DIGITAL LEARNING IN GEN Z ERA

Sastha Immanuella Sitanggang[1], Clara Manihuruk[2], Helena Christin Saragih[3], Tengku S. Khairunnisa[4], Finley Putra Ginting[5], Rahma Valentine[6]

sasthastg7@gmail.com[1], manihurukclara7@gmail.com[2], helenasaragih3@gmail.com[3], tengkusyarifahkhairunnisa@gmail.com[4], finleyginting8@gmail.com[5], vlntne02@gmail.com[6]

Universitas Negeri Medan

ABSTRACT

In the digital era, Generation Z faces new dynamics in their learning process which is influenced by technological advances. This article explores the challenges, advantages and disadvantages of learning using digital technology faced by this generation. This article also proposes strategies to optimize the learning experience, such as teaching digital literacy, implementing time management techniques, and encouraging positive use of technology. By understanding digital learning, Generation Z can utilize technology to improve the effectiveness and quality of their learning in the digital era.

Keywords: *Digital Learning, Generation Z, covid-19, strategies in digital learning, weakness digital learning.*

INSTRUCTION

In today's rapidly developing digital era, Generation Z, which consists of individuals born between the mid-1990s and early 2010s, is facing significant changes in the way they learn and access information, especially during Covid 19 when all activities are carried out online. . Technological advances have drastically changed the educational landscape, providing a previously unimaginable array of tools and resources. However, these changes also create new challenges that students and educators must face. Technological advances offer unprecedented access to a wealth of learning resources, from online course platforms to interactive educational applications. With the ability to access information in seconds and learn from global sources, Generation Z has the opportunity to gain knowledge in a more flexible and personalized way. However, this information overload can also cause confusion and difficulty in distinguishing relevant data from inaccurate or misleading information.additionally, technological distractions, such as social media and mobile notifications, often distract students from academic work, adding to the challenge of maintaining focus and productivity. The digital divide is still a significant problem, where gaps in access to technology and digital skills create gaps in learning opportunities.This article will explore the various challenges, advantages and disadvantages that Generation Z faces in digital learning. By understanding this context and dynamics, we can develop more effective strategies to make optimal use of technology and overcome the obstacles we face.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, we delve deeper into the challenges, advantages, disadvantages, and strategies faced by Generation Z in digital learning, along with strategies to optimize their learning experience.

Challenges in Digital Learning

A. Bad Weather

Can cause internet connection problems, with rain being the most common issue. During heavy rain, thunderstorms, and strong winds, the connection often becomes slow and unstable. It is believed that rain droplets and unpredictable wind directions block the internet signal.

B. Overloaded Networks

When too many people use the internet at the same time, the network becomes slow

because the bandwidth is divided. You need to be patient and wait until fewer people are using the network.

C. Disruptive Applications

Some apps can slow down the mobile connection, so it is important to adjust the settings of apps that are not very useful.

D. Different SIM Card Frequencies

Different SIM cards have different frequencies, and weaker signals make it harder to get a stable connection, causing internet disruptions.

E. Running Out of Data

When your data runs out suddenly, or when a bonus package reaches its speed limit, your connection will be slower.

F. Service Provider Limitations in Certain Areas

In some remote areas, there is no internet connection or signal because of physical obstacles, like many trees blocking the connection.

G. Ongoing Repairs or Maintenance

Repairs can slow down the internet connection, causing interruptions in the network.

H. Forgotten Portable Hotspot

If you forget to turn off your portable hotspot and someone connects to it, the internet will slow down and your data will be used up.

I. Problematic Operating System

Slow internet might not always be the provider's fault. Sometimes, the issue comes from the phone's operating system, and restarting it can fix the problem.

Strength of Digital Technology in Learning
1. Learning can take place without teachers and students needing to be in the same place or time.
2. Using communication and information technology as a learning tool reduces costs for both distance education providers and students.
3. Digital materials and written interactions allow students to review the information repeatedly.
4. Good communication is essential, and logistics are simple.
5. It reduces additional expenses, such as classrooms and teaching staff.
6. Students have control over when and at what pace they learn.
7. Distance learning is more flexible because students can adjust their studies while working.

Weakness of Digital Technology in Learning
1. The lack of direct contact between teachers and students slows down the building of social relationships and values, which are core to education.
2. There is less control over the learning process since distance education relies heavily on self-directed learning.
3. Technology cannot fully replace the direct communication and interaction found in traditional education.
4. Distance learning requires more time and effort than face-to-face learning.
5. Administrative support is needed to manage a large number of students in distance learning.
6. A lack of structure, along with the need for high motivation and initiative, can be challenging for students.

Strategies to Optimize Digital Learning
1. Teaching Digital Literacy

Digital literacy should be an integral part of the educational curriculum. Teaching students how to evaluate information sources, use digital tools effectively, and understand online ethics can enhance their ability to learn independently and critically. Digital literacy education also helps students avoid misinformation and improve their research skills.

2. Implementing Time Management Techniques

Developing effective time management techniques is crucial in a digital learning environment. Techniques such as the Pomodoro Technique, which involves working in set intervals with short breaks, can help students improve focus and productivity. Additionally, using time management apps and maintaining a consistent study schedule can aid students in managing their study time more effectively.

3. Encouraging Positive Technology Use

Technology should be used positively to support learning rather than serve as a source of distraction. Encouraging students to engage in online learning communities, collaborative projects, and creative explorations using technology can enhance their learning experiences. Positive technology use helps create a more productive and enjoyable learning environment.

CONCLUSION

Understanding the challenges and opportunities faced by Generation Z in digital learning allows us to design better strategies to support them. By focusing on digital literacy, time management, and positive technology use, we can maximize the potential of technology and overcome barriers in their learning process. In this digital age, the ability to adapt quickly and effectively is key to academic and professional success for Generation Z.

REFERENCE

Wijiatun, L., & Indrajit, R. E. (2020). Strategi Pembelajaran Jarak Jauh. Yogyakarta: Andi Publisher.

Twenge, J. M. (2017). iGen: Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy – and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood.

Kumar, V. (2017). Impact of Digitalization on Education System.

Nagy, J. T. (2018). The Role of Digital Learning in the Education of Generation Z

Selwyn, N. (2016). Education and Technology: Key Issues and Debates.