

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN IMPROVING CHILDREN'S ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT IN THE DIGITAL ERA

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Abstrak

Pihak sekolah menilai minimnya keterlibatan orang tua dalam proses belajar mengajar anak sebelum pandemi masuk ke Indonesia, terutama karena guru dituntut untuk mengajar secara daring dan orang tua diharapkan untuk terlibat dalam proses belajar mengajar anak di rumah. Kemajuan teknologi di era digital sangat memengaruhi dunia pendidikan, termasuk cara anak belajar dan mengakses informasi. Di tengah perubahan tersebut, peran orang tua semakin penting dalam membantu anak tetap fokus pada prestasi belajar. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana keterlibatan orang tua dapat membantu anak meningkatkan prestasi belajarnya saat menghadapi tantangan dan peluang yang ada di era digital. Penelitian ini dilakukan melalui pendekatan kualitatif dan melibatkan penelitian pustaka serta observasi terhadap perilaku orang tua yang menyertai proses belajar anak. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa keterlibatan orang tua dalam membantu anak menggunakan teknologi, memberi motivasi belajar, menyediakan fasilitas pendukung, dan menanamkan disiplin belajar yang konsisten membantu anak berprestasi lebih baik. Sebaliknya, dua kendala utama orang tua dalam menjalankan tugasnya dengan baik adalah minimnya pengetahuan orang tua tentang teknologi digital dan minimnya waktu bersama anak. Oleh karena itu, diperlukan peningkatan literasi digital orang tua dan kolaborasi yang lebih baik antara sekolah dan keluarga untuk menciptakan lingkungan belajar yang mendukung prestasi akademik anak di era teknologi.

Kata kunci: peran orang tua, prestasi akademik, era digital, pendidikan, keterlibatan keluarga.

Abstract

The school considered the lack of parental involvement in the academic process of children before the pandemic entered Indonesia, especially because teachers were required to teach online and parents were expected to be involved in the academic process of children at home. Technological advances in the digital era have greatly influenced the world of education, including the way children learn and access information. Amidst these changes, the role of parents is increasingly important in helping children stay focused on academic achievement. This study aims to determine how parental involvement can help children improve their academic achievement when facing the challenges and opportunities available in the digital era. This study was conducted through a qualitative approach and involved literature research and observations on parental behavior that accompanies children's learning process. The results of the study showed that parental

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involvement in helping children use technology, giving them motivation to learn, providing supporting facilities, and instilling consistent learning discipline helps children do better. Conversely, the two main obstacles for parents to do their job well are the lack of parental knowledge about digital technology and the lack of time spent with their children. Therefore, it is necessary to improve parents' digital literacy and better collaboration between schools and families to create a learning environment that supports children's academic achievement in the technological era.

Keywords: *parental role, academic achievement, digital era, education, family involvement.*

INTRODUCTION

With the rapid development of technology in the world of education during the pandemic, some schools have complained that parents are not actively involved in educating their children at school.¹ Various aspects of human life have undergone major changes during the digital era, including the world of education. Children today grow up in an environment full of information technology, such as the internet, social media, and digital devices.

The latest technology can help students access various educational resources, but uncontrolled use of technology can prevent them from learning well. Parents become very important in situations like this. Parents not only help their children learn, but they also lead and secure that their children use technology in a beneficial way. Children can be guided to develop learning discipline, responsibility, and the ability to filter digital content with the help and active involvement of parents. It is not uncommon for family members to separate because they prefer to spend time with their electronic devices rather than talking to each other.²

Social media, one type of online media in the modern era, allows users to interact and create their own world. As if modern society needs social media. Social media nostalgia has captivated everyone, from children to adults. Applications such as Facebook, Twitter, Blog, Vlog, YouTube, Blackberry Messenger (BBM), WhatsApp (WA), Line, Skype, Instagram, e-mail, and others have developed into a very global digital communication platform. It is as if it has become a second home for all complaints of consciousness.³

Pervasive technology is not the only advancement in technology; this advancement has included various mobile devices or electronic devices. Now, human interaction with mobile phones is getting further away from television. This is because mobile phones are small and light and have many functions, such as watching TV, playing music, and recording videos. It is possible that the environment around a person has introduced technology unknowingly. Therefore, parents can use telephone media to teach their children. Introduction to literacy and numeracy are some examples of learning that can be done.⁴

With this change, parents must become more active in helping their children's education. They must not only ensure that their children receive formal education in school,

¹ Viententia, Raisa. *"The role of parents in the digital era to improve the quality of student learning at school."* Proceedings of the IAHN-TP Palangka Raya National Seminar. No. 3. 2021.

² Fatmawati, Ika. 2019. *"DIGITAL LITERACY, EDUCATING CHILDREN IN THE DIGITAL ERA FOR MILLENNIAL PARENTS."* 11(2): 119–38.

³ Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of the Republic of Indonesia. (2021). *Learning Guidelines in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era*. Jakarta: Kemendikbudristek.

⁴ Ulfa, S. (2016). *Utilization of Mobile Technology as a Learning Medium for Early Childhood*. Edcomtech Journal of Educational Technology Studies, 1(1), 1–8.

but also teach them how to use digital technology wisely and responsibly to improve their learning outcomes.⁵

In addition, parental involvement in monitoring children's use of electronic devices is very important, both in the form of encouragement, affection, and responsibility. Parents must pay attention to the dangers caused by excessive gadget use. The results of the study showed that the use of applications as a learning medium successfully improved children's abilities. Therefore, educators must understand the different types of learning technologies, how they function and how students interact with technology during the learning process.⁶

According to Wirasenapada's 2022 research, parents can help their children reach their full potential by providing appropriate guidance, being good role models, and providing access to high-quality learning resources. Education is very important for the future because without it, humans will find it difficult to know and develop the potential hidden within themselves. Education is one way or alternative to develop self-potential and bring humans towards a better personality, quality, and able to face the current era of globalization.⁷ In terms of children's education, the digital era actually offers many opportunities, but also brings many dangers. To build individuals who are ready to face the challenges of the future, children must receive serious attention as a generation of the nation and people at the same time. Therefore, it is important for educators to understand the current situation and reality, especially parents as the main educators.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study method. The purpose of this study is to understand and describe the role of parents in improving the quality of children's education in the digital era. The case study method was also chosen because it allows researchers to study one or more cases comprehensively and in depth.

To find out the role of parents in improving children's education in the digital era, semi-structured interviews will be conducted with parents, teachers, and education experts. In addition, participant observation will be conducted at school and at home to see how parents interact with their children regarding this issue. In addition, digital documents related to the role of parents in education in the modern era will be analyzed, such as education policies, research journals, and news articles. Thematic analysis will be used to analyze data collected from interviews, observations, and document analysis. The purpose of thematic analysis is to find, categorize, and understand patterns and themes that emerge in the data.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The results of the study show that parents play three main roles in improving the quality of their children's education in the technological era. Parents monitor how their children use technology. In addition to ensuring that the content accessed by children is age-appropriate, they set time limits for gadget use. Parents are also responsible for teaching their children technology that helps them learn, such as online learning platforms and educational applications. Parents who actively accompany their children while they are learning, both online and offline, can help their children be more enthusiastic and focused. This includes providing additional guidance, helping children complete schoolwork, and creating a good learning environment at home. Parents who successfully teach their children

⁵ Setiawan, D. (2020). *The Role of Parents in Improving the Quality of Children's Learning in the Digital Era*. Scientific Journal of Early Childhood Education Study Program STKIP Bina Bangsa Lubuklinggau, 5(1), 1-10.

⁶ Barovih, G., Sugara, E. P. A., & Nurussama. (2020). Utilization of Applications as Media to Help Islamic Religious Education for Early Childhood. *Dinamisia: Journal of Community Service*, 4(1), 150–158. <https://doi.org/10.31849/dinamisia.v4i1.3339>

⁷ Rozana, A. A., Wahid, A. H., & Muali, C. (2017). Smart Democratic Parenting in Building Children's Character. *Al-Athfal Journal of Child Education*, 4(1), 1–16.

about the importance of balancing digital and non-digital activities tend to see better academic and social development in their children. Activities such as sports, arts, and social interactions outside the digital world are also a focus of attention for parents.

In the digital era, the role of parents is very important to improve children's education. The success of children's education in the modern era depends on supervision and guidance in the use of technology, assistance during the learning process, and instructions to balance digital and non-digital activities. Parents who are actively and consistently involved in their children's education will have the ability to maximize the benefits of technology while reducing its negative effects. Families must maintain physical dimensions, face-to-face, and harmonious communication processes in the internet era. Parents are the first and foremost educators who are responsible for shaping and fostering children physically and psychologically. In today's technological era, there are several roles of parents in educating children:

- Limiting the use of gadgets and digital media by children,
- Encouraging motor activities,
- Choosing media or shows that are safe and appropriate for children,
- Monitoring children's cyberspace,
- Accompanying and monitoring children's activities on social media,
- Showing good and positive role models when using social media, and
- As consultants, assessors, counselors, demonstrators, colleagues, facilitators, speakers, and facilitators.⁸

The rights of children that must be given by parents are education. The obligation of parents is not only to provide food and clothing to their children, but also to give them the best education. Children who receive a good education can become good individuals. Therefore, parents must understand the growth and development of their children in addition to having sufficient understanding and knowledge about how to provide the right education for their children.

In Islam, the main goal of education is to produce a good generation. A generation that acts and behaves because of faith, piety, and full devotion to Allah. According to M. Natsir, the real goal of education is to achieve the goal of life for Muslims, namely to devote themselves completely to Allah. This is in accordance with what Allah says in verse 56 of the letter al-Dzariyat [51], which states that the purpose of human creation is to serve Allah in a broad sense.⁹

One of the responsibilities of parents is to try as hard as possible to help their children become moral individuals, as is the goal of Islamic education. Children live and grow in families. The family has a significant influence on the child's personality. The family is a child's first environment. So, parents have a responsibility to educate their children to become good people. To achieve this goal, parents must realize that their children are born with many good potentials (fitrah) that need to be developed.

Parents must try hard to help their children develop all their potentials. According to Abdulllah Nasih Ulwan in the book *Tarbiyatul Aulad fi al-Islam*, there are seven duties of educators, including the responsibilities of parents towards their children, namely:

1. responsibility for faith education,
2. responsibility for moral education,
3. responsibility for physical education,
4. responsibility for ratio education,
5. responsibility for psychic education,
6. responsibility for social education,

⁸ Asmawati, Luluk. 2022. "The Role of Parents in the Utilization of Digital Technology in Early Childhood." 6(1): 30–44.

⁹ Toto Suharto. (2006). *Philosophy of Islamic Education*. Yogyakarta: Ar-Ruzz.

7. responsibility for sexual education.¹⁰

To improve the quality of the people, children's education is the first step. It is impossible to achieve optimal results without going through this stage. Children who have a lot of good potential (nature) need proper and continuous guidance and direction. To maximize their nature, efforts must be made. Therefore, the importance of the role of parents in producing a successful generation through good education based on Islamic teachings.¹¹

For people who do not understand their role as adults, educating is not an easy task. In terms of educating, the role of parents is the first educator of the family. Father, mother, older brother, and younger brother are parents. Parents also function as family or parents who educate and guide the family. Stepparents, foster parents, and biological parents are three different types of parents, but all are still family.¹²

A family certainly needs parents who play a role in the education and development of their children, including educating, guiding, and caring for children until they are ready to socialize with society. In their role as educators, parents must be able to fulfill their obligations and responsibilities to help their children learn and understand their surroundings. Parents must consider the good and bad things that will impact their children's development in their education and development. Therefore, parents can act as substitute teachers for their children when they are at home. Even parents must consider the importance of educating their children in the right and good way.¹³

Compared to decades ago, educating millennial children requires more effort. The development of the digital world has not only made life easier, but can also damage the relationship between parents and their children. Methods of educating children in the digital era so that parent-child relationships are maintained

- Full responsibility:
In today's computer and internet era, parents must have the same view, namely that they are jointly responsible for the health and well-being of their children..
- Emotional closeness:
Father and child and mother must be close. This closeness is not only from skin to skin, but also from soul to soul, so that there is an emotional bond.
- Clear educational goals:
Parents begin to set goals for their children's education since they are born. Parents must reach an agreement on what priorities should be given to their children, as well as how they interact with them.
- Speaking well
Parents must learn to communicate with their children in a good way. Don't lie, don't forget to discuss the child's uniqueness, and don't forget to read the child's body language and listen to what they feel.
- Teaching religion:
Parents must teach their children religion. Religious education should begin as early as possible. In this case, teaching religion is not only limited to the ability to read the

¹⁰ Abdullah Nasih Ulwan. (2002). *Children's Education in Islam Volume 1*, trans. Jamaludin Miri. Jakarta: Pustaka Amani.

¹¹ Wahyudi, Tian. 2019. *"Paradigm of Children's Education in the Family in the Digital Era (Islamic Education Perspective) Tian."* RI'AYAH 4(1). Wahyudi, Tian. 2019. *"Paradigm of Children's Education in the Family in the Digital Era (Islamic Education Perspective) Tian."* RI'AYAH 4(1).

¹² Ruli, Efrianus. (2020). *"Parents' Duties and Roles in Educating Children."* JOURNAL OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION 1, no. 1: 143–46.

¹³ Lasurital, Silvy Rolis, and Ruth J. Siahaan, Hesty R. Anabertus, Iis Dayanti, Ridwan P. Zega. 2022. *"The Role of Parents in Early Childhood Education in the Era of Society 5.0."* SIKIP: Journal of Christian Religious Education 3(2): 93–105.

Qur'an, fast, or go to the mosque. Parents must instill emotionally that children will enjoy these activities.

- Preparing children for puberty:

Most parents feel embarrassed to talk about sex with their children and sometimes avoid it. However, talking about sex with children should start early with language that follows their age.

- Prepare children for the digital era

By teaching them that the use of electronic devices has limits and time limits. In addition, internet access should be limited to prevent children from accessing unwanted websites. So, instead of electronic devices, parents should talk to their children.¹⁴

Nowadays, the era of technology has become an integral part of children's lives. Every aspect of a child's life is changing, which shows this. Viewed from various perspectives, the digital era has a significant influence on children's development. Therefore, seeing children as a golden age is important to develop their overall development—physical motor, cognitive, language, social, and emotional. To protect children from the influence of cyberspace, parents and educators must inform their children about religious values and local wisdom. Playing can help filter children's influences from the technological era.

It is not easy for parents to use digital technology today. Technology can have good or bad effects on children. The role of parents today is very important in educating children. It is very important to consistently monitor the use of digital technology, especially negative content. With the help of parents, we hope that children will not be affected by the negative impacts of the internet world. Parents must also learn about science and technology so that they can help their children in the digital era so that they can understand and use its benefits. Parents must be creative in organizing their children's activities so that they are not too focused on electronic devices or digital technology. To foster good character and mental health in children, parents and children must work together and communicate openly.

CONCLUSION

In the modern digital era, information and communication technology (ICT) has entered various aspects of human life, including education. This brings challenges and many new opportunities for learning. In such a situation, the role of parents becomes increasingly important to ensure that their children receive high-quality education in the digital era. Parents must understand how technology works and how it can help children learn. Parents can help their children use technology wisely and responsibly. In addition, parents must ensure that their children are not exposed to inappropriate and harmful content on the internet. Parents must ensure that their children have a comfortable and enjoyable learning environment at home.

Parents must not only provide a comfortable and enjoyable learning space at home for their children, but they must also provide enough time and attention to help their children learn. Parents can study with their children, talk about the subject matter, and help them complete homework. Parents must communicate and cooperate with the school. They must also be actively involved in their children's education. They can attend parent meetings, attend school activities, and talk to teachers about their children's learning progress. Parents, in today's technological age, can help their children reach their potential by actively participating in their education.

¹⁴ Andriyani, Isnanita Noviya. 2018. "Children's Education in Families in the Digital Era." 7.

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