

KETIMPANGAN DIGITAL DAN REPRODUKSI STRATIFIKASI SOSIAL: PERAN SEKOLAH DALAM MEMPERLEBAR ATAU MEMPERSEMPIT JURANG PENDIDIKAN DI ERA PASCA-PANDEMI

Mujahidin

Universitas Sultan Muhammad Syafiuddin Sambas, Indonesia
bangdemujahidin3@gmail.com

Abstract

The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the mass digitalisation of education; however, this transformation has actually exposed and exacerbated the deep-rooted structural inequalities within the Indonesian education system. This essay aims to critically examine the relationship between the digital divide and the reproduction of social stratification, as well as to analyse the ambivalent role of schools in widening or narrowing the educational divide in the post-pandemic era. Employing a literature review with a descriptive-analytical qualitative approach, this study integrates the perspectives of Pierre Bourdieu's theory of social reproduction and contemporary digital divide theory to construct a coherent argument regarding the structural mechanisms of digital educational inequality. The analysis reveals that the digital divide operates as a mechanism for the reproduction of social stratification through the transformation of traditional cultural capital into digital cultural capital, whereby students from upper-middle-class backgrounds gain cumulative advantages from access to infrastructure, high levels of digital literacy, and adequate support ecosystems, whilst students from marginalised backgrounds experience digital exclusion that reinforces the cycle of structural poverty. Furthermore, schools play a dualistic role: on the one hand, they can narrow the gap through inclusive hybrid learning, affirmative digital literacy programmes, compensatory resource allocation policies, and digital justice pedagogy; on the other hand, they can widen inequalities through uncritical adoption of technology, class bias in pedagogical design, the commercialisation of online educational services, and assessment practices that assume an equality of access that does not exist in reality. This essay concludes that realising equitable education in the post-pandemic era requires a paradigm shift from a technocratic approach towards a holistic approach that integrates infrastructure, pedagogical capacity, affirmative policies, and the deconstruction of structural biases in the digitalisation of education.

Keywords: *digital inequality, reproduction of social stratification, digital cultural capital, educational equity, post-pandemic learning, the role of schools, digital divide, Bourdieu*

Abstrak

Pandemi COVID-19 telah mempercepat digitalisasi pendidikan secara masif, namun transformasi ini justru mengungkap dan memperburuk ketimpangan struktural yang sudah mengakar dalam sistem pendidikan Indonesia. Esai ini bertujuan untuk menelaah secara kritis hubungan antara ketimpangan digital dan reproduksi stratifikasi sosial, serta menganalisis peran ambivalen sekolah dalam memperlebar atau mempersempit jurang pendidikan di era pasca-pandemi. Menggunakan metode kajian pustaka dengan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif-analitis, penelitian ini mengintegrasikan perspektif teori reproduksi sosial Pierre Bourdieu dan teori *digital divide* kontemporer untuk membangun argumentasi koheren mengenai mekanisme struktural ketidaksetaraan pendidikan digital. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa ketimpangan digital beroperasi sebagai mekanisme reproduksi stratifikasi sosial melalui transformasi modal kultural tradisional menjadi *digital cultural capital*, di mana siswa dari kelas menengah-atas memperoleh keuntungan kumulatif dari akses infrastruktur, literasi digital tingkat tinggi, dan ekosistem pendukung yang memadai, sementara siswa dari latar belakang marjinal mengalami *digital exclusion* yang memperkuat siklus kemiskinan struktural. Lebih jauh, sekolah memiliki peran dualistik: di satu sisi, mereka dapat mempersempit jurang melalui pembelajaran hibrida yang inklusif, program literasi digital afirmatif, kebijakan alokasi sumber daya yang kompensatoris, dan pedagogi keadilan digital; di sisi lain, mereka dapat memperlebar