

IMPACTS OF DIGITAL MEDIA USE ON CHILDREN CHARACTERS

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Abstract

This study is aimed to identify the impacts of using digital media in the shaping of children characters. The data of this study were collected through participatory observation and structured interview. The research was conducted at Islamic Integrated Preschool of MON KUTA in Banda Aceh. The informants of this study were three teachers and two the parents of a student of Islamic Integrated Preschool of MON KUTA. The data in this study were analyzed using the descriptive qualitative method. The results of the study indicated that there are positive and negative effects of the use of digital media in the shaping of children's characters. The positive impacts of using digital media are as the entertainment and educational media for children when the use of digital media is under the guidance of parents. Whereas the negative impacts of digital media are children to be individualistic, become lazy and less interacting with others if the use of digital media becomes addictive to children and there is no supervision from parents. This study can provide readers with new knowledge about the impacts of using digital media in the shaping of children characters.

Keywords: Impacts, Digital Media, Children Character

INTRODUCTION

Today, the use of digital media has become a necessity for the world community, especially Indonesia. Digital media is inseparable from people's lives. There is no exception in this case. Young children are also digital media users. In today's increasingly modern era, everyone certainly uses digital media. Digital media is an electronic media stored in digital format.

Prijodarminto (1994) states that discipline is a condition that is created and formed through the process of a series of behaviors that show obedient and order. These values have become part of behavior in life. This behavior is created through a guided process through family, education, and experience. Based on the statement, we can interpret that the use of excessive digital media for young children is closely related to the formation of children's character. Excessive use of digital media will adversely affect the character of the child. A character is an intrinsic nature that is reflected in a person's attitude that distinguishes it from others. Early childhood that has been instilled in nature and attitude that is not disciplined with time so in the future it will be difficult to learn discipline.

'Ulwan (2017) states that through the supervision of parents, children will be educated in their faith, formed their morals, trained physically, mature their minds, and develop mentally and socially well. Based on the statement, we can interpret that the use of digital media for young children is very closely related to time management that must be done by parents and teachers. In the use of digital media, the supervision and guidance of adults will have a good impact on the formation of children's character.

Conversely, if there is no supervision and guidance from adults, it will have a negative impact on the formation of the character of young children.

Reni Akbar (2004) said that parents are directly involved in guiding activities children's learning can influence children's success and the formation of children's character. Based on the statement, according to the author that the existence of supervision and guidance from adults will minimize the negative impact caused by the use of digital media on the formation of children's character. Young children should indeed get guidance and supervision from adults when carrying out activities. Because, if young children do activities without supervision, it will adversely affect their behavior and development. Supervision and guidance are very important for parents of young children.

The character of discipline in children must be instilled from an early age. Characters cannot be formed if there is no education to form the character. Aunillah (Tobroni, 2018) states that character education is a system in instilling character values in students in which there is a component of knowledge, individual awareness, self-will and actions to apply character values, both to God, fellow human beings and the environment. One of the character values that must be applied and instilled in children is the character of discipline. The parents and teachers are leaders and children are students who lead to a useful and happy life. So, discipline is the way people teach children moral behavior that is agreed to by groups (Hurlock, 2013). Based on the statement, so discipline that will make a person's life become directed and orderly in carrying out work or activities. Early childhood in using digital media must have disciplined behavior, both discipline and time, discipline towards applicable regulations or discipline towards orders from parents or teachers.

The use of digital media in the form of television has been applied at Islamic Integrated preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh. Children are given special time to watch television programs that are in accordance with the learning theme. The television set is used as a learning tool in early childhood education that can develop aspects of a child's development.

The world of children is playing. Playing is a world of children. By playing, children can learn from their experience of playing directly. The use of digital media can be a means of playing for children which can entertain children. Children are happy with things that can keep them entertained. Programs that are on television can certainly entertain children. Groos (Mutiah, 2010) believes that play has a function to strengthen the necessary instincts that are useful for future survival. However, digital media certainly has diverse impacts on the formation of children's character. Nevertheless, the use of digital media in early childhood must get supervision and guidance from parents.

The use of digital media for early childhood is expected to have a positive impact on the development and formation of a child's character. However, it is inevitable that everything that is done like the use of digital media certainly has a negative impact. The purpose of this study was to determine the impacts of the use of digital media in the formation of the character of children of Islamic Integrated Preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Early childhood is a group of people who are in a period of growth and development that is unique, in which there are patterns of growth and development of motoric physical, intelligence, social-emotional, language and communication (Mutiah, 2010). Megawangi (2009) states that quality characters need to be instilled early in children. Early age is a critical period and good in shaping human character.

Griek (Zubaedi, 2011) states that character can be defined as a mixture of all human characteristics that are permanent and unchanging so that it can be a characteristic that distinguishes between one human being and another human. The character is a reflection of the complex character of a person, namely mentality, attitude, and behavior. Megawangi (2009) states that character education is a conscious effort to form good habits so that the nature and behavior of children are embedded early. Character formation is a process or way that is done to shape a person's character that is well instilled from an early age. Various opinions from many child education experts, it can be concluded that the formation of human character is influenced by two factors, namely natural factors and socialization factors.

Durkheim (1990) states that discipline is the main element in morality. According to Hurlock (2013), the character of discipline is expected to be able to educate children to have behaviors in accordance with the standards of behavior that apply in a social group. Discipline must have four main elements; namely, rules are used as a reference or guideline in behavior, consistency in implementing rules, penalties for violations of rules, and rewards for good behavior that is in line with applicable regulations. Santrock (2007) states that behavior is only a characteristic seen from someone's surface.

Zubaedi (2011) states that character or moral issues are not completely ignored by any educational institution, especially early childhood education. However, the problem of moral crisis shows that there is a failure in instilling character values in humans. Planting character values is highly recommended to be applied at an early age. At an early age, child growth and development is in a critical period that is good in developing aspects of development and forming a child's personality. Planting character values in children must also pay attention to the true nature of early childhood. Early childhood is very closely related to the world of play and various game activities. Therefore, for young children playing is one of the needs that must be met.

Mutiah (2010) states that play is an activity that is very important for the growth and development of early childhood. Playing must be done on the basis of children's initiative and on the child's own decision. Children will play activities that will keep them entertained. Programs that are on television can certainly entertain children. However, digital media certainly have a diverse impact on the formation of children's character. Lazarus (Mutiah, 2010) said that the purpose of playing is to restore the energy that has been drained while working and cause less energy. With the activity of playing will restore the energy of children who have been reduced and will provide calm and comfort for children after playing the game. Watching television is also a

play activity for children who can restore children's energy and can entertain children. Nevertheless, the use of digital media in young children must get supervision and guidance from parents.

Catron and Allen (Sujiono, 2012) mention that there are four principles of play, namely: (1) in playing children developing systems to understand and achieve perfect goals, (2) the ability to place the opinions of others through rules of play, (3) children use imagination and abstract thinking in play and (4) children are careful in playing activities because of the agreement of rules to play with their playmates.

Although watching television is one of the activities that can entertain children and restore child power, excessive use of television will also be dangerous and inhibit the development and formation of children's character. Therefore, every play activity carried out by children must have supervision and guidance from adults.

METHOD

This research is qualitative research. Data collection techniques in this study were collected through structured observation and participatory interviews. Observation is an activity to see and pay attention to phenomena that occur in an object of research. While interviews are data collection carried out by way of question and answer directly between researchers and informants. This research was conducted within a period of 1 month, namely, from October 8 to November 8, 2018, at of Islamic Integrated Preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh Informants from this study were three teachers and two the parents of students of Islamic Integrated Preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh.

The data analysis in this study used a qualitative descriptive approach that is narrative. The explanation and description of the data in this study are explained in effective language so that the results of this study are easy to understand. The data in this study were analyzed according to Miles and Huberman (1990) which state that there are three stages in analyzing data in qualitative research, namely data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing and verification.

1. Data reduction, at this stage researchers, conducted data sorting and concerning the important things to focus attention and at this stage makes it easier for researchers to collect the next data.
2. Presentation of data, at this stage the researcher presents data in the form of a brief narrative.
3. Drawing conclusions and verification, researchers try to draw conclusions based on information obtained from the field in the study.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The use of early childhood digital media has a positive and negative impact on the formation of children's character, namely:

1. The positive impacts of using digital media are as entertainment and learning media for children.
2. The negative impacts of digital media are that children become individualists, become lazy, and lack interaction with other people.

Based on research carried out from October 8 to November 8, of Islamic Integrated Preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh. Teachers of Islamic Integrated Preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh conducted a learning program that utilizes digital media in the form of television as a learning tool. The use of digital media in the form of television is usually used once a month to support student learning which refers to the theme being studied. It is intended that students can experience audio-visual learning directly which makes it easier for students to understand the topic. The use of digital media for early childhood in the school environment has a positive impact on developing aspects of child development, namely digital media can be used as a medium of education and entertainment for children.

The teacher of Islamic Integrated Preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh, when interviewed by researchers, said that "digital media in the form of television can provide real experiences for children in the learning process as learning tools in the form of audio-visual." This shows that there are benefits in the use of digital media in the school environment. The use of digital media for young children who get guidance from teachers or adults will have positive impacts on the development and formation of their character.

However, the use of digital media for young children will have negative impacts on the development and formation of a child's character if there is no supervision and guidance from adults, both the teachers and the parents. This was in accordance with what was said by one of the parents of the students of Islamic Integrated Preschool of Mon Kuta Banda Aceh when interviewed directly by the researcher, the parents said that "children when using digital media in the form of television and mobile phones for a long time will make children become lazy to do activities other than watching television and playing mobile phones ". From this, we can know that the use of digital media for young children without supervision and guidance from adults will make children become individualistic, lazy and less interacting with others. Of course, this is not good for shaping children's character. As it should be, young children must interact a lot with other people so that aspects of their development will develop well.

The use of digital media for young children has positive and negative impacts on shaping children's character. Both parents and teachers must supervise and guide children when using digital media in their daily lives because excessive use of digital media will have bad impacts on children and on the contrary as well.

CONCLUSIONS

The use of digital media is something that is currently a necessity for people in this millennial era. There is no exception; in this case, the use of digital media is also favored by children. However, for children who use digital media in their daily lives, it will have a good impact and also have a negative impact on the formation of their character. The use of digital media that gets guidance and supervision from adults will have a positive impact on the formation of children's character. Conversely, the use of digital media in early childhood without the guidance and supervision of adults will have a negative impact on the formation of children's character. Therefore, as adults both teachers and parents should guide and supervise children in using these digital media.

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