

The Role of Parents in Children's Development in The Digital Era

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Abstract

As time goes by, it cannot be denied that the development of information and communication technology is taking place very quickly and rapidly, where the use of technology is now very easily accessible to various groups of society, regardless of age. Nowadays, everyone from toddlers to parents can take advantage of technology, whether in the form of cellphones, computers or other digital media. For children, digital media can be used to stimulate their development, but the use of digital media does not necessarily have positive impacts but also negative impacts, so here the role of parents is needed to monitor children's development, especially in using digital media. Parents should actively involve themselves in their children's digital lives, supervise their use of technology, and guide them to use media ethically, especially for young children who really need extra assistance from their parents.

Keywords: Role of parents, digital era, technologi

Introduction

Parents have a very important role in the life and development of children. Starting from positive parenting patterns for children, fulfilling children's needs for nutritious and healthy food, as well as instilling religious and moral values in their lives. Children spend most of their time at home, so education in the family has strategic value in forming a child's personality. The example and habits of parents cannot be separated from the attention and observation of children. (Djamarah, 2024) The values instilled by parents will be more widely understood and embraced by children. Education in the family greatly determines the growth and development of children, because the family is the first place where children get to know their environment.

At present, people's lives are greatly influenced by the development of information technology, in all aspects, both in terms of economics, organizational activities, education, and for personal interests, as well as children's development. Information and communication technology greatly influences the development of children today, from positive to negative influences, and this cannot be separated from the parenting patterns of the parents themselves.

With the increasing development of technology in the current era, its benefits and influence on humans are very significant, starting from lifestyle to lifestyle. Various electronic devices have emerged and influenced human life. The digital era has now become an integral part of everyday life in society. The problem is, technological developments in this digital era not only have a positive impact, but also have a negative impact on human life. The positive impact is that life becomes easy, fast and practical. Many jobs previously depended heavily on other people, long hours, a lot of energy and excellent physical abilities, with the presence of digital systems or devices that offer completely automated solutions, a person is no longer dependent on these things.

However, the negative impact of technology in this digital era is also not small, especially on children. Sometimes busy parents end up taking the instant route, namely giving gadgets to children as a medium for watching, which ultimately becomes dependent on the child. Some of the negative impacts that occur as a result of the development of information and communication technology on children which are difficult for parents to control are that children's growth and development becomes less than optimal because children sit for too long, engrossed in gadgets, children can become speech-delayed or even over-communicate, and children become Temperament results from a child's immature psychological development but observes inappropriate behavior.

According to Arifin, gadget addiction is a behavior of dependence on gadgets that can cause social problems such as reluctance to socialize and difficulty in carrying out daily activities. (Arifin, 2016). Meanwhile, according to Setianingsih, there are four factors that cause gadget addiction in children, namely: internal factors, situational factors, social factors and external factors. Internal factors such as low self-control, boredom; situational factors, namely using gadgets when facing uncomfortable situations, feeling lonely and experiencing boredom; social factors due to the influence of the child's environment; and external factors that do not originate from the individual, related to media exposure to gadgets and their various facilities. (Setianingsih, 2018)

Based on the description above, the main problem in this article is the role of parents in children's development in the Digital Era. And this problem then becomes a reference in formulating the main problem that will be presented, namely how urgent the role of parents in the digital era is regarding children's development.

Method

The method used in the research is using a qualitative method where researchers find out and interview directly with those concerned about the role of parents in accompanying children in this digital era, as well as conducting questions and answers on school parenting activities. Next, the researcher processed the data from in-depth interview research with information and in-depth observations through observations of children. This data is analyzed further to get an idea of matters related to the use of digital media, especially gadgets and their influence on children. The next stage is to interpret the data as a whole which includes all the research results and conclusions obtained.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

1. The Role of Parents in Child Development

The family is the child's first and main school for their growth and development. Children's first education comes from the family, the family is also the foundation for them, therefore the role of the family is very important for their survival. Parents as someone who educates children or the first madrasah must maximize their duties in educating a child, providing enthusiasm and attention to the child and also good supervision. (Saida et al., 2023)

Children should be able to imitate their parents as good role models. Parental parenting styles towards children greatly influence children's moral development. Parents who lack attention, supervision and communication with children tend to make children fall into bad behavior. (Retno Dwiyantri., 2013)

Children are our next generation, on their shoulders is the future of the nation, state and religion, while the task of parents is to prepare them to become the next generation in the future. Parents must provide good and correct attention and role models. Children will develop optimally if they get good stimulation from the family. Therefore, appropriate parenting patterns can be used as a means for children's moral development. The family functions to develop children's morals which are socially formed through accepting, preserving, taking, exchanging and biophilous. (Alwisol, 2018)

In permissive parenting according to Maccoby & Martin (1993), in permissive-neglectful parenting, the mother does not monitor her child's behavior or support her child's behavior. The mother does not care about the child's behavior, so the child also does not know whether his behavior is in accordance with social norms or not. The child does not know whether his actions are appropriate or not because of the mother's lack of concern for these actions. As a result, children are less mature and have low self-esteem and are less mature. Meanwhile, in permissive-indulgent parenting, although they do not exert any pressure or control over their children, parents are quite involved with them. Parents like this usually pamper their children and let them do whatever they want. This parenting approach shows how parents are deeply involved with their children while exerting little control over them. This approach to parenting often produces naughty children who are pampered, weak, dependent and emotionally immature. (Retno Dwiyantri., 2013)

2. Digital Era

Current technological developments are developing very rapidly towards everything electronic/digital. Thanks to technological advances, various electronic devices that used to be diverse, are now increasingly integrated with smaller sizes. So it is

easy to use by various groups. Smartphones, for example, can perform functions ranging from Global Positioning System (GPS), cellphones, telephones, MP3 players, cameras, televisions, laptops and computers. (Widyarningsih et al., 2021)

Technology emerges with various types and new features day by day. Technology needs are one of the important needs today. This is because technology is needed for many purposes. Communication technology has developed the most rapidly. The development of information and communication technology has unwittingly influenced every aspect of human life. Because with the flow of globalization, the demand for rapid exchange of information causes the role of communication technology to become very important.

As a result of technological advances, people's lifestyles have changed in various ways, technology has an impact on behavior and the way people think in social situations and how they transition from one technological era to the next. (Alia & Irwansyah, 2018). The use of technology in almost every aspect of life is what differentiates the current stage of digital technology development. Humans now use technology every day. Various benefits, such as shopping, chatting and studying, can now be done online without wasting time or energy. (Novianti et al., 2019)

Children nowadays can easily access anything, both positive and negative, thanks to the rapid advances in technology. Because of the many influences that come along with the times, educating children in dealing with today's problems in the right way may be a challenge for parents. (Rizal et al., 2022) Currently, many children show dependent behavior on digital gadgets, which can have a negative impact on them. The influence of digital technology on children's development is very diverse, both negative and positive. Of these several influences, parenting patterns on children's development are very important to keep up with technological developments, so that children do not develop in their own world and children have good character to be able to live life in society.

The current generation lives in a golden age where progress occurs rapidly and is unique compared to other eras. Children's growth and development during adolescence and adulthood is influenced and determined by various components of cognitive, language, moral and religious development, physical motor skills, as well as social and emotional development at that age (Saman & Hidayati, 2023). Considering the importance of this period, all stimuli must be directed. All groups must collaborate and synergize in supporting children's growth and development, especially parents. Because parents are the first foundation stones for children, parents must have the ability to balance parenting patterns for children. Being busy is not an obstacle to letting children develop on their own, but parents must accompany them and have extensive knowledge that can be applied to children.

Results and Discussion

1. The Role Of Parents

Families/parents function to ensure that their children are healthy and safe, provide facilities and infrastructure to develop abilities as provisions for social life, as well as media to instill social and cultural values as early as possible. Parents provide love, acceptance, appreciation, recognition and direction to their children. Parents have duties as children's needs change during this time. The changes that occur during this period are physical, cognitive and social changes. Culture, beliefs, traditions and values held in a family also influence children's growth and development.

The success of a child's growth and development is influenced by environmental factors, ranging from the family environment to the wider community. The role of the family, especially parents, is very important in forming a family environment that is harmonious, full of love and understanding. Why is the role of the family, especially parents, so important? The first and most frequent exposure environment for children is the family. Character formation and the process of growth and development first start from here. Children must be prepared as early as possible to be the determinants of their future lives. Must be prepared to be able to make their own decisions and grow into a competent person in society. This process can be obtained as early as possible depending on the environment in which the child is raised.

Optimal conditions at home, adequate nutrition, and interactions between parents and children greatly influence children's development and behavior. Parents are responsible for providing a safe environment, monitoring children's activities, helping develop social and cognitive emotions, and providing direction and guidance in daily life. By providing a safe and conducive home environment, children will enjoy playing, exploring and discovering new things that can increase their level of cognitive, social and emotional development. The hope is that one day he can become a responsible and productive person.

Children are a mandate from Allah SWT. who must be educated and directed by his parents, namely people who are very influential in his life. As stated by Muhammad Nūr 'Abdul Hâfidz Suwaid quoting Imam Ghozali's opinion as follows:

"Children are a trust for their parents, because their hearts are clean, pure and innocent. Empty of all carvings and images. Children will always accept what is carved for them, and tend to whatever influences them. If they are accustomed to doing good, they will surely that's how he will be formed. Therefore both parents will get happiness in this world and in the afterlife". (Suwaid, 2004)

Meanwhile, both parents are very influential in shaping a child's character. The role of parents is big enough to make the first scratch. Will it be a beautiful and valuable painting or, on the contrary, will it be a bad picture of life? That's why Rasulullah SAW. Throughout his life he cared deeply about the souls of children. Even the Prophet Muhammad. It has laid down the basic rules that a child grows and develops following the religion and beliefs of his parents. As stated in one of the Hadiths of Rasulullah Saw. from Abu Hurairah r.a. :

مَا مِنْ مَوْلُودٍ إِلَّا يُولَدُ عَلَى الْفِطْرَةِ، فَأَبَوَاهُ يُهَوِّدَانِهِ أَوْ يُنَصِّرَانِهِ أَوْ يُمَجِّسَانِهِ

“Every child is born in fitrah (purity), then both parents are which will make him a Jew, Christian or Magian.” (HR. Bukhari). (Imam al-Bukhari, n.d.)

Based on the description above, we can understand that the role of parents is very important for children's development. As a parent, you should give your child the best so that in the future the child will become a useful and qualified human being. The family has an important role in a child's life. As a parent, you should give your child the best so that in the future the child will become a useful and qualified human being. The UN General Assembly (Megawangi, 2023) explains that the main function of the family is as a vehicle for educating, nurturing and socializing children, developing the abilities of all its members so that they can carry out their functions in society well, and providing satisfaction and a healthy environment to achieve a prosperous family. . Some things that parents can do as a reference in raising children include:

1. Formulate childcare goals so that the child's growth and development becomes clear and directed.
2. Maintain good communication with children, by not only blaming, ordering but also giving appreciation and being willing to listen to children's opinions.
3. Teaching religious knowledge from an early age, instilling religious values and character in children can equip children in living their social life.
4. Introduce children to sites that can be used to support the learning process.
5. Invite children to do other positive activities that might take up their time so they don't have much time to spend with their little ones.

2. Digital Era

The increasingly rapid development of technology has both positive and negative impacts on children's growth and development. Riri Zahra explained the many benefits and positives of digital technology, including: helping the learning process, building creativity, facilitating communication, encouraging business growth, streamlining public services, and even bringing together various social movements easily and quickly. Technology makes everything easier and faster. (Hadiarni & Mariah, 2018) And among the many positive impacts of technology, there are also negative impacts that greatly affect children's development. Parents are obliged to accompany and protect their children from negative things resulting from technological developments. Wrong parenting patterns can have fatal consequences for children's growth and development, for example children's use of gadgets as playing tools. Currently, many parents facilitate their children with gadgets as a means to make parenting easier for them. Parents consider gadgets as the only solution to help make their parents' work easier, sometimes

ignoring the negative impacts they cause. It is inevitable that many toddlers experience eye damage, speech delays and even their social life is disrupted because they rarely interact with other people.

The role of parents in children's development in this digital era really needs to be understood in depth by parents themselves. They must understand their full responsibility for the child's development, including soul, body, mind, faith and the child's overall welfare. With the development of technology, parents are obliged to monitor and place restrictions on their children's use of digital technology in order to minimize the negative impacts caused by digitalization. One way to prevent children from being too exposed to these developments is by giving children an understanding of how to use gadgets. It's a good idea for parents to limit internet access to prevent their children from viewing unwanted sites. Communication as a substitute for technological activities. Invite children to talk, not only about their activities, but also their feelings.

From the description above, it can be concluded that raising children in the digital era requires extra attention from parents. Not just mothers, but also fathers. They must have the same commitment to realizing children as future generations with quality, character and personality, of course this is the responsibility of both parties. It is hoped that parents will implement good parenting methods in the current digital era in the current digital era.

Conclusion

Current technological developments have brought major changes to the order of life. This development is utilized by people from all walks of life, both children and adults. So it has many impacts on life today, both positive and negative impacts. Starting from easy access to socializing, communicating and learning, which are positive impacts that can be utilized in the current digital era. However, for children who are still unable to filter themselves in using sophisticated technology, it will have a negative impact on their development, so supervision and guidance from parents is really needed.

Children are an investment in the future for parents. Every parent wants good for their child. Meanwhile, for children, family is the first and main vehicle for character education. Parents have an important role in providing examples and laying important foundations for their lives through habituation. By implementing appropriate parenting styles, children will grow and develop well. Along with the development of technology that influences human life, parents are advised to pay more attention to their children's development, especially in accessing digital media in their daily lives, by giving children time limits when using gadgets, inviting children to do interesting activities both at home and outside the home and getting children used to it. to socialize with peers

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