

Efforts to Instill Character Education in Students in the Digital Era

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Abstract

Character education is a crucial aspect in shaping ethical and responsible individuals in society. In today's digital era, the challenges in instilling character education have become increasingly complex. Technological advancements have transformed the educational landscape, introducing new challenges that influence the way we learn and interact with the world. This article discusses efforts in instilling character education among students in the digital era, covering the concept of character education, challenges of the digital age, and strategies for its implementation. The strategies discussed include moral knowing, moral loving, and moral acting strategies. Additionally, it explores strategies for educators in the digital era, such as providing comprehensive character education introduction, teacher role modeling, limiting students' excessive indulgence, fostering positive relationships with students, employing teaching methods tailored to students' needs, and monitoring students' surrounding environment. The analysis technique used is descriptive analysis technique.

Keywords: Character Education, Digital Era, Character Building Strategies

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Introduction

Law on the National Education System No. 20 of 2003 as the primary basis for designing, implementing, and evaluating the national education system. Specifically, the third article emphasizes the importance of instilling moral, ethical, and ethical values as part of the contribution to national development. National education aims to foster abilities, shape character, and build ethical national progress in order to educate the nation's life. National education aims to shape students to become someone with a noble personality in community life, have broad insight, are creative and innovative, and become democratic citizens who uphold responsibility. This shows that students are not only focused on their intelligence in learning, but also their emotional intelligence in facing various challenges of daily life in their environment. By having this vision, they can handle various problems that come in a wise way. It should be remembered that developed countries have quality. To prepare the generation for global competition and as an important foundation for early childhood life, character education is very important for Indonesia. Therefore, the next generation of this country will have the ability to compete, be ethical, moral, polite, and interact with others.

Inherited factors and interaction with the environment determine a person's character. Character shows a person's moral and ethical life, namely loving God and fellow human beings, which is a moral virtue. A person is considered to have a noble character if he acts in accordance with moral norms and principles. Therefore, it is very important to start introducing and instilling character from an early age, especially considering the potential for increasing character decline in millennial society.

The goal of character education is to shape personality through the development of character, which is reflected in actions such as behaving well, being honest, being responsible, respecting the rights of others, and working hard. Another goal of character education is to teach students to make good choices, uphold moral principles, and apply them

in everyday life, both at home, at school, and in society.

The 21st century continues to develop with rapid technological advances. The current digital era is the result of this progress, where information can be obtained and published very quickly and easily through digital technology. The digital era is characterized by the development of evolutionary systems, with knowledge that is not only abundant but also increasingly difficult to control, making modern life more complex to manage. In the digital era, the social impact is enormous and will continue to increase along with the development of knowledge-based technology. The digital era also affects education. Education can help people optimize their brain function thanks to technological advances in the digital era. In today's digital era, education plays an important role in change. Improving the quality of education can be achieved by using technology.

Character education and the digital world are two interdependent parts in supporting the creation of quality education. Technological advances must be used wisely if followed by character education. Therefore, to improve the quality of education, character education is very important in learning in the digital era. In the digital era, good character education can produce high-quality human resources and improve learning, which has a positive impact on improving the quality of education.

Technology makes various human activities easier, including searching for and delivering information. In general, technology is the application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes in various industrial fields, including tools, systems, and methods used to solve problems or achieve certain goals. Technology is very useful for education. For example, technology can be used to search for additional literature in learning, such as journals, papers, and e-books through sites such as Google or Yahoo. However, the use of online literature does not replace available textbooks; but only as additional knowledge and materials in the learning process. However, technology has negative and positive effects. Therefore, educators must supervise their students when they use technology. Families, as the closest parties, also play a role in supervising and guiding their children, helping them sort and distinguish the good and bad impacts of technology.

Various sectors, such as the economy, industry, and education, are influenced by the development of the digital era. Various parts of society use digital technology, such as traders, office workers, adults, children, and teachers. Computers, cell phones, game devices, and the internet are the technologies used. The advancement of this technology requires humans to optimize their intellectual and moral functions. The digital era in education allows education that is able to use technology well. Therefore, parents, educators, and students must utilize digital developments as an educational tool. The goal of education is to produce an intelligent and noble generation. Educational institutions must not be careless in achieving it. According to Article 1 Paragraph 1 of the 1945 Constitution Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, the goal of education is to create a fun learning process and optimize the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor aspects of students. Therefore, it is very important to emphasize that students must not only have knowledge, but must also develop strong character education. Thomas Lickona stated that character education aims to educate a generation that has character through teaching good manners. Student traits, such as coming to school on time, completing assignments well, and daring to express opinions, demonstrate this character. Because children tend to imitate what they see, character education must begin at an early age with teachers providing good examples. Teachers must have the ability to instill and foster character values gradually and consistently. Character values are an important aspect in education and are related to the main goal of national development, namely fostering national character. Therefore, it is highly recommended to start character

education from childhood so that these values can be instilled into adulthood.

According to Imam Al-Ghazali, character is actions carried out naturally by humans in speaking and behaving. As he said, the main goal of education is to bring people closer to God by obeying commandments and abandoning prohibitions. A good educational process requires comprehensive and comprehensive cooperation.

Method

In this paper, the library research methodology is used to obtain data and references by utilizing library sources. This approach also includes text studies, which include data collection from a study, of course using several sources including magazines, journals, books, and information needed, and documentation in conducting the observation stage and data collection in the field in the form of photos, notes, or images. In addition, this methodology involves the thoughts of figures relevant to the research topic. The analysis technique used is the descriptive analysis technique.

Results and Discussion

Character Education Concept

Character in Latin is called "character" which means habit, nature, behavior, ethics, morals, and morals. Character can be described as a person's nature, attitude and behavior that can be seen and become a structured habit. Character education itself is how to instill character values in education in order to shape a person's personality well. In terms, character is defined as human traits in general, which can vary depending on the individual's life experiences. Character can be seen from various sides that radiate from within a person such as in their morals and ethics towards others to become a very clear characteristic. Based on the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), the word character refers to a person's traits related to a person's psychology, attitudes and behaviors that show a comparison between himself and others. It also involves aspects related to innate, heart, soul, personality, morality, behavior, character, personality, nature, nature, temperament, and disposition. Therefore, the term "characteristic" can be understood as having prominent traits, strong personality, good behavior, positive traits, good disposition, and having a good disposition. Several definitions of character have been proposed by various experts, including the following:

1. Hornby (1987) states that character can be interpreted as "mental or moral qualities that make a thing different from others" meaning "mental or moral qualities of a person that distinguishes him from others".
2. Simon Philips states that character is a set of values organized in a system, which influences a person's attitudes, thoughts, and behavior.
3. According to Alwisol, character is a reflection of behavior that shows values (good or bad) directly or indirectly.

Character education is an effort to develop intelligence, form deep attitudes and apply them in behavior that reflects noble values that characterize one's identity. This is reflected in daily interactions with others, in the realm of religion, social, nationality, and citizenship. The development and internalization of character education in formal and non-formal education is an important need. This is not done without a clear reason, because character education has a noble goal to provide provisions for students to be able to face the dynamics of life with responsibility that is always ready. Character education often produces various perspectives from different people, in the modern world a few people interpret that character education is an education related to various forms of ethics, morals, and principles in forming the personality of someone who is academically intelligent in the educational institution

environment as well as ethics and morals towards the surrounding environment.

The general purpose of education is to develop the potential of individuals as a whole, covering intellectual, emotional, social, and physical aspects. Education aims to create individuals who are not only knowledgeable and skilled, but also moral, creative, and able to contribute positively to society. Character education is very important in everyone's life, especially in educational institutions, because through character education, the quality of education in our country will increase and students will have good and strong characters.

From the explanation of character education, it can be concluded that character education is an educational effort aimed at forming and enriching positive values, attitudes, and actions in each individual. Character education recognizes that education is not just about gaining academic knowledge, but also includes the formation of a positive personality. This includes providing teaching about universal values such as honesty, responsibility, hard work, empathy, tolerance, cooperation, and respect for diversity.

Challenges of the Digital Era

The digital world is growing, creating challenges to improve efficiency and quality in all areas of life, but also opening up many opportunities and benefits for society and the business world. Advanced technology is basically created to facilitate work and human activities in everyday life, but dependence on mobile phones and computers has become a fairly serious side effect. Digital advances in the education sector allow the use of online education and resource learning. This allows students and students to access learning materials from various locations, resulting in flexibility and a more personalized learning experience. The approach to education is now no longer focused on the role of the teacher, but more on the student. Along with technological advances, education in the digital era has undergone significant changes. Indirectly, the technology that is currently developing has a significant influence on the learning process in the world of education. The use of various technologies such as computers, the internet, and mobile devices in the education process is one of the most striking changes. Overall, there are many opportunities and challenges that come with education in the digital era. The presence of digital era technology, especially computers, has changed the pattern of interaction between individuals, especially in people whose economy is financially stable. This is because the freedom of the world of information technology provides the freedom to interact and communicate freely with anyone, anytime, and anywhere. The moral degradation that has occurred recently in society is often experienced by the younger generation who are still teenagers and students, so that it becomes a fairly serious social problem when looking at the changes that are happening today.

There are several other challenges that must be faced so that the use of technology in education provides maximum benefits. Inequality in access to technology is one of the main problems. Many students and educational institutions still lack adequate hardware and internet connections, even though digital technology offers many opportunities to improve education. This can lead to more disparities in schools because students from disadvantaged families cannot get access to the digital resources needed to support their education. In the digital era, character education raises many issues that need to be considered carefully. Because of the influence of various areas of life that can cause changes in various aspects, the challenges faced in the field of information technology in the digital era are increasingly complex. In the age of information technology, children and adolescents are often exposed to various digital influences that can affect the formation of their character. The issues are mainly related to digital ethics, as apathy towards privacy, the spread of false information, and inappropriate behavior can easily affect the mindset of children who are still developing.

This indicates the need for a careful approach in integrating character education with the use of digital technology, as well as efforts to increase understanding of digital ethics and responsibility among the younger generation. In addition, dependence on social media can also cause problems related to self-perception and the desire for online validation, which can endanger one's identity. As a result, to face the challenges of character education in the digital age, individuals must maintain strong moral principles, understand digital ethics, and learn the social skills needed to adapt to the ever-changing digital environment. To create a generation that is not only technologically proficient but also has a strong personality to face the complex moral challenges of the digital age, a holistic approach is needed that combines character learning with digital literacy.

Strategies for Instilling Character Education in Students in the Digital Era

Character education is important for all curricula, especially in today's digital era. In this era, the character possessed by students often declines. The decline in morality in children is a problem that has received serious attention from the government and society. However, in today's digital era, with the rapid advancement of information technology, the complexity of the problem is increasing. Uncontrolled media, such as online games, can easily influence children's thinking, making it one aspect that needs special attention in handling this problem. It is rare to see children playing traditional games, which encourage creativity and foster a sense of brotherhood, in today's social media era. Instead, children tend to be involved with technology, such as electronic devices and video games. Time spent on media has also increased, with an average of 3 hours watching TV on school days and 7.4 hours on holidays, and 2.1 hours playing the internet on holidays. To overcome this problem, parents must apply a digital parenting approach: (1) learn more about the internet and electronic devices, (2) regulate internet access in the family room so that they can see the activities they do, (3) limit the time spent using electronic devices and the internet, (4) tell children about the negative effects of the internet and electronic devices, (5) be firm in prohibiting inappropriate content, and (6) communicate with children openly. The characteristics of the Digital Generation are as follows: (1) They create accounts on social media en masse to show their existence to the world, (2) they tend to be more open, honest, and think more firmly than previous generations, (3) They want freedom and do not like restrictions. They want to control their own destiny, and the internet gives them the freedom to express themselves, and (4) They always access information through Google, Yahoo, or other platforms. Because they have easy access to all information, they can learn faster.

As for educational strategies in the digital era:

- 1) Moral Knowing Strategy: this approach is one form of approach carried out through education provided to students in line with the principles in the world of education. Developing this strategy requires students to understand what moral values are and ask them to demonstrate these values through examples they know. Discussions, seminars, or film analysis are some ways to implement this approach. Educators must ensure that students understand the principles of good and bad, and that these principles are useful and relevant in their lives.
- 2) Moral Loving or Moral Feeling: This stage emphasizes learning to love and serve others. In addition to instilling a sense of the need for compassion and good character values, the goal is to raise awareness of the importance of helping others. Teachers help students understand their emotions so that students can apply the knowledge they gain from their teachers according to character values. This can be achieved through inspirational stories and real-life examples.
- 3) Moral Behavior Learning: This is the highest stage in the development of a

successful personality, where students apply character principles in their daily actions. In their daily lives, they demonstrate politeness, friendliness, respect, compassion, and honesty. In facing the challenges of an increasingly advanced era, teachers are required to build better student character than before. Therefore, there needs to be some form of effort or appropriate strategy in overcoming various moral problems of students, because in the era of society 5.0 freedom of information can no longer be contained so that they seem free without rules, some of which are as follows:

1. Deepening Character Education: Students need to be given a comprehensive understanding of character education. They must internalize, understand, and actualize the instilled character values. It is also important to foster good relationships with the surrounding environment so that students can behave and act well.
 2. Showing Exemplary Behavior: Teachers must set a good example because in the era of society 5.0, students have access to various internet media. Teachers must realize that they are role models for students, because every behavior they do will be imitated by students.
 3. Controlling Luxury and Greed: The impact of technology and information often creates a culture of excessive pleasure. Teachers must provide instructions and instill basic principles and control themselves so that students do not get caught up in a hedonistic culture that can make them lazy and only oriented towards results.
1. Building Good Relationships: It is important for teachers to establish good relationships with students in order to create comfortable communication. Teachers must pay full attention to students and communicate with them using good language and behave well.
 2. Choosing the Right Learning Method: An effective learning method is one that is flexible and appropriate to the needs of students. Teachers must combine theory and practice, and encourage students to actively communicate and discuss in a good and respectful manner.
 3. Monitoring the Environment: in this era of society 5.0, students not only interact face to face, but with digital technology they often interact in the social media environment that they have. Therefore, it is important to monitor the environment so that students' characters are well maintained.

According to this theory, character education in the 5.0 era is an approach taken in education in order to shape the personality of students in line with the development and changes of the times, so that the rapid flow of information technology can be balanced with the norms that have been in effect at the beginning. This approach includes a comprehensive introduction to character education for students, providing examples and role models by teachers, maintaining good interpersonal relationships with students, and using teaching methods and models that are appropriate to the conditions of students, as well as continuing to foster good character and monitor the surrounding environment. Through this approach, it can facilitate the steps to implement character education in an increasingly advanced and developing era, because the education provided can adapt to the development and changes of the times according to the information technology that will be used based on applicable provisions.

Conclusion

Character education in the digital era faces increasingly complex challenges, such as dependence on social media, exposure to negative information, and shifts in moral values. To face these challenges, educators need to implement the right strategies in instilling character

education in students. Strategies that can be implemented include moral knowing (providing knowledge of moral values), moral loving (developing a sense of love and care), and moral acting (practicing character values in everyday behavior). In addition, educators also need to implement strategies such as providing role models, limiting students' luxuries, establishing good relationships with students, using appropriate learning methods, and monitoring the environment around students. By implementing these strategies, it is hoped that character education can be instilled well in students in today's digital era.

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