

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN EDUCATING CHILDREN IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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Abstract

Technological advancements are becoming increasingly pervasive in daily life. Children develop at a rapid pace as technology advances, from televisions to computers, smartphones, and digital tablet devices equipped with a variety of applications. Today's children, called by "Generation Alpha," are markedly different from prior generations. They spend the most of their time interacting with digital technologies. Because technology pervades both parents' and children's lives, there is concern over its negative impact on very young children's cognitive, motor, and social development. According to research, parents play the most critical role in establishing a child-friendly atmosphere. The schedule that parents follow with their children is designed to meet the child's physical and psychological needs. Additionally, this pattern can be implemented through socialization of societal norms, allowing youngsters to live in harmony with their environment. As a matter of fact, parents must be capable of educating and guiding children in the ethical and positive use of digital media.

Keywords: *Technology, Development, Digital Age*

1. INTRODUCTION

Many parents believe that finding the ideal way to raise children in this digital age is challenging in this day and age. On the one side, the use of digital technology in family life, such as the internet and video games, is unavoidable; on the other hand, children and parents might suffer from the harmful effects of media exposure. It is important to provide advice to parents for at least two reasons. To begin with First, assisting parents in recognizing the challenges and opportunities that families might attain in the current and future digital eras. Furthermore, present suggestions on how to assist children of various ages in using digital media.

Indonesians are unfamiliar with discussions about parenting styles. Due to ancestral tendencies, the previous generation raised more children. Parenting was historically associated with providing adequate clothing, food, shelter, health care, and education. Nonetheless, as the world changes, meeting children's basic needs is no longer sufficient, as diverse offers of life values come from all angles. Not to mention the expectations placed on parents to prioritize their children's welfare and happiness. As a consequence, parents must consider the most effective method of education.

Childhood, which spans the ages of 0-18 years, is frequently viewed as a period of preparation for entering adulthood as a responsible individual who contributes positively to the environment. They must also learn some critical skills according to their age during this process. Because children encounter a time of rapid physical and mental development within

this age range, multiple age groups are established: infants, children, adolescents, and young adults. This young age grouping will enable parents to be more comprehensive in their application of various digital parenting practices across each age range, optimizing their potential and avoiding risks.

As we embrace the digital era, the challenge of maximizing children's potential becomes more complicated. While the digital age creates new potential for self-development, it also introduces new risks. As a reason, it is critical for parents to design an educational model that strives to protect children from the dangers of digital potential maximization. Due to the significant changes that digital technology has brought to human life, parents must comprehend the nature of these developments in order to assist their children.

Digital parenting enables the application of numerous values inside the family. In essence, parents worldwide practice three styles of parenting: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive. Along with these three ways, some families educate their children via a religious or cultural lens. Each choice has been made by parents based on their perspectives on life's values and contemporary issues. Whatever kind of parenting is used, what is critical is that it is conducted consistently by parent (Herlina et al., 2018).

This age grouping also serves as a reference for parents in terms of providing suitable stimuli, regulations, facilities, and support based on the child's growth stage. Thus, youngsters can observe the evolution of the current digital era and how the use of digital gadgets in human life has impacted children's education, emphasizing the importance of parental supervision and aid to children. Parents must continue to educate and develop themselves in order to accompany and employ technology to help children reach their full potential.

In this digital era, parents' roles in educating children are as follows: (1) Increase awareness; parents should at the very least understand how to safeguard children from websites and social media that have a harmful impact on them; (2) Guide the use of digital devices and media appropriately, parents should understand the benefits and risks of digital media use in order to direct it appropriately for their child's age and stage of development; (3) Balance the use of digital media with real-world interactions, parents can manage the use of digital media with real-world interactions such as art activities, outdoor activities, sports, reading, and music; (4) Lend children digital devices as needed, parents lend children digital devices such as smart phones, laptops, and computers so that children can learn to control themselves and learn to use them with their families; (5) Identifying applications that are educational and have a positive effect on children's growth and development; parents must select applications that are educational and have a positive influence on children's growth and development; (6) Accompanying and increasing interaction, parents accompany children when they explore cyberspace, using a computer device that is visible in an open space, preventing from using digital devices before bed, and refraining from using digital devices when interacting with other people; (7) Using digital devices wisely such as setting limits on distribution, modification, and persistence on digital electronic devices; and (8) Monitoring and directing children's activities in cyberspace, parents can monitor and direct children's activities in cyberspace, ensuring children visit websites and social media that support their growth and development and avoid from visiting sites that are a danger to their safety (Widiastuti, 2017).

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The method used in this article is qualitative in document review. The document study in question is a study that searches for literature in accordance with study materials such as books, articles, internet and so on. The ways in collecting data include conducting a literature review in accordance with the material being studied. Ingredients are collected. Second, after being obtained, the authors conducted an analysis using descriptive methods according to the author's understanding. There are two sources of data in this study, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is data related to the title in this study, while secondary data is supporting data from the title of this study.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Recognizing Digital Media

Digital media is media that has been encoded in a format that is machine-readable. Digital media is binary in nature, utilizing discrete waves to represent the values 0 and 1. Digital material can be made, viewed, and shared digitally on the same premise as family activities (using digital devices responsibly, such as by imposing restrictions on their distribution, modification, and persistence). Algorithmic logic is used in digital processes. Digital media includes computer programs and software, such as digital photos and video; video games; web pages or websites, including social media; data and databases; or even digital audio, such as mp3 as well as mp4 files. Digital media is fundamentally distinct from analog media, which rely on a manual system, such as printed books, newspapers, and magazines, as well as more traditional forms of media such as pictures, sound recordings, and films.

If media are classified according to their mode of communication, they can be separated into two categories: conventional media and digital media. Print media (newspapers, magazines, tabloids), broadcast media (radio and television), and audio-visual media are all examples of conventional media. While there are several instances of digital media, including news websites, social media platforms, online commerce, digital games, or mobile phone applications (Herlina et al., 2018).

3.2. The Role of Parenting Parenting

Parents cannot be divorced from their responsibilities in providing education for their children. However, with each new era of development, the role of parents changes as well. Additionally, children raised in the digital era are markedly different from children raised in the 1980s, and as a result, the education provided by parents varies. In the digital era, which is defined by the advancement of communication and information technology and is currently dominated by television media, smart phones have evolved into a daily menu of cuisine that is no longer defined by age (Mujiburrahman, 2013). From the shape of rapid technological change, the role of parenting is no longer limited to the educational pattern of the 1980s, but also encompasses contemporary changes such as the development of technology. Indeed, the concept of role has evolved over the course of the term's usage history.

Thus, parenting is inextricably linked to the parental supervision of their children. All

children's behavior will be supervised and managed by their parents. From the moment of the child's birth until the time of their marriage, even after the parents have been relieved of their responsibilities, the parents' love for their children will never end. Since the mid-twentieth century, Baumrind conducted research on parenting. Baumrind classifies parenting styles into three categories based on this research: authoritarian, permissive, and democratic (Hasnawati, 2013). These three distinct styles of parenting include the following: To begin, an authoritarian parent is one who attempts to "form, control, and evaluate the behavior and attitudes of children" according to the parents' wishes. While the will of this sort of parent is always to do what is best for their child, the youngster really responds negatively to the parent, resulting in the child feeling depressed or anxious and possibly causing depression. Second, permissive parenting entails publicly accepting the child's will, but only when it pertains to positive behavior. In this type, parents are extremely permissive with their children, allowing them to act freely. Thirdly, a democratic or authoritative parenting style involves rationally instructing children, always remaining receptive to children, and training children to live autonomously. Democratic parenting teaches children to contemplate the negative consequences of their actions, which results in youngsters being more distant when something perceived to be harmful occurs, such as student fights (Aslan, 2019).

3.3. Understanding the Information Provided by Digital Media

When it comes to parenting their children through digital media, there are various steps that parents must follow. These include:

a. Assisting Children in Accessing Devices

Parents are always with their children when they use digital media for two main purposes, namely negotiating assessment times and choosing media and channels. Although experts recommend a maximum of 2 hours of screen time a day, if that activity is combined with productive or effective activities (such as communicating with family at a distance) then the duration can be flexible. On the other hand, if parents are able to provide a variety of activities that are more useful or there are important social interactions, the time to access devices can be reduced. Another thing, the willingness of parents to know the media and channels that children like will be very useful to build effective communication in parenting.

b. Selecting Child-friendly Content

Selection can be done with software and understanding. Parents can use the categorization or rating that content providers use. Some apps, like the Play Store, for example, have a special family category that contains kid-friendly content. Other apps like Youtube also provide Youtube kids channels, make sure kids only watch from such channels. But such an arrangement is not enough, because the values of each family are different, so parents need to emphasize the limits of the fairness of content related to body appearance, scenes of violence, story values, etc. For example,

c. Analyzing Digital Content to Find Positive and Negative Patterns

This discussion is intended so that parents and children have an understanding of views on phenomena outside the home. Discussions also make children open to various different points of view that may be encountered outside the home so that they do not become the same person, parents can explore the point of view of the

child, but if the child has already accessed it, parents need to provide understanding to avoid, not disseminate and anticipate the impact for the child's feelings and thoughts (Herlina et al., 2018).

3.4. Child Development in the Digital Age

The world of technology is rapidly evolving in an all-digital path at the moment. Technology evolves as a means of addressing human needs. Any technology enables this to be accomplished more readily. So critical is technology's role in ushering society into the digital era. The digital era brings numerous great effects that should be maximized, but it also has numerous detrimental effects. This is a difficult task in the digital age. Numerous digital era difficulties that affect a variety of sectors, including politics, economics, sociology, defense, security, and information technology. Globalization is frequently viewed as a progressive social shift that has endangered customs, stabilized old boundaries, and harmed established local traditions (Stringer & Rolls, 2002). In the digital age, traditional culture is eroding and its influence on children's growth and development is becoming more obvious.

The term "digital era" refers to the emergence of digital, internet-based technologies, most notably computer information technology. The term "new media" is frequently used to refer to digital technology. This type of media can be altered via a network or the internet. The mass media transition to new media or the internet in response to a cultural shift in the way information is delivered. The possibilities of digital era media enable consumers to acquire information more quickly. In this instance, it is the internet that propels the mainstream media forward. The advancement of digital technology will have a profound effect on the world. However, technological advancement also results in an increase in crime.

With today's technological advancements, it's clear that children's use of digital gadgets has an effect on their life. Children's supervision is critical to comprehend since a flood of information is coming in and children must be allowed to choose knowledge that is appropriate for their stage of development. In the digital era education process, parents' duty is to assess their child's ability to respond and regard themselves positively in order to effectively use digital equipment (Faisal, 2016). Children aged five to twelve years old are now users of these information and technological media.

3.5. Parenting Patterns and Children's Socio-Emotional Development

Parenting style is the attitude of parents in providing behavioral regulation to children as a manifestation of their responsibilities by giving rules, showing power and paying attention and being responsive to children's wishes. According to Lestari (2013) parenting style is a series of attitudes shown by parents to children to create an emotional climate, including: parent-child interaction. As for Havighurst (in (Baswedan, 2015)), parenting is a way of regulating the behavior of children carried out by their parents as a manifestation of their responsibility in shaping the child's self-maturity. Parenting is a pattern of behavior that is applied to children and is consistent from time to time. The parenting style applied by each parent is different from other families. This pattern of behavior can be felt by children, in terms of positive and negative. Parenting can also provide protection, and educate children in everyday life.

Development is a change that is passed by the process of learning maturity, so that each period of development will affect further development. According to Desmita (2013) that development is a change that takes place continuously and is permanent from the physical and spiritual functions of the individual to the stage of maturity through growth, maturation, and learning that takes place systematically, progressively, and continuously, both physically as well as spiritual. In development, there are also psychophysical changes as a result of the maturation process of psychological and physical functions in children, which are supported by environmental factors and the learning process in a certain period of time towards maturity. Social development is the acquisition of the ability to behave in accordance with social demands and relationships. It can also be interpreted as the process of learning to conform to group norms, morals, and traditions; blending themselves into a unit and communicating with each other and cooperating.

4. CONCLUSION

In this digital age, parents have a critical role in developing a children's character. The family, being the primary and most important environment in which children live, should supervise and guide them with kindness, firmness, and vigilance. What parents must do to educate children in the digital world is to first avoid becoming uncaring parents, secondly, act as role models by not comparing children; children are not social media content, and thirdly, expose them to a variety of exciting activities. Thus ensuring that youngsters are not negatively impacted by the current digital world.

The appropriate ways for parents to guide their children as they learn to use technology. Parents must establish guidelines for the use of devices or gadgets, limiting screen time for children, accompany children when they are playing gadgets, supervise children's actions in virtual world, communicate with children, and avoid using the device as a tool to avoid kid fussiness. Despite the variety of threats and opportunities associated in the digital age, it is critical for parents to design a parenting paradigm that focuses on protecting children from danger while also maximizing the promise of digital technology. While digital technology has had a significant impact on human existence, parents must also comprehend the nature of these developments in order to guide their children. Digital parenting teaches certain fundamental ideals that can be implemented in the family setting. Provide advise to parents on how to raise children in the digital era and recommendations for aiding youngsters in using digital media in a way that is consistent with fundamental family values.

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**REVIEW OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY EDUCATION, CULTURE
AND PEDAGOGY
(ROMEO)
VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3 (2022)**

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