



Implementation of Character Education for Students in the Era of Digitalization

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Abstract: The aim of this research is to describe the importance of character education for students in the era of digitalization in producing students who are disciplined, honest, responsible, tolerant, self-confident, communicative and creative, in accordance with the ideals of Pancasila in order to develop moral students. The research method used was by distributing questionnaires, questionnaires, documentation. The questionnaire given regarding character was immediately filled in by all first semester students at the Indonesian Business and Computer Institute. The research results show that character education is very important to prevent moral and ethical decline, so character education must be promoted from the start of entering college. From the results of the research, students were provided with several main character values, including: religiousness, nationalism, integrity, independence and cooperation. Each value does not stand and develop independently, but interacts with each other, developing dynamically and forming a whole.

Keywords: Character education; Character values; Digitalization era; Students.

Introduction

Education is a process of changing behavior, increasing knowledge and life experience so that students become more mature in thinking and attitudes. Education in the current era of digitalization is very rapid, progress in the field of technology is not only enjoyed by adults, and elementary school age children can also enjoy the results of current technological developments. Technology is widely used in the world of education, as a means and infrastructure for interaction between educators and students. Current technological developments have both positive and negative impacts, the positive impacts should be more dominantly utilized by technology users. Character education aims at students as the nation's successors having good character and morals, to create a just, safe and prosperous national life. The Goals of Education in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System which states that "National education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to make

the life of the nation intelligent, aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and are devoted to God Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and a democratic and responsible citizen.

Character education is not just born, and cannot be formed instantly, therefore students must be trained diligently and seriously to achieve the ideal personality in facing the era of digitalization. Through character education, students are taught to think and act in a way that enables them to make the right decisions so that they can select and sort information that is good and useful for their lives. Character education activities carried out on campus have a very close relationship with moral education such as caring, creativity, honesty, responsibility, discipline and other values, where the formation of these character values can become campus culture.

To maintain a good campus culture, character education needs to be carried out continuously because character education is lifelong education, a process towards a perfect human being, so character education

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requires exemplary behavior from childhood to adulthood (Dharmawan, 2014). Character education is needed to form a generation with morals and ethics to create a just, safe and prosperous national life, so that character education is not only implemented in basic education, but also at the tertiary level (Susanti, 2013). Therefore, this article will discuss the importance of implementing character education for students in the era of digitalization, in order to form students who are not only academically competent, but also have commendable morals and personality.

Method

This research was carried out in the first semester at the Indonesian Business and Computer Institute. The research method used was by providing questionnaires, questionnaires, literature studies and documentation. The questionnaire given regarding character was filled in directly by all first semester students. The sample in this study was all first semester students at the Indonesian Institute of Business and Computer campus, with a total sample of 93 people. The data collection technique uses the documentation method, namely by collecting information, both from findings in the field, books, journals, research reports and other literature that supports the subject matter of the writing. This is in accordance with the opinion (Sugiyono, 2017) that documentation is a record of past events.

Documentation can be in the form of writing, drawings, or someone's monumental work. The data analysis technique is carried out by making research notes where in processing research notes, all sources read are analyzed to arrive at a conclusion as a result of answering the problem formulation. The steps taken in the data collection process are: a) Collecting existing information through books, documents, online journals, articles and other secondary sources, and b) Analyzing the data to enable researchers to draw conclusions about the problem being studied.

Result and Discussion

Character Education for Students

According to Kartadinata (2018), education is a humanitarian problem that must be addressed with human development itself. Humans are rational creatures with the ability to control other living creatures. Because humans have reason, humans are also defined as creatures who have reason and can use and empower their reason (Department of National Education, 2008). Apart from being sensible, humans, in this case students, must also have high and noble morals through education. Without education there will be no progress in all aspects of life, including student values and morals. Therefore, education is a means for students

to develop through the learning process. If education is carried out well, it is hoped that students will be born who have intelligent and high-quality personalities and can make good use of progress. Education that transfers values, knowledge, experience and skills to the younger generation is an effort by the older generation to prepare the functions of life for the next generation, both physically and spiritually (Kurniawan, 2017). Through education results, the education system gets feedback on how the education process works and that has taken place, because education results are an indicator of the effectiveness and efficiency of the education process.

Students excel not only in academic fields but also in non-academic fields, moral education must be optimally promoted to support student character as a self-identity in the era of digitalization. Character education is very important for students, because their role has a big influence on the life of the nation in the future. With character education, you can find out and strengthen the student's identity, because character education aims to shape the student into a better person. Individual growth into a complete person can occur with character education that starts from an early age (Chrisiana, 2005). Character education is a science designed to create a nation that is seen by the world and God, that the nation has morals, character and dignity (Setiawati, 2017). Character education is a movement that educates individual humans as successors to the nation's future (Wulandari, et al., 2017).

Character education has a very close relationship with moral education where the aim is to form and train personal abilities continuously to improve oneself towards a better life. Noble morals are important, but what is more important is how these noble moral values are applied in everyday life so that they become a characteristic of student culture. Culture is a habit or tradition that carries certain values, which grow and develop in everyday life in various areas of life. Culture can be formed and developed by anyone, anywhere. Forming a culture of noble morals means trying to develop traditions or customs in a place full of noble moral values.

According to (Marzuki, 2013), character education includes three main elements, including: knowing the good, loving the good, and doing the good. Character education not only teaches students what is right and wrong, but more than that, character education also instills good habits so that students understand, are able to feel, and are ready to do good. Thus, character education carries the same mission as moral education or moral education.

The function of character education is to develop basic abilities in students so that they think intelligently, behave ethically and ethically, and do things that are good and useful for themselves, their families and society (Maswardi, 2015). Apart from that, it is also to

build a multicultural national life, build a civilized nation with a noble culture, contribute to the development of human life, build the attitude of citizens who love peace, are creative, selfless and live side by side with other nations. Basically, the aim of character education is to improve the quality of performance and results of educational provision which leads to the formation of students' character or noble morals in a comprehensive, integrated and balanced manner, in accordance with graduate competency standards (Kurniasih, et al., 2017). With character education, it is hoped that students will be able to independently improve and use their knowledge, study and internalize, personalize character values and noble morals so that they are manifested in everyday behavior. The aim of character education focuses on developing all students' potential, so that they can develop into individuals who are ready to face the future and are able to survive in overcoming the challenges of dynamic times with commendable and irreproachable behavior (Kurniasih, et al., 2017).

The aims of character education for students are: 1) Many students injure each other because of their weak awareness of moral values, (2) Providing moral values to students is one of the most important functions of civilization, (3) The role of schools as character educators becomes increasingly important when many children receive little moral guidance from parents, society, or religious institutions, (4) still have universally accepted moral values such as concern, trust, respect, and responsibility, (5) Democracy has a special need for moral education because democracy is a rule of, for and by society, (6) There is no value-free education. Schools teach value-free education. Schools teach everyday values through design or without design, (7) Commitment to character education is important if we want to be and continue to be good teachers, and (8) Effective character education makes schools more civilized, caring for society, and refers to increased academic performance. These reasons show that character education really needs to be instilled as early as possible to anticipate increasingly complex problems in the digital era.

One of the problems currently facing our world of education is the problem of multidimensional crisis and moral degradation, as well as the problem of national disintegration, so that character education is considered an effective alternative solution to face the nation's increasingly worsening moral problems (Mentari, 2017). For example, children no longer respect their parents, live freely as teenagers, dare to try and use illegal drugs (narcotics) (Mentari, 2017). Moral problems also arise due to the lack of media and family control, as well as globalization and the invasion of culture from outside forcing some of the younger generation to follow the culture of foreigners to the exclusion of their own

culture. Education with moral character is the key to perfecting student character and strengthening national civilization, upholding the integrity of values and humanity. To train and develop students with character in accordance with the ideology of the Indonesian state and strengthen it, it is necessary to provide character education in higher education (Susanti, 2013). It is clear that character education is part of efforts to form habits that are based on moral and ethical values. Character education is an effort to form good traits, attitudes and mentality and of course can bring benefits to oneself, family, society and the country.

Efforts to implement character education as best as possible require a holistic approach, namely integrating character development into all aspects of life, including campus life. Referring to the concept of a holistic approach and the various efforts made by educational institutions, it is necessary to believe that the character education process must be carried out continuously, so that the moral values embedded in the child's personality do not only reach a certain level of education or only appear in the family environment. (Suyanto, 2010). Apart from that, the moral practices he demonstrated did not appear to be a formality, but were actually deeply rooted in his soul. Thus it can be said that character education for students is very important. Therefore, lecturers and academics on campus must instill good character values in students at every opportunity.

Character education means teaching the development of good character in students so that they have noble values and noble character and apply these values in their own lives as members of society and as productive, nationalist and religious citizens. Character education is the core values that must be acquired if society wants to live and work together peacefully (Koesoema, 2007). Values such as wisdom, respect for others, personal responsibility, a sense of destiny, suffering and peaceful resolution of conflict are values that need to be prioritized in character education.

Character education is an effort to form students' basic abilities and develop personal strengths in terms of mental, self-control, personality, intelligence and skills, education, as well as the application of these values to oneself, family, friends, teachers and the environment. Character education also supports students' social, emotional and moral development. In simple terms, character education can be seen as a positive thing that an educator does and influences the character of the students he teaches (Samani & Hariyanto, 2013). This is very important in the digital era because every aspect influences the formation of this character, both external and internal. Examples of external aspects are the influence of lecturers or the environment, because in the digital era, things on social media can influence student character. An example from an internal perspective,

namely parents who have a blood and spiritual relationship with their children.

Character Education in the Era of Digitalization

Character education in the digital era presents different challenges and opportunities. Research shows that the digital era offers positive opportunities for implementing character education. Academic intelligence is necessary, but not sufficient. Habits formed on campus are basic patterns of seeing and experiencing, thinking and feeling, acting, being happy, even suffering, so campus involvement in building student character is very important. Modern times challenge lecturers to produce students who can position themselves between rapid changes and stressful lives. Apart from that, lecturers have a moral obligation to encourage students to grow into human beings whose lives are meaningful and rooted in noble values, strong self-awareness, and the ambition to help others (Hasibuan, 2015).

Students in the digital era have been spoiled with sophisticated technology, such as searching for learning materials via the Google site, many traditional games have been abandoned. The characteristics of the Digitalization Generation are as follows: 1) The digital generation is busy creating accounts on social media to prove to the world that they exist, 2) The digital generation tends to be more open, outspoken, and think more aggressively, 3) The digital generation tend to want to gain freedom. They don't like being controlled or restrained. They want to be in control and the internet offers freedom of expression. 4) The digital generation always accesses Google, Yahoo or other sites. Their learning ability is much faster because all the information is at their fingertips (Sukiman, et al., 2016).

Today's students integrate a lot with technology, such as gadgets and video games. Now, students spend more time with media every day. What parents must do for their children in digital parenting is as follows: a) Increase and update their knowledge about the internet and gadgets. Parents cannot supervise their children if they are technologically illiterate, b) If there is internet at home, place it in the family room and who can see what the child does when accessing the internet, c) Limit the time the child spends using gadgets and the internet, d) Providing mutual understanding and awareness of the negative impacts of the internet or gadgets.

The development of the era which prioritizes technology and makes everything instant and easy to obtain, not only has a positive impact on life, but also increases the burden and responsibility of people's lives, especially students in the digital era. Even though the digital era brings many positive things, such as easy access, fast search for information from anywhere, learning that is easy and can be done anywhere, this digital era also brings many negative effects that hinder

it and must be minimized. This is because the digital era is also related to contemporary developments which include many aspects such as social, political, economic and cultural. The digital era itself is an era where almost everyone in life uses technology in all aspects. Technology is developing so rapidly and offers comfort, but it also brings millions of disasters and responsibilities that are heavier than previous eras.

Students now not only have to stand in front of officials to demand fair government, but also have to struggle to face the currents of this digital era. Students must eradicate hoaxes or fake news that are spread unreasonably, and minimize all deviations that occur due to moral degradation. Therefore, digitalization must be taken seriously, the role of technology must be managed and controlled well so that the digital era can bring benefits to life and avoid negative impacts and excessive use.

The role of students as educated people is very important in the current digital era, but their role must also be supported by all campus residents so that they can fight together to face this digital era by building strong characters. Character education is very important when it comes to understanding cognitively and being able to feel the dos and don'ts as a preparation for when they graduate.

It is important to understand the values that apply in society because it is beneficial for the student. Teaching character education is also beneficial for universities because it will create more views in society, so that it can become a choice for parents for their children's education. The importance of instilling character education in students which includes discipline, creativity in thinking, saying, acting, and getting used to positive thinking and paying close attention to the material during the learning process. Positive actions are taken to make it a good habit. Students' mastery of ethics is very urgent when character education is faced with issues of security, fraud, and other issues, which are negative effects of the use of internet technology.

Character education can start from the smallest things, such as: saying hello and saying hello when entering and leaving a room, respecting older people, getting used to helping each other when in trouble, and other small things that can develop student character. The correct way to character education begins with the understanding that the student's future is in the hands of the lecturer. Therefore, they imitate and learn what the lecturer does. Students apply what they learn to help each other, and it becomes a habit for them to care about the environment around them. Learning to respect each other from the smallest things can also be applied to students, appreciating what they can achieve, be it work, assignments, and so on. This can increase tolerance and respect for differences between students.

Conclusion

Based on the research results, it was concluded that providing students with several main character values, including: religion, nationalism, integrity, independence and cooperation. Each value does not stand and develop independently, but interacts with each other, developing dynamically and forming a whole.

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Author Contributions

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Conflicts of Interest

The author states there is no conflict of interest.

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