

## PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS FOR FAITH EDUCATION IN THE DIGITAL ERA AT SMP BAITUL ARQAM QUR'ANIC SCIENCE SUMEDANG

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### Abstract

*Faith education has an important role in holistic student development. The development of digital technology brings profound changes to education. In this digital era, there are many problems faced in the learning process in schools, resulting in an increasing complexity of faith education problems. This article discusses the main problems faced in organizing faith education at SMP Baitul Arqam Qur'anic Science Sumedang in the digital era. The problem of faith education faced is the influence of digitalization on the character, morals and formation of students' self-identity. Efforts are made to deal with these problems by limiting the use of smartphones in students, educating students about the use of smartphones wisely, innovating and creativity in the learning process of faith education, and optimizing digital technology as a tool to increase understanding of faith for students.*

Keywords: **Problems, Faith Education, Solutions**

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The development and progress of science and technology (Science and Technology) today gives birth to technology that makes humans very dependent on technology itself. In everyday life, humans seem to be inseparable from technology, one of which is digital technology such as *smartphones*. This dependence is caused because all needs or various types of work can be easily helped and completed using *smartphones* (Widjaja et al., 2022). Not only does it provide convenience in completing work, but also provides entertainment facilities such as *games* and the ease of accessing social media to connect with others remotely making *smartphone* technology so attractive to all human circles. Technology is present to provide various conveniences for humans, but in fact technology also has a bad impact on humans if it cannot be used wisely. In this millennial era, especially young people tend to rely on *smartphone* technology both in urban and rural areas (Yumnah, 2021).

The development of digital technology brings profound changes that result in the increasing complexity of educational problems in schools. Likewise on the issue of Islamic Education (Faith Education). Teenagers in this digital era who have a tendency to *smartphones* are very easily influenced by the information they get from technology itself. In general, these adolescents do not have good self-control and have not been able to filter information properly, which ones they should access and which ones should be avoided. Meanwhile, many media and technology today are not aligned with faith values that affect the character, morals and formation of adolescent self-identity (Alnija, 2020). In addition, in this digital era, faith education problems are not only from the technological aspect, but also from other aspects such as parental involvement, lack of supervision, and others (Rahmelia & Apandie, 2020).

This article tries to identify and understand the problems and solutions of Islamic education in the digital era at SMP BAQISc (Baitul Arqam Qur'anic Science) Sumedang which focuses on faith education.

## **2. IMPLEMENTATION METHOD**

This research is a research study on problems and solutions to faith education in the digital era at SMP BAQISc Sumedang. Data collection was conducted using qualitative research through interviews to gain a deep understanding.

### **1. Interview**

Interview is a process of communication or interaction to collect information by means of questions and answers between researchers and informants or research subjects. With the advancement of information technology as it is today, interviews can be done without face-to-face, namely through telecommunication media. In essence, an interview is an activity to obtain in-depth information about an issue or theme raised in research (Arifianto et al., 2021).

The steps taken include:

- 1) Preparation  
Determine the respondents to be interviewed and prepare questions relevant to the research topic.
- 2) Implementation  
Conduct interviews in accordance with the guidelines that have been prepared.
- 3) Recording  
Record the results of the interview carefully.
- 4) Analysis  
Analyze interview results to obtain information relevant to the research.

## **3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Digital Age**

Information and communication technology today greatly influences the development of social and cultural values. The negative impact caused is quite disruptive to daily life. This impact is caused by the lack of human understanding of ethics and how to use information technology wisely and correctly. Adolescents or students who generally do not have good control are very vulnerable to the role of this technology. The amount of content (information) that is not in line with Islamic values has an influence on their quality of life (Ingias et al., 2022). Their character, morals, personality, and identity formation are influenced by the cultures they get from digital content. Some of the negative impacts that may arise for adolescents / students are:

- 1) Interference with the quality of worship and other religious obligations.
- 2) Distraction and lack of focus on education
- 3) Exposure of inappropriate content
- 4) Social pressure and comparison
- 5) The amount of false/controversial information
- 6) Unhealthy consumption of entertainment
- 7) Dependence on technology
- 8) Risk of cyberbullying
- 9) Security and privacy

SMP BAQISc Sumedang is one of the boarding schools. Students who attend BAQISc Junior High School are required to stay at Ma'had Baitul Arqam MQSc Sumedang. Based on the results of an interview with a PAI teacher at the school, SMP BAQISc plus Ma'had Baitul Arqam MQSc has implemented regulations to limit the use of gadgets/smartphones for students or students. Students

can only use their *smartphones* at certain times called "*Gadget Time*", and can only be used when doing schoolwork or ma'had that requires *smartphone* assistance. Gadget Time activities for students are carried out on Sunday ba'da Dzuhur until the afternoon around ba'da Asr. It aims to provide limits for students so as not to have dependence on gadgets. Provide access restrictions to minimize the negative influences of information and communication technology. So as to minimize the negative impact on the character, morals, personality, and formation of students' self-identity (Md Sawari et al., 2022).

### Faith Education

Faith Education comes from two words, namely "education" and "faith". The term education itself comes from the word "educate" which is given the prefix "pe" and the suffix "kan", containing the meaning of actions (things, ways and so on).

In the Big Dictionary Indonesian, Education is "the process of changing the attitudes and behavior of a person or group of people in an effort to mature humans through educational efforts"

According to Saroni (2010) Education "can help humans become figures who have value with their existence that can be recognized in the community".

People in living life in the world cannot be separated from the problem of faith. Faith as the foundation of man in living his life.

In the world of education, religious education is an effort to strengthen the faith and piety of God Almighty. Faith education has an important role in holistic student development (Siskandar, 2020). Some of the reasons faith education is so important are:

1. Faith education influences students in understanding the principles of daily life. The meaning of life, purpose, relationship with man and the universe.
2. Have a very significant impact on the development of students' morals, moral values, noble ethics and high ethics. Religious values can be a strong ethical foundation, developing good, honest and responsible behavior.
3. Faith values encourage the development of students' empathy and caring. Forming a positive attitude towards the social environment and encouraging participation in charity activities.
4. The values of tolerance, compassion, and respect can form a harmonious environment among students. Therefore, faith education is influential in building positive relationships with others.
5. Faith is an integral part of one's identity so it helps students understand and embrace the values that are an important part of their self-identity.

### Learning Media

According to Rusman et al. 2010 learning media is a messenger technology that can be used for learning purposes; Learning media is a physical means to deliver learning materials, means of communication in print and hearing including hardware technology.

The results of the author's interview showed that 60% of the learning media used in learning PAI at SMP BAQISc Sumedang already use technology media. The media used are smartphones, laptops, projectors, and the internet. In faith education learning that has been carried out in schools in the form of:

- a) Watch the exemplary stories of the prophet and his companions
- b) Students are directed to create infographics using Canva
- c) Learning media with Quizizz
- d) Crossword
- e) Smart meticulous
- f) Presentation
- g) Analysis of actual international events such as Israel's ceasefire against Palestinians.

Faith education certainly has several different materials so that what is difficult for teachers is how teachers must be able to think creatively and innovatively to produce effective learning models for their students in accordance with the teaching material to be delivered (Mufidah, 2022).

The results of the author's analysis based on the explanation above, can be made a simple illustration: about the relationship between digital technology, faith education, and students.

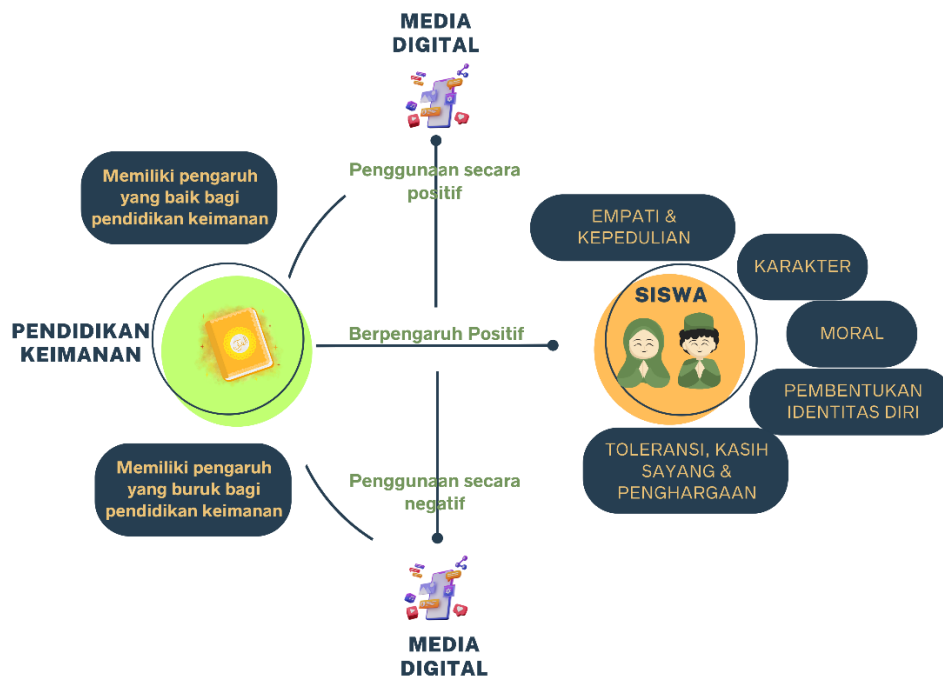


Figure 1  
(illustration by Susan Sundari)

#### 4. CONCLUSION

Based on the exposure to the results of the author's research above, it can be concluded that:

##### **Problems of Faith Education**

Some of the problems that are related to faith education learning at SMP BAQISc Sumedang, namely:

- 1) Student exposure to digital content that may not align with faith values.
- 2) Schools/teachers have difficulty monitoring students' online activities during school holidays.
- 3) The possibility of parental involvement in providing supervision to their children while at home is still minimal.
- 4) Lack of parental guidance in the use of technology and digital media in the context of faith.
- 5) The importance of teacher skills in presenting creative and innovative learning so that the material is delivered well and supports faith learning.
- 6) The potential risk of spreading false information that can affect students' views of faith.

##### **Faith Education Solutions**

Faith education learning solutions at SMP BAQISc Sumedang, namely:

- 1) SMP BAQISc and Ma'had Baitul Arqam MQSc Sumedang apply gadget usage regulations that are limited by the Gadget Time schedule on Sundays for +- 3 hours (1 time per week). And at certain times it is only limited to completing schoolwork or ma'had.
- 2) Provide understanding to students how to use technology wisely, especially in faith learning.
- 3) 60% of PAI learning has used technological assistance including faith education to initiate student boredom while studying.
- 4) Conduct more creative and innovative learning so that the material can be delivered well and in accordance with student conditions.

### Faith Education Learning Advice

Based on the results of the author's analysis related to faith education learning at SMP BAQISc Sumedang. The author has one example of how to present creative and innovative learning for students.

Example: Learning faith in Tawhid to Allah. Teachers not only deliver material in terms of cognitive, but must be able to touch the emotional side of their students by providing video shows related to Tawhid Ke Allah in everyday life. So that students can understand the material well. In addition, students are invited to analyze what happens in the surrounding community. Are there any behaviors that are appropriate and contrary to Tawhid to Allah? and so on. After that, analyze it to yourself from morning (waking up) to night, whether there is behavior that is in accordance or deviant with the material Tawhid To Allah.

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