

STRENGTHENING CHARACTER EDUCATION BASED ON ISLAM FOR MILLENNIAL GENERATION IN DIGITAL ERA

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to examine the importance of strengthening character education for millennial generation. Millennial generation born between the years 1980-1995 is a modern generation of active work, research, and innovative thinking about the organization, have a sense of optimism and a willingness to work with a competitive, open, and flexible. With high confidence, the millennial generation able to work creatively and always have positive energy in various fields including field education. Millennial generation life greatly facilitated by advances in science and technology. The increasing sophistication of digital technology today to make major changes to the world, the birth of a wide range of increasingly advanced digital technology has been emerging. Humans have access to a simple way to get through a lot of ways, and can enjoy the facilities of digital technology freely, but the negative effects also appear as threatening. Character education at the government comes as an attempt to erode the negative impact. Historically, character education is the primary mission of the apostles. Islam was present as a movement to enhance the character. Since the 7th century Prophet Muhammad SAW explicitly. Stating that his main task is to enhance the character (characters). The manifesto of Muhammad's prophethood, indicate that the formation of character is the main requirement for the growth of religious ways to create civilizations Application of Islamic-based character education can be done if there is cooperation from various parties. There are three environments that play an important role in shaping the character, namely the family, educational institutions and the community. Preparing the millennial generation formidable a task. Educational institutions have a vital role as the formal sphere that is designed to be the center of activity and the development of civilized values. It required a synergy in realizing these hopes for the creation of a golden generation of 2045 character, excellence and competitiveness.

Keywords: Millennial Generation, Character Education, Islam.

INTRODUCTION

Few times are booming terms of the generation millennial. The term is popular in lieu of the term Generation Y (Gen Y). Then comes the next question, what is Y's generation?. Generation Y is a demographic group born after generation X. The terms X, Y, and Z generations are used by The Sydney Morning Herald to refer to a group of generations in a particular set that each generation has the trust, value, culture, perspective and finesse of life according to circumstances someone born and raised. This generation uses many instant communication technologies such as email, SMS, instant messaging and social media like facebook and twitter, in other words Y generation is a generation that grew in theera booming internet (Lyons, 2004).

Table 1
Generation Groups by Year of Birth

No	Generation	Born	Age (2018)
1	Veteran Generation	1925-1946	72-93
2	Baby Boom Generation	1946-1960	58-72
3	Generation X	1960-1980	38-53
4	Gen Y (Millennial)	1980- 1995	23-37
5	Gen Z (Digital Natives)	1995-2010	8-22
6	Generation Alpha	After 2010	<7

(Source: adopted from Putra, 2016: 130)

When viewed from the table above, the millennial generation is a generation born between 1980 - 1995. This generation is a modern generation that actively works, researches, and thinks innovatively about organizations, has a sense of optimism and a willingness to work with competitive, open, and flexible. Unlike the X generation, millennials have very different expectations about economic, environmental, and social issues. Evenly millennial have better education than X generation, they are quite familiar with technology even most of them are highly skilled with technology. With high confidence, generation is millennial able to work creatively and always have positive energy in various fields including education.

The development of technology in the direction of all-digital now more rapidly. In this digital age, humans generally have a new lifestyle that cannot be separated from electronic devices. Technology is becoming a tool that can help most human needs. Technology has been used by humans to make it easier to do any task and work. The important role of technology is what brings human civilization into the digital age. The digital era has brought about many good changes as a positive impact that can be used as well as possible.

Digital era was born with the emergence of digital, Internet network, especially computer information technology. New media of the digital age have characteristics can be manipulated, network or internet. The mass media switch to new media or the internet because there is a cultural shift in an information delivery. Media capabilities of the digital era is easier for people to receive information more quickly. With the internet media to make mass media in droves move the bow. The increasingly sophisticated of today's digital technology is making great changes to the world, the birth of various advanced digital technologies has been emerging. Various circles have been facilitated in accessing information through many ways, and can enjoy the facilities of digital technology freely and in control.

But at the same time, the digital era also brings many negative impacts, thus becoming a new challenge in human life in this digital age. Challenges in the digital age have also entered into areas such as politics, economics, socio-culture, defense, security, information technology and of course the field of education.

Strengthening character education mainly using the Islamic religious approach for millennials is urgent to do when the above negative things and moral demoralization have been felt in real and occur almost every day adorn the television screen. An example of a real case that just happened is the death of *Guru Budi* by the students themselves in the island of Madura. Another case that is viral is about alcohol abuse that takes many lives in various regions in Indonesia. Both cases are closely related to the negative impact of development in the digital age.

MILLENNIAL GENERATION (GEN Y)

The concept of generation has two basic meanings. Generation may refer either to a familial generation or to a social generation, that is, a cohort of people born in the same date range. (Pyoria, 2017).

Defining generations and exploring their differences is a subject of much current debate that involves both political and economic interests. In the employment context, one area of special interest has been the recent generational shift, which has the arrival of the first digital natives, "native

speakers" of the digital language (Abrams & von Frank, 2014; Howe & Strauss, 2000; Ng, Lyons, & Schweitzer, 2012; Tapscott, 1998; Zemke, Raines, & Filipczak, 1999).

A basic understanding of the classification of generations is the premise that generation is a group of individuals affected by historical events and cultural phenomena occurring and experienced in their phases of life and their occurrence and phenomena lead to the formation of collective memories that impact their lives (Dencker et al., 2008). Thus historical, social, and cultural effects along with these other factors will affect the formation of individual behavior, values, and personality (Caspi & Roberts, 2001; Caspi et al., 2005).

From these explanations there are two main things that underlie grouping generation, namely demographic factors in particular similarity year of birth and the second is sociological factors in particular are events - events that historically, according to Parry & Urwin (2011), the second factor is more widely used as a basis for studies and research on generation differences.

Generation Y is known as the millennial or millennium generation. The expression of the Y generation began to be used in the editorial of a major US newspaper in August 1993. The Millennials are keen to shape and influence the culture, practices, and management of their current workplace (Terjesen, Vinnicombe, & Freeman, 2007, Twenge, 2010). This generation uses many instant communication technologies such as email, SMS, instant messaging and social media like facebook and twitter, in other words Y generation is a generation that grew in the era of booming internet (Lyons, 2004). Further (Lyons, 2004) reveals the characteristics of the Y generation are: the characteristics of each individual differ, depending on where he is brought up, his economic strata and his family's social, his communication pattern is more open than the previous generations, the fanatic social media user and his life is heavily influenced by technological developments, more open to political and economic views, so they look very reactive to environmental changes going on around him, having more attention to wealth.

Some studies consistently compare generational differences, with samples from the 1950s to early 2000, showing differences in the characteristics of the 3 generation groups, baby boomers, X and Y generation (Millennials), one of which is a study from Lancaster and Stillman (2002), which gives the following results:

Table 2
Difference Generation (Lancaster & Stillman)

Factor	Baby Boomers	Generation Xers	Millennial Generation
<i>Attitude</i>	Optimistic	Skeptical	Realistically
<i>Overview</i>	this generation believed in their chances, and often too idealistic to make a positive change in the world. They are also competitive and are looking for ways to make changes from existing systems.	Closed generation, highly independent and potential independent of others to help them	Highly appreciate differences, prefer to work together rather than taking orders, and be very pragmatic when solving problems
<i>Work Habits</i>	Have a high optimistic, hardworking reward personal, believe in change and development of self	Recognizing the diversity and global thinking, want to balance between work and life, informal, self-reliant, using a practical approach to work, want to have - Nice work, enjoy working with the latest technology	Have a taste optimistic high, focus on achievement, confidence, trust in moral values and social, appreciate the diversity of

The results research of Bencsik & Machova (2016) show differences in characteristics of Millennial generation with previous generations, the results can be seen in the following table:

Table 3

**Generational behavioral differences of different age-groups
 Bencsik & Machova, 2016.**

Factors	Baby - boom	X Generation	Y Generation	Z Generation
View	Communal, unified thinking is	self-centered and medium-term	egotistical, short term	No sense of commitment, be happy with what you have and live for the present
Relationship	First and foremost personal	Personal and virtual networks	Principally virtual, network	Virtual and superficial
Aim	Solid existence	Multi-environment, The secure position	Rivalry for the leader position	Live for the present
Self realization	Conscious career building	Rapid promotion	Immediate	Questions the need for it at all
IT	It is based on self-instruction and incomplete	Uses with confidence	Part of its everyday life	Intuitive
Values	Patience, soft skills, respect for traditions, EQ, hard work,	hard work, openness, respect for diversity, curiosity, practicality	Flexibility, carity, broad but superficial knowledge, success orientation, creativity, freedom of information takes priority	Live for the present, rapid reaction to everything, initiator , Brave, rapid information access and content search

(Source: Bencsik & Machova, 2016)

The results show that there are significant characteristic differences between generation Y with other generations, one of the main factors that distinguish is the mastery of information and technology.

DIGITAL ERA AND THE CHALLENGE

Today's increasingly sophisticated digital technology has led to major world changes. Humans have been facilitated in making access to information in many ways, and can enjoy the facilities of digital technology freely, but the negative effects also appear as threatening. Crime is easy to facilitate, online games can damage the young generation, pornography, and copyright infringement easy to do, and others.

The development of digital computer technology, especially the microprocessor with its performance continues to increase, and this technology allows planted on various devices that are owned personally. The development of transmission technologies including computer networks has also triggered internet users and digital broadcasters. Coupled with the development of mobile phones, which grew rapidly into social penetration played a big role in the digital revolution by providing ubiquitous entertainment, communication, and online connectivity.

The digitization of paper-shaped documents into electronic files is made easier in a variety of e-books. With e-books we no longer have to keep the books thick physically and need a large place. With digital files as well as documents becomes clear more concise that at any time can be opened through computers and mobile phones. The development of various applications spread as the production of smart phones with operating system (OS) that increasingly closer to human life that is

intended for the convenience and convenience of its users. The development of the OS also penetrated to other digital equipment such as smart television, smart washing machine, glasses smart, smart coffee machine, smart heart rate regulator, and so forth.

The digital world not only offers great opportunities and benefits for the public and business interests. But it also provides challenges to all areas of life to improve the quality and efficiency in life. The use of various technologies is very easy life, but the digital lifestyle will increasingly depend on the use of mobile phones and computers. The rapid development of technology to penetrate the entire social life of society, it turns out not only changed the social life, society culture but also political life. The sophistication of technology developed by humans is really utilized by politicians who want to gain sympathy, and empathy from the wider community.

The digital era must be taken seriously, mastering, and controlling the role of technology well so that the digital era brings benefits to life (Setiawan, 2017). Education should be the primary medium for understanding, mastering, and treating technology well and correctly. Children and adolescents should be understood with this digital era both beneficial and losses. Parents should also be understood in order to control their children's attitude towards technology and treat it or use it properly and properly. The introduction of the use of various applications that can assist human work needs to be studied in order to know the benefits and their usefulness and can utilize them effectively and efficiently to avoid negative and excessive impacts. Similarly, the government conducts in-depth study of this digital era in various fields such as politics, economics, socio-culture, defense or security as well as information technology.

But on the other hand the life of the current generation is very apprehensive, especially on the change of character and mental. Aggressive children's attitudes and physical violence are often witnessed in association with others is an interconnected phenomenon. The preaching of elementary school children who do bullying with elements of physical violence often appear on television and media online one result of online games with violence. Access to pornography and pornoaction makes children experience a worrying mental change, especially in the association that leads to free sex.

The decline of moral values in children and adolescents is a serious concern of government and society, but in the digital era now with the flow of technology information that is difficult dammed to make the problem is not simple. Uncontrolled media can easily brainwash children through online games. Children are more interested in mobile phones (android) than traditional games, fairy tales, and children's songs are loaded with education. Even merchandise such as alcohol and illegal narcotics are attractively packed for children via the Internet in the form of online games adds complexity to the issue of child / youth morality.

STRENGTHENING CHARACTER EDUCATION BASED ON ISLAM FOR MILLENNIAL GENERATION IN DIGITAL ERA

Some of the problems facing the millennial generation require complex, integrated problem solving solutions. Haught (2004) and Peters (2006) show their optimism that problems can be overcome by facing science and religion. The foundation for the integration of science and faith in education is the most fundamental principle in all Islamic teachings: the monotheism (Kartanegara, 2005). Therefore human beings must receive education based on character (wisdom and belief). The first principle of character a good Islamic based is Being Wise and Positive thinking. (Susanto, 2017: 247).

In the context of Islamic character education or commonly called by the term "moral" or morals has existed since Islam existed because of the Prophet Muhammad. on this earth is to perfect the noble character. In the case of a Muslim child, Prophet Muhammad SAW. "(Salahuddin, 2009: 222). In this Islamic perspective will be rebuilt the foundation of the morality of learners in Islamic education in order to grow into a noble human, human beings who provide benefits for other beings is to become ibadurrahman said Ibn Qoyyim who always play a role in progress as its function as khalifah fil ardh.

God has planted nature to humans for a broad view as the nature of Almighty God (al-Waasi'). However, nature (nature) is now fading disease Al-wahn's (the love of the world and the fear of death) has masked fitrah. We must stay strong. We must be a generation that always thinks positively, in our knowledge, insightful and wise. Understanding many things shows that one has the depth of knowledge and broad insight that leads to policy. It will bring the benefits of life as shown by the Messenger of Allah as an example in our lives.

Islamic religious education substantially has four aspects of material namely the Qur'an of hadith, creed of *akhlak*, *fiqih*, and history of Islamic civilization. The four materials are intended to enable the adherents to become ibadurrahman according to the purpose of Islamic education. The four materials have different roles and functions in order to shape and build an Islamic character, yet all hooks are linked to each other. These four Islamic educational materials are the complete capital base to form the character of the millennial islamic generation. One of the most important Islamic characters of the moment is the thickness of personal piety and social piety. Personal piety deals with good relations with God while social piety concerns good relations with the environment (society and nature).

Strengthening character education for millennial generation by referring to the teachings of Islam can be done if there is cooperation from various parties. Sutarna (2016: 324) says educational institutions consisting of family, school / madrasah and social environment (community) need to be role models or models for learning and education.

First, family education. Education in the family is necessary to build a community of learner about children's education, and is very necessary to be an education policy in an effort to build nation's character in a sustainable manner (Agus Wibowo, 2012: 105). Furthermore Jahroh and Sutarna (2016: 402) argue that the most important factor in strengthening character education is parents, because the planting of values religious, and the basics of life are studied for the first time in the family environment. There are several reasons why education character in this family is important, namely: (1) the basics of behavior and habits ingrained in the family, as well as attitudes and habits; (2) family education runs natural, natural and not artificial. Family life is full of authenticity, it will be clear the characteristics or character of children that can be observed parents continuously and therefore parents can provide a strong character education of their children; (3) family education takes place with love and sincerity; and (4) the family is the first unit in a society in which the relationships contained therein are mostly direct relationships. From the family, the child first acquires the early stages of the socialization process, and through interaction within the family, the child gains knowledge, values, emotions, attitudes, and skills.

Second, school education. The education of noble character especially for Muslims cannot be separated from the implementation of Islamic education (sutarna, 2018: 61). Even finding Parker (2013) points out: "In Indonesia, Islamic education has become an increasingly popular choice for Indonesian parents over the last decade or more." The process of education in schools should be implemented in an integrated manner starting from the principal, the teachers and the elements supporters of other schools. The principal plays a role in coordinating the various resources that exist in the school and perform the functions of leadership. Lunenberg and Irby (2006: 182) stated: "The most important aspect is the teacher who was later put forward by Sharma (2003: 128): "In school, teachers and all elements of the school are required to show good character and role models to the citizens of the school. School environment should also be made as comfortable as possible so that the school residents feel enjoy. In a good environment, children tend to have a good attitude, together with surroundings, or adjust to the environment. (sutarna, 2016: 270). Education based on morals is a must that is a basic lesson, especially education religious of Islam in every educational institution. (Roosyidah and Sutarna, 2016: 489).

Third, community education. Society is an important partner of successful implementation of character education. Implementation of character education as well as anything, if not supported by family and community environment will be in vain. A good community environment will help the character formation of children to be good, and vice versa when the community environment is not good then it will shape the character of a child who is not good

CONCLUSION

Strengthening character education using the principle of Islamic education for millennial generation can be done if there is cooperation from various parties. There are three environments that play an important role in the formation of character, namely family, educational institutions and community environment.

The family is the first and main place of education for the child, they are in the family from the time of the womb until the wedding. According to Ki Hajar Dewantara, Family is the First and Main Education Environment. Thus, the role of the family in terms of education for its members, cannot be replaced even if the child has been educated in formal and “non formal” education institutions. To that end, the family must have the ability to carry out the process of improving nutrition and health, care, nurturing, education and protection. Educational Institutions are the second most important place after a very influential family to develop character education for its citizens. The last educational environment that is expected to help together in realizing the generation of character is the community environment. Society is an partner importantof successful strengthening character education. Implementation of education and strengthening of any kind of character in educational institutions, if not supported by family and community environment will be in vain.

Preparing a formidable millennial generation is a common task. Educational institutions have a very vital role as a *formal* domain that is designedto become the center of activity and development of Islamic education values. For that required synergy in realizing these great hopes for the creation of the 2045 gold generation of Islamic character, superior and competitive.

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