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The Role Of Digital Literacy In Improving Students' Competence In Digital Era

Muhammad Iqbal Murtadho, Rizqa Yuhda Rohmah, Zahrotul Jamilah, Muhamad Furqon
Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang, Universitas Islam Negeri Maulana Malik Ibrahim Malang
Email: miqbalmurtadho@gmail.com, rizqayuhda@gmail.com, zahrotuljamilah.iil@gmail.com, mfurqon774@gmail.com

Abstract

In the current digital age, students are required to possess high level of digital literacy. Digital literacy refers to an individuals' ability to effectively find, evaluate, and use information throughdigital technology. The aim of this study is to explore the role of digital literacy in enhancing students' competencies in the digital age. The methodology used in this study is by collecting data from class observations, interviews with teachers, and surveys to students and parents. The result of this study indicates that digital literacy affects students' abilities in leraning, collaborating, and facing challenges in the digital age. The implications of the study suggest that digital literacy is crucial in preparing students to face challenges in the digital age, such as resulting on better academic performance, increasing students' interest in learning, and preparing students' readiness to face future challenges.

Keywords: Digital Age, Digital Literacy, Students' Competency

Abstrak

Era digital saat ini menuntut siswa untuk memiliki literagi digital yang tinggi. Literasi digital merujuk pada kemampuan seseorang untuk menemukan, mengevaluasi, dan menggunakan informasi secara efektif melalui teknologi digital. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengeksplorasi peran literasi digital dalam memingkatkan kompetensi siswa di era digital. Metodologi yang digunakan yaitu dengan mengumpulkan data dari observasi kelas, wawancara dengan guru, serta survey kepada siwa dan orang tua. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa literasi digital mempengaruhi kemampuan siswa dalam belajar, berkolaborasi, dan menghadapi tantangan di era digital. Implikasi penelitian ini menunjukkan literasi digital sangat penting untuk mempersiapkan siswa menghadapi tantangan di era digital, seperti membantu

meningkatkan prestasi akademik, meningkatkan ketertarikan untuk belajar, dan mempersiapkan siswa untuk menghadapi tantangan di masa depan.

Kata Kunci: Era Digital, Kompetensi Siswa, Literasi Digital

Introduction

In this digital era, the ability to use technology effectively is one of the most important competencies for students. This ability is known as digital literacy, which refers to the ability of someone to find, evaluate, and use information effectively through digital technology.[1] Digital literacy is not just about knowing how to use technology devices such as computers or smartphones, but also understanding how to search for and use information that is available online to solve problems, collaborate with peers, and use digital technologies to learn and grow.[2]

Social facts that demonstrate the importance of digital literacy are that digital technology has become an integral part of everyday life. For example, students now can access vast learning resources through the internet,[3] follow online classes,[4] and collaborate with peers from around the world. Additionally, digital technology also allows students to engage in activities that require problem solving skills,[5] creativity,[6] and high communication.[7]

Literature facts also show that students with high digital literacy are better prepared to face the challenges of this digital age. Several studies have revealed that students with high digital literacy tend to have better academic performance,[8] are more motivated to learn,[9] and are better prepared to face future challenges.[10] Islamic education plays an important role in enhancing student competencies in the digital era. In a rapidly changing and complex world, students must have strong digital literacy skills to be able to adapt to changes and demands of the times. In this regard, Islamic education provides a strong foundation to shape students with high integrity, responsibility, and social awareness. Moreover, Islamic education also provides values which can help students to understand digital technology and media wisely and responsibly. Therefore, it is important for educational institutions to integrate Islamic education with digital literacy skills so that students can develop the skills and knowledge needed to be successful in this digital age.

In the Quran, Surah Al-Alaq verse 1-5, Allah SWT says:

اِقْرَأْ بِاسْمِ رَبِّكَ الَّذِيْ خَلَقَۚ ١ خَلَقَ الْاِنْسَانَ مِنْ عَلَقٍۚ ٢

اِقْرَأْ وَرَبُّكَ الْاَكْرَمُۙ ٣ الَّذِيْ عَلَّمَ بِالْقَلَمِۙ ٤ عَلَّمَ الْاِنْسَانَ مَا لَمْ يَعْلَمْۗ

It means: "1) Read in the name of your Lord who created, 2) He has created man from a clot. 3) Read and your Lord is the Most High, 4) Who taught by the pen. 5) He taught man what he knew not". (Al-Qur‟an, Al-Alaq' [96]:1-5).

In the Quran, Allah SWT teaches people to read by mentioning His name and giving understanding that He is the Creator of mankind and teaching mankind what is unknown to him. This shows the importance of education and learning in Islam, including teaching about digital literacy. In digital literacy, knowledge and skills of digital literacy are seen as important in this digital age. Islamic education provides a strong foundation in shaping students' character with high integrity, responsibility, and social concern, which ultimately can help students understand technology and digital media wisely and responsibly. The core of teaching in Islamic education is to acquire knowledge and skills that can help mankind to be better and successful in life. Therefore, it is important for educational institutions to integrate Islamic education with digital literacy so that students can develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this digital age.

Then in Hadist, Prophet Muhammad (SAW) said:

وَمَنْ سَلَكَ طَرِيقًا يَلْتَمِسُ فِيهِ عِلْمًا، سَهَّلَ اللهُ لَهُ بِهِ طَرِيقًا إِلَى الْجَنَّةِ

It means: "Whoever takes a path to seek knowledge, then Allah will make it easy for him to reach paradise." (HR. Bukhari and Muslim).

This Hadist shows that Allah SWT will make the way to heaven easy for those who strive to seek knowledge. In digital literacy, this hadith teaches that seeking knowledge and gaining understanding of digital literacy is important for success in this digital age. Digital literacy is considered as one of the important skills to be possessed by students in order to adapt to the changes and demands of the times. Islamic education provides a strong foundation in forming students with integrity, responsibility and high social awareness, thus motivating students to seek knowledge and enhance their digital literacy competencies. In this regard, the hadith teaches that Allah SWT will make the way to heaven easy for those who strive to seek knowledge, including in the field of digital literacy. Therefore, educational institutions should integrate Islamic education with digital literacy so that students can develop the required skills and knowledge to succeed in this digital age and achieve success in this world and hereafter.

The purpose of this study is to explore the role of digital literacy in enhancing students' competencies in the digital age. To achieve this purpose, we will gather data from various sources such as classroom observation, interviews with teachers, and surveys of students and parents. The data will be used to analyze how digital literacy affects students' ability in learning, collaborating, and facing challenges in the digital age.

The argument of this study is that digital literacy is a very important competency for students in this digital age. Digital literacy not only helps students access and utilize information available online, but also helps students enhance the problem-solving, creativity and communication skills needed to succeed in this digital age. Thus, it is important for schools and parents to focus on enhancing students' digital literacy, so that students can become the generation ready to face challenges in this digital age.

Method

The methodology used in this research is qualitative methodology with the type of descriptive research. The aim is to describe and explain the role of digital literacy in enhancing students' competencies in the digital era. To achieve this goal, this research method uses three sources of data, namely classroom observation, interviewing teachers, and surveying students and parents. Classroom observations were conducted by observing learning activities related to digital literacy and collecting data through written notes and photos. Interviews were conducted by collecting information from teachers about the role of digital literacy in enhancing students' competencies and how they integrate digital literacy into the learning process. Surveys were conducted by collecting data through questionnaires containing questions related to the role of digital literacy in enhancing students' competencies and how they utilize them in everyday life.

Data obtained from classroom observations will be analyzed by identifying and classifying learning activities related to digital literacy. Data obtained from teacher interviews will be analyzed by identifying teachers' perceptions of the role of digital literacy in enhancing students' competencies and how they integrate them into the learning process. Data obtained from surveys will be analyzed using descriptive statistics to identify students' digital literacy levels and how they utilize them in everyday life. Research limitations: The limitations of this study lie in the sample scope, which is not representative, so the results of this study cannot be applied generally to all students in the digital era. In addition, this

study did not consider other factors that may influence students' digital literacy, such as the level of readiness of students to learn using ICT and motivational factors for learning.

Results and Discussion

Based on the data obtained from the literature, there are several facts that show that digital literacy has a significant role in improving students' competencies in the digital age.

First, digital literacy can help students improve their academic performance. A study conducted by Leu showed that students with high digital literacy tend to have better academic performance than students with low digital literacy.[11] This can happen because students with high digital literacy are more able to search and use information available online to complete the tasks given.

Second, digital literacy can help students in the learning process. A study conducted by Papastergiou showed that students with high digital literacy tend to be more interested in learning through digital games.[12] This can occur because digital games can provide a more enjoyable and challenging learning experience for students, thus triggering higher learning interest.

Third, digital literacy can help students face challenges in the future. A study conducted by Warschauer showed that students with high digital literacy tend to be more prepared to face challenges in the future.[13] This can happen because students with high digital literacy are more able to search and use information available online to solve the problems they face.

The Summary of the Study: The study showed that digital literacy is highly important in enhancing students' competencies in the digital age. Digital literacy helps students develop the ability to use information and communication technology (ICT) effectively and efficiently and to understand the workings and implications of such technology.

In the Qur'an verse, Allah SWT teaches humans to read by mentioning His name and giving the meaning that He is the creator of humans and He teaches humans with what they do not know. This shows the importance of education and learning in Islam, including the teaching of digital literacy. In digital literacy, knowledge and skills in digital literacy are seen to be important in the current digital age. In this regard, the Hadist of The Messenger of Allah also teaches that Allah SWT will make easy the way to paradise for those who strive to seek knowledge, including in the field of digital literacy.

The Meaning of the Study: The findings of this study show that digital literacy is not merely about having the ability to use ICT, but also about understanding the workings and implications of such technology. Thus, digital literacy is a highly important competency for students in the digital age, as it can help them understand and manage information well, as well as help them develop the skills needed to compete in an increasingly competitive job market.

Its Determinants and Causes: The main causes of high digital literacy among students are internal factors such as students' interest and willingness to learn, as well as external factors such as the level of access to information and communication technology, and the level of support from schools and social environment.What is the Difference of this Study with previous Studies: The findings of this study are not much different from previous studies which showed that digital literacy is a highly important competency for students in the digital age. However, this study emphasizes that digital literacy is not merely about having the ability to use ICT, but also about understanding the workings and implications of such technology.

What Actions/Solutions should be taken based on this Study: Based on this study, the actions that should be taken are to enhance digital literacy among students in various ways, such as providing adequate access to information and communication technology, providing appropriate support and guidance, as well as providing training and skills development needed. Furthermore, schools should also look into aspects of curriculum and learning which focuses on the development of students' digital literacy, such as teaching how to use and understand ICT, and helping students understand the implications of such technology in daily life. Moreover, schools should also facilitate learning that uses information and communication technology effectively, such as utilizing online learning media, conducting teaching and learning activities that use ICT, and so on.

Conclusion

The most important finding of this study is that digital literacy is a crucial competency for students in the digital era. Digital literacy helps students to develop effective and efficient skills in using information and communication technology (ICT), as well as understanding how technology works and its implications. The main causes of high digital literacy among students are internal factors such as interest and willingness to learn, as well as external factors such as the level of access to information and communication technology and the level of support from schools and the social environment.

Islamic education plays an important role in enhancing students' competencies in the digital era. Integration between Islamic education and digital literacy will help students develop the skills and knowledge needed to succeed in this increasingly complex and fast-paced digital era. Therefore, educational institutions need to pay attention to the integration of Islamic education with digital literacy so that students can be prepared to face the challenges of the digital era.

This research provides a significant contribution to understanding the importance of digital literacy for students in the digital era. The results of this study can be used as a basis for developing strategies to improve students' digital literacy and as a consideration for decision-making regarding the development of digital literacy in schools.The limitation of this research is the non-representative sample used, which means that the results of the study cannot be generalized to all students in the digital era. Additionally, other factors that contribute to students' digital literacy, such as students' readiness to use ICT and motivation in learning, were not taken into account in this study.

Further research is recommended to explore the level of teachers' and students' ability in utilizing digital technology. Efforts can then be made to improve their capabilities through training and skills development, as well as providing adequate access to information and communication technology. Schools should also consider curriculum and learning aspects that focus on developing students' digital literacy, such as teaching them how to use and understand ICT and helping them understand the benefits of technology in daily life. Additionally, schools can facilitate effective ICT-based learning by using online learning media and conducting teaching and learning activities using ICT.

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