

MORAL EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE: BUILDING CHARACTER AND INSTILLING FAITH VALUES IN THE ERA OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENT

Hanum Mir'atul Maslahah*

Fakultas Ilmu Tarbiyah dan Keguruan, UIN Maulana Malik Ibrahim, Malang
e-mail: hanummaslahah452@gmail.com

*Correspondence e-mail: hanummaslahah452@gmail.com

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Abstracts

The digital age has had a significant impact on various aspects of life, including education and individual character formation. Technological advances allow easier access to information and knowledge from around the world, connect people from various regions, and influence student behavior and morals. However, this impact has positive and negative sides. Students can increase their knowledge through technology but can also be distracted by negative content. Management of technology use is key to exploiting positive potential while avoiding negative impacts. Character education and religious values are important in facing these changing times, with the role of teachers and parents in forming good morals in the younger generation. Online content selection and positive character teaching are required. Education in the digital era also emphasizes increasing individual abilities, balanced with the measurable use of technology. Finally, instilling the values of faith and good morals can be done with various strategies, such as exemplary stories, the use of technology in learning, and the habit of positive behavior, all of which aim to create individuals with character.

Introduction

The digital era is an era where it is so easy for us to access everything we want. With this sophistication, it has the impact of opening up connections between regions or regions that are far apart, making them feel close in one network, because technology can access everything very quickly and easily. Technological developments also have an impact on the education system between countries and there is competition to improve its quality, resulting in significant changes in human thought patterns from time to time. The more advanced the mindset, the more creativity and innovation will emerge and influence the progress of the times (Ningsih, 2019).

Moral education in the digital era has opportunities and challenges in its implementation. The entry of western culture and technological developments can change human perspective. In fact, the West has contributed a lot to today's technological advances. It is not wrong if we take the positive side of this progress. However, if this is not accompanied by a pattern of character and moral education as well as strong belief in religion, there will be many bad

impacts that will come to him. Meanwhile, the Prophet was sent to this world as Rahmatan lil 'alamin (Grace for all nature) who taught humans various good things, including instilling good character and moral values and strengthening the values of faith according to what he taught (Afiatun Hindun Ulfah et al., 2022).

Methods

The research method used by the author is a type of library research where in collecting data, the author looks for sources from various reading materials or literature that support the theme taken (Sugiyono, 2021, p. 14). In this case, the author combines various existing theories. from reading sources selected according to the theme. The data obtained is in the form of secondary data or from material that is not obtained directly from the original source, but from various written works obtained and originating from relevant sources.

Results and Discussion

The development of increasingly sophisticated technology has given rise to innovation and creation to build a technology-based teaching system, where technology currently influences student behavior and morals. The role of teachers, parents and the environment also influences the process of character formation which produces good or bad results in the future. Students outside of boarding schools or Islamic boarding schools which apply strict rules and restrictions on the use of gadgets, the majority have a lot of contact with technology such as gadgets.

This reality triggers a movement that leads to two impacts, namely positive and negative. The positive impacts felt by students include being able to broaden their knowledge of the wider world so they can improve their abilities in their fields of interest. However, apart from that, it also has negative impacts, for example students are easily distracted by the entertainment that appears so that it can reduce the level of focus in understanding the material they are studying, seeing negative content which can reduce ethics and morals towards others due to the influence of the content, etc. This is a problem that needs to be considered to be reduced or even eliminated (Wahid & Halili, 2023).

The era of digitalization encourages individuals to adapt to developments by continuing to upgrade their abilities so as not to be left behind by others and to develop a soul with character so that there will be a balance of achievements when carrying out an action. The opportunities for learning for students are so vast that if they are utilized properly they will produce maximum output and will have an impact on the civilization of a nation. The quality of education in the current era plays a very important role in balancing the process of rapid progress over time. If the human resources produced are good, there will be many innovative and creative works that emerge. In this case, the process of filtering information from digital media needs to be filtered so that it is not trapped in a negative circle that will reverse the positive goals that have been planned. In this case, it is important to manage the use of technology so that it will be more organized, measurable and focused (Pihar, n.d.).

Education is related to an effort to improve students' abilities from various aspects such as cognitive, affective and psychomotor aspects. So that the results of a lesson will look perfect if students are able to apply what is taught by educators in everyday life. This is related to the role of parents and teachers in teaching morals so that they become good habits. The process of forming good morals will not take place instantly, so there needs to be a spirit of patience in educators. The content or online media content that appears needs to be selected first before being given to children. Providing consistent advice about the impact of technology on human behavior also needs to be matured so that it becomes a discourse for moving forward (Anwar & Salim, 2019).

When someone receives education to a high level, there will be significant changes from the previous one. because the process of absorbing knowledge will have an impact on daily

behavior. This is the result of a process of habituation and emphasis obtained when taught at school. Apart from that, you will become a person who is more open and respectful of other people which is part of a good character (Pihar, n.d.).

Instilling the value of faith is an important element in character formation. Iman linguistically comes from the Arabic word which means belief, steadfastness and trust. In terms of terms, faith is believing from the heart, expressed verbally, and implemented in the form of actions or behavior. Having faith will influence a person's morals. Because faith is the basis for good and bad human behavior. The stronger a person's faith, the better his morals and the lower a person's faith, the less good his morals (Malyuna & Lubis, 2023).

Instilling the values of faith and good morals can be done in various ways by an educator with his students. The development of increasingly sophisticated information technology makes it easy for students to access various information. To reduce and prevent negative influences, it is necessary to instill the values of faith and the formation of morals which can be implemented in optimizing Islamic Religious Education learning by teachers in schools (Huda et al., 2022). Moral learning can be carried out in various ways and methods which predict students will be interested in the process of delivering the material and practicing the material in everyday life.

Among the strategies that can be applied are telling an exemplary story from ancient ulama so that it arouses a deep sense of empathy for the story and trying to emulate it, providing material that arouses students' curiosity because of the presentation of interesting material which in this case can utilize technology as a medium. For example through video rounds or making power points with attractive templates, the process of delivering material is carried out patiently and understanding the character and psychological side of each student in order to facilitate learning activities, as well as getting used to good deeds accompanied by providing motivation that will maintain enthusiasm in practice something good (Febrianto & Shalikhah, 2021).

Conclusion

The current development of the times has brought about significant changes. Moreover, the world of technology continues to innovate and create, so that all access becomes faster and easier. This has both opportunities and challenges. Parents, teachers and the environment play a role in the process of educating children regarding the increasing number of technologies and explaining their positive and negative impacts. The existence of globalization has made communication between individuals and groups increasingly easier. Therefore, the world of education will experience progress if technology is used as well as possible and reduces the negative effects that arise.

Education about the value of faith, instilling morals and character formation is necessary to balance technological developments and the increasingly easy flow of globalization. So that humans are not only ambitious about worldly life but also pay attention to life after death. This can be implemented by carrying out massive habituation of students starting from an early age by parents and teachers. If students' morals and character are well formed, they will be in line with the expected goals and will be even more perfect if they can take advantage of developing technological advances. So you can access all conveniences with full selection of the influences that arise and will avoid negative influences.

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