

THE ROLE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN SHAPING THE CHARACTER OF THE YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE DIGITAL AGE

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Abstract

The digital era has had a significant impact on the mindset, behaviour and lifestyle of the younger generation. These changes require education that is not only knowledge-oriented, but also focuses on building strong character. Religious education has a strategic role in instilling moral, ethical and spiritual values, which are the main foundations for facing the challenges of globalisation and the rapid flow of information. This study aims to analyse the role of religious education in shaping the character of the younger generation in the digital age, focusing on the internalisation of religious values, relevant learning methods, and the use of technology as an educational medium. The research method used is a literature study with a descriptive qualitative approach, examining various literature related to religious education, technological developments, and character building. The results of the study show that religious education is effective in strengthening the values of integrity, responsibility, tolerance, and social awareness when supported by innovative learning methods and the wise use of digital technology. In conclusion, religious education plays an important role as a moral fortress for the younger generation, as well as a guideline in building noble character amid the challenges and opportunities of the digital age.

Keywords: religious education, character of the younger generation, digital era, moral values, learning technology.

Introduction

In the digital age, marked by advances in information and communication technology, the younger generation faces a variety of complex challenges. The influence of social media, the internet, and unlimited access to information often has both positive and negative effects. In this context, religious education plays an important role in shaping the character of the younger generation. Religious education not only serves to teach spiritual values, but also to shape good attitudes and behaviour amid the rapid flow of information.

For example, many young people today are exposed to negative content on social media, such as fake news, hate speech, and other unethical behaviour. This can influence their mindset and behaviour, making them more vulnerable to bad influences. This is where religious education plays a role as a filter that can help them sort out good and bad information. Good religious education can provide a strong moral foundation, so that the younger generation can be wiser in using the technology and information they access.

According to data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII) in 2021, the number of internet users in Indonesia reached 202.6 million people, or around