



## THE INFLUENCE OF CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT IN THE ERA DIGITAL FOR STUDENTS

**Karisa Sanaya Aulia Dewantara<sup>1</sup>, Layla Wahyuni<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1,2</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara

Email: <sup>1</sup>[auliadewantarak@gmail.com](mailto:auliadewantarak@gmail.com), <sup>2</sup>[laylawahyuni6@gmail.com](mailto:laylawahyuni6@gmail.com)

### Abstract

The aim of this research is to find out how the character of students develops in the digital era and the influence of positive and negative digital-based impacts. This technological era makes children appear very passive and rarely socialize in the family or even society. Most children today are more focused on paying attention to the screen in front of their eyes than playing with their peers, and it is even rare to see children playing traditional games. In fact, this traditional game can be used as a habit to build a sense of brotherhood with peers and become more familiar and generate creative ideas using traditional games. From this incident, children will lose valuable time when playing with family, studying, developing talents or playing with friends because their focus has been taken over by cellphone screens or existing technology. The method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method with a library study approach through literature in the form of journals and scientific articles as the main object. The results of this research are that most children today are more focused on paying attention to the screen in front of their eyes than playing with their peers, and it is even rare to see children playing traditional games. In fact, this traditional game can be used as a habit to build a sense of brotherhood with peers and become more familiar and generate creative ideas using traditional games.

**Keywords :** Character development, Role of parents, teachers and society, Digital technology

### Introduction

In the world of education, there has been a lot of discussion about character education. With facts showing that the character of students in this era of globalization has declined very sharply, this is motivated by the era of digitalization which has resulted in the emergence of character education in society. Education is a process of changing behavior, increasing knowledge and life experience so that students become more mature in thinking and attitudes. Education in the digital era is very rapid, advances in technology are not only enjoyed by adults, but teenagers can also enjoy the results of current technological developments. In the world of education, technology is also widely used as a means of long-distance interaction between people in various regions. Technological developments also have positive and negative impacts. There have been many cases, for example disputes, drug cases, brawls between students in the community which indicate poor character education. Therefore, character formation from an early age is very necessary and must be done to develop good national character. In its implementation, character education requires example and habituation. The habit of doing good things such as behaving honestly, helping each other and being tolerant. Character formation is not formed instantly but must be trained seriously. Character education aims to ensure that students become the nation's successors who have good morals and morals. The development of digital technology is a development where the presence of computers, the birth of the internet, mobile phones (cell phones), and also social networks. Examples of digital devices include televisions, handheld gaming devices, digital watches, smartphones, computers and laptops. Meanwhile, examples of technological conversions include changing printed books into electronic books (E-Books), letters into electronic

mail (Email/Gmail), typewriters into computers, telephones into cell phones, gramophones into cassettes and then CDs (Compact Disks). ) then switches to MP3/MP4, and the analog watch becomes a digital watch and then a Smartwatch. The digital era, which has now become a part of people's daily lives, especially the younger generation, will indeed change life patterns. Including learning patterns and information dissemination patterns. As technology advances, when cellphone capabilities become better and the types of digital dictionaries become more complete, the pocket dict will transform into a kind of Arabic dictionary which is now widely used, but in a digital version (Application/software). If that happens, we can be sure that not many people will need printed dictionaries anymore. Isn't a digital dictionary cheaper and more flexible to use? The digital era is a period where the majority of people in that era use digital systems in their daily lives. Communication technology from electronic media initially still used an analog system, and only recently switched to a digital system marked by the presence of transformation of media products such as e-books, internet, digital newspapers, e-libraries, e-shops and so on. This period is also often referred to as the digital revolution. This digital revolution began in the early 1990s in the world. By remembering the principles of the digital system, the digital era is an era where the flow of information through communication media is clear, accurate and fast (Rahayu, 2019).

### Research Methodology

The method used in this research is a qualitative descriptive method with a library study approach through literature in the form of journals and scientific articles as the main object . Qualitative methods are research that intends to understand events or phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects. Descriptive method and Internet Searching, internet searching is the process of searching through internet media to obtain information based on references, journals and articles. Qualitative methods are research that intends to understand events or phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects.

### Result & Discussion

Education is a process of changing behavior, increasing knowledge and life experience so that students become more mature in thinking and attitudes. Education in the digital era is very rapid, advances in technology are not only enjoyed by adults, elementary school age children can also enjoy the results of current technological developments. In the world of education, technology is also widely used as a means and infrastructure for interaction between educators and students. Education is an important factor in building the nation's future. In the current digital era, technological developments have a big impact on the way students study and learn. Learning innovation is very important to develop so that students can adapt to various technological advances in this digital era. In this era of globalization, humans can easily use existing technology, not only adults but also children. Technology is currently used in the world of education because it really helps the learning process and scientific development. Apart from that, technology can also be used as a communication tool between educators and students. However, technology has both positive and negative impacts in the realm of education. The emergence of many destructive cases in the national context, for example, inter-ethnic sentiment, inter-tribal disputes, drug cases, brawls between students, and even cases of cyberbullying which is a weakness of the nation's character. Therefore, national character must be formed and educated as early as possible so that society is able to instill good qualities and behavior from an early age so that it can reduce the crime rate in the cases above. Therefore, character formation from an early age is very necessary to foster a culture of good national character and the main key in building the nation (Sunandari, 2023). Education in the digital era has significant differences from education in the previous era. This is due to the increasingly dominant role of technology in everyday life, including in the learning process. Learning in the digital era can be done online or offline, and utilize various technologies, such as smartphones, tablets, laptops or computers. However, learning in the digital era also raises various challenges, such as unequal internet access, unequal technological abilities among students, and a lack of understanding of how to use technology effectively in the learning process.

Therefore, learning innovation is very important to be able to overcome these challenges and improve the quality of learning and student learning outcomes in the digital era. Another challenge of education in the current millennial era is that information comes more quickly, massively and widely, so it cannot be overcome by simply changing the curriculum (Diplan, 2019). The challenge that needs to be resolved immediately is the gap between teachers and students in utilizing technology. As a young generation who grew up in the digital era, students are accustomed to using the internet in their daily lives and living in a digital communication technology environment. Therefore, their communication and knowledge management patterns are greatly influenced by technology. In various studies and literature, the term digital native is increasingly used to describe students who have grown up in the digital era and are accustomed to technology (Rizal, 2023). Character education needs to be carried out

comprehensively and involve all related parties. Schools can act as teachers, parents and peers, namely: (1) Be a model, and mentor, who treats students, children, and peers with love and respect, supports prosocial behavior, and corrects hurtful behaviors; (2) Building a moral community in the classroom that makes class members understand each other, respect and care for each other, and build a sense of worth as members of a group; (3) Practicing discipline, using the creation and reinforcement of rules as an opportunity to clarify moral reasoning, self-control, and exercise respect for all people; (4) Supporting the creation of a democratic classroom environment, involving students in decision making, and sharing responsibility for making the school a place to learn and a place for self-development; (5) Together students learn the skills of helping and cooperating with each other; (6) Develop awareness of academic responsibility and matters related to learning values and work values (7) Learn to carry out conflict resolution so that you have the ability and commitment to resolve conflicts fairly without violence.

This technological era makes children appear very passive and rarely socialize in the family or even society. Most children today are more focused on paying attention to the screen in front of their eyes than playing with their peers, and it is even rare to see children playing traditional games. In fact, this traditional game can be used as a habit to build a sense of brotherhood with peers and become more familiar and generate creative ideas using traditional games. From this incident, children will lose valuable time when playing with family, studying, developing talents or playing with friends because their focus has been taken over by cellphone screens or existing technology. In the current digital era, it is rare to see children playing traditional games. Traditional games foster a sense of brotherhood and familiarity, children become more creative by using traditional games. Today's children integrate a lot with technology, such as gadgets and video games. Now, children spend more time with media every day. What parents must do with their children in digital parenting is as follows: (1) Improve and update insight about the internet and gadgets. Parents cannot supervise their children if they are technologically illiterate (2) If there is internet at home, position it in the family room and who can see what the child does when accessing the internet (3) Limit children's time using gadgets and the internet (4) Providing mutual understanding and awareness of the negative impacts of the internet or gadgets (5) Strictly prohibit it as soon as possible if there is something inappropriate to watch (6) Establish open, two-way communication with children (Putri, 2018). As an educator and even as a parent, you must be more of a role model for your children in order to shape your child's personality and even character well. In this digital era, it is very easy to dig and even get information on the internet. As educators and even parents must be good supervisors and guides for children in obtaining information, especially at the age of children who are still not able to differentiate or even filter out what is good and what is not, especially in this digital era. It is feared that with the presence of technology, children will actually have a negative impact due to a lack of monitoring by educators and even parents. Parenting style is fundamental in character formation. The role model of parents is very necessary for children's development because children model and imitate their immediate environment. Openness between parents and children is important in order to prevent children from negative influences outside the family environment (Vienlentina, 2021).

#### *Character Education Function*

In general, the function of this education is to shape the character of a student so that he becomes a person who is moral, has noble character, is tolerant and has good behavior. Some of the functions of character education are as follows: (1) To develop the basic potential in humans so that they become individuals who behave well wherever and whenever (2) To build and strengthen community behavior that cares for others (3) To build and improve good morals.

#### *Character Education Objectives*

Basically, the main aim of character education is to build a person's character well, namely by having an attitude of noble character, morals, tolerance and mutual cooperation. To achieve this goal, teenagers must instill character-forming values originating from Religion, Pancasila and Culture. The following are the values that form character: Honesty, Tolerance, Discipline, Hard work, Creativity, Independence, Democratic attitude, Curiosity, Self-confidence, Love for the country, Friendly attitude, Love of peace, Love of reading, Care for the environment, Social care, sense of responsibility, and religion (Tsoraya, 2023). Teachers as learning leaders also have positive and negative impacts that can directly influence students in the implementation of learning at school. The positive impact felt is that teachers are required to take part in various trainings such as training in creating digital-based learning media and writing hot questions. With such training, teacher skills will improve and teachers will be more competent in their field. Real proof that professional teachers must carry out includes mastering various up-to-date learning methods and media, in order to provide the best learning experience for students and make students active,

critical, creative and learning can be meaningful which places students as subjects no longer as objects (Septiana, Hidayati, 2022).

#### *Positive impact*

1. A means of conveying information, information about an event quickly, precisely and accurately
2. Make it easier to access new information, obtain information anytime and anywhere.
3. Social media, bringing individuals together with new people, bringing individuals together with old friends who rarely meet, business advice
4. Helps in finding information on learning materials for students.
5. Entertainment media.
6. As a person's existence on social media.
7. Makes communication easier even over long distances.

The development of the digital era in the implementation of learning also has a negative impact. Technology cannot be free from negative impacts, therefore as educators we must supervise students in using technology. With digital-based learning, the scope of learning material becomes wider so that essential material is less available. This is because students access the learning material themselves freely. Apart from that, learning is also less focused because with the help of gadgets students will be more engrossed in their gadgets rather than listening to the teacher's explanation. Seeing this, teacher leadership in learning must pay attention to students and be able to control the class and organize digital-based learning so that learning can run effectively.

#### *Negative impact*

1. Children are individual, reducing the level of direct meetings or interactions between humans.
2. Temperament, habits of socializing with social media, children will think that the outside world is a threat.
3. News without responsibility, Hoax news, Bullying.
4. Vulnerable eye health, especially nearsightedness or farsightedness.
5. Can't enjoy life. When attending a party, we end up having fun taking photos, without enjoying the party and music.
6. Radiation from technological devices endangers children's brain health.
7. There are increasing cases of fraud via SMS, telephone and internet.
8. Easy access to porn videos.
9. Children forget the homework assigned by the teacher and forget to carry out religious services, such as praying and reciting the Koran.
10. Children are targets of crimes, such as child kidnapping and child rape (Kezia, 2021).

#### *Growing Student Character through the Use of Digital Literacy*

Digital literacy is not just skills in using software or running digital devices, but digital literacy encompasses various types of related cognitive, sociological and emotional skills that users need in order to function appropriately in the digital environment. Currently, an important capability for students is digital literacy skills. There are negative effects on the behavior of children and teenagers from the use of digital media and the internet based on several research conducted on Indonesian children and teenagers. This is because the use of digital media and the internet lacks supervision from parents which has an impact on the decline in the morals of Indonesian children and teenagers, because not all information that comes from digital media and the internet is suitable for consumption by children and teenagers. Therefore, the role of Civics teachers is very important in developing digital literacy in students. The aim of holding digital literacy activities in schools is to develop student character (Dewi, 2021). Currently, in an era where all activities have begun to be made easier by technology. Many young people are already skilled at using technology compared to children in the era before the development of technology. However, the sophistication of this technology actually has a negative impact on children. The sophistication of technology makes today's young people addicted and even doing bad things due to lack of supervision from their parents. Therefore, educators need to provide learning that can help students to become the nation's successors who have good behavior and character. In line with the statement above, the task of an educator is to provide a good and supportive learning environment or facilities to build, improve and strengthen students' character or personality.

### *Strengthening Character Education in Digital Era Literacy Learning*

In this digital era, various efforts to strengthen character education are very important in efforts to create a generation that is advanced and intelligent, has noble morals and a superior personality. It cannot be denied that today's children are more integrated with technology, such as gadgets and games. Technology is also beneficial for education. The search for literacy as an addition to knowledge in learning can utilize technology. Students can search Google, e-mail and other sites to look for topics, papers and e-books, but this does not mean that learning does not use available textbooks, the use of the internet only aims to increase knowledge and materials in the learning process. This digital era provides various sources of information on the internet, both verified and not. However, a strategy in tracing sources of information is needed so that the information obtained is information that meets your needs, is valid and can be accounted for. Digital literacy is learning using technology and information-based media (Sari, 2022).

### **Conclusion**

Education is an important factor in building the nation's future. In the current digital era, technological developments have a big impact on the way students study and learn. In this digital era, the role of family, teachers and the surrounding community is very important in improving the character of the nation's future successors. The family as the main and first place for students in living their lives and education, the family should also supervise and guide them lovingly, firmly and carefully. Teachers not only teach the concept of good character but how to direct students to apply it to everyday life. The role of the teacher is not only to teach but also to educate. The surrounding community also plays a role in motivating and supervising the development of students in forming children's character from an early age so that we can prevent negative influences and the impact of technological developments in the digital era. Therefore, character education needs to be carried out from an early age so that students are able to instill good character so that students can carry that character into adulthood.

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