The Role of Parents in Handling Children Challenges of Modern Times

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Abstract

This study examines the critical role of parents in addressing the challenges faced by children in modern times. The rise of media and technology has posed significant challenges to character education, which is essential in shaping a child's emotional intelligence (EQ) and spiritual intelligence (SQ). Parents, as the primary educators, play a dominant role in instilling positive habits, providing a strong moral foundation, and fostering a religious atmosphere at home and school. The problem identified is that many parents inadvertently exacerbate these challenges by granting their children unrestricted access to gadgets at an early age, potentially hindering their character development. The research aims to explore how parental involvement, grounded in tenderness, affection, and Islamic principles, can effectively mitigate the adverse effects of technological advancements on children's upbringing. The study employs a qualitative research method through literature review and document analysis to gather insights into best practices and challenges faced by parents in modern parenting. The findings highlight that a proactive and balanced approach by parents, which includes setting boundaries on gadget usage, promoting religious values, and encouraging productive habits, significantly contributes to the development of EQ and SQ in children. This research underscores the importance of parental guidance in navigating the complexities of modern times and provides recommendations for fostering well-rounded and morally grounded individuals.

Keywords: *Media and Technology Impact; Parenting Challenges; Early Childhood Education*

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Introduction

It should be understood that a very crucial period of child development occurs at the age of 1-5 years, which is often referred to as early childhood or "golden age." During this period, the development of children's intelligence—both intellectual, emotional, and spiritual—develops rapidly and greatly determines their future development[1]. All the information that children receive at this age will be absorbed immediately, and they tend to become master imitators. They are smarter than we think and these abilities are the basis for the formation of their character, personality, and cognitive abilities.

The application of character education requires a deep understanding of the concept of character formation as well as education itself. Religion plays an important role in shaping the life guide and basic ideology of each individual. In this case, Islamic religious education is expected to help improve the quality and productivity of the younger generation in utilizing technology wisely[2]. Islam views education as the main means to overcome the negative influence on the behavior of adolescents in this digital era[3]. Education in Islam not only teaches knowledge, but also values and cultures that must be upheld [1].

The importance of understanding the influence of gadgets and information technology makes parents need to be wiser in providing access to technology to children according to their age. For example, Bill Gates, CEO of Microsoft, stated that he will give his children a phone after they turn 17, because at a young age is the "golden age" that greatly affects a child's mental development[4]. Along with the rapid development of technology, a new problem has emerged, namely the decline of morality[5]. The increase in crime, especially among teenagers, is due to the influence of social media and the content they consume, as well as the time they spend on their phones without supervision and education about good content. This is also due to the lack of parental attention to their children's activities on social media.

Based on data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI), it was recorded that since 2017, there have been 22 reports related to children's problems, with 46 cases involving drugs. Data from the Indonesian Ministry of Health shows that many children are already dating at a young age, some even start dating before the age of 15. Phenomena such as LGBT and promiscuity are also increasingly prevalent among teenagers, even considered commonplace. In January 2018, Indonesian Police Watch (IPW) reported that there were 54 cases of abandoned babies in Indonesia. For example, there were 179 cases of babies being abandoned or abandoned, with 79 of them dying. This illustrates the devastating impact of the lack of religious education in the modern era

influenced by liberalism and capitalism, which has led to a moral deterioration in society.

Based on this phenomenon, the purpose of this study is to analyze in more depth how Islamic education can play a role in preventing moral crises that occur, especially among adolescents. This study uses a literature study with analysis based on various literature related to this topic [2].

Method

This writing is written using a literature study, where the data contained in this study is obtained through observation of journals or several previous scientific works, to strengthen the information and objectives that will be conveyed in this scientific journal Literature study method is an activity to find and collect data which will then be developed by the author based on the references that the author gets through books, journals, research reports, and several other internet websites. This literature study research itself is part of qualitative research. Data sources are obtained through two forms of data, namely primary data and secondary data. The result of this literature review is a collection of references relevant to the formulation of the problem.

Result and Discussion

Islamic Education for Adolescents in the Era of Information Technology and Information Technology

The term information and communication technology often has different meanings from one party to another. In general, the term refers to the rapid advancement in the field of communication and information transformation that allows worlds separated by remote to connect with each other easily. This era of information and communication technology signifies the meeting and friction between cultural and religious values around the world, which is influenced by the development of modernization in the field of communication and information. In this era, adolescents, especially those living in non-Muslim countries or in major Muslim cities, need to get adequate education. They often do not or rarely see positive examples of Islam, both in the family, school, and community. In such conditions, it is the responsibility of parents to instill moral values in adolescents, share the experience of Islamic life, and ultimately lead them to a deep understanding of the mission of the Qur'an and the Sunnah. Parents are also obliged to monitor their children's activities in daily life, especially on social media, and provide appropriate direction so that they can choose useful content, increase productivity, and strengthen their faith. Here are some ways to maintain religious understanding in the digital age:

1. **Understanding and Application of Religious Values in Adolescent Life**

In the context of Islam, religious and moral values are the main guidelines in living daily life. Adolescents need to understand and appreciate these values in order to form a good and responsible character. In the Qur'an, Surah Al Qalam verse 4 is explained "And indeed you are really virtuous". Parents must indicate their commitment to carrying out this worship and explain its meaning and benefits to the children. Establishing a family's religious routine, such as congregational prayers at home, reciting the Quran, and discussing the stories of the Prophet, will create an environment conducive to religious learning. Thus, religious education at home can be strengthened through various activities and real examples given by parents, so that children can grow up with a strong understanding of the teachings of Islam.

2. Keeping children from westerization that can affect lifestyle patterns

The influence of globalization currents currently occurs in every country, this influence causes a wide impact on society in each country. Considering shari'a law is an outdated law that is no longer suitable for application today. The result is the adoption of colonial law in Islamic society which is considered more modern.to respond to this we must provide our children with activities that can build an Islamic mindset by integrating Islamic values in daily life and applying habituation methods in developing religious values in early childhood is very good, for example praying before and after learning, Pray before eating and drinking, say greetings to teachers and friends, participate in seminars or training activities on Islam and religion.

3. Using Technology wisely and Islamically.

Being wise in social media means acting and making decisions appropriately and wisely when interacting online. Some ways to use social media wisely include avoiding pornographic content, SARA issues, and violence, maintaining good language, not disseminating personal information, and checking the truth of the news circulating. In addition, we must also pay attention to ethics when using various social media platforms. The speed of information dissemination through social media often gives rise to new phenomena, one of which is cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is a form of bullying carried out through digital technology. In this case, it is very important to combine Islamic religious education and Islamic parenting patterns based on the Qur'an and As-Sunnah. This educational pattern has a detailed division, which is conveyed by many scholars and academics to take care of children from early childhood to adulthood. The following is the division of the parenting pattern:

- In the first stage, which is 0 to 6 years old, parents need to give unlimited affection and avoid corporal punishment. Genuine affection will help form a healthy emotional foundation for children. In the second stage, which covers the ages of 7 to 14, the emphasis on discipline and responsibility becomes very important, for example by encouraging the child to pray regularly.

- Accustom children to positive activities on social media, such as sharing content that can build character and enrich literacy, in accordance with Allah's command in Surah Al-Alaq verses 1-5: "Read with (say) the name of your God who created. He created a human being from a clot of blood. Read, and your Lord is the Most Merciful. Who teaches (humans) through the medium of kalam. He teaches man what he does not know." (QS. Al-'Alaq: 1-5). This verse contains the command to be literate, which will help a person to be more proficient in transforming information. Therefore, parents as educators must have good literacy skills.

- One of the important aspects of education in the digital era is the use of technology itself. Educational apps and interactive learning media such as Kahoot, Quizlet, and Google Classroom allow for more dynamic interactions between children and subject matter. By utilizing this learning medium, children can be more active in the learning process, which helps them understand difficult concepts. In addition, self-learning becomes more possible because of unlimited access to information on the internet. Children can learn on their own, seek information, and explore topics they are interested in, thus increasing their creativity and knowledge. Although technology offers many benefits, the role of parents in supervising the use of gadgets and social media by children is very important. Parents are responsible for regulating children's screen time, especially by following the recommendations from the WHO, which advises that children under the age of 2 should not be exposed to gadgets at all, while children aged 2-5 years are limited to just one hour per day. It is better that at that age, parents do not give gadgets, because children are still in the "golden age" phase which is crucial for cognitive development. For example, Bill Gates, CEO of Microsoft, said that he will only give gadgets to his children after the age of 17, because at that age children can already understand the benefits and side effects of using technology and have maturity in using information technology wisely [3].

Parenting in the perspective of the Qur'an

The term "parenting" or "parenting" is more appropriately used compared to "parenthood" because it has a more active connotation. "Parenting" better describes the active actions of parents in educating and guiding children so that they develop into a complete human being. This parenting style is known in Islam with the term tarbiyah al-aulad, which means children's education, which must be based on the principles of monotheism, faith, and noble morals. Tarbiyah comes from the word rabb, which means to educate. There are several aspects of education that parents must teach to their children, including monotheistic (religious) education, moral education, physical education, education for critical thinking, and responsibility education in society.

Allah said in Surah At-Tahrim, "O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from the fire of Hell whose fuel is man and stone; the guardians of the angels who are rough and harsh, and do not disobey Allah against what he has commanded them, and always do what he commands." (Q.S. At-Tahrim: 66:6). This verse shows that da'wah and education must start at home, and although it is specifically aimed at men (fathers), this also applies to mothers. Both parents are responsible for their children's education, just as they are responsible for their own behavior. In Ibn Kathir's commentary, this verse emphasizes three things: the command to worship Allah and preach, the encouragement to save oneself and one's family, and the command to believe in angels. The education of piety to Allah should start from the household, because the household is the first place to instill faith and cultivate Islam. Education that starts from the household will form a strong ummah and a solid Islamic society. This educational responsibility will be accounted for by parents in the hereafter.

Efforts to maintain family resilience in facing the challenges of the times, especially in the context of the Millennial, Z, and Alpha generations, can be found in Surah Luqman verses 12-19. This letter contains Luqman's golden will to his son, which can be used as a guideline in educating the children of this generation, including:

a. **Teaching Gratitude to Allah**: In verse 12, it is explained that Allah gave wisdom and guidance to Luqman, so that he became a wise man. This teaches us to thank God for all His blessings.

b. **Education on the Prohibition of Binding God**: Surah Luqman verse 13 emphasizes the strict prohibition not to condemn Allah with anything, because Allah is the only one who deserves to be worshipped. Luqman advised his son to always put Allah first in all things.

c. **Filial Education to Parents**: Verses 14-15 teach the importance of filial piety to parents, which is part of Islamic teachings. The Qur'an often associates the command to worship Allah with the command to be filial to parents.

d. **Education about the Day of Revenance:** In verse 16, Luqman reminds his son of the existence of life after death, where all deeds will be rewarded. If good deeds are done according to Allah's commands, then Allah will repay them with double kindness.

Surah Luqman verses 12-19, described in Tafsir Al-Misbah, provides a very relevant guide for educating the Millennials, Z, and Alpha generations. Moral education, the cultivation of monotheistic values, and good ethics can form a strong and noble character of children, so that the family can remain strong in facing the challenges of the times [4].

Establishing Open Communication with Children

Open communication is the key to raising smart, independent, and responsible children in the digital era. By forging strong relationships and mutual trust, parents can support their children to grow into successful and happy individuals. The rapid development of digital technology has changed the way we live, including the lives of children. Through open communication, parents can better understand the interests, habits, and challenges that children face in the digital world. This allows parents to provide support that suits the needs of the child.

Speaking gently and politely, especially to children, is very important. Good words will leave a positive impression and make children feel appreciated. Listening to children's complaints and questions patiently is part of effective communication. When children express opinions, parents must be tactful and not rush to interrupt their arguments. If parents immediately interrupt or think that the child's opinion is not important, this can hurt them because the child feels unappreciated. As parents, we need to respect what our children are experiencing and feeling, before responding [5].

In order to be a better parent, we can refer to the teachings of Allah in Surah Luqman verse 13:

"(Remember) when Luqman said to his son, when he counseled him, 'O my son, do not associate with Allah! Indeed, associating (Allah) is indeed a great injustice.' We bequeath to man (to do good) to his parents. His mother had conceived him in an increasingly weak state and weaned him in two years. 'Give thanks to Me and to your parents.' If they force you to associate with Me with something of which you have no knowledge, do not obey them, (but) get along

well with them in the world and follow the path of the one who returns to Me. Then, only to Me do you return, and I tell you what you used to do. (Luqman said) 'O my son, if there is an act as heavy as a mustard seed and it is in a stone, in the heavens, or on the earth, Allah will surely present it (to be rewarded). Indeed, Allah is the Most Merciful and the Most Thoughtful.'"

This verse reminds us that parents have a responsibility to educate their children with compassion and kindness. However, this verse also teaches that parents should not impose their will on their children in an arbitrary way. As parents, we must be open and ready to listen to our children, respect their differences, and provide thoughtful guidance. Don't let selfish attitudes and not listen to children actually disappoint them, because good communication is the key to healthy relationships in the family [6].

The Prophet's hadith teaches us that "There is no more important gift from parents to their children than good education" (HR. Al-Hakim) emphasized how important the right education is in children's lives. Parents who are able to provide a good and correct education in religious teachings will guide their children to become good individuals and in accordance with the teachings of Islam [7].

Reward and punishment methods: Reward

The process of changing behavior will develop faster and more effectively if given motivation in the form of promises or punishments. This motivation aims to find solutions to the problems faced. Appreciation is a form of appreciation for someone who has done good, regardless of who they are. Awards can be given in various forms, both material and non-material, with the aim of arousing the spirit of children who have succeeded in doing good. Allah, through the Qur'an, also gives reward to mankind for their goodness, as stated in Surah Al-Zalzalah [8]:

"Whoever does a good as dzarrah, he will surely see the reward, and whoever commits a crime as heavy as dzarrah, he will surely see the reward." (Q.S. Al-Zalzalah: 7-8)

The Qur'an explains that rewards or rewards are referred to by various words, such as 'ajr (أجر) and 'tsawab' (ثواب), which are also found in the following verses [9]:

"Indeed, the believers, the Jews, the Christians, and the Sabiens, whoever among them truly believes in Allah and the Last Day, and does righteous deeds, they will receive the reward of their Lord. There is no concern for them and neither are they sad." (Q.S. Al-Baqarah 2:62)

Hadiah, menurut David L. Sills, didefinisikan sebagai: "Reward is one educational tool given to the pupil as appreciation toward accomplishment that has been reached [10]." Prizes are an educational tool used to give awards to someone who has excelled, both in the academic and moral fields. Al-Ghazali explained that a gift is a form of appreciation given when a child shows good ethics and commendable deeds. This prize aims to motivate those who have learned and done good, both in formal, informal, and non-formal contexts. In this case, learning is not only limited to the formal education of children or adolescents, but includes the entire process of human life that is constantly running.

The motivation contained in this award is rooted in the basic essence of the human soul, which seeks to be rewarded or appreciated for its efforts and achievements, as part of the achievement of perfection in life [11].

Punishment

Sanctions given to children or students who violate the agreed rules are known as punishments. This punishment is used to educate children or learners to become self-aware and take responsibility for what they do. Because the recipient of the punishment is in a lower condition than the person who gave the punishment, this punishment is physically and mentally positive for the recipient of the punishment. Part of our obligation is to teach others who are doing wrong and protect them. M. Ngalim Purwanto argues that punishment is a suffering that must be borne by everyone who makes a mistake. Because punishment is an ethical matter related to the values and norms of the educational and life order [12].

Conclusion

So in educating children in this day and age is to use a flexibility in dealing with every problem that exists because now is the digital era, many character figures that they capture and imitate their models so that it is the duty of parents to guide them in responding to a content that they consume on social media. Excessive social media consumption can have a big impact on the child's character and not see the real reality in real life. Therefore, tarbiah education in leisure is very urgent in order to form a strong Islamic character and be able to be productive in accordance with the guidance of Islamic sharia in responding to phenomena that occur in social media content, providing an activity that can improve their productivity skills with an understanding of the Qur'an and as-sunnah as the foundation of social life and ethics in social media and becoming a person who is not driven by social media content for many children from millennials, Gen Z, and alphas who are stressed due to being driven by social

media content and are victims of personal branding that is rampant with flexing of creator achievements on social media that looks instantaneous even though not necessarily the process of success achieved by people can be the same as the process that exists in each person's personal character. And it should be known that parents are obliged to give examples and education to them well through their experiences so that they can think rationally and compare with their lives and be wise in looking at social media, therefore educate a child with what is happening in this era and do not impose opinions because parents today live in a different era from today's era which can be said to be very modern because of friends Ali said: Educate your children according to their times.

Educate a child in a balanced way by providing a balanced understanding of the world because otherwise the child will be easily manipulated and vulnerable to bullying because now is the era of a moral crisis that is very worrying and also a very powerful political and economic pressure in the modern era now and give an understanding of the hereafter because with a strong understanding of religion can make the child's lifestyle much better, just imagine now there are many cases suicides are rampant in Indonesia even though this country is famous for its religious society, there are a lot of identity, moral and moral crises that can cause social disparities that have a great impact on the environment. Since 2017 there have been 22 reports of problems, in addition to that there are 46 involved in drug problems, Based on data obtained from the Indonesian Ministry of Health, most children have been 'dating' at the age of 15-17 years with 33% already dating at the age of less than 15 years. The LGBT phenomenon is also a trend among teenagers. Free sex is also an inflamed phenomenon that is even natural. Based on data obtained by Indonesian Police Watch (IPW) in January 2018, as many as 54 babies were disposed of in Indonesia.

Therefore, from this research study, we strongly advise parents to involve their children in the development of appropriate and modern tarbiyah that is aligned with the current digital information era by building productivity that encourages passion to spread goodness in the current digital information era and provide support to children.

Author Contributions

Muhammad Hilmi Farras, Aisha Rahmawati, Angel Laveda Winsome Permata Samudra: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – review & editing, Supervision, Project administration. **Hadar Azizi, Aqila Fauziah Arimbi**: Methodology, Writing – review & editing, Investigation. **Wais Alqorni**: Conceptualization, Methodology, Writing – review & editing, Investigation.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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