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THE USE OF INTERNET IN LEARNING AND ITS IMPACTS ON STUDENTS' MORAL VALUES: A CASE STUDY IN MATARAM UNIVERSITY, INDONESIA

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Abstract

Internet has become a staple for majority of people. In Indonesia, over half of the population have become active internet users, and university students are among community groups with very high use of the internet in daily life. Findings of several studies show that internet actually provides not only positive, but also even more significant negative, impacts for its users. This study explores the impacts of internet on the moral values of university students as active users. To solve the problem, this research employed qualitative approach as a case study. The research subjects were students at Civics Education Department of the University of Mataram, Indonesia. Two data collection techniques were employed, namely, documentation and focus group discussion. Data collected was analyzed using an interactive model. Findings of the study show that internet has negative impacts on university students' moral values. It has caused them to be dishonest, less responsible, and lazy individuals. This is very dangerous since it destroys the morality of the nation's generation. For this reason, solutions must be identified to solve the problem.

Key words: Internet, students, impact, moral-value disorder

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INTRODUCTION

In this digital era, technology—the internet in particular—has been a primary need for everyone, including university students (Zaremozhzabieh, 2014). For them, internet is inseparable in performing routine daily activities. In Indonesia, over half of its population (143.26 million) were active users in 2017. The number has continued to soar significantly from year to year (Stiawan in Kompas.com, 19/2/2018). One of the largest segments of the country's internet users is university students. Reinaldi & Sokang (2016) found out that almost all students use internet in their daily activities. Due to its massive use, a large number of people, the millennial generation in particular have been exposed to the internet in many aspects of their life (Browning, Gerlich, Westermann, 2011).

The presence of internet basically aims for humanity's own good. Kao (2018:6-7) asserts that information technology, including the internet, is an instrument to assist an individual in completing their assignments. It is a media to access different kinds of knowledge in order to improve one's awareness, skills, and creativity. Information technology, the internet in particular, has indeed provided ease as well as problem for the users (Young, 1998; Rispawati and Sumardi, 2020). Multiple studies show that internet has both beneficial and adverse impacts (Reinaldo & Sokang, 2016). Kao (2018:6-7); Wahyudiati, Rohaeti, Irwanto, Wiyarsi, & Sumardi, 2020) claims that among the positive impacts of the internet is that it assists an individual in completing their assignments. Abundance of information on the internet would make it just easy for people to find solutions for the problems at hand. Kao (2018) argues that internet gives the direction, structure, and knowledge for better results. The internet however has negative impacts, which far outweigh the positive impacts (Ngaffi (2014)). The negative impacts inflicted by the internet are called "problematic internet use" (Chou & Hsiao, 2000). Caplan, Williams, and Yee (2009) claim the internet has negative impacts on the cognitive, attitude and behavioral aspects. In cognitive aspect, the internet may degrade students' academic performance (Paul, Baker, Cochran, 2012; Abdulahi, Samadi, & Gharleghi, 2014). In attitude and behavioral aspects, internet has driven students to be individuals who are pragmatic (Sumardi, Rispawati, & Ismail, 2017), are reluctant to communicate (Young & Roger,

1998), and have low collaboration character (Dewi & Trikusumaadi, 2016).

Studies on the impacts of the internet on individuals have extensively been conducted around the globe, including in Indonesia. In Indonesian context, studies on the impacts of the internet have focused more on its impacts on knowledge and interpersonal interactions. Studies that focus on the impacts of the internet on people's moral values are still limited; moreover, studies at university setting are rarely available. For this reason, a study on the impacts of internet on students' moral values is very important to conduct to acquire a better picture on the matter. As such, every person and stakeholder would be able to take a wise decision in anticipating the adverse impacts of the internet.

CONTEXT AND LITERATURE REVIEW

Impacts of the Internet

Internet has been everybody's need in any country around the globe. In USA, internet is very urgently needed by students for their academic purposes (Zaremozhzabieh et al., 2014). In Malaysia, students are preoccupied with internet and everyday they use it to gather information, especially on learning materials (Abdulahi, Samadi, & Gharleghi, 2014; Sumardi, Rohman, & Wahyudiati, 2020). The same applies to India, Indonesia, and many other countries around the world, where the internet has served as a means to gather information and solve their problems (Reshma, 2014; Sumardi, Rispawati, & Ismail, 2017). Based on findings of studies and expert discussions, internet has double impacts, like two sides of the same coin, namely positive as well as negative impacts. Findings of research by the National School Boards Association in 2007 (Rahman, Sani, Kaur, 2014) confirmed that internet has positive impacts on the students' performance. Among the positive impacts are everyone can quickly access abundant information (Cassidy, et al., 2011); can share information with each other (Reshma, 2014), and that it is potential learning resources and media (Paul, Baker, Cochran, 2012; Wahyudiati, Sutrisno, & Suplah, 2019). The positive impacts of internet, according to Kao (2018:7), ensure better results for individuals. In short, with internet a person would find it easier to gather information, run daily life, and solve problems at hand.