

THE IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES ON THE CHARACTER OF STUDENTS IN THE ERA OF GLOBALIZATION

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ABSTRACT
<i>This comprehensive study investigates the multifaceted impacts of rapid technological advancements on the character development of Indonesian students amid the challenges of globalization. Employing a qualitative descriptive methodology, the research integrates an extensive literature review to synthesize existing insights, providing a robust foundation for analysis. The findings highlight how technological progress has profoundly transformed education, offering unparalleled conveniences such as instant access to vast information resources, thereby enhancing learning efficiency and global connectivity for students. However, the study also uncovers significant risks associated with the imprudent use of technology, including potential threats to core character traits like discipline, empathy, and ethical decision-making. Overreliance on digital tools can lead to issues such as diminished interpersonal skills, increased isolation, and exposure to harmful content, ultimately undermining students' moral foundations in an interconnected world. To address these challenges, the research emphasizes the need for collaborative efforts among educational stakeholders, particularly educators, to balance technological integration with deliberate character-building strategies. This involves designing curricula that promote technological literacy while embedding values-based education, fostering critical thinking, responsibility, and cultural awareness. In conclusion, strategic initiatives prioritizing both digital proficiency and ethical development are essential to cultivate well-rounded individuals. By harmonizing these elements, Indonesia can prepare a generation of students who are not only adept at navigating a digital landscape but also committed to positive societal contributions. This proactive approach ensures students emerge as principled leaders capable of thriving in a globalized environment, ultimately advancing national progress</i> Keywords: <i>globalization, character, students, technology</i>

A. INTRODUCTION

The contemporary epoch characterized by globalization has a profound influence on the evolution of technological sophistication across various regions of the globe. The advancements in technology are unfolding at a remarkable pace in numerous domains that significantly impact human existence. Consequently, in the present day, it has become exceedingly challenging to dissociate human life from technological innovations, as technology has evolved into an indispensable necessity that permeates our daily routines and activities.

With the swift advancement of scientific knowledge catalyzing the emergence of cutting-edge technologies, which have come to symbolize the progress and evolution of contemporary society, we now find ourselves in an era where technological development has ascended to a digital paradigm. In Indonesia, the initial application of technology was primarily aimed at streamlining and enhancing efficiency across various sectors, including but not limited to the fields of economy, politics, socio-cultural dynamics, and educational systems. Social media platforms have now taken on the vital role of facilitating social interactions, effectively serving as a conduit for articulating visions, missions, and the design of work programs and objectives by political figures striving to garner political endorsement and backing from the populace.

The rapid and convenient dissemination of information through digital platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and a myriad of other social media channels has been elucidated by Hollifield, C. Ann (2016), who posits that contemporary technology,

particularly social media, has revolutionized the accessibility of news for users, leading to a consistent annual increase in the traffic to news websites, especially those hosted on social media platforms. This phenomenon marks the inception of a burgeoning community of users who are increasingly governed by digital interactions and engagements.

Moreover, we are witnessing a plethora of technological advancements in the realm of promotion, which are strategically designed to stimulate the growth of emerging economic sectors and facilitate the creation of additional employment opportunities. This includes the rise of digital industries encompassing e-commerce, mobile application development, and cloud computing services. The innovative approaches to promotion have the potential to inspire new enterprises to embrace creativity and ingenuity, resulting in the generation of novel ideas and effective solutions that open up vast opportunities for business ventures while simultaneously fostering robust economic growth and development.

The advancements and growth of technological innovation in the contemporary global landscape at this juncture cannot be dissociated from its profound effects on the realm of education. The ongoing global developments necessitate that the educational sector must exhibit a remarkable capacity to adapt to these rapid technological advancements in a concerted effort to enhance the overall quality of educational experiences offered to students. Specifically, there are significant modifications occurring within the educational field, particularly regarding the effective integration and utilization of information and communication technology throughout the learning processes that take place within educational institutions. The astonishingly swift evolution of sophisticated technology demands a harmonious relationship with educational sciences in order to foster an enriching academic environment within schools. With the myriad of advantages afforded by modern technology, such as the provision of rapid access to information, educational content becomes increasingly engaging and readily accessible to learners, thereby enhancing their educational journey.

Technology can be understood as the culmination of a systematic development of various scientific disciplines that transpire within the educational sector. Consequently, it is imperative for educational institutions to leverage contemporary technological tools in order to make significant contributions towards the effective implementation of learning experiences within school settings. According to the insights provided by Tondeur et al. (as cited in Selwyn, 2011), digital technology is presently being employed within educational establishments as a vital resource that supports efficient learning, serving multiple roles, including that of an informational conduit which enables access to a vast array of data, as well as a pedagogical instrument that facilitates learning activities and assignments. Educators are anticipated to adeptly harness various learning media and act as proficient facilitators, thereby transferring knowledge to their students through an assortment of applications such as Zoom, Google Classroom, Google Meet, quizzes, Telegram, and WhatsApp groups. Hence, it is elucidated that educators possess the capability to implement engaging and enjoyable learning experiences by collaborating with technology and utilizing these online platforms effectively. Therefore, it is essential for the educational sector to be adept at processing and employing technology as a means to assist in achieving desired learning outcomes.

However, it is crucial to recognize that the utilization of technology in education can also pose certain threats, particularly concerning the character development of students. Muchlas Samani articulates that character may be defined as the fundamental values that shape an individual's personality, which are cultivated through both genetic predispositions and environmental influences, thereby distinguishing one individual from another, and are manifested in their attitudes and behaviors within daily interactions. Furthermore, it can be interpreted that character embodies the intrinsic qualities present within each individual, which delineate their unique personality traits as compared to others, expressed through their attitudes, thought processes, and actions in various contexts.

The formation of learners' character is not born out of thin air, but there are processes that the learners go through so that the process becomes an inherent character. According to Megawangi (2003), children will grow into individuals with character if they can grow in an environment with character as well, so that the nature of every child who is born holy can be immediately optimized. This is also considering the surrounding environment of learners, not only the school environment which is micro in nature, therefore all parties of the school, family, mass media, business community, and so on contribute to the development of character in learners.

The biggest challenge faced by education today is the problem of learner character, which focuses on the elementary level. An example of the impact of education in an era filled with technology is that most elementary school children have been given a cellphone that is quite sophisticated, and this is very far from the impression of the lives of children who are actively playing and doing activities in the surrounding environment.

The rapid development of cellphone technology today which has begun to be sophisticated certainly has a positive impact as well as a negative impact on students. The positive impact of the emergence of technology is the easier access to information and communication, as well as transportation. While the negative impact caused is not quite a bit, technological advances make students become lazy personalities, often feel that they have their own world, become anti-social personalities, this is because they prefer to interact with cellphones rather than the surrounding environment. The result of negative factors is that character education is not embedded in students.

Based on the description above, researchers are interested in describing more clearly related to technological advances that can have good and bad impacts on the character building of students.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

This scholarly investigation employs a descriptive qualitative methodology combined with a library research approach, which serves as a foundation for a thorough exploration of the subject matter at hand. The descriptive aspect of this methodology focuses on articulating a problem formulation that leads to an insightful examination of the social situation being investigated, allowing for an extensive and profound analysis of the various dimensions involved. By utilizing a qualitative approach, this research generates descriptive data that is meticulously gathered from the research object, which is critically analyzed and documented in written form. Moreover, qualitative research is particularly concerned with delving into social issues, capturing the diverse opinions, and

understanding the perceptions held by the participants involved in the study, thus offering a rich tapestry of insights. The specific approach chosen for this research is the library research method; this particular methodology was selected due to its effectiveness in enabling researchers to delve deeply into and comprehend the phenomena being studied through a comprehensive analysis of relevant documents, scholarly books, journal articles, and a variety of other scientific publications that pertain to the research topic under consideration.

The process of data analysis is executed in a systematic manner, which entails the meticulous identification, classification, and interpretation of the information gathered, all aimed at constructing a nuanced understanding of the subject of research. Ultimately, the objective of this scholarly work is to furnish a clear, detailed, and well-rounded description of the phenomenon being investigated, placing significant emphasis on the context and meaning that emerge from the sources examined in the literature study. This comprehensive approach not only enhances the depth of understanding but also contributes to the academic discourse surrounding the topic. By focusing on the interplay between social dynamics and individual perceptions, this research aspires to highlight the intricate connections that exist within the subject matter. In doing so, it aims to pave the way for further inquiry and exploration in the field, thereby enriching the existing body of knowledge.

C. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Positive Impact

The beneficial influence that technology exerts on the development of learners' personalities encompasses a multitude of significant dimensions that are worthy of exploration and consideration. By leveraging technological advancements, educational materials can be delivered in a manner that is not only more engaging but also significantly more interactive, thereby enhancing the overall learning experience for students. As articulated by Hutagalung in 2019, it has been observed that students exhibit a pronounced interest in technology, and the integration of such technological tools into the educational framework can substantially amplify their enthusiasm and passion for learning. The incorporation of interactive games, rich multimedia content, and a variety of educational applications serves to heighten the interest and motivation of learners, transforming the educational process into a more dynamic and stimulating endeavor. Furthermore, the utilization of technology plays a crucial role in aiding young learners, particularly those in primary education, as they cultivate essential skills and unleash their inherent creativity. Setiawan, in his 2020 study, elucidates that through the application of educational technology, learners are afforded the opportunity to develop logical thinking capabilities and engage in critical analysis. By fostering a sense of curiosity and encouraging the exploration of novel concepts, students can embark on research initiatives, analyze diverse information sources, and ultimately draw well-informed conclusions grounded in their comprehension of the content that technology presents.

Moreover, the integration of technology into the learning environment also significantly enhances the potential for collaboration and interaction among learners, enabling them to engage in meaningful exchanges. Students can work together in online spaces, thereby facilitating the sharing of ideas and the collective completion of tasks, which is instrumental in honing their social skills and fostering effective teamwork. These collaborative experiences are pivotal for the holistic development of learners' character, as they navigate the complexities of working with peers and learning to appreciate diverse perspectives. The blend of technology with education not only enriches the academic experience but also

prepares learners to become well-rounded individuals equipped with the skills necessary for success in an increasingly interconnected world.

The other positive impacts are as follows.

1. **Mass Media as a Source of Knowledge.** Information technology gives rise to mass media, especially electronic media such as the internet and computer laboratories in schools. This allows students to access subject matter directly from the internet, making the teacher a guide who directs the correct use of information media.
2. **New Learning Methods.** Technology allows the creation of new learning methods that make it easier to understand abstract material with the help of technology.
3. **Distance Learning.** Technology allows for a learning system that does not have to be face-to-face, but can be done online through the internet.
4. **Assessment Data Processing.** Technology facilitates the processing of assessment data using computers and special programs, saving time and effort previously required for manual analysis.
5. **Quick Fulfillment of Educational Facilities.** Technology allows the fulfillment of educational needs, such as the duplication of exam questions, to be done quickly using photocopiers and other technological tools.

In learning activities, technology provides benefits such as more effective and interesting learning, explaining complex material becomes easier, accelerating long processes, presenting events that rarely occur, and showing events that are dangerous or out of reach.

Negative Impact

The integration of advanced technology into the character education framework for primary school students has the potential to yield significant and positive outcomes; however, the excessive reliance on electronic devices, which represents one specific aspect of rapid technological advancement, can conversely lead to detrimental effects on the holistic development of young learners. This adverse impact can particularly manifest in the realms of health and physical development, with particular emphasis on the cognitive functions and psychological well-being of the students in question. Moreover, the excessive allocation of time spent engaged with these digital devices can have a profoundly negative influence on the social competencies that are crucial for learners' interpersonal interactions and relationships. As a result, children may find themselves increasingly disinterested in participating in traditional play activities alongside their peers, as their attention becomes predominantly absorbed by the allure of digital gaming experiences. Furthermore, this overexposure to virtual environments may create significant challenges for learners when it comes to maintaining focus and engagement with the tangible aspects of the real world around them. In essence, while the incorporation of technology into educational paradigms can foster beneficial growth, it is imperative to recognize and mitigate the potential pitfalls associated with excessive device usage among young learners. Therefore, a balanced approach that harmonizes the advantages of technology with the necessity for healthy social and cognitive development must be prioritized in order to cultivate well-rounded individuals.

The other negative impacts are as follows.

1. **Teacher Displacement.** E-learning can cause teachers to be displaced and cause individuals to become more individualistic, as well as decreasing the ethics and discipline of students.
2. **Internet Misuse.** Learners or students may use the internet to access negative content such as pornography and online games, and experience addiction to virtual relationships.
3. **Information Overload.** Learners may experience information overload from the internet, spending hours collecting and organizing information, which can lead to addiction.
4. **Cyberspace Addiction.** Learners or students can become addicted to cyberspace if they do not have a critical attitude, and lose contact with the real world.
5. **Cyber Crime.** Criminal acts in education such as theft of important documents through the internet can occur.
6. **Apathy.** Virtual learning systems or e-learning can lead to apathy in learners and teachers, with learning outcomes that are not maximized due to the lack of direct interaction.

Solution

Based on the description of the negative impacts of technological advancement for learners, there are solutions that can be offered in dealing with the negative impacts of technological influence in education. E-learning has consciously changed the educational landscape significantly. However, as technological advances develop there are negative impacts that occur, there are solutions that help overcome the above problems including:

1. **Teacher Training in the Use of Technology.** It is essential that teachers are given adequate training in the use of technology and e-learning platforms. With a good mastery and understanding of these tools, teachers can integrate technology with traditional teaching methods to create a better learning experience.
2. **Teacher Collaboration and Engagement.** E-learning does not replace the role of the teacher, but instead, can be a supportive tool. Teachers can collaborate with e-learning platforms to develop engaging and effective learning materials. This ensures that the teacher's role remains relevant and meaningful to learners.
3. **Use of E-learning as a Supplement.** E-learning should not replace direct interaction between teachers and learners. It should be used as a complement, exploring the learning experience with additional materials, exercises and resources that can be accessed online.
4. **Collaboration with Parents.** Teachers can communicate with parents through the e-learning platform. This allows parents to monitor their child's progress and participate in the learning process.
5. **Using Exciting Learning Methods.** To improve learners' critical thinking skills, you can use collaborative learning methods, for example, learners can work in groups to complete tasks or projects together and use a variety of learning materials, such as videos, images, infographics, and simulations. This will maintain learners' interest in the E-Learning.

Internet abuse is indeed an issue of concern, especially for children. Here are some solutions to overcome the negative impact of internet abuse including:

1. Digital Literacy Education. Digital literacy education is an important first step. Students need to understand digital ethics, responsibilities in communicating online, and how to use the internet wisely. With this understanding, they can avoid behaviors that harm others and themselves.
2. Parent and Teacher Supervision. Parents and teachers need to monitor children's online activities. Parents can use the privacy settings feature and limit internet time so that children are not exposed to negative content for too long.
3. Using Filters and Access Settings. Enabling browser filters and regulating access to appropriate sites can help avoid negative content.
4. Real World Activities. In addition to the internet, children need to engage in activities in the outside world. Playing, exercising, or interacting with friends in person can help reduce internet addiction.

2. Character Education

The formation of the character and personality of learners is not a lesson, but a real example of teachers, parental guidance, information media and technology, and other aspects of life that affect the development of a learner. Character education is an original education that is closely related to information media and technology that is growing rapidly from time to time. Therefore, it can be said that the formation of learners' personality as early as possible is a good step to prevent the negative impact of the development of existing media and information technology. If this situation is implemented and successfully achieved, then the character of students will return to the improvement period, and peace in social life will be created in children.

The implementation of character education can be done in various ways, one of which is by implementing character education in elementary schools through teaching, exemplary, retention, and habituation (Sudrajat, 2011). The implementation of character education must be supported by all elements of the educational environment. For example, elementary school students tend to immediately do what they see, so teachers must provide good examples to them. Furthermore, according to Mohammad Cossim, the process of character education, cultural values, and character practice can take place through all subjects, curriculum, extracurricular activities, and local culture (Cossim, 2011).

According to Munawwaroh (2019), the implementation of character education can be done through three stages of activities: teaching character, feeling about character, and behavior that reflects character. The implementation of character education also requires role models in each learner's environment: home environment, school environment, and community environment (Munawwaroh, 2019). This allows all stakeholders, including families, schools and communities, to work together to set this example. The example can be realized through habits according to Syamsul Kurniawan (Bahri, 2015). A person's habits, such as the way he acts in situations and the words he uses when talking to others, shape his personality. There are many ways to successfully implement character education, one of which is by increasing (qualitatively) awareness of the importance of character

education among students, educators, and education personnel, increasing the sense of responsibility among students, educators, lecturers: people, and many more (Muchtar & Suryani, 2019).

The implementation of character education will be well implemented and successful if all influential constituents are aware. We can also educate students' character by teaching them empathy. Teaching empathy allows children to understand the emotions of others, especially classmates and schoolmates. If we teach empathy to learners, we expect them to develop aspects of themselves because their development does not occur in isolation but is interconnected with others (Widiarti, 2013).

D. CONCLUSION

The use of technology in education has significant positive and negative impacts. While technology can increase interest and motivation to learn, develop critical skills, and encourage collaboration, the use of gadgets and the internet can also cause negative impacts such as health and socialization disorders, and increase the risk of cyber crime.

The positive effects of technology on education are:

1. Mass Media as a Source of Knowledge
2. New Learning Methods
3. Distance Learning
4. Assessment Data Processing
5. Quick Fulfillment of Educational Facilities In learning activities, technology provides benefits such as more effective and interesting learning, explaining complex material more easily, speeding up long processes, presenting events that rarely occur, and showing events that are dangerous or out of reach. Negative Effects of Technology on Education are:

1. Teacher Substitution
2. Internet Abuse
3. Information Overload
4. Cyberspace Addiction
5. Cyber Crime
6. Apathy To deal with the negative impacts of technology in education, several approaches are needed.

The following can help improve the transfer of teacher functions and ensure the effectiveness of learning between educators and learners such as teacher training in the use of technology, teacher collaboration and involvement, the use of E-learning as a complement, collaboration with parents, and by using exciting learning methods. To improve learners' critical thinking skills, collaborative learning methods can be used, for example, learners can work in groups to complete tasks or projects together and use a variety of learning materials, such as videos, images, infographics and simulations. This will maintain learners' interest in the E-Learning. To overcome the negative impact of internet abuse such as with Digital Literacy Education, parental and teacher supervision, using filters and access settings, activities in the real world.

Meanwhile, learner character building is an important thing that requires support from various aspects of life, including education, family, school, and community. The

implementation of character education can be done through various methods such as learning, exemplary, reinforcement, and habituation. With the awareness and cooperation of all related parties, the implementation of character education can have a positive impact such as increasing awareness of the importance of character, honesty, and a sense of responsibility of students, educators, and education personnel. In addition, teaching empathy is also an important approach in shaping learners' character so that they can understand and feel the feelings of others. Thus, joint efforts from all parties in dealing with the impact of technology and strengthening learners' character building are important steps in creating a balanced and quality educational environment.

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