Enhancing Parents' Engagement for Quality Children Education Through Smart Application of Parenting

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ABSTRACT

This article aims to develop innovations in the form of education applications, parenting and help parents understand the correct concept in providing education to children. The methodology of this research uses a qualitative approach whose samples are parents as the main actors in the role of the family. Data collection techniques used are questionnaires and interviews. By doing research, it can be concluded that there is a need for an application that can help parents in implementing good and quality parenting by utilizing technology in the form of smart application innovations.

Keywords: *Children's Education, Smart Applications, Parenting, Quality*

INTRODUCTION

Aspects of education begin with family education which plays a major role in this case is the parents who become the first educators for their children (Covey, 1997). For this reason, parents must understand the pattern of parenting which includes activities to care for, train and influence their children. But in reality, the importance of good parenting for children cannot be applied optimally by parents, this is caused by many factors, some of which are due to limited knowledge about parenting, coming from families who are not aware of the importance of parenting, early marriage, experiencing trauma, psychological and others (Manca & Meluzzi, 2020). Meanwhile, in this modern era, humans are very dependent on technology to be part of their daily life.

The family is an important part of a society, religion and country. From a good family, a good community environment will also be created, and vice versa, as said by Zohdi quoted in the journal (Wahid & Halilurrahman, 2019), the welfare or underdevelopment of a nation can be reflected in the family that lives in the nation's community. The family as the smallest social system acts as both producer and consumer. From the family can produce individuals who play a role in a wider social system. Every family needs each other in carrying out a social life (Agustin et al., 2015).

In a family, the role of parents is very important, as leaders in the family are required to be role models for their family members, especially their children. The way parents act towards their children by making a series of active efforts so that their children can grow into mature individuals is called parenting or parenting (Mauanah & Suprijono, 2016). Parenting is very influential in the development of children's mental health, lifestyle, physical health, social skills and achievement in life.

Positive interactions should be able to produce a mentoring process that has a developmental effect on the abilities and skills of children because communication will often occur between parents and children (Alam, 2021) . But in reality, the importance of good parenting for children has not been optimally applied by parents, this is caused by many factors, some of which are due to limited knowledge about parenting, coming from families who are not aware of the importance of parenting, early marriage, and experiencing trauma. psychological and others. In addition, parenting is also not considered very important in the community because the implementation of parenting education requires adequate time, facilities and infrastructure.

This article aims to develop innovations in the form of education applications, parenting and help parents understand the correct concept in providing education to children, because it remembers the importance of instilling the knowledge and values contained in it. Smart Application of Parenting or SAP is an application that has features that can provide understanding to parents in this technological era, the author continues to develop this application based on reviews of the many existing applications and surveys so that this application is also one of the solvers of educational problems in the world, especially in Indonesia.

The problem encountered in the community is the lack of awareness of parents in good parenting, obtained from data released by the Indonesian Child Protection

Commission (KPAI) conducted in 2015 found that only 25% of fathers and 30% of mothers sought information about care before having children. While the rest just repeat the upbringing they received from their previous parents. So, it can be concluded that good parenting is not implemented due to lack of insight and correct information about how parenting should be done by parents (Ndari & Pranawaty, 2018). This is also in line with the statement from the General of Early Childhood Education (PAUD) and Community Education of the Ministry of Education and Culture, Harris Iskandar (Iskandar et al., 2015) "The problem with family education that is often encountered is that parents are not optimal in recognizing their children's potential and talents.". Over time there will be many problems caused by many factors such as the influence of the times, social and cultural. Parents should take the opportunity in this modern era to prepare children to face the era of digital technology in the application of parenting (Anita, 2020). Parenting with the help of technological tools can also provide understanding to children about the importance of using technology properly. For this reason, it is important to collaborate with technological advances to become a positive educational tool for children.

1) Question of research

Based on the introduction or background above, the formulation of the problem in this research is as follows:

- How to apply parenting to improve quality education for a child?
- What are the obstacles and challenges faced by parents in implementing parenting at this time?
- What is the right solution to apply good parenting from parents to a child in improving quality education?

2) Purpose of Research

- To find out the application of parenting to improve quality education for a child
- To find out the obstacles and challenges faced by parents in implementing the current parenting style
- To provide the right solution to apply good parenting from parents to a child in improving quality education

In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic has had a major impact on the family sphere. The important role of parents in shaping a child's personality starts from the education given in the family, which requires parents to provide good parenting because of frequent communication between parents and children or vice versa. On the other hand, technological sophistication is also a problem that is now faced by parents as education implementers.

Technology can actually facilitate various activities carried out by humans in daily life, the use of technology is also increasing with the pandemic that requires us to interact in a network. The role of parents must provide all the needs for the growth and development of a child, one way is to use applications that contain education about parenting or parenting. Based on the survey that the author conducted to determine the role of parents in optimizing education.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Every time there are problems and challenges presented by the times, there are also opportunities to overcome them. Various solutions are applied to solve problems regarding the interactions between parents and children, one of which is through the active role of parents in increasing efforts to realize the importance of building good relationships in order to create quality education, this can be realized if the optimization of the role of parents as counsellors fully supported by the environment which is the heart of children's education (Yuhana & Aminy, 2019). In addition to the solutions that have been implemented above, there are also solutions in the form of applications that have developed as platforms that support interaction between parents and children but are only focused on a small scope and have not been supported by various features that can solve problems in the world of education and do not integrate with the government so that it is not optimal in its application.

Many applications have developed and studied parenting, including:

1) *Chai's Play* - Kids& Games

Chai's Play is a parenting app for parents of preschoolers (0-6 years). which comes with prenatal education content, pregnancy and childbirth information for prospective parents who are waiting for the birth of their little one. there are several features that are presented in this application in the form of the child's birth date, this application can help monitor and practice parenting info and game tis which continues to change along with its development. Based on the results of the *review* of this application, there are several user comments, including from Ervin Ajja who said that "It's a good application and lots of information in the form of images, reduces boredom in Giving, I hope I can buy the content, yes", from these comments it can be concluded that this application has features which can help parents in raising children is also evidenced by the application rating, which is 4.9 stars generated and downloaded by ± 500,000 users.

2) *Ayah Bunda Cerdas*

Ayah Bunda Cerdas is the first digital collaborative ecosystem for data-based childcare in Indonesia, where parents can build a digital childcare ecosystem, starting in the very early phase of breastfeeding. Based on the results of the review of this application, there are several user comments, including from Eni Pertiwi stating that "It has been filled in, you must log out yourself.

So, after downloading, I immediately deleted the app. Can't use it", from the comments it can be concluded that the application still has problems on the application base.

3) Parenting *Control*

Parenting *Control* is an application for parents to monitor student activities at school. This application comes with features: announcements, attendance, student biodata, payments, school profiles, suggestions and feedback. With this application, parents can provide advice and input to schools, as well as monitor children's attendance at school. According to user Kuswanto stated that "Thank you for the relationship between parents and the school, hopefully this will be a good step towards success". From the two comments, it can be concluded that this application has features that can help parents in raising children as evidenced by the application rating of 4.6 stars generated and downloaded by 1,000 users.

Based on the review of several applications above, it can be concluded that these applications make easier parenting. Because these applications also have various interesting features and are very useful for parents, but on the other hand there are still some shortcomings, such as problems regarding the application base so that optimization parenting cannot be carried out optimally. This is also like the data that the author got through a survey to parents.

METHOD

The type of research used in this study aims to describe and answer various problems. Therefore, the researcher uses field research (*research field*). Field research is research carried out in the area or field where symptoms occur. Therefore, this type of research requires that researchers go directly to the field to collect data and answer the problems to be studied.

This research also uses a qualitative research approach. The qualitative approach is an approach that contains various processes carried out with the rules with standardization in a reasonable and natural manner as described from the field itself without any manipulation of the data obtained.

This approach goes through various stages consisting of an interaction process that is obtained directly at the place or research location. This research activity was carried out by taking data through interviews, observations and documentation regarding the important role of an innovation in improving quality education for children.

This study uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive method by describing the problems and results that have been obtained in the form of a description. According to Miles (Miles et al., 2014), descriptive qualitative research is one of the approaches or methods commonly used in revealing various social phenomena that occur in the surrounding environment.

This is closely related to the research being conducted by researchers to reveal various obstacles and challenges in the application of parenting and provide solutions to these problems. The subjects in the study were two informants who could provide the information and data needed in research to uncover the issues raised (Heryana, 2018). The informants are as follows:

- Key informants

  Research focuses on interview techniques, therefore, one of the important informants is key informants who are basically people who have comprehensive information about the various problems being studied. In this study, the key informants were parents.

- Main Informan

  The main informant's role is as the main actor in uncovering the problems raised by the researcher. People who can be used as informants are those who know the rules and processes and have the relevance of this research and in this study, the main actors are students as recipients of education from their parents.

In this study, data collection used three techniques consisting of observation, interviews and documentation. The credibility of the data is also used to test the validity of the data obtained by the researcher, as explained by (Sugiyono, 2011) in his book explaining that the credibility of the data can be said to have tested the validity of the data if the research is carried out in accordance with the procedures and rules.

One of the qualities of research results is assessed from the use of instruments and data collection techniques. Data collection techniques are very important because they are a decisive step in research. The use of appropriate data collection techniques will produce accurate data analysis results and factual and reliable data. The following are research data collection techniques:

- Observation

  According to Sugiyono (2018) Observation can be interpreted as a data collection process or technique to collect data that is carried out specifically at the stages because it uses the direct method carried out by research in order to obtain the desired data according to the problem being studied. Data collection through the observation method includes data validity that is not limited to the subject or person being studied but is carried out directly by the researcher to get an external picture of the problem that the researcher wants to solve.

  Observation or commonly known as direct observation is used to collect various data based on predetermined criteria and has a relationship with the data sought by researchers on symptoms that arise from independent and dependent variables. In order to fulfill the data

desired by the observers in this study, a concept was first made regarding what things I needed, observed and how much information was needed by making a check-list or main description of what problems were needed so that effectiveness and time efficiency can be achieved and can ignore the power that is not related to this research

- Interview

    Quoted from the research method book written by Drs. Mardalis (2014) that the interview technique is a technique used to collect data through information given orally to obtain the data desired by the researcher and is useful for completing the data obtained from the observations made. This study will focus on interviews with teachers who teach directly and carry out the learning and teaching process with students and parents who will later feel the direct impact of the Documentation regarding the implementation of the paikem model in internalizing the values of Islamic education in al-Islam subjects at SD Muhammadiyah Ambarketawang 2.

- Documentation Documentation

    technique as explained by Sugiyono (2015) that this technique is one way to get good data in the form of information from archives, documents, writings or pictures in accordance with the research that is being studied. The collection of data obtained through the documentation method is a problem that is studied based on various problems in the research studied so that it can be said that the data can be received comprehensively or thoroughly and can be accounted for for its validity.

    The documentation method is very useful to serve as data that can provide reinforcement from previous methods such as observation, interview or interview methods. The next stage after testing the validity of the researchers will analyze the data with several processes and stages consisting of data collection, data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Parenting patterns have a great influence on the development of children's education, as we know that the first education is obtained from the family environment, especially parents. Good parenting styles are those who are able to show and form expressions of affection, are able to manage emotions and always provide regular control over the development of their children. This has a huge influence on the growth and development of children which includes physical, language, social, gross and fine motor development (Kurniawan & Hermawan, 2016).

Children who get good attention or the right upbringing from their parents will have high self-confidence, this is because they have a sense of being appreciated and accepted. Thus, during their development at school age, children will be more daring to express themselves, develop their creativity and always try to do new things that can develop their own potential.

Then, what parents have to do in order to successfully implement good parenting is to understand the dimensions of parenting, namely the dimensions of control, restriction and warmth. The control dimension includes the involvement of people in controlling the development of children and their social environment which can have an influence on children. It is the responsibility of parents to always be a control system for children as a form of responsibility, but too much control over children is also not good because it will limit the development and creativity of children so that often children who are too educated with strict control from parents will grow up to be a rebellious child because he feels that his abilities are limited further, namely the dimension of warmth which includes touch, affection and parental attention to children. This is important because it will also affect the child's personality and his relationship with his future social environment. Children who get enough warmth from their parents will usually feel that they are valuable and easy to respect others.

Children today are a digital generation who are dependent on the internet. How not, since he was born even in the womb, he was indirectly introduced to sophisticated technology. Not infrequently today we meet a lot of toddlers who are good at using gadgets, this needs to be a special concern for their children. In addition, the characteristics of children in this digital era have differences with children in the previous generation, it is stated that there are several characteristics as follows:

First, they have great ambitions to achieve success. Children in this generation have a tendency to achieve success because they see that the times in their generation are so fast that the motivation to move forward so as not to be left behind is greater. *Second,* think practically and quickly. Children in this era tend to choose instant and practical problem solving so they pay less attention to the process of solving the problems they face and focus on getting results or solutions. *Third,* love freedom. The generation that tends to like the freedom to express and be creative. *Fourth,* having high self-confidence, this is because at this time there are a lot of media that can be a place to build self-confidence, for example social media. *Fifth,* likes details and thinks critically. *Sixth,* having a great desire to be recognized for its existence (Rahmat, 2018) The

six characteristics of children are a challenge for parents to implement effective parenting. Parents must really be more selective so that children do not fall into negative things due to technological sophistication. In addition, parents are also expected to be able to accept and participate in the use of technology in positive ways that can support knowledge and insight in implementing good parenting. The application of good parenting from parents will have an influence on the development of the child's further education.
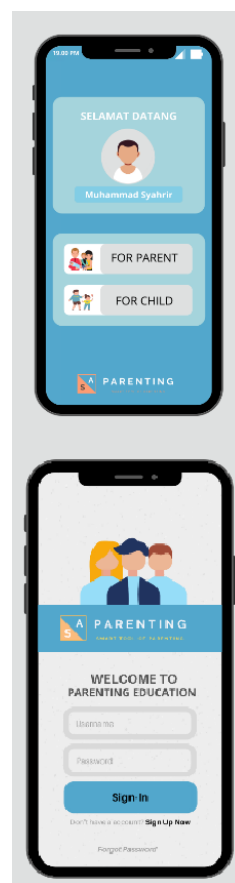
One of the problems that exist in the world of education is the lack of good cooperation between parents

and a child. Parents who tend to think that they are only tasked with making a living for their children while the task of educating their children is left entirely to the school, so that if their child experiences a decrease in learning achievement, lack of motivation to learn and other educational problems, the blame is on the school which is considered unable to do so. being a good educator while the educational process is not only carried out in schools but education in the family environment is also needed (Kutash et al., 2013).

Every time there are problems and challenges presented by the times, there are also opportunities to overcome them. Various solutions are applied to solve problems regarding the interaction between parents and a child, one of which is through the active role of parents in increasing efforts to realize the importance of building good relationships in order to create quality education, this can be realized if the optimization of the teacher's role as a counselor fully supported by parents who are the heart of children's education (Ceka & Murati, 2016). In addition to the solutions that have been implemented above, there are also solutions in the form of applications that have developed as platforms that support interaction between parents and teachers in schools, but are only focused on a small scope and have not been supported by various features that can solve problems in the world. education and not integrated with the government so that it is not optimal in its application.

Along with the development of the times and increasingly rapid technology, it has an influence on human life from the use of the internet and social media as a means of distributing all the information needed. Technological developments have become part of the application of parenting. Based on the results of data analysis, it is known that parents really need tools or media that can optimize children's education with the application of ideal parenting by utilizing technology that has been far developed (Lengauer, 2018).

The policy of implementing online learning creates new problems for the relationship between parents and children. This was conveyed by one teacher who teaches at SDN Banyuraden, Gamping, Sleman, Special Region of Yogyakarta who said that there has been no intensive collaboration between parents and teachers in overcoming students' problems. The teacher once asked some students who had problems with their parents and there were responses from parents but there has been no special action from the teacher to overcome these problems. In addition, many parents tend to pay less attention to their children's learning process due to time constraints, parents should accompany the online learning process.

We also through interviews conducted with three parents at three different schools in Yogyakarta regarding the media used as a means of communication during the pandemic only using *WhatsApp groups, google forms* and *google classroom*. Since the even semester of 2020/2021 there has been no learning carried out in the classroom at the three schools. However, there are still activities *offline* between parents and teachers when taking and collecting assignments. During these offline activities, teachers and parents report to each other's academic progress.

Based on the results of interviews with teachers and parents above, it can be concluded that in this pandemic period parents and teachers have little time to meet offline so that relationships cannot be established optimally to communicate child development. This is where parents provide protection for children in real and digital environments assisted by teachers through education in schools (Pusitaningtyas, 2016).

Smart Application of Parenting is an innovation in the form of a renewable application to answer various educational problems caused by the relationship between parents and a child as an element in education. The use of technology through this innovation in the form of parenting applications based on the parenting dimension was developed by Maccoby in Tridhonanto (al Tridhonanto, 2014) that parenting has two dimensions, namely: the dimension of control and the dimension of warmth which aims to facilitate parents in developing an understanding of the urgency of implementing parenting supported by the features provided also have a contribution and a good influence in increasing the positive relationship that is built by a parent and a child. Smart Application of Parenting will focus more on translating the knowledge, attitudes and skills possessed by children and students and parents will better understand the concept parenting ideal then optimized by teachers in managing quality education to create a generation that is ready to face the various challenges and opportunities provided. by the times.

The role of integration between the government and schools and the concrete concept of parents are important aspects, according to Alia and Irwansyah (Alia & Irwansyah, 2018) statement that parenting is the solution to all these problems, this can be achieved through the Smart Application of Parenting with the features contained in this application include reminders or reminders of goodincluding loading theapplication parenting ideal for children carried out by parents, with this feature it will be easy to help parents increase the dimension of warmth in which there are several indicators including such as parental attention, physical and spiritual needs, response, showing enthusiasm, taking time for children and being sensitive to children's emotions.

The use of technology through innovations developed in this article in the form of applications parenting based on the dimension was parenting developed by Maccoby in Tridhonanto (Tridhonanto, 2014) that parenting has two dimensions, namely: the dimension of control and the dimension of warmth which aims to facilitate parents in developing understanding of the urgency of implementing. parenting *is* supported by features such as reminders or reminders of good including containing the application parenting parenting ideal for children carried out by parents, with this feature it will be easy to help parents increase the dimension of warmth in which there are several indicators including such as parental attention, physical and spiritual needs, response, showing enthusiasm, taking time for children and being sensitive to children's emotions.

This application service parenting includes several surveys regarding issues surrounding parenting, so it is hoped that later the features available in the application can have a significant impact on the application of parenting ideal and there are still several other features, such as features of *activities* that emphasize parenting that must be done. In the process of education for children, *consulting* helps parents in solving problems and challenges faced by families, especially in implementing parenting, *play with children is* also available in this innovation, it is hoped that with this feature parents are more sensitive in dividing time for children by paying attention to all children's needs such as physical and spiritual needs. *question and answer* and lastly there is a blog and tips.

This innovation is expected to be integrated with all schools and other education sectors to build a positive relationship between parents and teachers in educating a child who will become a better generation in the future. Given that there are still problems created by the lack of values built by parents and teachers in shaping the personality, attitudes, knowledge and spirituality of a child. With the use of technology to build a good correlation with solving educational problems can be overcome.

CONCLUSION

Basically, the application of parenting can be maximized if positive communication is built from parents and a child and vice versa. One of them is by utilizing technology in the form of applications so that the creation of harmony between the two will be able to create a better education. This shows that parents as a place for education or the process of growth and development must understand the needs of children because if the process is supported by good parenting, it will provide a great opportunity for a child to carry out various activities well as well.

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