Character-Based Education Religious Values with Challenges in the Digital Age

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ABSTRACT

Character education is essential for shaping online ethics in Generation Z, who grow up in a digitally connected environment. Challenges from foreign cultures and digital influences risk altering their norms and character. Islamic education, based on religious values, plays a role in building strong character to counter the negative impacts of digitalization. This study uses a literature review to analyze the role of religious character education in the digital era. Character education, grounded in Pancasila and Islamic teachings, aims to create ethical, responsible, and integrity-driven individuals. Challenges include exposure to negative content and social media. The internalization of religious values helps protect students from the negative effects of the digital world, enhances digital literacy, and guides them in discerning information wisely. Teachers are expected to adapt their teaching methods to support students' character development in this digital age.

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INTRODUCTION

In the growing digital era, character education plays an important role in building online ethics for Generation Z. This generation has grown up in a highly digitally connected environment, where access to information and online interactions are limitless. While these advancements provide many conveniences, they also bring great challenges in instilling positive online behaviors and values. This article will review the challenges and opportunities in character education in the digital era, along with steps to shape healthy online ethics for Generation Z (Jannah & Pratiwi, 2024).

In today's digital era, the application of religious values is very important. Digital technology opens up various aspects of life and becomes a means to express oneself, so it has a significant influence. However, it cannot be denied that digital technology also has the risk of bringing negative impacts to its users. Some of these negative effects include the entry of foreign cultures that can weaken norms, character, and influence lifestyles. Therefore, it is necessary to internalize religious values as a shield for students against negative influences around them (Marlina, 2024).

Islamic education has an important role in shaping the character of future generations and should not be underestimated. Facing today's challenges, innovation in Islamic education is needed so that religious principles are not only maintained but also well integrated into daily life in the modern era. The trend of globalization affects various aspects of life around the world, including in Indonesia, bringing about major changes and transitions in society (Farhan Syahendra, 2024).

"Religious Value-Based Character Education with Challenges in the Digital Age" emphasizes the importance of shaping online ethics for generation Z, who are growing up amidst unlimited access to information and digital interaction. The digital era offers both convenience and challenges in instilling positive behavior and good values, especially due to the negative influence of online content and the influx of foreign cultures that have the potential to change the norms and character of young people.

To face this challenge, the internalization of religious values is an important solution in building a moral fortress for students, which can help them sort out influences in cyberspace wisely. Islamic education in the modern era also requires innovation so that religious values are not only preserved, but can be integrated in everyday life. In the midst of globalization, this approach is expected to maintain the character of the younger generation to remain strong and based on religious values, despite facing major changes in society.

METHOD

In writing this article, the research was conducted using the literature study method, which is an approach that relies on various written sources such as books, journals, and scientific articles to collect and analyze information without direct data collection. The process includes topic selection, literature collection and selection, analysis, synthesis, and report preparation. This method is useful in understanding concepts, evaluating previous research results, and developing theories.

RESULTS
Character Education

The issue of the importance of character education is often raised in public discourse. The importance of character is the moral quality, morals or character traits that characterize and become the driving force of each individual. Character education is a way of changing the value of life so that it is developed in individual characters that become universal to the lives of other individuals (Kulsum & Muhid, 2022). Character education has a very close relationship with moral education where the aim is to shape and train personal abilities continuously to improve themselves towards a better life. The important question is how these noble morals can become a culture, especially for students. That is, learning noble morals is important, but what is more important is how the values of noble morals are applied in everyday life so that they characterize student culture. Culture is a habit or tradition that carries certain values, which grow and develop in everyday life in various fields of life. Culture can be formed and developed by anyone, anywhere. Forming a noble moral culture means trying to develop traditions or customs in a place that is full of noble moral values (Neneng Siti Maryam, 2023).

Character education is a systematic effort to develop positive values, attitudes, and behaviors in individuals. It aims to form a person who is ethical, responsible, and caring for themselves, others, and society. The character education approach is an educational strategy that focuses on developing the moral and ethical aspects of education (Afif, Mukhtarom, Qowim, & Fauziah, 2024). Character education is a combination of science (science and technology) and religion so that individuals can achieve the highest achievement or have a sense of excellence and achievement in accordance with their potential and conscious actions. The character of the nation must be based on the values of Pancasila. Once understood, it is easy to develop the values of Pancasila. This also applies to Generation Z who are technologically literate. A good student is a student who can master the world with his skills and morals (Afif et al., 2024).

Character education in the view of Islam does not only form good behavior according to society, but the good value must also be in accordance with the values of Islamic teachings. The main focus of character education in the Islamic view is directed at the process of internalizing the values of Islamic teachings in character education to form a balance of behavior in the aspects of physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual dimensions in students (Mustofa & Amar Muzaki, 2022).

Religious Value-Based Character Education

Religious means religious or religious in nature. Creating a religious atmosphere means creating an atmosphere or climate of religious life. In carrying out the values of faith, it is necessary in the world of education to create a religious atmosphere at school or outside school. Religious character is an appreciation of the teachings of the religion he adheres to and has been attached to a person and gives rise to attitudes or behaviors in daily life both in attitude and in action that can distinguish it from the character of others (Nikmah, 2023).

How to develop religious character in elementary school children through Religious Education. One of them is Islamic Religious Education, which has a central role in shaping the personality of students, because through this education, they gain in-depth knowledge about the creed. The belief becomes the foundation for the formation of ethical values, which in turn guides them towards a religious life. However, the process of

character building is not easy and takes a long time. Internal factors, such as instinct, will, conscience, and heredity, as well as external factors, such as education and environment, influence the process of religious character formation (Annur, Susanti, & Gera, 2023).

Religious values are attitudes and behaviors that are carried out by being obedient and obedient in carrying out the teachings of the religion that is adopted, as well as having tolerance for the implementation of other religious worship, being grateful for all God's gifts, understanding all forms of gifts from God, and living in harmony with adherents of other religions. Religious value is also related to faith, which is a strength for a person because it can be separated from materialism, avoid lust, and need less worldly pleasure. revealed that religious character value is a value related to human mindset, both from one's words and actions based on divine values and religiousteachings (Ellawati Ellawati, Susi Darihastining, & Henny Sulistyowati, 2023).

Specifically, religious value-based character education refers to the basic values found in religion (Islam). Character values that become the basic principles of character education are found in several sources, including values sourced from the example of the Prophet Muhammad which is manifested in his daily attitudes and behavior, namely shiddiq (honest), amanah (trusted), tabligh (conveying transparently), fathanah (intelligent) (Arsanti, 2018). Religious character is an attitude and behavior that is obedient in carrying out the teachings of the religion it adheres to, tolerant of the implementation of other religious worship and living in harmony with other religious adherents. Then from this understanding it is developed into several indicators, aspects of attitudes and behaviors that are obedient in carrying out the teachings of the religion they adhere to can be translated back into indicators such as praying, fasting, paying zakat. The tolerant aspect of the implementation of other religions' worship can be translated into several indicators such as giving students the opportunity to worship, respecting friends who are worshiping (Swandar, 2017).

Religion is a person's thoughts, words and actions that are always based on divine values. Religion relates to mental quality (awareness), feelings, morality and other noble values derived from religious teachings. Religion is divine because it comes from God. In other words, truth is something that is derived from the Divine which comes from God and is conveyed through revelation because for many people, their first and main guide in making moral decisions is their religion (Irodati, 2015).

Challenges in the Digital Age

Digital technology is a technology that no longer uses human labor, or manually. But it tends to be an automatic operating system with a computerized system or a format that can be read by a computer. Digital systems are a development of analog systems. A digital system uses a sequence of numbers to represent information. Unlike analog signals, digital signals are noncontinuous. Advances in technology and the internet have brought about a major transformation in the field of marketing. The advent of the digital age has accelerated the emergence of changes in marketing techniques that aim to address new problems. One of the major obstacles that organizations face in the digital age is the change in consumer behavior. In today's society, consumers now have greater access to information and have more choices in purchasing products or services. Therefore, companies are forced to face increasingly fierce competition in their efforts to secure consumer loyalty and preference (Ananda, Dewi, & Saleh, 2023).

In an effort to improve digital literacy, the mentoring mechanism can be carried out in stages as follows: a). Provide an understanding of the importance of personal data protection and awareness of the dangers of irresponsible misuse of data. b). Teaching manners and ethics in interacting in cyberspace, because the internet is part of the real world and requires the same behavior. c). Directing to find credible sources of information and avoiding the spread of fake news (hoax) by teaching the ability to check the truth of information before believing it. d). Prioritizing usefulness in using the internet, avoiding spending time on things that are less useful, and making students aware of the importance of selectivity in obtaining information. e). Encouraging mutual respect and maintaining harmony in the digital world, avoiding bullying behavior (cyber bullying) and teaching students to deal with differences of opinion wisely and without bullying (Hajri, 2023).

Character education in the digital era faces complex challenges along with technological advances and changing social dynamics. One of the main challenges is the easy access to information that is not necessarily always positive. Children and adolescents can easily be exposed to negative content or not in accordance with the desired character values in education. In addition, the influence of social media and online interactions also have an impact on character development (Sagala, Naibaho, & Rantung, 2024). In terms of emotional well-being, children's engagement in digital activities can affect their mental health. It has been found that overexposure to inappropriate content can increase anxiety and stress levels. Therefore, a concerted effort from parents, educators and policymakers is needed to raise awareness about the healthy and ethical use of technology, as well as provide the necessary emotional support for children facing these challenges (Prasetyo, Asbari, & Putri, 2024).

Perkembangan teknologi yang begitu cepat dapat merusak seluruh bidang kehidupan seperti bidang sosial, budaya, dan politik. Seiring dengan perkembangan teknologi yang semakin pesat, kebutuhan konsep dan mekanisme pembelajaran berbasis digital sesuatu yang tidak terelakkan. Konsep terkenal dengan sebutan era digital. Artinya era digital membawa pengaruh terjadi proses transformasi pendidikan konvensional kedalam bentuk digital baik secara isi (contens) dan sistem(Rumapea, 2019). The important thing that becomes the main target is how to manage human resources facing the digitalization era, and what steps are good to take to face these challenges. The strategy that can be done is through sustainable and comprehensive human resource development and development. Human resource development through education, competency quality, creativity, innovation, and independence. Organizational climate support must be built harmoniously, good performance, knowledge transfer, leadership, support for employees, group effectiveness, and work strategies. Changes in the global environment including the influence of digitalization require human resources to continue to improve their competence, so that they can compete and survive in facing challenges due to changes in the global environment (Fajriyani et al., 2023).

The digital age is a challenge for everyone who lives in its time. The application of moral values must be maintained even when faced with the most sophisticated technology. Morals that need to be maintained, not only in the world of education, but all aspects of life. For example, someone in entrepreneurship must hold aspects of religiosity. According to Muhammad Shofiyuddin, the aspects of religiosity include: honesty, discipline at work, strengthening friendship and expanding relationships, support from family, working hard and giving alms (Yusuf, 2019). This technological development offers benefits to every generation, but only generations that can adapt, including millennials, can control technology. Millennials are born from all technological conditions, and logically, technology adapts quickly to support the millennial generation. Generations perform their functions, but if the use of technology is misunderstood from time to time, an understanding or assessment of the problem is needed to explain and understand the state of the problem experienced by millennials (Saputri, S., & Dewi, 2022).

In the fast-paced digital age, change in education is a reality. Learning in the digital age has opened the door to a remarkable transformation of education. Modern teachers are faced with an unprecedented number of unique challenges as technology is increasingly integrated into the learning process to deliver relevant and effective education. These challenges require teachers to catch up with technological developments, adapt their teaching methods and deal with various issues related to the use of technology in learning. This is described by participants in the following data (Khalisatun Husna et al., 2023).

The development of the world today has entered the digital era where its development can be seen from the many sectors that currently use technology, the existence of technological developments that continue to advance makes this era unpassable for anyone, including the world of education which is forced to follow the development of this technology which then forces the world of education to be able to apply technology in the education sector. A teacher basically cannot close himself from this, so the teacher is forced to be able to adapt and innovate. Individuals who fail to face the challenges of changing times will be left behind and can be replaced. This challenge does not only affect one profession, but all professions, including counselors, guidance and counseling teachers. Counselors enter an important role in this era in order to be able to face serious impacts on the scope of their profession (Firsa, 2023).

Mobile phones can change the mindset of humans, operating mobile phones is more interesting than interacting with interlocutors. Directly, these active mobile phone users sometimes do not realize how their interlocutors feel who are just silent watching them busy using their cellphones. A mobile phone communication technology tool that is a means of communicating or interacting with fellow community members who are far away so that the interlocutor can become more familiar but can make someone who is close to us feel far away. A person is more focused on interlocutors who are in cyberspace rather than communicating directly with someone who is beside him (Juliana, Liza, Fatimahtuzzahra, & Imel, 2023).

CONCLUSION

In the growing digital era, religious value-based character education plays an important role in shaping the ethics and morals of Generation Z, who are growing up in a world with unlimited access to information and online interactions. The ease of technology provides great opportunities for learning and self-development, but also brings serious challenges such as exposure to negative content, foreign cultures that can undermine norms, and risks to mental health.

This challenge requires the application of religious values as a moral shield for the younger generation, so that they can sort out digital influences wisely and utilize technology positively. Islamic education needs to innovate in its curriculum in order to integrate religious values into daily life, create a strong character, and be able to adapt to global changes without losing its identity.

The digital literacy learning method, which includes online manners, personal data protection, and the ability to filter information, is expected to provide Generation Z with the understanding and ability to face the

challenges of the digital era wisely. Character education that involves religious values ultimately aims to form a generation that is not only intellectually intelligent, but also ethical and has a strong personality, able to face the changing times while still based on religious values.

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