

Concept of Parenting in the Digital Era

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Abstract: The digital era has introduced new challenges for parents in educating their children, as information technology and social media have a significant influence on children's daily lives. Furthermore, the development of digital technology has had a significant impact on parenting and child-rearing practices. The purpose of this article is to help parents, prospective parents, and educators understand the concept of parenting, with a specific focus on the principles of positive parenting, to address the challenges of parenting in the digital age and ensure that children are shielded from the negative effects of technology. The method used in this study involves a literature review that discusses similar topics under the title. The findings reveal positive principles in parenting that help parents understand appropriate parenting methods for children born in the digital era, thus minimizing the negative impact of technology on children.

Keywords: *principles, positive parenting, digital era, parents, technology*

INTRODUCTION

In the increasingly widespread and rapidly evolving digital era, the role of parents in educating their children has become more challenging. Digital technology has transformed the way we interact, learn, and socialize, significantly impacting child-rearing. Parenting is a crucial aspect of shaping the future of the next generation. How parents nurture, educate, and guide their children has undergone significant changes in the last few decades. Parenting encompasses not only the influence of traditional factors such as family values and culture but is also influenced by technological advancements (Andriyani, I. N. 2018; Putri, D.P. 2018). The development of technology and the use of digital devices have a significant impact on children's lives, giving rise to the term "digital native generation," meaning children are familiar with electronic and digital media from an early age. According to Ku and Soulier (2009), the characteristics of digital natives, as defined by Gaith (2010) in Mardina (2017), include enjoying participating in online activities, frequently engaging in online friendships, and the desire for instant information. Prensky (2001), one of the proponents of the digital

native theory, states that digital natives are individuals whose activities are closely related to computers, and they view digital technology as inseparable from their lives. Moreover, this generation tends to enjoy playing online games, always feels the need to stay connected to the internet, creates digital content, and shares it with others, and is highly active on various social media platforms.

Of course, parents face new challenges in nurturing, guiding, protecting, and helping their children grow and develop. With these changes, various trends and issues affecting parenting, both positively and negatively, have emerged. Parenting patterns in the current digital era can have a positive influence on children's psychological and physical development if managed wisely. For instance, easy access to online educational resources can help children learn independently, stimulating cognitive development and improving digital literacy skills. Additionally, the digital era provides children with numerous tools and platforms to express their creativity, such as creating art, videos, or music, which can foster creativity and artistic skills in children (Aslan, A. 2019; Rachmaniar, A. 2021). However, along with the positive influences, there are also negative impacts on children's physical and psychological development. Excessive dependence on social media can make children less physically active and have difficulty concentrating. Children who prefer playing video games or watching TV over engaging in physical activity can experience health problems like obesity and other physical issues. Children exposed to age-inappropriate content, such as violence or sexual content, can experience disruptions in their psychological development, leading to behavioral problems and anxiety (Nursyifa, A., 2018).

Considering the characteristics and behaviors of children in the digital era, marked by increased digital media usage, the question is how parents can develop a parenting approach that ensures their generation is not negatively influenced by the digital age but can use these tools wisely and for positive purposes (Rahmat, S. T., 2018). Therefore, there is a need for a study on the positive principles of parenting in the digital era so that parents, prospective parents, and educators can understand what is beneficial for child development. This is not just about monitoring gadget usage or limiting screen time but also about guiding children to be tech-savvy, behave well online, and establish meaningful connections in the digital world (Rodhiya, et all. 2020).

In this article, the author will discuss the concept of parenting that can be understood by parents, prospective parents, and educators to navigate the challenges of educating children in the digital era wisely and adapt to them. The following discussion will focus on the study of positive parenting principles centered around communication, education, and technology understanding in the digital era. By combining a caring approach with a deep understanding of the digital world, we can support our children's development in this era without forgetting the classic values that are important.

METHOD

The method used in this research is a literature review because it involves the collection, evaluation, and analysis of relevant literature on a specific topic to understand the development of knowledge and examine the research conducted by previous researchers. The results of their research

are analyzed theoretically and methodologically regarding a particular chosen topic. Snyder (2019) explains that a literature review is a research approach aimed at gathering and summarizing the essence of previous research while analyzing the overall picture presented by experts in the text. Furthermore, in a literature review, Snyder (2019) underscores its significant role as a foundation for various types of research. This is because a literature review provides insights into the advancement of knowledge, serves as a source of inspiration for policy-making, stimulates the emergence of innovative ideas, and serves as a valuable guide in the context of research in various fields. The literature search, both nationally and internationally, related to the topic, comes from various sources such as journals, e-books, books, and other relevant literature to support the writing of this article.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research conducted by the author, the following are the results that can be presented, relating to the principles of positive parenting and how they are associated with the parenting styles of parents towards their children. Wiranata (2020) stated that the parenting style employed by parents has a significant impact on a child's development. One of the parenting styles that parents can adopt is positive parenting, which aims to enhance parental knowledge regarding the growth and development of their child. Indriani (2021) suggested that positive parenting is an approach to child-rearing that focuses on love, mutual respect, and efforts to strengthen the positive bond between parents and their children. Positive parenting can also be interpreted as an approach designed to establish a healthy and positive relationship between parents and their children (Palupi et al., 2015).

Additionally, Rodhiya (2020) expressed that positive parenting is a method of raising children based on love, mutual respect, and the development of a close relationship between parents and their children. This approach involves mutual strengthening, with an emphasis on appreciation, fulfilling needs, and safeguarding the rights of children, all centered on the best interests of the child. Parents need to develop strong communication skills to facilitate honest and open conversations with their children about technology usage, online risks, and the responsibilities associated with online freedom (Ulfah, 2020). Furthermore, parents should employ effective parenting methods, where children are given freedom but still need to be supervised; in other words, an overly restrictive parenting style is not suitable for raising children in the digital age because, fundamentally, children do not like to be constrained and forced (Dheasari et al., 2022).

Research conducted by Rahmat (2018) asserted that in the digital age, the necessary parenting style is a democratic or authoritative one. This parenting model aims to help children develop critical thinking skills regarding the negative impacts of digital technology usage. Therefore, the role of parents is crucial in guiding and instructing children in using digital media correctly and positively (Widyaningsih, 2023). Effective communication is one way to create a sense of comfort and security

for children. Through open communication, parents can understand their children's activities and feelings (Ndraha et al., 2022).

There are principles within positive parenting, including the use of effective communication and an understanding of child development. One of the most important principles of positive parenting is open communication with children. Based on research by Munawar and Nisfah in 2020, it was concluded that parents play a key role in addressing children's internet addiction issues by applying positive parenting principles, which involve a commitment to maintaining healthy communication with their children. This finding aligns with other research conducted by Viandari and Susilawati in 2019, which showed that the lack of interaction between mothers and children has a negative impact on children's internet addiction levels. Parents should also make an effort to enhance their interactions with their children to ensure that children are more engaged with their parents than overly dependent on gadgets. In the digital age, this means discussing technology usage with them regularly, and parents need to listen to their children's feelings. Encourage children to talk about their online experiences, questions, and potential dangers they may encounter. Thus, parents can provide appropriate guidance and support when necessary.

In their research, Novianti et al. (2020) stressed the importance of monitoring and controlling the time children spend in the digital world. This does not mean overseeing their every move but ensuring they do not spend too much time in front of screens. This also involves monitoring the content they access to ensure it is age-appropriate. Many tools and applications are available to assist parents in monitoring this. Parents also have a responsibility to educate their children about technology (Atmojo et al., 2022; Saman & Hidayati, 2023). This includes making them aware of online risks such as cyberbullying, data security, and useful resources. Children who understand technology will be better prepared to face digital challenges. Positive educational principles, such as giving praise, encouragement, and recognition for a child's achievements, remain relevant in the digital age. Parents should provide positive support to motivate children to behave healthily and responsibly in their technology usage.

This article emphasizes that the digital era has changed how children interact with the world, and parents, prospective parents, and educators must adapt to these changes. Positive parenting principles remain relevant, but they must also be applied in the digital context. Strong communication, technological understanding, and positive educational approaches help parents become effective guides in facing the challenges of the digital age. Furthermore, digital education is a crucial component in helping children develop the necessary skills for responsible technology use. Parents should play a role in teaching children about online dangers, safe usage, and a deep understanding of the technology they use. Monitoring and control are also essential but must be balanced with trust and children's privacy. Parents need to strike a balance between protection and giving children the freedom to learn from their experiences. In summary, building positive parenting principles in the

digital era is about creating an environment that supports a child's positive and safe development amidst continually evolving technology.

CONCLUSION

Positive parenting is an approach to child-rearing that focuses on love, mutual respect, and efforts to strengthen the positive bond between parents and their children. Additionally, positive parenting can be defined as an approach aimed at building a healthy and positive relationship between parents and their children. Applying the principles of positive parenting in the digital era is key to helping children face online challenges. Positive parenting, like positive parenting, focuses on building a healthy and positive relationship between parents and their children. This helps reduce the risks of negative technology use, where strong and open communication between parents and children becomes crucial because it allows parents to understand their children's activities in the digital world and provide appropriate guidance. A democratic or authoritative parenting style can help children develop critical thinking skills regarding the negative impacts of digital technology use. Parents need to monitor and control the time their children spend in the digital world and ensure that the content accessed is age-appropriate.

Educating children about online risks, data security, and safe digital technology use is crucial; children who understand technology will be better prepared to face digital challenges. Positive educational principles, such as giving praise, encouragement, and recognition for a child's achievements, remain relevant in the digital age. This helps children behave in a healthy and responsible manner when using technology. Parents, prospective parents, and educators need to adapt to the changes brought by the digital era. Applying the principles of positive parenting in a digital context is the key to creating an environment that supports a child's positive and safe development. Thus, positive parenting principles remain relevant and essential in helping children face digital challenges in the present era. With these principles, we can help our children grow into intelligent, resilient, and responsible individuals in their technology usage.

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