

THE INFLUENCE OF INTERNET USAGE ON THE SPIRITUAL CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT OF ELEVENTH-GRADE STUDENTS AT IMMANUEL CHRISTIAN PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOL

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Abstract

This study aims to examine the influence of internet usage on the spiritual character development of eleventh-grade students at Immanuel Christian Private High School Medan. The research was conducted from June to July 2023 involving students of class XI as the research participants. The population of this study consisted of 30 students, and because the population size was relatively small, all members of the population were used as the research sample using the census sampling technique. The independent variable in this study is internet usage, while the dependent variable is the spiritual character development of students. Data were collected through a questionnaire distributed to all respondents. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive statistical analysis and Spearman Rank correlation analysis (rs) to determine the relationship between the variables studied. The results of the analysis show that internet usage has a positive and significant effect on the spiritual character development of students, indicated by the calculated t value of 6.75 which is higher than the t-table value at the 0.05 significance level (2.045). This finding indicates that responsible and constructive internet use can support the development of students' spiritual character.

Keywords: internet usage, spiritual character, students.

INTRODUCTION

Background of the problem

In the era of information technology, the sophistication of the internet, particularly in relation to the use of social media, has grown rapidly. As a result, every human activity is connected to social media, which utilizes an internet connection. In almost every aspect of life, people use social media services to fill their free time. Internet technology is the concretization of the development of virtual technology that can provide communication, entertainment, or inspiration accessible via the internet (Hamidah et al., 2021: 1).

Based on the explanation above, the development of internet technology, especially through social media, is an event in an era of progress that can be experienced by almost everyone by continuing to use it in everyday activities for various purposes, including: to search for information, entertainment, increase knowledge, make it easier for someone to communicate without being limited by distance, place and time, and many other benefits. Social media as an internet-based

application with its existence allows for social interaction and data exchange activities between fellow internet users (Marlina et al., 2017: 58).

Teachers and students should be able to utilize social media to provide optimal learning for students. Proper Christian Religious Education (PAK) not only enhances spiritual knowledge but also enhances students' spiritual development. Therefore, it is necessary to utilize various methods, including the use of internet technology, to facilitate learning and foster spiritual growth, especially for the students under its guidance. According to Rantung and Boiliu (2020: 93), Christian Religious Education functions to control technology consumption so that it remains aligned with Christian values in the era of Industry 4.0.

A Christian Religious Education (PAK) teacher must be able to convey Biblical values through various methods, including using internet technology not only to search for data, entertainment or communication but more than all, it must also be used well, namely

as a tool to improve the spiritual progress of students at school, especially for the teaching participants he/she is guiding.

In this era of digital technology, the use of internet tools is expected to be a valuable tool in efforts to enhance the spiritual development of students. Internet technology can be used efficiently and effectively to convey Christian values wisely, as every innovation and technological advancement requires Christians to respond biblically.

The increase in data and explanations regarding the Bible will certainly continue to increase spiritual outpourings among students, which will improve their spiritual progress (Eliasaputra, et al. (2020: 3). PAK teachers must use social media as an alternative to carry out virtual spiritual guidance and focus students on Christian values to help them be free from the misuse of internet tools related to negative conditions. Internet media that is generally used in an improper manner can result in changes in consumer morals to become bad, even to the point of etiquette that causes fatal incidents.

Educating students in schools has become the responsibility of every teacher, especially Christian Religious Education (PAK) teachers who need to implement spiritual approaches. In this modern era, students and teachers are equipped with various internet facilities and services that offer numerous conveniences in various aspects of life. If internet services are not used properly, they can disrupt themselves and harm others. PAK teachers must understand that the internet has a significant impact on its users, especially spiritually. Students who don't master internet usage properly can be affected by negative morals.

Technological developments can be seen through the advancement of the internet, which can have both positive and negative consequences for individuals if used incorrectly or excessively. The positive impact is that it makes it easier for many people to communicate with each other and enjoy entertainment provided by specialized internet services. Meanwhile, the negative impact, particularly in the spiritual realm, is quite

significant, with many people misusing social media for bad deeds that violate Christian values and are not in accordance with the teachings of God's Word.

Regarding internet use, students at Immanuel Private Christian High School in Medan are also potentially involved in internet use, which can have both positive and negative consequences for their spiritual development. Students who can use the internet wisely will certainly improve their spiritual development, where many sites and content related to God's Word are available, thus enabling students to better understand God's Word. For students who are not wise in their internet use, it can lead them to become involved in pornography. The participants, who are usually young people, are in the age of puberty, where their curiosity and curiosity are very high, including curiosity about sexual matters. Misuse of the internet by students will result in a decline in their spiritual development (Saingo, 2022:95).

Furthermore, unsupervised internet use by parents can lead students to engage with radical content. Radicalism can be simply defined as a radical act that believes one's own religion is the only true religion, while others who disagree with it are wrong. Generally, many people who engage in radicalism will become bold enough to blindly pursue their religion, which can have devastating consequences for themselves and others, even if it can lead to death. Social media is an effective way to disseminate radical ideas to anyone who frequently connects online. The problem is that many young people tend to be influenced by radical information they read or hear on social networking sites. Radicalism often takes the form of religion, leading many to participate in justifying anything, even if it harms others (Sulfikar, 2018:78).

Based on the background above, the author conducted research on : "**Correlation between Internet Media Use and the Spiritual Development of Class XI Students at Immanuel Christian Private High School Medan in 2023** "

Research Objectives

1. For know use of internet media with development spirituality student class XI Private High School Immanuel Christian Medan 2023 .
2. For know connection between use of internet media with development spirituality student Class XI Immanuel Christian Private High School Medan 2023

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Use of Internet Media

Internet interpretation (interconnected networking) means interconnected computer networks. The term internet refers to the combination of computer networks all over the world. So, the internet is a combination of computer networks all over the world that create a large data network system. (Supriyanto, 2009: 3).

The internet is made up of millions of computers connected together from all over the world, providing a way for data to be sent and shared 24 hours a day. These computers can be located in homes, schools, universities, government units, organizations, industries, and more. The internet is often defined as a network of networks because all the smaller networks owned by organizations or individuals are connected together, creating one giant network. (Rafiudin, 2006: 177).

Nugroho (2006: 25) reports that the internet is made up of interconnected computer networks. Each network can connect tens, hundreds, or even thousands of computers, allowing these computers to share information and data with each other worldwide .

Benefits of Internet Media for Students and Benefits of the Internet for PAK Learning

Sidharta (1996:25) states that another use of the internet is as a tool or medium for classroom teaching and learning. With the availability of these facilities, it's no surprise that the internet has become a way of life for many people, including students. The primary reason students use the internet is to fulfill their teacher's responsibilities. Therefore, in the world of learning, the internet provides access

to information that can facilitate teaching and learning.

Catholic Religious Education teachers must understand that as public figures, their every action is constantly scrutinized by students and many people in their immediate environment. Uno and Lamatenggo (2016: 3) report that teachers serve as role models for students and their community. Therefore, Catholic Religious Education teachers must be able to present themselves as public figures with positive Christian values, both in the real world and online. Chakrawati (2019: 19) also reports that public figures should use social media to post positive tweets so that everyone who sees them gets a positive impression of them.

Social media services offer a wealth of convenience and entertainment, leading nearly everyone to use them. For example, Christian Education (PAK) teachers frequently use social media in their daily activities. However, it's important to note that some students use social media for non-spiritual purposes. For example, students mostly use social media (YouTube or TikTok) solely for entertainment by watching specific films without considering creating spiritually valuable films to upload to YouTube or TikTok so they can be viewed by students wherever they are. Students mostly use social media (Facebook or WhatsApp) solely to post photos of themselves without considering posting Christian quotes, biblical verses, or spiritual activities that could nourish the spirituality of those who view them. One of the benefits of social media is that it makes it easier for someone to communicate with anyone, anywhere, and at any time. Social media is generally used to streamline or facilitate communication with various parties. The problem is that usually the teaching participants only focus on one service, namely general speaking, without any understanding of using social media for spiritual guidance for teaching participants, which can actually be done as often as possible without understanding distance and time (Rizki et al., (2018: 7).

The sophistication of digital technology allows many people to access

information through social media in a short time. For example, Christian Religious Education (PAK) teachers often use social media to find information that suits their needs. However, the problem is, the data accessed is only for personal enrichment. It should be used to share Christian information and provide Christian links so that it can be easily accessed by students. The technological advancements experienced through social media should not be misused by PAK teachers. The services available on social media often lull individuals, including PAK teachers, into becoming distracted and focusing on entertainment, articles, and general communication, without realizing that when used properly, social media can become a tool for spreading the Gospel of salvation through the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, PAK teachers must serve to raise awareness among their colleagues and students that if social media is not used properly and correctly, it will only lead to social impacts that can be detrimental to themselves and others (Saingo, 2022: 93).

Many Catholic Religious Education (PAK) teachers are still using conventional teaching methods or procedures (such as writing, memorizing, etc.) in their classrooms, believing that these methods are sufficient to create joy and foster Christian character in their students. This can hinder efforts to effectively convey Christian values, resulting in a lack of spiritual growth in their students. Furthermore, many Catholic Religious Education (PAK) teachers are unaware that methods or strategies for guiding are crucial for capturing students' attention. A teacher's guiding method is a crucial aspect that influences students' understanding of the lessons being taught (Sobur, 2016: 217).

Spiritual Development

For Jahja (2011: 28-29), development is the increase in skills in the form and function of a more environmentally friendly body in an orderly and predictable pattern, as a result of the maturation process. Development involves the differentiation of body cells, body tissues, organs, and tool systems that grow in such a way that each can fulfill its function.

According to Hartinah (2008:24), there are various definitions related to progress. Progress is a process of qualitative change that refers to the quality of function of physical organs, not the body itself. Therefore, the emphasis of the meaning of progress lies in the improvement of intellectual function manifested in physiological abilities. Progress will continue throughout a person's life, while development often ends when a person reaches physical maturity.

It can be concluded that social progress is self-adaptation to norms based on the existence of status and stimuli resulting from physical maturity through the development of physical and spiritual organs. It can also be defined as an attitude that is appropriate to social demands acquired through maturity and the opportunity to learn from various responses.

Theological Meaning of Spiritual Development

God is committed to always participating in the life of our spiritual development. It is stated in the Bible, "I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus" (Philippians 1:6).

Jesus is the source of spiritual progress. It is stated in the Bible, "You have received Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, you must live in him. You must be rooted in him and built on him. You must grow steadily in the faith you have been taught, and your hearts must overflow with thanksgiving." (Colossians 2:6-7)

Prayer is a dialogue with God. It is found in the Bible, Know that the LORD has chosen for himself a loved one; the LORD is attentive when I call to him (Psalm 4:3).

Prayer is a great opportunity. It is in the Bible that we must come boldly to the throne of grace, so that we may welcome mercy and create grace to find our help in time (Hebrews 4: 16). God can be approached. It's in the Bible, you who hear prayer. To You come all the living" (Psalm 65: 2).

3. RESEARCH METHODS

This research will be conducted on 11th-grade students at Immanuel Christian Private High School, Medan, and will be conducted between June and July 2023.

According to Arikunto (2017:173) "population is the entire research subject". From the opinion above, what becomes population of this research is overall student Class XI of Immanuel Christian Private High School Medan.

According to Arikunto (2017:174), a sample is a portion or representative of the population being studied. The sample in this research was 30 students in grade XI of Immanuel Christian Private High School, Medan.

This type of research is descriptive correlational, using a correlational approach. This approach aims to identify whether there is a relationship or connection between the two variables.

Research variables are conditions that are manipulated, controlled, or observed by researchers. This research involves several variables, namely:

1. The independent variable in this research is the use of internet media.
2. The dependent variable is the spiritual development of students.

The hypothesis test, namely to determine the correlation between the use of internet media and the spiritual development of class X I students at Immanuel Christian Private High School, was carried out using the *Spearman Rank correlation test* (rs) which was calculated using the formula (Sugiyono, 2019:257):

$$rs = 1 - \frac{6 \sum_{i=1}^N di^2}{N^3 - N}$$

Where:

rs = *Spearman's rank correlation coefficient*.

N = Number of samples

di = Ranking difference.

To test the significance of *Spearman's rank*, a t-test was used with a 99% confidence level using the formula:

$$t = rs \sqrt{\frac{N-2}{1-rs^2}}$$

Where:

1. If the t-count $\geq$ t-table ($\alpha = 0.05$) then H_0 is rejected, meaning there is a significant correlation between the use of internet media and the spiritual development of class X I students at Immanuel Christian Private High School in 2023.
2. If t-count $<$ t-table ($\alpha = 0.05$) then H_0 is accepted, meaning there is no significant correlation between the use of internet media and the spiritual development of class X I students at Immanuel Christian Private High School in 2023.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Research Results

a. Validity Test

Questionnaires must be tested for validity. The statements used in the questionnaire must be valid so that each respondent understands their meaning and can answer the questions posed in the questionnaire to the best of their ability. Invalid questionnaire items are automatically less relevant as indicators for measuring variables.

In this research, there are 15 questions representing the internet media usage variable and 15 questions representing the internet media usage variable. This validity test is carried out using the *product moment correlation formula* (Pearson correlation) with a significance level of 5%. Items are considered valid if the calculated r is greater than the table r . Based on the research questionnaire consisting of 15 question items, the results of the correlation calculation for the score of each statement item have a correlation value (r -table). The validity test is carried out by comparing the calculated r value with the table r . The r value shows the correlation coefficient between the statement items and the total respondent's answers.

A significance level of 5% with $n = 30$, then the r table value is obtained, namely 0.361. If the

calculated r is positive, and $r_{\text{calculated}} > r_{\text{table}}$, then the item is valid, whereas if $r_{\text{calculated}} < r_{\text{table}}$, then the item is invalid. The validity test of the

statement for the internet media usage variable can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Analysis of the Validity Test Results of the Internet Media Usage Variable (X)

Statement	r_{count}	r_{table}	Validity
1	0.653	0.361	Valid
2	0.735	0.361	Valid
3	0.695	0.361	Valid
4	0.674	0.361	Valid
5	0.688	0.361	Valid
6	0.648	0.361	Valid
7	0.659	0.361	Valid
8	0.679	0.361	Valid
9	0.699	0.361	Valid
10	0.647	0.361	Valid
11	0.711	0.361	Valid
12	0.668	0.361	Valid
13	0.640	0.361	Valid
14	0.635	0.361	Valid
15	0.753	0.361	Valid

From the test results, it is known that the overall r -calculated value of each question is greater than the r -table (0.361), so it can be said that all questions on the internet media usage variables used as indicators in this research are

declared valid and have met the validity requirements.

The validity test of the statement for the spiritual development variable can be seen in Table 2.

Table 5. Analysis of the Validity Test Results of the Spiritual Development Variable (Y)

Statement	r_{count}	r_{table}	Validity
1	0.677	0.361	Valid
2	0.831	0.361	Valid
3	0.624	0.361	Valid
4	0.614	0.361	Valid
5	0.711	0.361	Valid
6	0.780	0.361	Valid
7	0.661	0.361	Valid
8	0.667	0.361	Valid
9	0.544	0.361	Valid
10	0.618	0.361	Valid
11	0.815	0.361	Valid
12	0.668	0.361	Valid
13	0.576	0.361	Valid
14	0.680	0.361	Valid
15	0.709	0.361	Valid

From the test results, it is known that the overall r-calculation value of each question is greater than the r-table (0.361), so it can be said that all questions are declared valid and have met the validity requirements, meaning that the 15 statements are relevant to be used as indicators of spiritual development variables.

b. Reliability Test

The reliability analysis of this research used Cronbach's Alpha to identify how well the items in the questionnaire relate to each other. Reliability tests were used to measure the stability of respondents' assumptions about the questionnaire items, according to their descriptions of the questions in the questionnaire. Reliability tests were conducted using the Cronbach's Alpha method. The results of the calculation of the reliability coefficient for elasticity are considered reliable if the alpha number is greater than r-table or close to zero. The reliability tests for each variable used in this research can be seen in Chart 3.

Table 3. Data Reliability Test

Variables	Alpha	Cronbach's alpha	Reliability
Use of Internet Media (X)	0.90	0.6	Reliable
Spiritual Development (Y)	0.92	0.6	Reliable

Based on experiments reliability using Cronbach Alpha, all variables research is reliable or professional because Alpha is greater than 0.6 , so results research This prove if equipment measurement in research This Already fulfill test reliability (reliable and can be used as equipment measure).

c. Correlation with Use of Internet Media with Development Spirituality of Class XI Students of Immanuel High School Medan

The correlation test of internet media usage with the spiritual development of class

XI students at SMA Immanuel Medan can be done manually using the formula:

$$rs = 1 - \frac{6 \sum_{i=1}^N di^2}{N^3 - N}$$

From the calculation results in the Appendix, the Spearman Rank correlation value was obtained at 0.787. To test the significance of rs, a t-test was used with a 95% confidence level with the formula:

$$t = rs \sqrt{\frac{N-2}{1-rs^2}}$$

$$t = 0,787 \sqrt{\frac{30-2}{1-(0,787)^2}}$$

$$t = 0,787 \sqrt{\frac{28}{1-0,619}}$$

$$t = 0,787 \sqrt{\frac{28}{0,380}}$$

$$t = 0.787 \sqrt{73,56}$$

$$t = 0.787 \times 8.58$$

$$t = 6.75$$

Based on the results of the t-test, it can be seen that the correlation between the use of internet media and the spiritual development of class XI students of SMA Immanuel Medan is significant with a calculated t value of $6.75 > t_{0.05} (2.045)$. From the test results, it can be seen that $H_0 > H_1$, so it can be concluded that the use of internet media is significantly correlated with the spiritual development of students.

Discussion

results show that the correlation between internet media use and students' spiritual development is positive and significant with a t-value of $6.75 > t_{0.05} (2.045)$. This means that internet media use can improve students' spiritual development. This is because internet media is a medium that is very popular with students. Through internet media, students find it easier to share, participate, and can create communities among students. In modern life, the internet is an inseparable part of human life. Wise use of internet media will make students smarter and gain the good values conveyed through internet media.

Students' internet use must be monitored to prevent them from becoming addicted to it. Addiction to the internet can lead students to become indifferent to their surroundings and even forget their duty as students, who must maintain good behavior in accordance with God's Word. The teacher's responsibility in this regard is to inspire students to become passionate about preaching the Gospel, for example by implementing an individual approach, guiding and teaching them to draw closer to God through blessings and the Word of God to reveal the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 6:22-23), and instilling a sense of purpose in their souls (Matthew 28:19-20). In this way, it is hoped that young people will become a shining generation for Christ's series (Barus, 2019:32).

When imparting knowledge to students, a teacher must be able to put themselves in their shoes to easily identify youth problems. Students, as young people, often vent their problems by seeking a way out. This path can be flawed if not given sound guidance. Resentment toward others and individuals can be a contributing factor. Social media, as a component closely associated with young people, can become a solution and ultimately be misused. Indeed, young people need faith, dreams, and love in every aspect of their lives to guide them, walking alongside them toward maturity. Young people also have the same obligation as other people of God: to share the Gospel. Young people also have a missionary role to share the Gospel (Susanto, 2019: 64). This research aligns with research by Damanik and Selly (2022), which states that internet use can enhance students' spiritual development through specific instruction on social media use, specifically for Christian youth in today's disruptive era.

5. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

1. The use of internet media by class XI students of Immanuel Christian Private High School Medan in 2023 was good with a percentage of 53.56%.
2. The spiritual development of class XI students at Immanuel Christian Private High School Medan in 2023 can be seen

that the average spiritual development of students is 44.22%.

3. Based on the t-test, the calculated t value was $6.75 > t_{0.05} (2.045)$. This indicates that there is a significant relationship between the use of internet media and the spiritual development of students in grade XI students of Immanuel Christian Private High School, Medan, in 2023.

Suggestion

1. For students or juniors for further research so that they can add to their knowledge as reference material by discussing the same variables in future research.
2. For schools to increase knowledge and insight, especially in the context of improving and upgrading facilities and infrastructure to improve quality even further.
3. For students to increase their motivation and enthusiasm for learning by working harder and more seriously and maintaining their learning results and increasing their practice so that their learning results are even better than before.
4. Parents are expected to give sufficient time, attention and approach as well as provide good learning facilities to their children.
5. Teachers should choose teaching and learning methods and strategies in the learning process that are appropriate to the material being taught, which can arouse students' motivation, passion and enthusiasm for learning.

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