



The Shift of Aqidah and Teenager Morals In The Digital Era

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ABSTRACT

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The digital era brings significant changes in various aspects of life, including the mindset, behavior, and values embraced by the younger generation. The rapid development of information and communication technology has given teenagers unlimited access to various sources of information, culture, and lifestyles from around the world. This research aims to identify the shift in the beliefs and morals of teenagers in the digital era, especially among school-aged adolescents, and to determine the main factors behind this shift in their beliefs and morals. The research method used is the library method. This method was chosen so that the research can produce a comprehensive understanding based on relevant data sources. The researcher focuses on a discussion that moves from general to specific, starting with an explanation of the concepts of aqidah and akhlak, then discussing the challenges of aqidah in the digital era, the challenges of akhlak in the digital era, efforts to strengthen aqidah and akhlak in the digital era, and concluding with a discussion on the impact of the shift in aqidah and akhlak on adolescents. The efforts made by parents in addressing the shift in faith and morals among teenagers in the digital era are Parents need to create a warm and open relationship with their children, so that teenagers feel comfortable discussing religious and moral values. Instilling religious values from an early age through formal and non-formal education, as well as setting an example in daily life. Supervising the use of technology with a non-restrictive approach, such as using parental controls, discussing appropriate content, and providing guidance on media ethics.

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Introduction

In this fast-paced digital era, technological advances have changed many aspects of people's lives, especially teenagers, including religious and moral values. Adolescence is a time when someone is looking for their identity so that their condition is often easily swayed. Adolescent

morality also experiences very rapid development, to reach a stable condition. Several moral development figures say that adolescent moral development goes through several stages. Each stage of moral development requires education and supervision in order to develop properly (Rahman, et al., 2022).

This digital transformation affects the way humans interact, think and act. While on the one hand technology offers wider access to information, on the other hand, this convenience also has a negative impact on individual and societal morality. The presence of social media, for example, not only facilitates the spread of positive information but also facilitates the spread of content that is contrary to Islamic religious values and morals. Research conducted by Zakiah Daradjat (2002) shows that exposure to content that is not in accordance with Islamic principles can weaken faith and form deviant morals in society (Daradjat, 2002).

Another phenomenon that is also of concern is the increasing individualism and low social empathy among society. This is driven by digital communication patterns which tend to focus on individual needs without paying attention to social norms and religious values. Ahmad and Ibrahim (2021) noted that social media often encourages hedonistic and narcissistic behavior, both of which conflict with Islamic moral principles which prioritize simplicity and social concern (Ahmad & Ibrahim, 2021).

Not only that, the digital era also influences people's understanding of the teachings of the faith. Access to invalid or unverified religious information often leads to confusion and misunderstanding. This is in line with the findings of Nasrullah (2018), who stated that without supervision, society is vulnerable to being exposed to deviant teachings that are widely spread in cyberspace (Nasrullah, 2018).

Thus, the changes that occur in this digital era provide new challenges for the maintenance of faith and the formation of noble morals. Therefore, efforts are needed from various parties to ensure that technological developments can be utilized positively and in line with religious teachings.

The digital era has brought major changes in various aspects of people's lives. With the rapid development of information technology, social interactions and the way individuals access knowledge have changed drastically. However, these changes have not only had a positive impact; There are also serious challenges that arise, especially regarding shifts in beliefs and morals. This shift can affect society's perspective on religious values and morality, which has the potential to result in a shift in social and cultural identity.

The rapid development of digital technology in this modern era has brought significant changes in various aspects of people's lives, including in terms of faith and morals. Aqidah, as the foundation of faith and belief in religion, as well as morals related to ethics and morality, is experiencing various

challenges amidst the rapid flow of information and digital lifestyles. The use of the internet, social media, as well as fast and unlimited access to information, influences the way people understand and practice religious teachings. This indirectly has the potential to shift the values of aqidah and morals in everyday life.

On the one hand, the digital era offers positive opportunities, such as ease of accessing religious information, lectures and online studies which can increase people's knowledge of religion. However, on the other hand, there are also negative impacts in the form of the spread of invalid information, misunderstanding of religious teachings, and an increase in content that is not educational and is not in accordance with religious values and morals. These changes can give rise to various challenges and conflicts in people's religious understanding and practices, especially for the younger generation who are more vulnerable to the influence of technology.

Based on the background above, several problems can be formulated that will be discussed in this article, namely: (1) How do the beliefs and morals of society change in the digital era? (2) What factors influence the shift in faith and morals in the digital era? (3) What are the positive and negative impacts of the development of digital technology on people's faith and morals?

Method

This research is structured using the library research method, where this method is carried out by gathering various data sources obtained from relevant reading references. (Zed, 2008). The data collection method was carried out by gathering various literatures in the form of books, scientific articles, historical records, verses from the Quran and Hadith, and scientific reports discussing the shift in faith and morals of teenagers in the digital era. The reading materials were then collected, analyzed and recorded using descriptive analysis methods. The analyzed data were then presented using the deductive method, starting from a general explanation to a specific explanation aimed at producing a conclusion from the research findings. In this way, parents can address the shift in faith and morals among teenagers in the digital era by creating a warm and open relationship with their children, so that teenagers feel comfortable discussing religious and moral values.

Discussion

Understanding Creed and Morals

Creed In Islam, it means belief or faith in Allah SWT, which includes belief in the six pillars of faith, namely faith in Allah, angels, books, messengers, the last day, and qada and qadar. Aqidah is the foundation that underlies worship and all behavior of a Muslim (Rahardjo, 2019).

Ethics are actions or attitudes that reflect Islamic values in everyday life. Good morals such as honesty, patience, humility, and mutual respect, while bad morals such as arrogance, envy, and

reproach (Al-Ghazali, 2017). Although in society there is often confusion regarding the terminology of morals, ethics and morals, in this article what is meant by morals are morals that are inherent in religious values which according to Islamic terminology are called akhlak.

Challenges of Aqidah in the Digital Era

The digital era has had a significant impact on people's beliefs, especially because of the wide openness of information. Challenges that arise include:

1. **Unverified Information**

People in the digital era have easy access to information from various sources. However, not all information received is verified, especially on religious issues. This can influence a person's confidence and belief in religious teachings (Hasanuddin, 2021).

2. **The Influence of Deviant Understanding**

The ease of information allows various deviant ideas to spread, such as radicalism or heretical teachings in the name of religion. Social media and digital platforms have become a means to disseminate information that is sometimes not in accordance with Islamic teachings, so that people, especially the younger generation, are vulnerable to being influenced (Ismail, 2020).

3. **Technology stuttering**

Technology that is hitting teenagers demands teenagers to be able to adapt well, especially for those who are still technology stuttering. Technology stuttering is an attitude where a teenager follows the current, without thinking critically about the content or information presented. They are happy and deceived by new offerings that are considered manifestations of progress (Ru'iyah, 2019)

Moral Challenges in the Digital Era

In the digital era, changes in people's behavior are influenced by more intense interactions in cyberspace. Here are some moral challenges in the digital era:

1. **Culture of Hate and Cyberbullying**

Social media is often used as a place to vent hatred, judging, and insulting others. This phenomenon is against morality Islam advocates for mutual respect and guarding the tongue (Aisyah & Ahmad, 2018). Cyber Bullying is an affecting social problem mental health, especially among teenagers.

2. **Consume Negative Content**

In the digital era, negative content such as pornography, violence and the culture of hedonism are increasingly easy to access. This has the potential to damage the morals of the younger generation who should grow up with Islamic values (Munir, 2019).

3. Lack of Empathy and Solidarity

Interactions that occur through gadget screens often make people lose their sense of empathy for other people. People become more individualistic and care less about each other (Kamil & Zuhri, 2020).

Aqidah shift

Aqidah is the foundation of belief in religion that guides individual and societal behavior. In the digital era, many factors influence the shift in aqidah, including:

1. **Access to Various Information:** With the internet, people can easily access various information, including ideologies and beliefs that are different from those they adhere to. Research by Amira et al. (2020) shows that teenagers are more susceptible to being influenced by distorted thinking due to easy access to unfiltered content.
2. **Radicalization:** Digital platforms have also become a means for the spread of extreme ideologies. According to Buntoro (2021), radical groups use social media to spread narratives that attract the attention of the younger generation, changing the way they understand and appreciate religious teachings.

Moral Shift

Morals include norms and behavior that are considered good in society. In the digital era, there are several phenomena that show a shift in morals:

1. **Cyberbullying:** Anonymity in cyberspace causes an increase in online bullying. Sari (2019) notes that many teenagers engage in this behavior, which shows reduced empathy and a sense of social responsibility.
2. **Consumtivism and Materialism:** People who are exposed to advertising and hedonistic lifestyles on social media tend to develop consumerist behavior. Huda (2022) found that social media use is directly related to increased materialistic behavior among young people, which shifts the focus from spiritual values.

The Impact of Shifting Aqidah and Morals on Adolescents

The theory of social change, as described by Comte and Spencer, can be used to understand this shift. Changes in technology and communication affect social structures and interactions between individuals, which in turn impact society's values and beliefs, including: (1) **Decline in Religious Values:** Teenagers are increasingly moving away from religious activities such as prayer, reading the Koran, and taking part in Islamic studies. (2) **Hedonistic Behavior:** Influenced by digital culture, some teenagers are starting to place more importance on consumer lifestyles, physical appearance, and popularity on social media. (3) **Decreased Respect for Parents and Teachers:** With the ease of getting information on the internet, many teenagers feel they no longer need to depend on parents or teachers to gain knowledge.

Efforts to Strengthen Beliefs and Morals in the Digital Era

To overcome challenges in the digital era, various efforts are needed to strengthen people's beliefs and morals, including:

1. **Intensive Religious Education.** Strong religious education is needed to protect the younger generation from various deviant beliefs and misinformation. Families, schools and religious institutions have an important role in educating the younger generation so that they have a solid foundation of faith (Rahman, 2022).
2. **Digital Content Monitoring.** The government, society and digital platforms must work together to control and filter content that does not comply with religious norms. This is to ensure that content accessed by the public, especially the younger generation, does not damage their morals (Samsudin, 2021).
3. **Moral Building Through Social Media.** Social media can be used as a means of preaching and moral development. With positive content, users can be encouraged to practice Islamic values in everyday life, even in a digital environment (Syafii, 2022).
4. **Strengthening Islamic personality.** Strengthening Islamic personality is very important for teenagers to avoid moral disengagement. No matter how big the onslaught of technology that is free from values and religion, if a teenager has a strong Islamic personality, they will be able to get through it easily (Ru'iyah, et al., 2024). In order to strengthen the Islamic personality so that strong morals are formed, it can be done at school and at home. Schools in particular must be able to establish good cooperation with parents (Ru'iyah, 2019).

Conclusion

The shift in beliefs and morals in the digital era is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon. Easy access to information, as well as the negative influence of social media, has triggered serious challenges to religious and moral values. To address this shift, it is important to increase relevant religious education and digital literacy. Communities that support positive values are also important in shaping people's character. With strategic steps, it is hoped that society can continue to adhere to the principles of faith and morals amidst the rapid flow of change.

The digital era has brought significant changes to people's lives, including in terms of faith and morals. People's beliefs are vulnerable to being influenced by various unverified information, while people's morals face challenges such as a culture of hatred and individualism. To overcome this, the role of religious education, content monitoring, and the use of social media as a means of fostering positive morals is needed.

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