Consideration of Parents' Beliefs about Guiding Children's Usage of the Internet

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Abstract: This research examines the performance of parents in guiding their children's usage of the internet in the village of Majalengka Regency, West Java, Indonesia. How did the parents control their children's usage of the internet and how did their children react to the questions being answered in this research. The research used a qualitative approach to get the natural settings in which there are many behaviours and events which occur. This research also used a communicative theory of interactionism, because the theory could lead the researchers to an understanding of the structure, regulation and parental procedures that could have a significant impact on family education. This research found that to perform parents' functions as a guide, the parents always make themselves available for their children. So, the parents collect the children's aspirations and accommodate them and follow up the aspirations. And, also, to address children's complaints, parents give a moral and psychological explanation to the children. This was one of the many solutions to address children addiction to the gadgets.

1 INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transition period when a person is about to enter a self-sufficient age, but a teenager is not yet entirely responsible for themselves or the community. This period of transition depends on the circumstances and the social level of the community in which you live. The more advanced the society, the longer the adolescent is because they must prepare to adapt themselves to society (Bowlby, 2012).

Adolescence is one period of human development. This period is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood that includes biological changes. Changes in psychology and social changes in most societies and cultures of adolescence generally begin at the age of 13-15 years and end at the age of 18-22 years (Blum et al., 2014).

Family plays an important role in accompanying teenagers in guiding what they should do inside and outside the house. The role is an individual role that finally manifests rights and obligations. Knowing the role of the family is very important because, from here, the ideal and harmonious family figure is measured and could be read (O'Keeffe and Clarke-Pearson, 2011).

The key success for parents in giving motivation and guiding their children lies in how close their relationship is with the children. No one can completely replace the role of parents. Parents are placing where children ask for protection and obtain peace through harmony between order and tranquillity, by things from outside their house (Bowlby, 2012).

The role of the family in the supervision and guiding the development of early teenagers of 13 to 15 years is significant. It is true in today's era that many teenagers, especially those aged 13-15 years, use the internet without supervision and guidance from parents. Meanwhile, there are many impacts caused by the internet, including the negative impacts. Therefore, it is imperative that parents play a role in guiding and supervising the use of internet media for the development of their children. In this case, parents should have the concept of information literacy, as well as their children (Anwar et al., 2017).

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Most of the parents still underestimate the fact that the internet is the biggest pornography library in the world that should be avoided by the children. The results of the survey conducted by the Child Protection Commission or KomisiPerlindunganAnak Indonesia (KPAI) among 4,500 junior high school and senior high school students in 12 major cities in Indonesia, were shocking. Overall, 97% of respondents confessed they had already accessed sites that contain pornography and also watch porn videos through the internet (Aditya, 2013). Even worse, 36% of the parents, because of the minimum effort of supervising, didn't know what their children were accessing them. Only a few parents acknowledge what is being obtained by their children while online, and, on average, children spent 64 hours online per month (Sufa, 2014).

As Symantec Norton has revealed, the three most commonly used search engines by teenagers aged 13-15 years are YouTube, Google, and Facebook. While the word "porn" and "sex" are in the second position in Symantec data. Although it does not reveal which country the child is from, at least parents in Indonesia should consider this thing (Sufa, 2014).

Teenagers around 13-15 years old have their world; they have a curious sense of everything and always want to try everything new. Youth live and think only for the present moment; they do not think of a distant past nor a future that they are clueless about. Therefore, parents should be able to make the reality of the present a starting point and learning method for children. The development of a teen character is influenced by the behaviour of the family towards the character of a person formed earlier; in this case, a certain family role is very influential (Mustari & Rahman, 2014).

If associated with sociological theory, family as the smallest social institution plays an important role regarding the formation of individual characters. The family becomes so important because, through the family, one's life is formed. As the smallest social institution, the family is a miniature of social complexity, because, starting from the family, a teenager experiences the process of socialisation. The family is the first and main social unit as the primary foundation for adolescent development. In that sense, either for good or bad, a family is very influential on the formation of one's personality (Rahman, 2011).

In the family, children learn to socialise, think, live, and feel all aspects of life that are reflected in culture. It can be used as a frame of reference in every action in life. The role of the individual in the family is based on expectations and behaviour patterns of families, groups, and communities (O'Keeffe & Clarke-Pearson, 2011).

The question arises, how the circumstances of parents whom their children in teenager age and can be influenced by the development of information technology such as internet? The following research aims to answer the question. By focusing on a location in rural areas in Majalengka, West Java, here is a story about family communication between parents and children regarding internet influence.

2 RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the descriptive method was used with the aim that this method would provide a clearer description of social situations and could describe the situation in a systematic, objective and precise way (Lindlof & Taylor, 2017). The type of data used in this research are qualitative data because qualitative data are more comprehensive in understanding the phenomena in the community. In this research, the data collection techniques used were: observation, interview, and a study of literature. The sources of data in this study are data obtained directly from the parties involved: parents who have early teenagers (13 to 15 years old) that use the internet. Other data sources (secondary) are sourced from supporting data that is obtained from the literature taken from journals, books, magazines or newspapers, and the internet.

3 FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The constant development of information technology today is convenience for the public to obtain information. One of the most widely used types of communication information technology today is the internet. The development of the internet leads in all directions, including negative ones, making parents feel worried about the internet.

Parents often feel worried about the internet because it could have negative impacts on their children. Sometimes children could forget about their rights as human beings, children get lost in time and socialise less with their friends and many more. Therefore, as a parent, it is necessary to guide and supervise their children to use the internet media at the right time and in a limited way; children should not forget the time and not forget their duties

as a child, such as doing school work (interview with SW, parents, 8/7/2017).

The increasing number of online activities among children has become a threat. Parents need to do more than warn their child about the content of the internet. Looking at the facts, it is recommended that parents use internet filters to restrict internet use for their children. In these circumstances, the most urgent thing to do is to discuss with children the topics that make them curious, so it's better that the children get information from their parents instead of from the internet (Levin & Kilbourne, 2008). Family SW, for example, is always firm in supervising and guiding their son. Their son RM, never uses the internet while he is alone, he is never allowed to go to an internet kiosk to play games with his friends. Their son must be supervised while using the internet (interview with SW, parent, 8/7/2017). Parents FA, on the other hand, are limiting the amount of time for their children using the laptop for surfing the internet. FA do not mind taking the laptop from their children if it's already beyond a reasonable time (interview with FA, parents, 8/7/2017).

Based on the results of interviews and observations in the field, the following data were obtained: from 15 families, six families guide and supervise their children while using the internet, while the remaining nine families never guide and supervise. From 20 teenagers, eight teenagers are avoiding the negative impact of the internet by not accessing unusual content, while the rest, 12 teenagers, confess they have seen pornographic photos and videos on the internet either intentionally or unintentionally.

The family behaviour influences the development of a teen's character. A person's character is formed early, so the role of the family is very influential. The family is the smallest social group in society. Every family member (father, mother, and child) has a socialisation process to understand the culture prevailing in society. From interviews with parents, they can be a reliable teacher for their children. Therefore, parents play an important role in the early education process for children. The precise information about sexuality, for example, must be given by parents though, however, the sense of taboo is still haunting parents in Indonesia who are adapting Eastern culture (interview with DN, parents, 20/7/2017).

For example, both in the village and city now Internet kiosks are available and parents can entrust their children to the kiosk owner/guard to guide and supervise what their children access on the internet or parents can limit the time usage on the internet for their children. Parents should also tell their children what things are good for them to use. If the child often accesses the internet on a smartphone or other device, then as far as possible, the parents should control what he accesses from the device. Just like MT said: "I always limit the time of my child when using the internet on my laptop, and I divide his time with positive activities." This is because when using the internet, children often forget their rights as children; sometimes children forget the time to eat, pray, bathe, read the Quran, and others. Parents often feel worried about that attitude, so MT often take the laptop if it's already over time, and MT set the time for their child also to do positive things such as go to the mosque (interview with MT, parents, 20/7/2017).

Addiction to playing on the computer is suspected to trigger children to be lazy about writing, drawing or performing social activities. A playing computer addiction can happen mainly because, earlier, the parents do not make certain rules regarding playing the computer. According to HS, as chairman of the RW in Blok Pajawan, parents need to make a deal with the child about the time for playing computer. For example, a child may play computer after school and after finishing homework for only one hour. The other free time could be used for doing other things. This timing is necessary so that children do not think that playing the computer is the only activity that is interesting. This rule needs to be monitored by parents from early on. At a later age, it is expected that the child can manage the time well (interview with HS, RW chairman, 20/7/2017).

The question that often arises in parents' minds is whether the existing media could support the process of educating children? Does the media have a positive or negative effect on the child? Of course, there are a lot of answers regarding these questions. Of course, there are those who argue the media is very useful because the media have various information that can be obtained. Indeed, some parents strongly agree once and never feel worried about their children who often use the internet media although not supervised by the parents. The reasons given by such parents is that the internet that exists today is very useful because it provides insight into the development of children (interview with UA, chairman of RW, 20/7/2017).

But there are some who do not like the internet because they feel that the internet has a negative impact on children (interview with YH, parents, 20/7/2017). Of course, a wise attitude to internet usage could happen if the parents give the right

understanding about the internet; besides this, the government should also make policies to manage it. Considering the advantages and disadvantages of introducing internet to children, in the end, it is very dependent on the readiness of parents to introduce and supervise their children while playing on the computer. Therefore, all parents, it is expected, could give a precise understanding of how to be wise in using the internet media (O'Keeffe & Clarke-Pearson, 2011).

The increasing amount of information regarding the dangers of social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, and others, lately increasingly reinforces the need for intensive participation of parents to protect their children in cyberspace. The first thing many parents need to realise is that their children will always have access to the internet, no matter how much they try to control what their children do and see in that virtual world (interview with AF, child, 9/7/2017).

The Internet is also no less sophisticated with the medium itself. Lately, it is the internet that is more developed. Millions of people use the internet for various purposes, ranging from personal and organisational, to official work purposes, because the internet is considered more practical. For education, many schools have started to use the internet as an important tool in learning activities (interview with AF, children, 9/7/2017).

DR, as a child said, many benefits could be obtained from the internet, especially in the process of communication and information. But there are not a few who abuse the use of the internet, not a few teenagers who have bad morals, are lazy about study because almost all their time is spent surfing the internet. Moreover, teenagers who dare to open porn sites, they all always convey a variety of reasons when they get caught. For example, they all have a high sense of curiosity. (interview with DR, child, 9/7/2017).

Also, children are also affected by the adults' talk. Those who saw even just a glimpse of porn will continue to watch it because they are addicted. Soon their attitude will change to be worse, and they will all be involved in promiscuity (Mustari & Rahman, 2014).

Internet media nowadays cannot be separated from positive and negative impacts on adolescent development. As a connector between many people, the internet certainly has positive benefits. Benefits could be gained when it is utilised for a proper intention. The positive impact of internet usage includes its use as the media of communication, internet as a medium of data exchange. For example,

with e-mail data can be distributed easily. Data could be files, images, and more. The internet is beneficial for browsing information quickly, as a medium of information education, culture, business, and others, and as a medium of entertainment (Budiana et al., 2016).

Besides the positive impact, the use of the internet as a significant medium in the development of this era, certainly also could cause negative impacts. Negative impacts that can be generated from internet usage are: the internet can trigger things related to pornography. The internet, with its scope that spans the globe, can lead to fraud, can lead to the existence of gambling, and can also cause addiction (Budiana et al., 2016).

The internet can cause a severe addiction; an example that is happening in society today is that a child may be willing to spend hours in front of his computer to use the internet non-stop. The internet is used for many things, to the extent that a child can forget to eat and do other activities. It can be bad and could get worse because an addiction will be hard to cure. The internet can reduce one's social nature. No wonder if then there are parents who limit the association of their children with the internet. They even encourage their children to socialise face-to-face with society (interview with FA, child, 8/7/2017).

From the positive and negative impacts of internet usage, people should wisely make themselves healthy internet users, which involves making use of the internet well, wisely, and maximally for useful purposes and producing something positive for themselves and society.

Some parties reject the use of the internet. Mrs. KT, for example, forbids her children from using internet media and surfing the internet in internet kiosks or on smartphones because she feels she cannot supervise and guide when her children use the internet, so she forbids her children from using the internet. This action is taken because she thinks the internet can degrade the religious education that she already teaches her children (interview with KT, parent, 9/7/2017).

But there are also parents who believe that there are lots of benefits from the internet (interview with TT, parents, 9/7/2017). Therefore, to avoid the negative impact of internet usage, it is necessary for internet users to understand what the internet is and how internet usage should be. It is also necessary for the parents and family to help as the controller of children's internet usage so that the internet itself becomes a thing that leads to good things that are beneficial (Levin & Kilbourne, 2008).

From the research, there are things that parents should do to guide and supervise the use of internet media among teenagers, including:

- giving children time to learn and interact with computers from an early age, especially considering that the use of computers is something that cannot be avoided in this modern era. Here, parents can provide guidance so that children can use the internet properly according to their age;

- if the parent is unable to guide their children directly, then the parent should supervise them through persons who are entrusted to be supervisors for their children while using the internet.

4 CONCLUSIONS

Based on the explanation above, this research can lead to the following conclusions: 1) the need for a parental role in guiding and supervising teenagers in the use of internet media. Similarly, because it found a negative impact of internet media if the parents do not guide and supervise teenagers' internet usage, including children not obeying their parents, children often imitate the style and behaviour that they see through the internet, and teenagers can be addicted to the internet. So, to avoid the negative impact of internet usage, participation from the parents to help as the controller of internet users is necessary so that the internet could give beneficial things; 2) based on the effects that could occur through use of the internet, as an anticipation, it necessary to know how to overcome an addiction to the internet. Parents, who have an important role in guiding and supervising their teenager, have to limit their teenagers' amount of time for using the internet; 3) parents have to supervise and limit their child's society while the child is still under supervision. Parents should give an understanding to their children about the dangers of the outside world. Parents should make it clear that not everything on the internet is true, because the virtual world (internet) and reality have differences; and 4) parents should be able to give a clear understanding to their teenagers regarding the rules at home, though they should not let the child feel depressed with the many rules because teenagers have an unstable psyche. Give the teenagers the freedom to choose but continue to supervise. Parents should accompany their children while doing activities such as when playing on the internet. They should provide support when studying or while using the internet, and guide the activities according to the childrens' ages. Because parents are role models for life, they become an influence on the growth of children.

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