevent virus transmission. Of course, this new habit has difficulties at the beginning, so it is necessary to design a learning system that can support sustainability in higher education.

Sofiadin & Azuddin (2021) research is developing a new e-learning model. In colleges gamified e-learning can promote better learning engagement, educational equity, skills development, social engagement, well-being, and lifelong learning among their students. This makes it possible for continuing education to survive the pandemic. Many difficulties to adapt to these new conditions, but e-learning also has a good impact. The research of Shaban et al (2021) found a positive effect on performance during Covid-19 and also due to e-learning teaching.

The concept of sustainability related to the environment has also been affected by this pandemic. The impact that occurs is energy savings due to a drastic reduction in activities on campus. Stakeholder behavior in protecting the environment is still maintained as in research by Asio (2021) which concluded that students still practice appropriate environmental consumption and waste recycling, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to stakeholders and the environment, the Covid-19 pandemic also has an impact on the financial health of universities. This is because of the loss of income from paying tuition fees and also research funds. The pandemic emerged amid declining funding for higher education and a reduction in funding for higher education by the government due to increasing budgetary challenges (Blankenberger & Williams, 2020). In developing countries, higher education may experience a reduction in government funding because funds are allocated to other sectors for economic recovery (Altbach & de Wit, 2020).

CONCLUSION

This research provides an overview of sustainability concept implementation in university. Currently, universities are increasingly aware of their roles and responsibilities in promoting this sustainability concept and are committed to being sustainable. One of the implementation from this concept is the sustainability report as an accountability for social and environmental activities carried out by the university. The sustainability report should be able to contain a minimum of community service activities that have been carried out. This is certainly something that is not foreign to lecturers at universities considering that community service is one part of the Tri Dharma of Higher Education.

Next, talk about the impact of the pandemic on activities at universities if it is associated with the concept of sustainability, it is certainly very influential. The environmental impact (planet) affected by the Covid-19 is limited offline activities on campus which indirectly affect electricity and water use, pollution is also reduced due to limited vehicles entering campus. Furthermore, because the teaching and learning process is carried out online, social activities (people) on campus are also reduced. Last, related to the financial aspect (profit) felt by higher education institutions, is the decrease in the number of students as a result of the decline in people's income.

Today's global developments certainly have a lot of influence on universities. The demand for universities to be more concerned with the concept of sustainability should be followed up. On the other hand, implementing the current sustainability concept will be difficult because it is still voluntary. Thus, universities are not obliged to make sustainability reports as a form of responsibility for their social and environmental activities. But of course there is great hope if this concept can be implemented regularly in the campus environment even during the recovery period after the Covid-19 pandemic.

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