

Parenting in the Z-Generation Era

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Abstract: Parenting or the upbringing of teachers and parents towards children is a fundamental and important thing in human life especially in facing the challenges of the times. Along with the development of the times, human technology is also developing. However technological developments do not only have positive impacts on human life, particularly on youths but also have negative impacts, in this case, the misuse of internet technology. Looking at the many cases of bullying, violence against children, teenage brawls, and cases that show moral degradation in today's youths certainly make everyone sad, especially parents and teachers. So, this article was written with the aim of describing parenting in an era where internet development was very rapid or an era called the Z generation or internet generation which is expected to be useful for parents and teachers to guide the nation's next generation in an era of technological or internet development. In this study, the writers used a literature review that was sourced from the results of research that had been carried out, books, which were listed online and in print. The result of this literature study shows the many methods or patterns of parenting currently being developed by parenting experts. But as parents and teachers, of course, we have to choose the most appropriate parenting pattern in accordance with the demands of the times.

Keywords: Bullying, Generation Z, Moral Degradation, Parenting

A. Introduction

Every couple certainly wants children. Children are the greatest gift from Allah Ta'ala to every parent. Having a child that is what both parents expect is certainly the proudest thing in every parent's life. However, raising children in an era where both parents and children are very easily exposed to everything related to technology, especially the internet, is certainly not easy and very different from raising children in the past when everything was still very unfamiliar with technology or the internet.

Today's extraordinary information age, no one finds it difficult to get information about how to raise children properly and correctly. All you have to do is take your cellphone and type keywords into the search engine, in less than two seconds we will get thousands of posts and videos that are relevant to what we are looking for. The key to all of this is actually awareness. This is important because no change occurs without awareness, even if there is, it is only temporary. By increasing

awareness, may we always be moved to do the best for our children, and for our families.

According to data from the Association of Indonesian Internet Service Providers (APJII), approximately 77 percent of Indonesia's population already uses the internet. That means around 210 million people in Indonesia are actively using the internet. And this figure is expected to continue to grow every year. With the development of technology, especially in the digital or internet era, of course, it provides a lot of conveniences, but you need to be aware that you can also abuse it. Facing this, of course, as teachers and parents, we inevitably have to be prepared for today's education and parenting in order to protect and guide our children or students from the negative influences of technological developments.

Parenting

The results of this literature study show the many methods or patterns of parenting currently being developed by parenting experts. But as parents and teachers, of course, we are obliged to choose the right parenting pattern in accordance with the demands of the times. From the results of this study, it was also concluded that the role of parenting which includes exemplary, habituation, advice, attention, praise, and punishment can be used as an appropriate parenting method adapted to the era.

Based on the understanding of experts, it can be seen that no child is born exactly the same as others. Various studies have confirmed that children are born with various unique personalities that are shaped by the world around them. However, the most dominant factor is still the personality they are born with. Maybe one child is outgoing and sociable, while the other prefers to be alone. Maybe one person enjoys the constant attention, while the other doesn't really mind it (Baskoro, 2019).

The characters that children have will obviously greatly influence how they interact with the world around them. It is undeniable that environmental factors will be very influential in shaping the character and innate personality of a child. Circle one environment (nuclear family), namely father, mother, and siblings, and circle two environments (extended family-grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts) certainly play a very important role in the formation of a child's character and personality.

In a study that was conducted on twins who were raised separately, there was convincing evidence that these traits and personalities were inherited. By reuniting and testing twins who were separated at birth and adopted into families with different backgrounds and then raised without any contact, it was concluded that adult behavior is inherited more than previously thought. The twins turned out to be very similar in appearance, behavior, attitude, and social power, including character and personality (Brooks, 2013).

However, never ignore the influences that come from circles three, four, and so on. Influences that come from friends in the neighborhood or school actually tend to be stronger and can change the basic character and personality that is acquired through heredity. Since it is impossible for us to choose a personality for ourselves or

for our children, all we can do is identify and work on the personality that has been given and written by Allah Ta'ala to us and also these children. By knowing the child's character and personality, it is hoped that communication and interaction between parents and them will become easier, more effective, and can help in achieving the ideal harmony as desired.

Z-Generation

According to Kupperschmidt (2000), generations are a group of people who have the same year of birth, age, location, as well as historical experiences or events within the same individual that have a significant influence on their growth phase. So, it can also be said that a generation is a group of individuals who experience the same events in the same period of time.

According to Wikipedia, Z-Generation is the transitional generation after the millennial generation and before the alpha generation. This generation is the generation born between 1996-2011. Z- Generation is also known as Gen Z, internet generation, net generation, or i-generation.

The generation that was indeed born in the midst of a very rapidly developing technological era. This generation no longer uses television as their main medium. A generation that is very thick with the internet. It is not surprising that this generation is very easy to get and absorb everything from the internet. They prefer to do almost everything online. Interest in reading at bookstores has shifted to e-books, shopping, ordering tickets, studying, and everything else is done online, because they don't want to bother or spend time going to bookstores, markets, etc. It is the internet that plays a very important role in the survival of this generation. This generation is also a generation that is very active on social media such as Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, TikTok, etc. They are able to do many things at one time (multi-tasking), for example: surfing in cyberspace while listening to songs online.

Gadget

The progress of the times is very fast at this time raising various kinds of technological development phenomena that are intended to provide convenience for its users. An example is when in ancient times we could only listen to music via the radio where the songs played were not always what we wanted, but now there are MP3 players with various kinds of songs in our collection and they can be played anywhere and anytime. Then there are also mobile devices that we almost always encounter in various daily activities.

At first, mobile phones or cell phones were used as a means of long-distance communication without intermediaries. However, with various kinds of developments, smartphones can also be used for internet purposes, listening to audio videos, and games, as a social media component, taking photos, and much more. This is also a manifestation of the vital role of gadgets for the wider community.

Currently, technology is developing very quickly, so it is not surprising that the term new device or device often appears. This is very reasonable considering that most

people crave convenience and one of its manifestations is in the form of the sophistication of the technology used.

One term that is quite busy being discussed is gadgets. Even though it is often discussed, it turns out that there are still many who do not know the true definition of a gadget. What are examples of gadgets and what functions can we get from the gadget itself.

In general, gadgets are electronic devices that are relatively small in size and have special and practical functions in their use. Another opinion says that gadgets are small electronic objects that can be carried anywhere easily. Gadgets are portable electronic devices because they can be used without having to be connected to an electric socket.

Gadgets are one part of technological developments that always present the latest technology that can help human activities become easier. In other words, technology is a language in general, while gadgets are a specific language. One of the things that distinguish gadgets from other electronic devices is the element of novelty, which means that day-to-day gadgets always appear to present the latest technology that makes human life more practical.

The history or the beginning of the emergence of gadgets cannot really be explained thoroughly considering that the word gadget does not symbolize an object or item. But the classification of several types of components such as mobile phones. Therefore, when we discuss the history or the beginnings of gadgets, it is the same as discussing the history of the cellphone device itself.

Gadgets have become an important part of human life today. It can be said that the gadget will affect the lifestyle of every user. Several types of gadgets are made specifically for entertainment purposes, for example, cell phones, laptops, digital cameras, tablets, and iPads (Anggraini, 2019).

Internet

The internet comes from the Latin 'inter' which means between. According to Ahmadi and Hermawan (2013), the Internet is a global communication network communication that connects all computers in the world even though they have different operating systems and machines. Almost all gadgets can now be connected to the internet, be it computers, cellphones, CCTV, television, etc. making all human behavior can be linked online via the internet so that it can be done quickly. For example, looking for news, learning, playing games, singing, shopping, etc.

B. Methods

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method, namely research that is used to examine the condition of natural objects where the researcher is the main instrument and the results of his research emphasize the meaning of generalization. This research collects data in the form of sentences or subject descriptions through literature study.

A literature study according to Sugiyono (2013) is a theoretical study, references, and other scientific literature related to culture, values, and norms that develop in the social situation under study. Literature study can also be interpreted as research that examines books, literature, notes, and so on related to research.

C. Results and Discussion

The results of this literature study show the many methods or patterns of parenting currently being developed by parenting experts. But as parents and teachers, of course, we are obliged to choose the right parenting pattern in accordance with the demands of the times. From the results of this study, it was also concluded that the role of parenting which includes exemplary, habituation, advice, attention, praise, and punishment can be used as an appropriate parenting method adapted to the era.

Parents have a number of significant roles towards their children. A number of obligations need to be carried out by parents to fulfill the rights that children have. In addition to providing protection to children, parents are also obliged to fulfill their rights, especially the right to care. Assistant Deputy for Child Protection in Emergency Situations and Pornography of the Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection (Kementerian PPPA), Ciput Eka Purwianti, said that parenting patterns must be adapted to the current digital era, bearing in mind the many dangers that threaten children online (George, 2016).

Inevitably, in the all-internet/digital age, parenting must also be in accordance with the digital age. Basically, digital parenting is a parenting pattern that is adapted to the habits of children who are so familiar with digital devices. In digital parenting, there are seven steps that every parent needs to take, which are as follows (Priyatna, 2012; Prasetya, 2006; Khomaeny, 2020):

1. Put the internet device in an open space

Putting internet devices such as TVs, laptops, computers, or cellphones should be in an open space, such as facing the entrance so that children feel in control around them. Make them reluctant to open potentially disturbing links or open content that is not appropriate for their age.

2. Always improve communication with children

How often do you start to invite your child to chat? When a child approaches you who is busy playing with a cellphone, do our eyes move to our child's eyes or stay glued to the screen? Do you really listen when your child tells a story? Communication is the key word, so this is the first step written in this guide. Building communication with children is the most important step in parenting in this digital era. Take time to be able to interact intensely with children, such as exercising together, playing for walks and so on. If children want to openly tell their parents, it will be easier to be able to take care of them in the internet world.

3. Equip yourself by continuing to learn

Sometimes parents are insecure about learning digital technology. They feel left behind by their children. That's right, the digital native generation will adopt this technology much more easily than their parents who come from the digital immigrant generation. However, this does not mean that parents do not need to make efforts to learn, at least they must continue to equip themselves to be able to find out about various activities of their children on the internet. Parents can search for various information on Google, find out whether the applications/games that children use are good or bad, and look for various references on the internet.

4. Use features and apps for babysitting on the internet

Sometimes parents need the help of tools to be able to look after their children on the internet. Features such as Safe Search or Safe Search on Google, Restriction Mode or Limited Mode on YouTube, Age restrictions on PlayStore and so on, need to be activated. Apart from that, parents can also take advantage of the Parental Control application or Parental Control, an application that can monitor children's activities on the internet, set screen time, determine which applications can be used or not, view locations and so on.

5. Create shared rules and enforce the consequences

Rules for using the internet need to be made jointly by parents and children. Yes, it's not parents who make rules and ask children to obey them, but they are made together by discussing all the impacts and consequences. If necessary, these rules are printed and signed together. For example, determine the duration and frequency of children playing the internet, what games or applications they may and may not access or download, etc.

6. Be friends and follow children on social media, but don't overdo it

Parents need to know their child's activity on social media. Be his friend and follower on social media. But keep in mind, we must respect their space and freedom in the online realm. Don't keep stalking your child's account, let alone flood every post with parental comments. Don't forget to encourage your children to make a positive digital footprint on social media.

7. Explore, share and play with children

The internet is a relatively new media, make this media a place to play with your children. Various activities can be done by parents with children, such as watching videos on YouTube, looking for information, playing games, and so on. Explore this world together, share our online experiences with your children, and vice versa, don't be shy to ask questions and learn everything on the internet from your children.

8. Be a good digital model

The fruit doesn't fall far from the tree. Children's behavior will imitate what their parents do. If you want children to be wise in using this technology, then it starts with their parents who set a good example. For example, limiting the time to use devices, especially in front of children, posting good things on social media, communicating politely and so on.

D. Conclusion

Holding back and not accepting change is certainly not a wise thing in educating and raising children, especially in the current Z-generation era. Equipping yourself and your family with a pattern and upbringing that is adapted to the times is certainly a wise thing that must and can be done, especially as parents and teachers today so that they are able to prepare a generation that is internet savvy and avoids its negative influences and abuse.

George in his book "Early Childhood Education" mentions one of the world leaders John F Kennedy once said, "Children are a resource of this planet earth. And our future hopes hang in their hands." Children as blank tablets, in line with John Locke's thought which states that children are born into the world as tabula rasa or blank sheets. This view emphasizes the importance of the environment as the main determinant in forming children, and ignores the factors of the genetic code and innate character, except for the basic traits that characterize humans in general.

Khomaeni in his book "Indonesian Parenting" cites the opinion of Rousseau and Froebel who view children as growing plants. They think that home and school are gardens, where children grow and grow in harmony with natural growth patterns. Parents have the role of gardeners who have to care for, look after, and ensure that the plants grow well and are in accordance with the growth phases. Children are also property, and children are future investments.

As parents, it is mandatory for setting up and looking for an environment that has a good influence on the growth and development of their children. Starting with self-defense as parents, in order to be the real model and the best example for their children. Then parents must find and choose a good place to live for their children because the environment around us will influence the growth and development of our children.

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