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Submission date: 11-Jun-2021 08:59PM (UTC+0800)

Submission ID: 1598424979

File name: ter_Education_for_Millennial_Generations_in_The_Digital_Era.docx (96.54K)

Word count: 3416

Character count: 19222

Analizing The Importance of Character Education for Millennial Generations in The Digital Era

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ABSTRACT

Character education is essential for the current millennial generation and must be applied in everyday life in the surrounding community. The character of the millennial generation is different from the previous generation, which requires us to pay more attention to character education which is starting to erode along with the times. The Millennial generation is a generation that in everyday life can never be separated from science and technology. In this digital era, the millennial generation has a social function of strength in technology. In this study, there are research questions that will be discussed in this article, namely the first regarding what problems occur in the millennial generation who occupy the digital era?. Second, what is the important role and influence of the digital era on character education for the millennial generation in Indonesia?. Writing this article uses a qualitative research method, namely a literature review study, where researchers use or look for references from journals or books. Samples of respondents were taken randomly from each region, and there were ten respondents. From this research, it is found that the millennial generation in the digital era chooses to use social media to access the latest news and information rather than reading print media that contains education. This article aims to find out the importance of character education for the millennial generation, which is starting to erode with the times in the digital era. Many people underestimate character education, especially for the current millennial generation. Therefore, we must implement educational programs at any level, especially in Indonesia, because the character shows the national identity. This article will discuss the vital role and influence of character education for millennials who live in the digital era to be aware of the importance of character education in citizenship.

Keywords: character education, the millennial generation, digital era.

INTRODUCTION

The millennial generation is also called the practical generation, or the slang is called the current generation. This generation is very close to the digital world because it makes personal digital space in accessing, obtaining, and sharing all forms of information they encounter on the

internet. (1) As a result of the rapid influence of technological developments in the era of globalization, the spirit of the Indonesian nation's struggle has now declined. at a critical and worrying point. (2)

Globalization caused by the rapid development of science and technology, both in information, communication, and transportation, has made the world more transparent, as if the world had become a new structure, namely a global structure. It is, of course, very impactful for Indonesia on the structure of society, nation, and state. All of this will significantly affect the younger generation's thinking, mentality, and attitudes, who are the hopes of the nation's future generations. In this regard, all Indonesian citizens, especially the younger generation of Indonesia, need to be equipped with citizenship education with a good and dynamic understanding of national and state awareness in order to foster an attitude of self-sacrifice for the nation and state and to foster a spirit of noble patriotism towards the nation and state. Indonesia. (2)

The current development of technology has had quite a lot of influence in various aspects of human life; technology is helping humans in the field of work and has become a necessity that humans cannot release. (3) Along with the increasingly advanced times, technology and information development and communication also go fast. (4) This is because the millennial generation no longer reads print media. (5)

Erving Goffman revealed that every internet user on social media uses dramatic metaphors to explain how the perpetrators of interactions in cyberspace treat themselves. In line with this, humans can create as many identities as possible according to the roles they take and want in this technological era, regardless of their surroundings. According to Larry and Richard E. Potter, social media also brings drastic changes to the development of early adults/millennials, especially in social life, first, the presence of social media without realizing it brings changes in beliefs, values, and attitudes. (3)

Character learning is carried out by referring to normative and holistic principles, thus shaping students to become strong personalities, character, refined heart, strong will, and glorious achievements. Character learning must be well designed by the teacher and the help of the principal so that learning will be completely independent of administrative activities. Ideally, learning should not be dominant, and character learning can be carried out based on

strengthening thinking, behaving, and acting on students. That is the essence of the purpose of education, namely the emotional aspects of attitudes, knowledge, and skills. (6)

This study aims to find out how vital character education is for the millennial generation in the digital era. To create a young generation of quality and character and make Indonesia a better one. The formation of character from an early age will foster the excellent character of the nation's children and become the primary key in building national unity. So, these cases can be reduced to reduce the moral degradation of the nation's children who live in the digital era and the future. In addition, this study aims to provide insight into character education, which has a critical urgency to educate and foster awareness of the importance of character education in this digital era. It is hoped that the success of the Indonesian nation will be better in the future.

In this study, there are research questions that will be discussed in this article, namely the first regarding what problems occur in the millennial generation who occupy the digital era?. Second, what is the important role and influence of the digital era on character education for the millennial generation in Indonesia?. Therefore, this study has the title The Importance of Character Education for Millennial Generations in the Digital Age.

METHOD

This research approach uses the Literature Review method. Literature Review is a framework, concept or orientation for analyzing and classifying facts collected in the research conducted. Reference sources (books, journals, magazines) that are referred to should be relevant and up-to-date (*state of art*) and in accordance with those contained in the reference library. The purpose of conducting a literature review is to obtain a theoretical basis that can support solving the problem being studied. The theory obtained is the first step so that researchers can better understand the problem being researched properly in accordance with the scientific framework. (7) The data used in the Literature Review method is carried out on the Google Scholar database and books that contain the keywords "character education", "millennial generation", and "digital era".

This study uses qualitative analysis so as to obtain data from literature studies and use the available theoretical framework. On pages 3-4 of the book "Qualitative Research Methods in the Field of Education": Qualitative research is research that emphasizes the quality or the most important thing in a product or service. The most important thing about a product or service in

the form of events, phenomena, and social phenomena is the meaning behind these events which can be used as valuable lessons for the development of theoretical concepts. (13) Data collection using books and article references obtained 13 articles containing discussions about the importance of character education and the millennial generation in this digital era. So that the study can be carried out based on the eligibility criteria and used in the Literature Review.

RESULTS

The data is distributed *questionnaires* and interviews with the target (target) of the millennial generation who are still attending school at the school level—Vocational Intermediate (SMK), students, and "millennial generation" workers. The study began on September 19 to October 8, 2019. In this study, researchers chose a different research location in Ciledug District, Karang Tengah District (Tangerang City), Teluknaga District, and Sepatan District (Kabupaten Tangerang) (4)

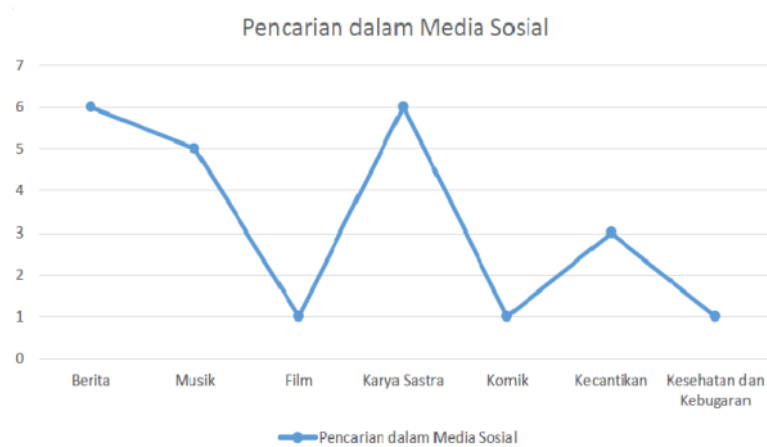


Figure 1. Search in Social Media (4)

Samples of respondents were taken randomly from each region. From the sample above, there are ten respondents, including five students, three students, and two private employees. Student enthusiasm for the use of social media appears high. (4)

The diagram above shows that the millennial generation accesses social media to access news, music, films, literary works, comics, beauty, and health and fitness. The millennial generation's interest in the use of social media in finding the latest information and about literary works, lifestyle, and entertainment can be concluded. Millennials get much information through

the latest information from social media; critical millennials are looking for the speed and accuracy of news (4).



Figure 2. Sources of Information (4)

From the graph above, millennials are more interested in media use information seeking. (4)



Figure 3. Preferred Media (4)

From the graph above, the millennial generation is more interested in using network-based media than print-based media for information seeking. From the research above, it can be concluded that the millennial generation chooses to use social media to access the latest news and information that has not been contained in print media. the speed and accuracy of information obtained through official broadcasts from the relevant agencies or institutions are credible, making social media superior among the millennial generation to access news, health, lifestyle, and entertainment. (4)

DISCUSSION

The development of technology will benefit each generation. However, only the generation that can adapt will be able to control technology, including the Millennial generation; the generation Millennials are born to state that everything is all technological. Because of that, logically, they will quickly adapt so that technology will help the millennial generation carry out its functions, but over time there is a miss perception of the use of technology. Understanding the problem or assessment is needed to see and find out a picture of the conditions of the problems experienced by the millennial generation in the era of the industrial revolution 4.0. (3)

Social media has also brought drastic changes to the development of early adulthood/millennial generation, especially in social life, first, the presence of social media without realizing it has brought about changes in beliefs, values, and attitudes. In terms of beliefs social media is able to change people's behavior according to their faith and beliefs. Social media is also able to change the values held by the community which are then shifted by its presence. Meanwhile, in attitudes (beliefs), social media changes the way people communicate. (3)

This Generation *millennial* was born and grew in a technology-based world that aims to solve all the challenges and needs of this generation. That is why it is hoped that the generation will grow into a confident generation with creative, innovative, and critical forward-thinking, and high mortality. The revolution of industrial 4.0 emphasizes the patterns of the *digital economy, artificial intelligence, big data, and robotic*. (8)

It is no less important to understand that the millennial generation has a work management character different from other generations. They have a unique perspective and solid and comprehensive networking capabilities. This generation tends to convey ideas and ideas openly directly. (1) Various discourses say that we are currently at the gate of civilization where digitization will increasingly influence life. The readiness of adaptive human resources and anticipation of impacts in various sectors are certain things that must be responded to and anticipated wisely and humanely. (9)

The younger generation or the current millennial generation is very vulnerable to being influenced by information easily obtained from times 4.0, prioritizing advanced technology without any monitoring or information filtering. (10) From the order of millennial needs for content, *smartphones* indicate that millennials do not need serious information every day. They

need a release from everyday fatigue by accessing relaxed content. Therefore, media *online* is not the primary choice. Even to find out the latest information, most informants still follow gossip accounts on Instagram or Twitter or follow social media accounts from several news agencies. (5)

The millennial generation's psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions during the revolution of industrial 4.0 are very much influenced by social media technology. The explanation above gives a little idea of how millennial self-development is characterized by self-disclosure. According to Anderson, there are seven signs of psychological maturity of early adults / Millennial Generation, namely task-oriented, having clear goals and efficient work habits, controlling personal feelings, being objective, accepting criticism and suggestions, being responsible for personal efforts, and adjusting to a new situation. (3)

Therefore, the psychological development of the millennial generation can be seen when they come into contact with internet technology, how they get information, networks, and meetings are held on social media. It is not by the social aspect which emphasizes face-to-face meetings to improve. According to Zemke, the millennial generation prefers communication with technology and wants meetings with technology. (3)

The millennial generation's problems are a crisis of self-confidence; the industrial revolution requires people to think quickly, information and self-actualization. seen on social media, so that some millennial generations inevitably participate in developing this technology; due to the revolution of industrial 4.0, everyone has reasons to present themselves differently. (3)

¹² The era of the industrial revolution 4.0 is a formidable challenge for Indonesian teachers. Where is the essential thing that must be considered to face the challenges of this digital era in the field of education? A teacher must be ³ technology literate, considering the quality of teachers who are devoid of technology will not be able to instill "critical power" in students to become revolutionary human beings. So that they are hampered from exploring their potential. (11)

Character building is necessary through teaching civic education in schools and colleges To increase the millennial generation's nationalism. By instilling the noble values of the Indonesian nation and instilling a spirit of nationalism among the millennial generation, the hopes of the nation and the state to instilling the noble values of Pancasila and the meaning of the 1945 Constitution, and instilling a sense of love for the homeland and nation, enhancing the spirit of high nationalism and love Indonesian products. In order to improve the morality of the

millennial generation of the nation's hopes to increase the spirit of nationalism, the problem that must be resolved is to form the mentality of the millennial generation who love their country and are willing to sacrifice for the nation and country. (2)

Given the importance of assessment, to produce an assessment of maximum learning outcomes, a quality assessment process is necessary. The quality assessment process is synergized with the quality of the assessment results, meaning that if the assessment process is quality, then the assessment of the results will be of quality. A quality assessment process must pay attention to several things, including the planning of the assessment, the aspects and components being assessed, the assessment instrument, and the media used for the assessment. In line with this very rapid technological development, the assessments used by information technology educators should be used. Technological advances greatly benefit various sectors. (12)

Citizenship Education efforts must be given the strength to create for the millennial generation in everyday life. From the cultural point of view of courtesy and courtesy, respect for the process, and the fighting power that must be cultivated and fostered, it is to improve character. It aims to provide a foundation for the nation and state to foster bright and promising young generations to participate actively and effectively in independence for a better future. To create a young generation of quality and character and make Indonesia a better one. (2)

Increasing the interest of the generation *millennial* in the Citizenship Education course is not as easy as it seems. One way that this can be done is by revitalizing the Citizenship Education course. Citizenship Education Revitalization is carried out by: (1) civics education is taught by bringing students closer to the realities that occur in the field; (2) giving freedom to students to choose public lecture themes according to their interests and conscience; (3) analyzing the needs of students in determining the course material and scope of the lecture, and at the end of the lecture an evaluation or assessment is carried out to find out the benefits and its relation and its function as an enrichment for the field of study; (4) civic education is managed in an integrated manner with a clear vision and mission from university to department level; (5) civics education must be able to answer the challenges of the times so that students have a critical attitude towards daily life; (6) lecturers of civic education need to be given professional guidance, such as *workshops*, further studies, or other professional training. (8)

CONCLUSION

The Millennial generation was born and grew up in a technology-based world that aims to solve all the challenges and needs faced by this generation or can be called the digital era. The millennial generation has the advantage and ability to absorb more information quickly through the technology they master better than the previous generation. In this study, there are research questions, namely the first about what problems occur in the millennial generation who occupy the digital era?. Second, what is the important role and influence of the digital era on character education for the millennial generation in Indonesia today?.

The answer to this question is that with the rapid development of technology, the millennial generation has fallen into negative things that affect the character of each individual, especially young people. In this digital era, the younger generation needs character education through learning in the school and family environment. Character education is very important for today's millennial generation and must be applied in everyday life. Therefore we must apply it in education at any level, especially in Indonesia.

The shortcoming in research on character education problems in this digital era is that there is still not much done so that there are few journal references and research published and it is hoped that other researchers can investigate further. Because there are many things that ignore this character education. Though the character shows the identity of the nation. So that character education must be paid more attention to which is starting to erode along with the development of this era. Character formation from an early age will foster good character of the nation's children and become the main key in building national unity.

I here recommend that research on the problem of character formation in this digital era be investigated further and can also be applied by the millennial generation in today's society. With the awareness of the importance of character education in this digital era, it is hoped that the successor of the Indonesian nation will be better in the future. Therefore, the right Civic Education learning media is used in the main learning media for the current millennial generation.

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