



## *AJAR UP 2021 as a basic introduction to sign language learning*

Theresia Yohana, Hanifa Athaya Rafida, Vincent Natanael Hasibuan, Nova Ulhasanah✉,  
I Wayan Koko Suryawan

Universitas Pertamina, Jakarta Selatan, Indonesia

✉ [novaulhasanah@gmail.com](mailto:novaulhasanah@gmail.com)

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### **Abstract**

*AJAR UP is one of the activities of the Environmental Engineering study program students at Universitas Pertamina, realizing good learning for the community. During this period, AJAR UP focused on sign language learning activities. AJAR UP activities aim to expand soft skills obtained in the academic field and in the non-academic field in the form of language, which can later be implemented in the workplace for the general public and also for Universitas Pertamina students. This activity was attended by 28 people on Saturday, December 18, 2021. AJAR UP activities so far, which have been open for free, have opened new learning opportunities for the general public and Universitas Pertamina students to learn sign language. Based on the feedback provided, it can be concluded that the participants stated that sign language is essential to learn, especially in today's era. Therefore, AJAR UP activities indirectly open up learning opportunities for the community and Universitas Pertamina students about culture and some of the methods used in sign language.*

**Keywords:** AJAR UP; Sign language; Soft skill

## **AJAR UP 2021 sebagai pengenalan dasar pembelajaran bahasa isyarat**

### **Abstrak**

AJAR UP merupakan salah satu kegiatan mahasiswa program studi Teknik Lingkungan Universitas Pertamina dalam mewujudkan pembelajaran yang baik bagi masyarakat. Selama ini, AJAR UP fokus pada kegiatan pembelajaran bahasa isyarat. Kegiatan AJAR UP bertujuan untuk memperluas *softskill* yang diperoleh di bidang akademik maupun non akademik berupa bahasa yang nantinya dapat diimplementasikan di dunia kerja untuk masyarakat umum dan juga untuk mahasiswa Universitas Pertamina. Kegiatan ini diikuti 28 orang pada hari Sabtu, 18 Desember 2021. Kegiatan AJAR UP yang dibuka secara gratis membuka kesempatan belajar baru bagi masyarakat umum dan mahasiswa Universitas Pertamina untuk belajar bahasa isyarat. Berdasarkan umpan balik yang diberikan, dapat disimpulkan bahwa para peserta menyatakan bahwa bahasa isyarat sangat penting untuk dipelajari, terutama di era sekarang ini. Oleh karena itu, kegiatan AJAR UP secara tidak langsung membuka kesempatan belajar bagi masyarakat dan mahasiswa Universitas Pertamina tentang budaya dan beberapa metode yang digunakan dalam bahasa isyarat.

**Kata Kunci:** AJAR UP; Bahasa isyarat; *Soft skill*

# 1. Introduction

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Universitas Pertamina Joint Learning Activity or AJAR UP is a learning program carried out as a means of joint learning that brings experts or teachers in their fields. This activity is also a forum for carrying out good relations between the general public and Universitas Pertamina students and increasing the enthusiasm for learning new things that are rarely or never done before in activities usually held at Universitas Pertamina. During this period, AJAR UP activities carried out learning activities to learn sign language with the theme "Let's Learn Signs". Language is usually used as a liaison tool in communicating between individuals and groups. At the same time, communication itself is a process of delivering information from one party to another so that both of them influence each other. The language used in communication is also usually quite diverse, one of which is sign language. Sign language is a form of communication usually used for fellow deaf and mute people or communication between normal people and deaf and mute people. wider. Generally, communication uses sign language in hand gestures or body cues, facial expressions, and other movements that symbolize Indonesian vocabulary (Bhakti et al., 2019; Nugraha et al., 2021).

Deafness is one of the general terms usually addressed to people who have difficulty hearing (Besser et al., 2018). Meanwhile, the speech impaired are individuals who have difficulty speaking due to the malfunctioning of their speech apparatus. So for people who are deaf and mute, communication is also essential and very effective (Rony et al., 2018). The communication is done by nonverbal communication (non-verbal). Sign language is an effective communication tool for deaf and mute people (Pezzuoli et al., 2019). Usually, deaf and mute people combine hand shapes, hand, arm and body movements, and facial expressions to express their thoughts (Bhat & Chayalakshmi, 2020).

Sign language is generally a communication system commonly used by deaf and mute people, so sign language is a language that is rarely understood or owned by the general public. Therefore, it is not surprising that sometimes the general public does not know when to communicate directly with deaf and mute people properly. So that in this AJAR UP activity, sign language learning activities are carried out together with the aim of the general public and students. Universitas Pertamina students can communicate well with deaf and speech impaired people in public places and establish good relationships between the general public and deaf people and speech impaired. The purpose of holding AJAR UP activities is to expand soft skills obtained in the academic field and the non-academic field in the form of language, which can later be implemented in the field of work for the general public and Universitas Pertamina students.

# 2. Method

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The name of this program is AJAR UP, which stands for Learning Together with Universitas Pertamina. AJAR UP is a means of joint learning that brings in experts or teachers in their fields. AJAR UP in this period will raise the theme of Learning Sign Language. Sign language was chosen to educate the general public and Universitas Pertamina students to communicate with deaf and speech impaired friends. This

activity has been carried out on Saturday, 18 December 2021, time 09.00 – 11.18 WIB using Zoom platform application. The number of participants who attended the AJAR UP with the theme of "Let's Learn Signs" were 28 participants with details of participants attending from various agencies (general public) as many as 22 people and students from Universitas Pertamina many as 6 people.

### 3. Result and Discussion

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AJAR UP in this period brought the theme "Let's Learn Signs" where this activity was carried out on Saturday, December 18, 2021 using Zoom. The AJAR UP activity was conducted by inviting 2 persons from the PUSBISINDO organization (Indonesian Sign Language Center) and the JBI (Sign Language Interpreter) as translators during the AJAR UP activity. JBI played a role to accompany the event. In the first session, the activity was carried out by the first resource person, Laura Lesmana Wijaya from the PUSBISINDO organization, accompanied by Adhika Irlang Suwiryono from the JBI. The first speaker brought some introductory material regarding the types of sign language and what cultures are often done using sign language. Meanwhile, in the second session, the second speaker, Dhita Indriyanti from the PUSBISINDO organization, taught directly through the Zoom platform. How to demonstrate the alphabet using sign language and how to introduce yourself starting from your name, hobby, regional origin, and characteristics possessed in someone as a nickname by using sign language. The second session also taught how to demonstrate an expression under certain conditions using sign language. Each session held a question and answered session or a discussion session in these two sessions, both in the first and second sessions.

The participants were very enthusiastic in asking the speakers questions, which made the learning atmosphere in each session very interesting. In addition, in each session, a documentation session was also held with speakers as evidence of the learning that had taken place. Then after the second session ended, the speakers were also given e-certificates symbolically from the committee. After the learning session and the symbolic giving of the e-certificate session, the committee then gave a brief announcement about the "Sign Language Video Challenge" activity. The video challenge activity is an introductory video-making activity using sign language as attractively as possible with a maximum video duration of 1 minute. After that, the video is uploaded to Instagram social media by including several hashtags and account tags that have been given during the presentation of the provisions in making the video challenge during the AJAR UP activity. Then in the making of this video challenge, there will be a selection of 1 (one) winner who the jury has determined from PUSBISINDO itself. Finally, the announcement of the video challenge will be announced through the Instagram account "@html.up" by reposting the story of the winner of the video challenge. After that, the committee will contact the winner to be given a prize.

In practice (Figure 1), this activity was carried out according to the planned date. 2 speakers delivered material from the PUSBISINDO organization, each of which would fill session 1 and session 2. In addition, this activity also invited 1 (one) JBI person to support this sign language learning activity. The participants and speakers enjoyed this event until the series of events ended. This event lasted for approximately 2 hours 18 minutes. The participants were also actively involved in question-and-answer sessions

and discussions, especially during sign language learning activities in the second session. However, there were several obstacles experienced before the day of the activity where the registrants for this AJAR UP activity were 48 people. Still, at the time of the announcement, only about 30 people entered the WhatsApp group created. The group link was announced via the email platform so that many participants do not open the email provided and do not join the group link provided in the email. These obstacles made the number of participants who attended the AJAR UP activities only about 28 participants. Meanwhile, on the day of the activity, the obstacle experienced was the lack of stability of the committee signal at the beginning of the activity, namely during the open gate session. The share screen had stopped for a while, the MC and the committee could resolve this by providing information about initial attendance through the Zoom chat column.



Figure 1. Documentation of AJAR UP 2021

Another obstacle that occurred was during the discussion session, where when learning sign language, especially in the second session, there were several obstacles because the presenters could only use verbal language (sign language) so that during the discussion session with the presenters, there were participants who could not understand the learning in this session. This can also be resolved with the assistance of several committees and moderators who help to translate the meaning and essence of the lessons given by the presenters. The AJAR UP activity on the day of the activity also did not run according to the rundown given where the rundown stated that the activity started at 09.00 WIB and ended at 11.26 WIB. However, in reality, the AJAR UP activity started at 09.05 WIB because the waiting for the speakers and lecturers who gave their remarks had not been present, so this activity caused the AJAR UP activity to be delayed for 5 minutes. Meanwhile, the AJAR UP activity ended at 11.18 WIB where this activity also ended not according to the rundown because several exposure times did not go according to the prepared rundown, one of which was the announcement regarding the implementation of the video challenge which was supposed to run for 10 minutes but in reality, it only took about 3 minutes because there were no participants who asked questions related to this video challenge. In addition, another obstacle is that after the activity was carried out where the

announcement of the video challenge should have been announced on Monday, December 20, 2021,

The video challenge was announced on Thursday, December 23, 2021 through the Instagram account "@hmtl.up" by reposting the story of the winner of the video challenge, and the committee contacted the winner to be given a prize. Based on 24 total respondents who have filled out Google Forms, with details, as many as 18 people stated that learning Sign Language in the current era is Very Important, and as many as 6 people stated it was Important. Therefore, the number of participants is 28 people. However, only 23 participants have filled in the feedback that can be seen on Figure 2. Based on the results, it can be concluded that 86% of the total participants filled out a survey on "Learning Satisfaction and Event Satisfaction" by giving an average score of 5 (very interesting and very important) on assessments 1 and 2 from a range of 1-5 after participating in the activity, participants stated that they were interested in participating in Sign Language learning activities in the future. Furthermore, participants stated that the two presenters were impressive, provided exciting material, and added new knowledge in learning Sign Language. In addition, 23 participants also gave impressions and messages which overall stated that they were happy and satisfied with participating in AJAR UP activities

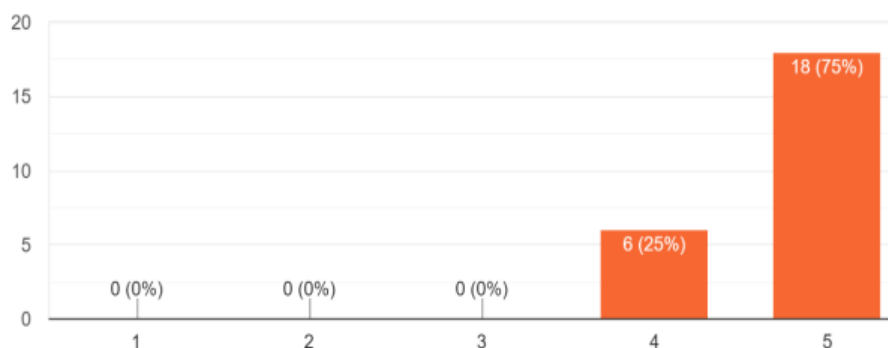


Figure 2. Feedback from AJAR UP 2021 participants

## 4. Conclusion

AJAR UP activities during this period which were opened for free, have opened new learning opportunities for the general public and Universitas Pertamina students to learn sign language. Based on the feedback results, it can be concluded that the participants stated that sign language is essential to understand, especially in the current era. In addition, this activity is also taught how to use sign language to introduce themselves. Therefore, this AJAR UP also expands soft skills outside the academic field, wherein participants can implement how to use sign language in various areas.

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