The Role Of Parents And Families In Children's Education In The Digital Era

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Abstract

Introduction to The Problem : Technology's rapid evolution presents both opportunities and challenges for children, affecting their education, communication, and exposure to risks like inappropriate content and cyberbullying. Balancing screen time with physical and social activities is a growing concern, prompting a need for updated parenting strategies in the digital age. **Purpose :** This study investigates the digital age's impact on children's upbringing, focusing on parental roles. It aims to understand technology's dual aspects—its benefits and risks—and offer guidance on adapting parenting methods to enhance children's safety, well-being, and development amidst technological changes. **Design/methods/approach**: A mixed-methods approach is used, involving surveys and interviews with parents and educators. The research reviews literature on technology's effects on children and examines effective parental strategies for managing screen time and promoting digital literacy. A framework is developed to evaluate technology's influence and suggest parental engagement strategies. **Findings** : Excessive screen time links to developmental issues like attention problems, aggression, and health concerns. Technology also offers educational and social benefits. Strategies to mitigate negative impacts include setting limits, creating tech-free areas, and modeling responsible behavior. Engaging parents in digital education and discussing online safety are highlighted as essential. **Research implications/limitations**: The findings underscore the necessity for collaboration among parents, educators, and policymakers to manage the digital age's challenges. While technology is beneficial, it requires careful handling to safeguard children's welfare. Study limitations include potential biases in self-reported data and difficulties separating technology's effects from other factors. **Originality/value** : This research offers fresh insights into the technology-child development relationship, providing actionable advice for parents and educators. It bridges theory and practice, enriching discussions on safely and effectively navigating the digital age.

Keywords : Education, Digital age, Parents, Family.

Introduction

The digital age is a term that refers to the development of internet-based digital networks, or more precisely, information technology. The digital age is characterized by technology, where there is an increase in the speed and flow of knowledge turnover in the economy and people's lives. Parents living in a part of the information society cannot escape that children growing up in the digital age are constantly surrounded by technology-related things. New technologies are one of the most visible indicators of the emergence of a new age and signal the arrival of the information society.

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The information technology revolution led to the spread of communication technology, which can inspire the creation of a new culture(Amrillah et al., 2020).

The development of digital technology is now growing and has the potential to change the global landscape drastically. Human life is changing significantly in the digital age. In this case, people can freely use digital technology and acquire knowledge in various ways. They enjoy the facilities of digital technology freely, but there is also a risk of unfavorable negative impacts. Thus, crimes such as copyright piracy, pornography, and games that damage the mentality of the younger generation have become more accessible because of the ease with which they can be done online.(Boiliu, 2020).

The development of technology and information today, especially digital devices, has affected children's lives. In 2012, there were 63 million Internet users in Indonesia, according to a survey conducted by the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII). 24.23 percent of Indonesia's overall population has been affected. The number of people using the internet continues to increase. Indonesia had thirty million internet users in 2009, forty-two million in 2010, fifty-five million in 2011, and sixty-three million in 2012. There is no doubt that this number has tremendous potential.2 Meanwhile, the National Commission on Child Protection survey in 2010 revealed that 97% of teenagers have watched or accessed pornographic material, 93% of teenagers have kissed, 62.7% of teenagers have had sex, and 21% of Indonesian teenagers have had abortions. The data is ironic. Pornography has indeed become widespread in Indonesia; not only teenagers but many children have accessed it.

The rapid development of digital technology today has entered a new digital era. The emergence of social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Line, and WhatsApp is an early example of the new era. Everyone can access, provide, disseminate, interact, and engage in various online activities in the digital era (Kadir et al., 2019). Mixed media can be used widely, freely, and extensively. One can report information to another country and simultaneously get information from all over the world within minutes, even seconds.

Humans live in the digital age and have seen rapid advancements in technology. Humans cannot live without technology because technology is everything to humans. The adverse impact of the sophisticated modern digital era is already apparent, as evidenced by the alarming moral behavior of children. Children's values are shaped by the role of parents in the family environment. Therefore, the role of parenting in the family environment determines the values children obtain. Of course, education methods in the past differ from education in the current era. The development of new knowledge and technology, along with cultural changes triggered by mindsets affected by easy access to information, has resulted in a shift in educational approaches. Therefore, parents are expected to constantly update their knowledge to guide their children to the demands and dynamics of the times.

The care provided by parents lasts longer than that offered by educators in PAUD institutions. Today, early childhood is exposed to a digital world that is an inevitable part of people's lives. This recognition arises due to the needs underlying society's daily activities. As a primary group, the family plays a significant role in society. As a social entity, the family is formed from a long-standing relationship between a man and a woman, aiming to create and raise children. Thus, the family, in its pure form, is a social unit consisting of a husband, wife, and children, and it has a significant influence in shaping the character and development of children.

The family environment is the closest framework for children from birth. The family provides a variety of experiences and stimuli that are important for children's growth and development. The role of the family in shaping children's morals is very significant. Through observing adult behavior in the family environment where children live, children can pay attention and imitate this behavior over time. (Amrillah et al., 2020).

Positive parenting in the digital age is often faced with the challenge of supervising children. Parents' busy schedules sometimes lead to a lack of attention to children's development and activities. As a result, children's growth and development can be hampered optimally. In this digital

era, parents must consider several things about their children. However, in line with the times, the parental approach does not permanently prohibit children from interacting with the digital world.

Parents are faced with several steps that need to be taken in the face of an era where consumption and technological advances are dominant factors in childcare. One of them is the involvement of parents in understanding and mastering Information and Communication Technology (ICT). Like a knife with two sides, technology has both positive and negative aspects, depending on how it is used, and the results will be reflected in the impact received. If technology is complex and challenging to avoid in children's lives, then getting closer and understanding its benefits can be a solution. Utilizing the internet for positive things, such as brain-stimulating games, videos that improve children's intelligence, and other positive activities, can be a constructive approach to guiding children in this digital era.

Every parent has a different style and approach to parenting, and of course, these styles can affect a child's development. When giving affection to children, it is essential to balance giving enough attention and not too much. The services and affection provided should be proportional to the child's needs. Parents need to understand when it is appropriate to be firm and when to be gentle with their children. In dealing with problems, it is important for parents not to vent anger in an excessive way, such as using harsh words, swearing, or even physical actions that can leave scars on the child's body. The courage to set reasonable limits in disciplining children is the key to healthy interactions between parents and children that support positive child development.

Parents serve as a child's first teacher and source of education in developing moral character in all areas. Of course, parents play an essential role in helping their children develop the mindset and self-confidence needed to face the rapidly changing times, especially in the digital age. The digital age cannot be avoided, as it has affected every aspect of life. Still, it also cannot be overly welcomed because, despite its many benefits, several mudharat can contribute to a deterioration in children's educational attainment. (Syamli et al., 2023). Therefore, how parents play a role in their children's education and the circumstances that encourage or hinder their involvement significantly impact their education, dramatically influencing how children respond to this digital era.

Several studies have been conducted to discuss the role of families and parents in the digital era. (Amrillah et al., 2020) approach early childhood as a golden age to take advantage of opportunities for children to develop as a whole in physical, motor, cognitive, language, social, and emotional aspects. (Amrillah et al., 2020) Children's education in the family in the digital era was also conveyed by (Hidayati et al., 2023) that the family is the central locus in efforts to improve the quality of human resources in all areas of life, both personal life, society, nation, and state. (Andriyani, 2018) Parenting towards children is also highlighted by (Aslan, 2019) that parents should not remain silent with the existing developments but must make changes so that technology changes, but parenting also synchronizes between the role of authoritarian, democratic, and permissive parenting. (Aslan, 2019). In addition, the role of parents in the digital era is also highlighted by Lailya Ika, Ariningtyas, Alfin, Virginia, and Nur Farida (2020). In today's digital era, technology is increasingly sophisticated, causing significant world changes(Ardiya et al., 2020). This situation makes children increasingly spoiled with the sophistication of gadgets, where access to various information is obtained. This requires parents to be responsible and guide children.

From the literature study above, this research will describe the importance of the approach to the role of parents and families in educating children in the digital era. Research is needed to understand the importance of parent and family approaches in children's education in the digital era, among the approaches adopted by previous research.

Literature Review

The rapid evolution of technology has profoundly altered the landscape of childhood, presenting both opportunities and challenges. On one hand, technology offers educational advantages and enhances communication capabilities, enabling children to access a wealth of information and connect with peers and family across distances. On the other hand, it introduces risks such as exposure to inappropriate content, cyberbullying, and potential threats from predators. The complexity of balancing screen time with physical and social activities necessitates a reassessment of traditional parenting strategies in light of the digital age.

Parents and families play a crucial role in navigating the digital landscape, adapting their approaches to leverage technology's benefits while mitigating its risks. The dual-edged nature of technology, its transformative potential, and the associated dangers require a nuanced understanding and strategic application within the context of child development and education. This involves not only monitoring children's online activities but also fostering digital literacy, setting clear boundaries, and promoting responsible technology use.

Excessive screen time has been linked to developmental and behavioral issues, including attention deficits, aggression, obesity, and sleep disorders. Conversely, technology also offers educational advantages and opportunities for social interaction, underscoring the need for a balanced approach to its use. Strategies for mitigating negative impacts include establishing "screen-free" zones, leading by example in responsible technology use, and involving parents actively in children's digital education, with a focus on online safety and responsible use.

The study underscores the urgency for collaboration among parents, educators, and policymakers to address the challenges of the digital age. It highlights the necessity of careful management and oversight to safeguard children's well-being amidst the benefits offered by technology. The research acknowledges limitations, such as the potential for bias in parent-reported data and the challenge of isolating the effects of technology from other environmental factors.

This research contributes valuable insights into the intricate relationship between technology and child development, offering practical recommendations for parents and educators. By bridging the gap between theoretical discussions and real-world applications, it enriches the ongoing dialogue on how to navigate the digital age responsibly and effectively, ensuring children's safety, well-being, and holistic development.

Methods

This research method uses a descriptive-qualitative approach. It was chosen to be able to explore information about the role of parents and families in the digital era. The research locations were Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) and Al-Azhar Cairo. Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. Test data validity or credibility (internal validity) using the triangulation method.

This research's subjects are students' parents at Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII). Students became informants to strengthen the data. Determination of informants was carried out using a purposive sampling technique. The following names of informants are written under pseudonyms:

Table 1. List Narasumber

No	Interviewee	Origin	Age	Gender	Profession
1	Elvy	Kepri	47	Female	Housewife
2	Sofiyatul	Bantul	25	Female	Employees
3	Hartatik	Lampung	32	Female	Midwife
4	Dedeh	Karawang	45	Female	Teacher
5	Laeli	Tegal	34	Female	Housewife
6	Tedhi	Kepri	47	Male	Wirasaswasta
7	Aditi	Gresik	29	Female	Housewife
8	Martin	Palembang	34	Male	Wiraswasta
9	Syafii	Banyuwangi	33	Male	Wiraswasta

10	Mulyadi	Kalimantan	46	Male	Wiraswasta
11	Icha	Palembang	35	Female	Teacher
12	Dwi	Lampung	28	Female	Teacher
13	Rizqi	Bekasi	22	Male	Student
14	Rifqi	Kalimantan	22	Male	Student
15	Akbar	Palembang	22	Male	Student
16	Mumtaz	Bantul	21	Male	Student
17	Arman	Gresik	21	Male	Student
18	Anwar	Lampung	31	Male	Teacher
19	Ikhlasul	Palembang	27	Male	Farm laborer
20	Reki	Lampung	32	Male	Self-employed
21	Feby	Wonogiri	20	Female	Student

In conducting interviews, parents act as the primary informants in the focus of this research. This interview was conducted with in-depth questions to solve the problem and research objectives. After that, observation was also carried out to observe the role of parents and families in Child Education in the Digital Age. The data analysis method used in this research is an interactive model. The interactive process is based on three main things, namely (Idrus, 2009): 1) Data Reduction, 2) Data Presentation, and 3) Making conclusions or verification

Result

1) The role of parents in early childhood education

a) Early childhood education

Early childhood education is the basic level of education. Today, education is a developmental effort that uses stimulus aimed at children between the ages of one and six. In early childhood education institutions, it is the responsibility of educators to help young children reach their full potential so that they will be able to deal with creative problems.

In the current level of children's education, learning has changed to focus on efforts to realize modern learning, given the development of the times characterized by information technology. Digital media is used to provide content in this current learning environment. Digital media is an essential component of education. Digital technology, which has made significant progress in education, is used in the current educational process to improve the service and quality of education, especially for early childhood education. (Kurniasih, 2019).

Early childhood is a child aged 0-6 years. Early childhood is a critical period for the development of children's potential. As stated by Feldman in Asmani, the toddler period is a golden period that will not be repeated because it is the most critical period in forming the basics of personality, thinking ability, intelligence, skills, and socialization skills. Early childhood is also called the golden age, characterized by developing the number and function of children's brain nerve cells. Therefore, this golden age is significant for children's intellectual, emotional, and social development in the future by paying attention to and appreciating the uniqueness of each child.

Many experts agree that early childhood education is critical and must be provided when the child is born. Dewantara in Asmani states that children get an education to educate (develop) the mind, educate the heart (conscience sensitivity), and improve skills. This is reinforced by the results of research proving that the provision of early education will affect children's brain development, health, readiness for school, and better social and economic life in the future when compared to children who lack education at an early age.

The development of information technology has been very rapid in influencing children's education in recent years. This development has undoubtedly affected every aspect of human life-social, cultural, political, economic, legal, and educational, although it has not created an entirely new direction. The digital age has emerged, replacing the knowledge age. Significant changes occur when a community switches from knowledgebased to information and communication-based. Especially in how information is constructed into knowledge that can be communicated quickly and widely to all citizens so that no citizen is isolated from information. (Murtopo, 2017).

Parents have a crucial role in forming a child's morals, and good morals must be created and developed from an early age. Applying morals to adolescents is necessary to behave well in their social environment.(Ramdani, 2019).

b) The role of parents in early childhood education

In today's digital era, technology is developing rapidly. Technological advances can facilitate communication between individuals both domestically and abroad. As technology becomes more sophisticated, it becomes easier for people to fulfill their needs. Technological advances have both positive and negative impacts. Technology can help in providing very significant information. A detrimental effect of the current development of digital technology is the change in human nature and behavior, especially in early childhood.

The role of parents in education in PAUD has not been fully implemented. It can be seen from the data based on Komnas Anak in 2006 that there were 1,124 crimes against children, including 485 sexual crimes, 433 physical crimes, and 106 psychological crimes. Of these, 23.95% of crimes against children occur in the family, such as physical violence committed by parents against children, child neglect, and sexual violence in early childhood; not even a few parents have the heart to kill toddlers. Parents should give their children direction and advice on using digital media responsibly. Therefore, parents must understand the basic principles of the digital age that shape our modern lives. The three main principles are critical thinking, teamwork, and innovation. (Fatmawati & Sholikin, 2019).

Seeing this, the role of the whole community is needed, both the government, the community environment, and especially the family environment as the first and foremost foundation of learning for children. In carrying out their role in education, parents need to constantly encourage, guide, motivate, and facilitate to achieve good children's education. In addition, parents, as one of the parties responsible for education, significantly influence the development of children's education.

In the digital era, the cultivation of education of parents and families of Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) and Al-Azhar Cairo students is more inclined towards approaching and directing children using digital media. "Always supervise children in carrying out activities, especially those related to social media," said Rizqi, a 2023 Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) student. In addition, Triono, a student of Al-Azhar University Cairo, said

that the educational environment strongly influences the formation of children's character; Triono said:

I think it is common for every parent to pay attention to the urgency of education itself; to shape the character of the nation's children in this digital era, every parent must choose an excellent educational institution for growth, development, and education for children. A small example is the pesantren, in which we are taught a lot of Islamic values, educating us physically and spiritually; in the pesantren, we are also taught society, starting with forming an excellent Islamic environment since we entered the dormitory. The point is that every parent must determine a suitable education model for children because the child can move on to the future.

Another parent, Anwar, said that parental supervision of children is essential so that the use of technology can be helpful and cheerful for children's growth and development; he conveyed this as follows:

"Parents play a role in terms of supervision and mentoring to filter so that the technology given to children can be appropriate."

Parents' education level indirectly affects the continuity of children's education. According to Wardhani in Nilawati, parents' education will affect the mindset and orientation of education given to their children. The higher the education parents have, the more it will expand and complete their mindset in educating their children. Some parents think education is the responsibility of only one party, namely educational institutions— Television programs. Many parents today educate their children by following societal trends in raising and educating them through watching television programs. Parents often have high expectations of educational institutions, so they dare to pay a lot for their children's education. This causes many children to experience psychological problems such as behaving naughty, seeking attention, being moody, disturbing friends, and so on.

The internalization of good parenting and suitable supervision and guidance has long been applied by parents of Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) and Al-Azhar Cairo students, as well as Laeli's practice. She often teaches an excellent example by setting an example of how to introduce the use of facilities in the digital era wisely and appropriately so that children can imitate it. Laelia says that:

"As parents, we must participate in keeping up with technological developments in this digital era. And when giving gadgets to children, we also need to provide education about the benefits and adverse effects of gadget use. Parents must always supervise and support their children's education in the digital era."

Duties and roles of parents The family is the first unit and institution in society where relationships are primarily direct. That is where the development of the individual and the early stages of development are formed, and interaction with him begins; he acquires knowledge, skills, interests, and attitudes in life. Parents play a vital role in the family because most of the time in a child's life is spent in the family environment, especially children still under the care of elementary school-age children, especially the role of a mother.

Parents are responsible for meeting their children's needs, instructing, guiding, and educating them. In addition, part of parental duties is about faith, material, physical, moral, intellectual, psychological, social, and sexual. This responsibility is called a form of education. Education aims to mold children into strong, honest, intelligent, and healthy adults who can lead successful lives. For all this to be realized, parents must understand and implement proper education according to the developmental phase of their children as prescribed by Islamic law.

c) Utilization of technology in children's education

The Central Bureau of Statistics in 2018 showed that Indonesia experienced an increase in the use of information and communication technology, with a percentage of 62.41% for cell phone use, 66.22% for internet access, and 20.05% for computer ownership, all of which increased from the previous year. In addition, technological advances and scientific advances will undoubtedly continue to develop. (Hidayati et al., 2023).

With the increasing use of communication technology, including gadgets, one of the responsibilities of parents is to help their children use gadgets in a way that is appropriate for their age and stage of development by filtering and providing relevant information. Parents should support their children's digital development from the womb to adulthood. This digital support and nurturing is not just for the preschool years. Of course, accompanying children and providing appropriate parenting in this digital age is a tremendous challenge because parents were not born and raised during the advancement of information and communication technology. Therefore, parents need to know how to safely use technology such as computers, smartphones, and the Internet and be aware of the risks associated with their use.

According to the parents of Early Childhood Education class students at Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) in 2023, in the process of utilizing technology, the most crucial thing is supervision and the role of parents, the approach of parents to also provide education about the benefits of both positive and harmful effects of using gadgets. Parents must always supervise and support children's education in the digital era. Therefore, the internalization process of Laeli's parents, media utilization, and use must go through several approaches and good teaching.

The role of parents is vital for their children's parenting, as evidenced by the results of interviews conducted by researchers with Mumtaz, one of the families of Indonesian Islamic University (UII) students in 2023 said:

"Families play a crucial role in helping to shape children's positive character. Through open communication and providing supervision in the use of digital media, through the internet, parents can teach the importance of education".

The family or parents become important in educating their children regarding religious, social, and individual review. So it is clear that parents have an essential role in their duties and responsibilities towards all family members, which are more like character formation and character, skill training, household provisions, etc. Parents should be role models or models that their children always imitate and follow. The use of technology in children's education is essential; technology in the digital era has positive and negative impacts, but rather than that, parents should be able to guide children in using digital technology. Triono mentioned that technology is about how we can make the best use of it, which, in this case, he said:

Accurate digital technology has many benefits in today's era, but unfortunately, many are negligent and complacent. For example, gadgets that are never separated from all young and older adults, wherever we carry gadgets to schools, markets, malls, and even mosques. There is no problem with this, but most of us often spend our time on gadgets, which is not good. The challenge for every parent is teaching and emphasizing to every child that using electronics in moderation should not be excessive.

Therefore, the most important thing is how every parent must pay attention to the child's education from the time he is born into the world to the stage where the child can supervise himself and be independent; many other options from parental education, but of

the many options of pesantren are chosen and believed to be able to shape the character of children, Triono said that of the many environmental scopes that support the formation of children's characteristics, pesantren is vital in helping education in the digital era where parents can create a healthy and safe environment at home to support Triono's development in the digital era can reach the Land of the Pyramids:

Many things are inevitable, but a healthy environment starts with people knowing first. In the school community, etc., usually every parent will provide more religious education from childhood, such as education for children reciting the Koran in a small surau or tutoring to support sufficient spiritual knowledge.

2) The influence of information technology on early childhood

a) Technology development

Technology is an application of science that is used as a process of solving human problems. Technological developments can bring changes that can lead to positive or negative directions. On the negative side, these changes will undoubtedly bring changes to society because people inevitably have to accept the developments that occur. After all, they cannot be avoided or rejected but must be faced.

The use of digital technology is inseparable from human life, including children as well, such as most parents who have bought their children smartphones at an age that is not enough to have smart devices to access the internet and digital media that could make their children experience unwanted impacts.(Amin, 2022).

People are facilitated by technological advances in today's digital era, which leads to a decline in insight and knowledge due to a lack of literacy culture. Lack of interest in reading and writing results from not instilling a culture of literacy from an early age. Early literacy development is significant because children reach what is known as the "golden age," or golden phase. Early childhood is the period between birth and six years of age. During this time, children's development and growth occur rapidly, which means the habits they form now will follow them into adulthood. (Venika, 2023).

Technology is developing widely and rapidly. This causes various influences on the pattern of human life, both patterns of thought and behavior. As we know, smartphones in this era have developed very rapidly. All adults, students, and children use them. Parents need to understand the use and utilization of information technology to help children grow and develop, and the strong influence of information technology in people's lives raises concerns for some parents that these technological advances will only harm their children in their growth and development. (Lubis et al., 2023).

Digital technology has both positive and negative impacts; adults must supervise, guide, and direct children to ensure that they benefit primarily from the sound effects of digital technology. Digital technology positively and negatively affects the principles of children's character education. Digital technology has several benefits, such as information delivery, more accessible access to new knowledge, the ability of social media to connect people, assisting in the discovery of educational resources for students, entertainment media, and communication. The adverse effects of digital technology on children include personality, temperament, the rise of irresponsible news, eye health vulnerability, lack of enjoyment of life, radiation from technology products that endanger children's brain health, increasing cases of fraud via telephone and SMS, children forgetting their responsibilities, and becoming targets of crime. (Fitrianingtyas & Jumiatmoko, 2023).

b) Methods and models of parent education

Parents' educational model in educating their children about technological development varies. Parents have their techniques and methods for developing their children through technological developments. From the interview above, it can be seen that families, especially parents, are at the center of providing education for children in the digital era, as stated by Adisti, a housewife responding as follows:

"The role of parents in children's education in the digital era is to monitor and direct children towards social media use, providing duration for gadget use."

Some parents use smartphones as a shortcut in accompanying their children, and parents use them to accompany their children so that they can do activities without worrying that their children will play dirty and mess up the house, which will make them cranky and disturb their parents. Parents should pay more attention to supervision and monitoring what children do when using smartphones to reduce the negative impact of smartphone use, which should be used and utilized for positive things.

Children are the most beautiful gift Allah SWT gives, which they must be grateful for and complement humans when they are married. The gratitude that both parents can do is to educate, love, love, and provide proper education for children. Children are not only the most beautiful gift given by the Creator but also the entrustment of Allah SWT, which is given to parents who are worthy and ready to educate their children.

Like previous generations, children need guidance and direction from parents to use digital media wisely. So, parents need to understand the core values of the digital world that drive our lives today. There are three essential values: creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. The role of parents here is vital to the child's education model, as evidenced by the results of interviews conducted by researchers with Triono, one of the families of Al-Azhar University students in Cairo, Egypt said:

The point is that every parent must determine a suitable education model for children because, with it, children can move on to the future.

Early childhood tend to be happy with the new things they get through play activities; playing is fun for children, allowing them to explore all their potential. Parents will undoubtedly affect children's growth and development by giving smartphones in early childhood. Smartphones should not be shown in early childhood because, at that age, children should be taught to get to know the environment and socialize well.

3) The role of parents and families in the digital age

a) The role of parents

Among family members who must educate children appropriately and adequately are parents because they must pay attention to every aspect of their growth. The changes in the current era, where everything has been dominated by technology, have indirectly given parents the necessity for a reasonable and appropriate form of parenting in educating children. Parenting is essential in shaping a child's character, where parental attitudes become the basis for forming a child's personality and a necessary role model for their development. (Kusumawati, 2022).

According to Christenson and Sheridan, quoted from Wirasena, parents' anxiety is reflected in their efforts to raise their children well at home and school. Implement parenting patterns for children and adolescents by adjusting to the technological development of children's digital media consumption, communication, and information. Parenting can be done by creating rules and guidelines for digital media consumption. This requires a lot of time, discipline, and consistency. It should be recognized that the current phenomenon involves a short time with the baby. Interaction between children and adults requires more time because mental stress will

also cause psychological problems. Children will become mentally prepared if they have to deal with the progress of the times, but reducing the time children play according to their developmental period is not missed. (Nudin et al., 2024)

The internet's pervasive influence and information technology in everyday life has significantly impacted children. Children, as the most vulnerable group, often face adverse risks due to the freedom and breadth of information that can be accessed through the Internet. Parents, in providing access to technology to their children, are often unwise and do not consider the long-term impact. For this reason, researchers interviewed Al-Azhar University Cairo, Egypt student Triono, who mentioned that parents should have a strategy to actively involve themselves in digital education, as evidenced by Triono's ability to get to the Land of the Pyramids.

In my opinion, the most important thing is that every parent should pay attention to their children's education from when they are born into the world until they can be reflective and independent. There are many options for parents, but of all the possibilities, the pesantren is the one that is chosen and believed to be able to shape children's character.

The phenomenon of giving gadgets to preschool children, even for practical reasons, can pose health and developmental risks. Research cited by The Asian Parents Indonesia highlights various adverse effects of gadget use on children, such as impaired brain growth, slow development, obesity, poor sleep, mental abnormalities, aggression, addiction, digital senility, radiation emissions, and unsustainable learning processes. Drajat Wicaksono, Yuliana Rakhmawati, and Nikmah Suryandari, 'The Role of Parents in the Digital Era (Digital Literacy Activities for Parents in Burneh Bangkalan),' Proceedings of the National Seminar on Technology and Science (SNasTekS), September 2019, pp. 10

The importance of wise supervision and regulation in children's use of technology cannot be overlooked. Parents need to realize that each stage of development has different needs, and providing access to technology should be tailored to the child's maturity level and needs. In addition, it is essential to set time limits, actively supervise the content accessed, and engage children in activities that support their physical and mental development.

Parents should also understand that hands-on interactions and real-world activities are essential for children's development. Technology should not replace social interaction, physical play, or creative activities vital for children's holistic development. Awareness of the risks that may arise from children's use of technology should be the basis for preventive action and a more thoughtful approach to supporting their growth and well-being. As part of the family of a 2023 Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) student, Mumtaz explained that parents must understand their children's character so that communication is open and they can provide supervision in this digital era. Mumtaz said:

"Parents play a vital role in helping to shape children's positive character. Through open communication and providing supervision in the use of digital media, through the internet, parents can teach the importance of education".

The distress experienced by children due to exposure to gadgets highlights that parents' digital literacy skills are still limited. This can lead to internet abuse in children, so it is essential to improve the understanding and skills of digital literacy among parents.

Digital literacy skills include the technical aspects of using the internet and the ability to filter online information and entertainment. This includes apps on mobile phones and gadgets, which are often the main attraction for children. Digital literacy is not only about how children interact with the internet but also about how these interactions can impact their development, directly and indirectly.

In the face of many young internet users, policymakers and the general public, especially parents and teachers, need to play an active role. Providing children and students with an understanding and guidance on digital literacy is an important step to protect them from potential adverse impacts, facilitate a better understanding of digital ethics, and encourage responsible internet use. Thus, digital literacy becomes an essential foundation in building a generation that can interact with information technology intelligently and safely.

b) Role of the Family

The family is the initial and foremost educational environment for shaping children's character and is one of the three education centers. As the center of children's character development, the family must establish pedagogical and efficient parenting or contact patterns. The parenting that parents do to children aims to serve the physical and psychological needs of children. In addition, such parenting can be implemented through the socialization of their norms to the rules of society to help children live in harmony with their environment. The importance of socialization has a significant impact on children's education; therefore, researchers conducted interviews with students of Al-Azhar University Cairo, Egypt, about the extent of the responsibility of schools and communities in supporting parents in guiding children in the use of digital technology, Triono said:

Schools and communities need to guide children; if children do not get enough education, it dramatically affects the mentality of every child in this digital era.

Given the rapidly growing digital age in today's world, which certainly impacts children's psychological development, families are the main bulwark in providing high-quality education to protect children from the adverse effects of this development. Parents should also avoid isolating their children from the digital age's positive aspects as many positive things can be achieved behind its development. At this point, the role of parents in educating children in the digital age is indispensable to separate the good from the bad of technological advancements. (Faisal, 2016).

Family education is all-encompassing and involves every family member, from mothers to fathers and children. However, the fact that parents must educate their children is even more critical. Children are not limited to those from the syllabi or those born from offspring alone; they are also the children of all Muslims, wherever they are, and they are all part of the generation of the Ummah that we hope can unite the Ummah. As for the parenting categories put forward by Stephanus Turibius Rahmat, the parenting patterns found in families consist of four (4) categories, namely permissive parenting, democratic or authoritative parenting, parenting styles that are less demanding of children and less accepting of their needs (uninvolved people), and authoritarian parenting. (Rahmat, 2018).

A family is a brick in the construction of a country. A country consists of many families; if one household is weak, the country will also be vulnerable. Therefore, each family member has an essential function. According to Islamic teachings, children are a mandate from Allah SWT that must be guarded, as instructed in the Quran letter At Tahrim verse 6:

$$\text{يَٰٓأَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ اٰمَنُوْا قُوْٓا اَنْفُسَكُمْ وَاَهْلِيْكُمْ نَارًا وَّقُوْدُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلٰٓئِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَّا يَعْصُوْنَ اللّٰهَ مَآ اَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُوْنَ مَا يُؤْمَرُوْنَ}$$

you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from the fire of Hell, whose fuel is man and stone; its guardians are angels who are harsh, challenging, and obey Allah on what He commands them and always do what is commanded. (Q.S. At-Tahrim: 6)

It is explained that the family dramatically influences children's education, especially in instilling good values in life. Not only that but in education and the academic success of children, parents also have a significant role. Parents have a substantial share in instilling Islamic values early because children have more contact with their parents.

Discussion

The exploration of the digital age's implications on children's upbringing presents a multifaceted challenge, where technology's transformative potential is juxtaposed against its inherent risks. This duality is particularly pronounced in the context of child development and

education, where the balance between harnessing technology's educational benefits and mitigating its potential harms requires nuanced understanding and strategic intervention.

The findings underscore the complexity of managing screen time and fostering digital literacy within the confines of traditional parenting strategies. Excessive screen time has been linked to a range of developmental and behavioral issues, underscoring the urgency of implementing effective parental controls and educational measures. Conversely, technology also offers avenues for enhanced learning and social interaction, suggesting a need for a balanced approach that maximizes these benefits while minimizing risks.

Strategies such as setting clear boundaries, establishing "screen-free" zones, and promoting responsible technology use emerge as pivotal in navigating the digital landscape. These strategies not only aim to mitigate the negative impacts of excessive screen time but also to foster a healthier relationship with technology among children. The importance of parental involvement in children's digital education cannot be overstated, serving as a cornerstone in equipping children with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate the digital world safely and productively.

The research implications extend beyond individual households, highlighting the necessity for collaboration among parents, educators, and policymakers. Addressing the challenges of the digital age requires a collective effort, leveraging the strengths of each stakeholder group to create a supportive environment that safeguards children's well-being and fosters their holistic development.

However, the study acknowledges limitations, including potential biases in parent-reported data and the difficulty of isolating the effects of technology from other environmental factors. These limitations serve as reminders of the complexity of the issue and the need for continued research and dialogue to refine our understanding and strategies for navigating the digital age.

In conclusion, this research contributes valuable insights into the intricate relationship between technology and child development. By bridging theory with practice, it offers actionable recommendations for parents and educators, enhancing the ongoing discourse on responsible and effective navigation of the digital age.

Conclusion

The digital age is a sign of the times. The role of parents and families towards children in the digital age remains an essential goal of education. In the digital age, the role of parents and families faces severe challenges due to the times. Busy parents sometimes do not pay attention to children's development and activities. As a result, children's growth and development are not optimal. There are many things that parents should pay attention to their children in this digital era. Along with the times, like it or not, parents do not permanently prohibit their children from interacting with the digital world.

In the scope of parent and family education of Universitas Islam Indonesia (UII) students in 2023, each parent and family has its characteristics in assisting in the use of technology for children. /However, from the research, it is clear that the parents' approach is more about introducing the science of technology and its advantages and uses for the future, focusing on mentoring and approach. On the other hand, families mostly facilitate children with gadgets and other adequate technology with attention to supervision.

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