Achievement Motivation and Learning Behavior of Students During COVID-19 Pandemic: Gender Differences

Adi Atmoko, Wahyu N. Eka Saputra, IM Hambali, Eny Tri Wahyuni

University of Malang, Indonesia,
Universitas Ahmad Dahlan, Indonesia,
Universitas Mohammad Sorejadi, Indonesia

Abstract
This study aimed to describe and compare the achievement motivation and learning behavior based on male and female students in Indonesia. Respondents involved 902 female high school students and 637 male high school students using the cluster random sampling technique. Data were collected using a scale of achievement motivation and learning behavior with a validity coefficient of items in the range of 0.362 to 0.724, and each had Cronbach's alpha reliability of 0.811 and 0.866; data analyzed by descriptive and Mann-Whitney tests. The results showed significant differences in the level of achievement motivation and learning behavior of male and female students. Female students showed better achievement motivation and learning behavior than male students. This study discussed the need for guidance and counseling services to increase achievement motivation and study learning behavior based on gender differences.

Keywords: Achievement motivation, Learning behavior, Gender differences, COVID-19

Introduction
The whole world is experiencing the problem of COVID-19. The outbreak that started in Wuhan, China, in December 2019 gave rise to various new phenomena such as the loss of many lives, economic impact, and poverty (Ciotti et al., 2020; Susskind & Vines, 2020; Karani & Maré, 2022). The COVID-19 pandemic also seems to have degraded the mental health of the international community (Cullen et al., 2020; Pfeiferbaum & North, 2020). Several mental illnesses in communities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic include anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, psychological distress, and stress (Xiong et al., 2020). Even the results of the study recommend improving mental health services for the community during the COVID-19 pandemic (Moreno et al., 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic is a big challenge for the world of education today. This situation has many negative impacts on various aspects, one of which is the world of education (Daniel, 2020; Korkmaz & Mirici, 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic requires the world of education to take steps to learn from home or online learning to avoid the negative impacts of this disease (Tulia, 2020). Various countries are conducting learning from home during the COVID-19 pandemic, both synchronously and asynchronously (Daniel, 2020; Mairing et al., 2021; Rehman & Fatima, 2021). Online learning has not been able to provide maximum results in student development, especially in developing countries (Adnan & Anwar, 2020). Students do not want this step of learning from home for various reasons, such as the difficulty of internet access and expensive devices that are still far from the reach of students (Phelps & Sperry, 2020; Purwadi et al., 2021; Mirici, 2022).

Indonesia is also one of the countries that must bear the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, especially in education (Gatman et al., 2020). Indonesia has tried to prepare virtual infrastructure well, but the readiness factor for teachers and schools still needs to understand the essence of distance learning better. The low self-regulated learning of students supports Indonesia's unpreparedness to carry out online learning (Churiyah et al., 2020). Student facilities and infrastructure are also factors that are not ready to implement online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia (Rulandari, 2020).

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the education sector can also be in terms of motivation, achievement and learning behavior. This study specifically describes the description of the relationship and differences in achievement motivation and learning behavior based on gender. The results of this study can be used as a basis for providing guidance and counseling services to develop achievement motivation and learning behavior by taking into account gender differences.

Achievement motivation is an encouragement to achieve success with a measure of excellence in high learning.

Corresponding Author: adi.atmoko.fip@um.ac.id
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5026-0909

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The results of the study show that students' motivation in participating in school activities tends to decrease (Kulikowski et al., 2021; Rahiem, 2021). Especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, which requires online learning, teachers cannot provide maximum assistance to students in studying at school. When students have a terrible perception of social support from their teachers, it triggers low academic motivation (Emadpoor et al., 2016; Song et al., 2015). Academic motivation itself is one of the variables that determine the high or low academic achievement of students (Gupta & Mili, 2017; Topçu & Leana-Taşciler, 2018). Learning behavior is also one aspect that has dynamic changes during the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia (Rang & Kim, 2021). Learning behavior is the level of student activities that meet expectations (on-task behavior) in learning. An immature online learning system encourages the development of optimal learning behavior in students. Some research results show that online learning behavior can determine the high or low academic achievement of students (Jo et al., 2015; You, 2016).

The aspect of gender differences is still a hot topic in Indonesia, especially in learning at school and in the world of work. Based on the research results in Indonesia, it shows that women have 30% lower salaries than men, and women have lower career opportunities than men (Sohn, 2015). In comparison, the study results show that female students have better academic abilities than male students (Erdiana et al., 2019). In fact, during the COVID-19 pandemic, female students had better self-regulated learning than male students (Wijaya et al., 2020). Indonesia is very concerned about aspects of gender equality, both in the educational process and post-education or the world of work. These conditions become one of the backgrounds to identify differences in achievement motivation and learning behavior of male and female students in Indonesia. This study aimed to describe and compare the achievement motivation and learning behavior base on male and female students.

**Method**

**Research Design**

This study aims to identify the relationship between achievement motivation and learning behavior of male and female students in Indonesia. So, this research is a comparative design to compare the differences in achievement motivation and learning behavior between male and female. The results of the research can be used as the basis for conducting a tutoring service to support maximum learning outcomes, for both men and women.

**Participants**

Participants were 1539 high school students in Indonesia, consisting of 902 female and 637 male. They come from various provinces in Indonesia. Table 1 presents the participants in this research.

### Data Collection Tools

This study uses two instruments (1) the achievement motivation scale has a validity coefficient of items in the range of 0.362 to 0.719, and has a reliability coefficient of 0.811 (a high category); (2) the learning behavior scale has a coefficient of item validity in the range of 0.402 to 0.724, and has a reliability coefficient of 0.866 (a high category).

Tables 2 and 3 describe the lattice of the achievement motivation and learning behavior scale instrument.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Province</th>
<th>f</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Central Java</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>13.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>West Java</td>
<td>306</td>
<td>19.88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>East Java</td>
<td>351</td>
<td>22.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>East Nusa Tenggara</td>
<td>203</td>
<td>13.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Central Sulawesi</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>6.89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Riau</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>6.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Lampung</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>7.15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>West Sumatra</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>9.55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>1539</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Statement items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Achievement</td>
<td>Drive to learning achievement indicators</td>
<td>1, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Actions purpose for learning achievement</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Responsible to completion of assignments for learning achievement</td>
<td>3, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using feedback for performance</td>
<td>4, 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mood when meet failure/difficulty</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Act according to ability</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Using learning achievement opportunities</td>
<td>7, 11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tabel 3: Learning behavior scale**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Statement items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Learning behavior</td>
<td>Learning plan</td>
<td>1, 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Face-to-face/online teaching-learning activities</td>
<td>2, 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual and group tasks activities</td>
<td>3, 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Enrichment learning activities</td>
<td>4, 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prepare for exam activities</td>
<td>5, 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Data Collection
This research through five stages. First, examine the research problem, namely whether the achievement motivation variable is related to learning behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic. Second, determine the group that has specific characteristics, namely 902 female students. Third, select the comparison group, namely 637 male students. Fourth, collect data using a scale of achievement motivation and learning behavior. Fifth, perform data analysis to determine the differences between achievement and learning behavior based on gender during the COVID-19 pandemic. We collected data using google forms, in collaboration with teachers in the sample schools, students filled out the scale using their mobile phones from their respective homes.

Data Analysis
The data analysis technique used Mann-Whitney U test (non-parametric statistic) because the data does not show a normal distribution and is not homogeneous. This analysis of the data using the SPSS for Windows Release 20 program. Table 4 describes the analysis of the assumption test.

Shapiro-Wilk analysis in table 4 shows the value of Sig. of 0.000, meaning that the data is not normally distributed because of the value of Sig. > 0.05. Similarly, the results of the analysis of lilliefors in table 4 show the value of Sig. in the kolmogorov-smirnov column of 0.000. It means that the data is not normally distributed because the value is of Sig. > 0.05.

Table 5 describes the homogeneity assumption test.

In table 5, homogeneity test of achievement motivation data show that F is 0.035 with a significance of 0.851, meaning greater than 0.05 (0.851 > 0.05). This result means that the variance of the population group is homogeneous. While the homogeneity test of learning behavior data show that F is 5.459 with a significance of 0.020, meaning less than 0.05 (0.020 < 0.05). This result means that the variance of the population group is not homogeneous. Thus the requirements for normality and homogeneity for comparative analysis are not met. So the comparative analysis uses the Mann-Whitney U test.

Table 4: Normality test assumptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Data</th>
<th>Achievement motivation</th>
<th>Learning behavior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sig. Kolmogorov-Smirnov</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Sig. Shapiro-Wilk</td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Homogeneity test assumptions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Achievement motivation</th>
<th>Learning behavior</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Sig.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.851</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Findings**

The results showed a significant difference in both achievement motivation and learning behavior in male and female students during the COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia. Female students have better achievement motivation and learning behavior than male students. The following section will identify these differences.

Table 6 shows the analysis results that describe the differences in achievement motivation by gender.

Data analysis showed that Asymp. Sig. of 0.000 is smaller than 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05). This result means that there are differences in student achievement motivation in terms of gender. The level of achievement motivation of female students was higher than that of male students (female 36.405, male 33.623, Asymp. Sig. 0.000). The mean value of achievement motivation of female students is 36.405, while the level of achievement motivation of male students is 33.623. The mean level of achievement motivation of female students is greater than that of male students. Graph 1 shows the differences in the level of achievement motivation by gender.

The following analysis is to identify differences in the level of learning behavior between male and female students. Table 7 shows the analysis results that describe the differences in learning behavior by gender.

Data analysis showed that Asymp. Sig. of 0.000 is smaller than 0.05 (0.000 < 0.05). This result means that there are differences in student learning behavior in terms of gender. The results showed that the level of learning behavior of female students was higher than that of male students (female 28.261, male 26.393, Asymp. Sig.0.000). The mean value of female students’ learning behavior is 28.261, while the male student’s level of learning behavior is 26.393. The mean level of learning behavior of female students is greater than that of male students. Graph 2 shows the difference in the level of learning behavior by gender.

Table 6: Comparative achievement motivation based on gender differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mean male students</th>
<th>Mean female students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Asymp. Sig</td>
<td>33.623</td>
<td>36.405</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 1: Description of the percent of achievement motivation based on gender

Graph 2: Description of the percent of learning behavior based on gender
Table 7: A comparative learning behavior by gender differences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mann-Whitney U test</th>
<th>Asym. Sig</th>
<th>Mean male students</th>
<th>Mean female students</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0.000</td>
<td>26.3931</td>
<td>28.2617</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Graph 2: Description of the percent of learning behavior based on gender

**Discussion**

During the pandemic, various dynamics of student learning activities emerged. Various learning patterns that had not appeared before finally occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. The results show that the design of learning from home during the COVID-19 pandemic has changed many aspects of student learning activities (Agu et al., 2021; Khattar et al., 2020). Students need more effort to adapt to new online learning habits (Giatman et al., 2020; Purwadi et al., 2021). Meanwhile, students in Indonesia before the COVID-19 pandemic did not have the opportunity to do online learning. In addition, many students in Indonesia have not prepared themselves for online learning, especially if you look at it from facilities and infrastructure (Afsani & Aditia, 2020; Churiyah et al., 2020). So that teachers need to develop mature strategies so that the online learning process can run optimally.

The rules regarding preventing the spread of COVID-19 forced them from face-to-face meetings to face-to-face meetings (Mpungose, 2020). Attractive conditions to be a research topic. Moreover, online learning activities themselves are a challenge and an opportunity in the field of education (Simamora, 2020). Based on the various learning dynamics that arise in students in the era of the COVID-19 pandemic, this study wants to explore achievement motivation and learning behavior based on gender differences. The findings of this study indicate that there are significant differences between male and female students in aspects of achievement motivation and learning behavior.

Further analysis found that female students were superior in three aspects to male students, namely achievement motivation and learning behavior. The aspect of gender differences turned out to be one of the determinants of the tendency of student learning activities (Choudhary et al., 2011; Kulturel-Konak et al., 2011; Samuelsson & Samuelsson, 2016). Ini This research finding can be the basis for carrying out certain follow-up actions and interventions to increase achievement motivation and learning behavior in schools amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is no concept of gender inequality in implementing learning activities in schools or even in other fields. Even the government and educational institutions in Indonesia guarantee gender equality for every citizen in carrying out activities (Syamsul, 2018). Like male students, female students can get education and opportunities in various fields according to their abilities and characteristics as a woman to actualize themselves. However, in almost all countries, including Indonesia, gender equality in learning per year yields minimal gains because, once in school, girls learn practically the same as boys (Kaffenberger & Pritchett, 2020). As a result, female students have fewer opportunities to work after graduating from school, even though their incomes tend to be small (Sohn, 2015). The rationale above becomes the basis for examining the dynamics between male and female students in the variance of achievement motivation and learning behavior.

First, this study examines the level of achievement motivation between male and female students in Indonesia. The COVID-19 pandemic in Indonesia influences student achievement motivation. The results of previous studies showed that students lost their achievement motivation and learning performance using online learning methods during the COVID-19 pandemic period (Tan, 2021). Other studies also show that student achievement motivation during the COVID-19 pandemic is lower than before the COVID-19 pandemic (Klootwijk et al., 2021). However, the results of other studies also show that an attractive and systematically structured learning design with cooperative learning can trigger an increase in achievement motivation (Haftador et al., 2021).

Gender is also one of the determinants of the dynamics of student achievement motivation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on this study's results, the achievement motivation of female students is better than male students. Research in Australia shows the same results, and girls have higher achievement motivation scores than male students (Pašková & McGeown, 2012). In addition, research in England also shows that the intrinsic motivation of female students is better than that of male students (McGeown et al., 2012). Based on the research results above, achievement motivation is more critical for female students than male students.

The results of other studies show other results, where differences in achievement motivation appear in the form and setting. In Iran, male students tend to have strong achievement motivation at night, while female students tend to be in the morning (Dehkordi et al., 2019). In addition, differences in children's achievement motivation also lie in their subjects. Boys report more potent abilities and interests in math and science, while girls are more confident and interested in the arts.
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of language and writing (Meece et al., 2006). This difference in achievement motivation certainly has implications for the learning process or intervention to develop gender-based student achievement motivation.

The difference in achievement motivation of male and female students certainly has a reason. One reason is that male students are more likely to face stress more quickly, so they apply a coping strategy to develop achievement motivation to achieve their academic goals (Bonneville-Roussy et al., 2017). Especially in the pandemic season, it is possible to appear various activities and situations that are beyond the plans and predictions. In contrast to male students, who tend to be a little worried about the impact that will arise when their academic assignments have not been completed, they do not tend to be easily stressed due to the pressure of educational activities. In addition, female students also have an orientation to mastery of the material than male students who are performance-oriented (D’Souza et al., 2014). These conditions can trigger higher achievement motivation of female students than male students.

In the second part, this study seeks to examine the differences in the level of learning behavior of male and female students. Adopting new habits in the new normal era triggers the emergence of complex dynamics of learning behavior. Students shift their traditional learning behavior to online and blended learning (Kamal et al., 2020). The results showed that students were dissatisfied with the implementation of online learning (Almusharraf & Khahro, 2020; Sharma et al., 2020). They considered the system not ready to implement massive online learning (Purwadi et al., 2021). This situation impacts decreasing the level of student learning behavior, even though learning behavior is one of the predictors of high or low student academic achievement (Macbi et al., 2012).

Gender is one aspect that distinguishes the level of student learning behavior. The results showed that the learning behavior of female students was better than that of male students. The research results in Australia show similar results, the level of learning behavior of female students in writing is better than male students (Lee, 2013). In line with the results of previous studies, the results of research in the United States show that female students have an advantage in learning behavior in the language aspect over male students (Kauskanska et al., 2013). Differences in the level of learning behavior of male and female students have implications for the learning strategies of teachers.

The results of other studies show different results. Research in India shows that the learning behavior of male students is higher than that of female students (Mobhreli & Patil, 2018). Long before the COVID-19 pandemic, male students had higher self-efficacy in the use of e-learning than female students (Ong & Lai, 2006). Male students have better ability in terms of technology than female students. Even male students have a higher confidence level in using technology than female students (Goswami & Dutta, 2015; Yau & Cheng, 2012). This condition triggers male students to be more optimal and have better learning behavior in technology-based learning behavior.

The difference in the level of learning behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic between male and female students in Indonesia has certain causative factors. One of the things that trigger the learning behavior of female students is better than male students during the COVID-19 pandemic is the learning process that has not been optimal using technology in the pandemic era. During a pandemic, teachers are not ready for online learning policies (Andarwulan et al., 2021; Sulisworo et al., 2021). There is still much online learning in Indonesia that does not follow what should be, such as increasing assignments and self-study. So that students need to independently prepare various things about the topic of learning from the teacher. Female students have an advantage in this regard, where female students have more accuracy and patience than male students (Rundgren et al., 2019).

Various situations that arise as a result of the implementation of online learning have become interesting studies recently. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the new normal has created a new habit for students to carry out learning activities, namely using online platforms. Although basically, not all students are ready and able to adapt to the online learning process (Zhang et al., 2020). Student learning using blended learning models and bases is a recommendation to increase students’ enthusiasm for learning. Thus, schools can still achieve Indonesia’s educational goals during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The results of this study also have implications for the provision of tutoring services by counselors. Counselors can collaborate with classroom teachers in conducting tutoring (Atici, 2014; Rock et al., 2017; Syriopoulou-Delli et al., 2016). Counselors and teachers provide more intensive tutoring for male students than female students. The important thing that came to the basis for this thought was that male students had lower levels of achievement motivation and learning behavior than girls. This statement is supported by the results of research which states that the self-regulated learning of male students is lower than that of female students (Alhadi et al., 2018; Saputra et al., 2018, 2021). These conditions are certainly correlated with student learning behavior.

The achievement motivation variables have a relationship with learning behavior, both in male and female students. These results explain that the higher the achievement motivation, the higher the student’s learning behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic. Students’ motivation to achieve achievement spurs them to display constructive behaviors such as being involved in the learning process (Bempechat & Sherzoo, 2012) and academic performance (Turner et al., 2009). Based on research results, achievement motivation that can trigger the development of good learning behavior will
encourage maximum student academic achievement (Johnson et al., 2014; Lemos & Verissimo, 2014).

Adolescents experience the dynamics of changing achievement motivation during the COVID-19 pandemic (Gonzalez-Ramirez et al., 2021). Moreover, the learning process of students who switch to online learning is a new method for them (Hermanto & Srimulyani, 2021; Simamora, 2020). Students experience a decrease in their involvement in the learning process and a decrease in motivation in learning (Oosterhoff et al., 2020). Students begin to view the actual learning process negatively. These things have an impact on learning behavior that is not constructive in achieving optimal learning achievement. However, the results of other studies show that individuals have more online platforms than face-to-face when taking specific courses (Lin et al., 2021). This condition arises because they feel more comfortable and flexible when they have to do learning through online platforms.

Conclusion

During the COVID-19 pandemic, students experienced various obstacles in their learning activities. Moreover, the Indonesian government regulations that require the implementation of online learning, students are less optimal in developing various positive characters such as achievement motivation and learning behavior in both male and female students. The results of this study found that female students had better abilities than male students, such as achievement motivation and learning behavior.

Suggestion

This study recommends developing a learning strategy even counseling to respond to the description of the level of achievement motivation and learning behavior in the gender-based COVID-19 pandemic era. Counselors as practitioners can also use the results of this study as an alternative reference to intervene in student problems regarding achievement motivation and learning behavior.

Limitation

This study has limitations in taking samples that are not evenly distributed in all provinces in Indonesia. Sampling evenly throughout Indonesia can increase the reliability of research data as a basis for interpreting research results.

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