Ki Hajar Dewantara's Educational Philosophy as the Foundation of Education in the Digital Era

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Abstract

Considering the ever-evolving digital era, this study seeks to examine the application and relevance of Ki Hajar Dewantara's educational philosophy. Ki Hajar Dewantara, a highly influential figure in Indonesian education, held a rich and comprehensive pedagogical vision. However, it is necessary to evaluate how these conventional methods can be applied amidst the substantial challenges and transformations brought about by digital technology in the field of education. This article explores the educational principles of Ki Hajar Dewantara, including "ing ngarsa sung tulada, ing madya mangun karsa, tut wuri handayani," and their implementation in digital-era education. The findings provide valuable insight into how Ki Hajar Dewantara's ideals and beliefs can be upheld in technology-based education.

INTRODUCTION

For society to progress, education is extremely important. When the goals of education are systematically outlined, they serve as a simple sketch of the principles a nation intends to build over a certain period. Education must be achieved through teaching programs (Siregar, 2021). To actively help students develop their potential, education aims to cultivate spiritual and religious strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills necessary for themselves, society, the nation, and the country. Education is a deliberate and planned effort to create a learning environment and a learning process (Ningsih, 2024). In the contemporary digital era, integrating technology while maintaining moral and cultural values is a significant challenge in education. Education and many aspects of life are influenced by the rapid development of technology and the growth of knowledge in terms of economics, culture, and technology. The impact of technological breakthroughs is significant in the field of education. We recognize that education is directly correlated with the power, civilization, and progress of a nation. Innovation is crucial to achieve these goals. Without innovation in the educational process, there will be no progress, which will affect the social, political, and economic climate. As times change dynamically, the education sector must also adapt to new trends. To avoid falling behind, the education industry must be able to adapt to these advancements and continue following current trends (Irwanto, 2024). This has significantly influenced how education has developed.

Because times have changed dynamically, it is essential to follow the latest mentality in education. By allowing individuals to learn and participate in activities that are accessible without disrupting their current circumstances, the aforementioned improvements help advance the field of education. For instance, during the COVID-19 pandemic, all academic activities were conducted online, which required automatic adaptation from the education system to the changing circumstances (Arif et al., n.d.). The education system also needs to adapt to the changing times.

The emergence of social media in modern times has given individuals the freedom to express themselves. Technology has improved life for people by enabling them to pursue education and work, reducing stress levels, highlighting more productive and efficient work habits, and much more. However, if technological development is used in ways that violate accepted conventions, character development may also suffer (Oktavia & Purnomo, 2024).

The integration of technology and the preservation of moral and cultural values has become an important issue for education in today's digital era. One of the key contributors to this discussion is Ki Hajar Dewantara, known for his motto "Tut Wuri Handayani." Ki Hajar Dewantara was an Indonesian educator recognized for promoting education in his country. However, there are concerns about how relevant and beneficial Ki Hajar Dewantara's educational theories are for learning in the digital age (Hidayat, 2022).

METHODS

Since it uses written records, particularly archives, to collect data, library research is the research method employed in this study. As primary sources, the writings of Ki Hajar himself, along with other sources related to the research issues, are cited in books on perspectives, hypotheses, and other subjects. This research falls into the category of qualitative research (Miftakhurrahmah, 2021). The main focus of this study is to examine the educational concept of Ki Hajar Dewantara, which still holds relevance in the digital era. The primary focus is descriptive, making this research inductive and realistic. Bogdan and Biklen listed the following five characteristics that differentiate qualitative research: naturalistic, descriptive, process-oriented, inductive, and meaning-oriented, to name a few (Putri, 2024).

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Advancements in business, education, and technology are just a few of the many developments occurring in the digital era. Technological progress in the Digital Age has a significant impact on education, especially in the practice of using media to deliver knowledge. Every modification comes with both benefits and drawbacks, including progress in the digital era, where technological sophistication will replace the way people socialize, communicate, and move around (Purba & Saragih, 2023). Unlimited access to information through social media as a source of information on various topics, including material that could be beneficial or harmful. Since everyone can engage in undesirable behaviors such as harassment, insults, and criminal activities, such issues may arise in the field of education (Cholik, 2021). In the digital era, almost everything is digital, and technology is used to make tasks easier. However, every era has its pros and cons. For example, in the past, people did things in the traditional way, which had the benefit of a stable natural ecosystem and no air pollution (Rachmad et al., 2023). As a result of technological advancements, social interactions have become weaker.

The term "Digital Era" itself refers to the shift where technology is used as the main source of inspiration for the advancement of education. More than just hardware, educational technology is an integrated advanced process to examine and solve problems related to human learning or education (Sulistyaningrum et al., 2023). The topic of technology-based learning materials is indeed worth discussing. In the field of education, technology can be used to support creativity and success because it can help individuals complete tasks that would otherwise be impossible to do manually. Moreover, technology has various uses that can make life easier for humans, including in the

classroom, where teachers and students can use tools such as PowerPoint and YouTube to make learning more engaging and access information, news, and educational books online (Pratama, 2023).

Ki Hajar Dewantara's Education

Through education, a person's capacity to create, feel, and be able to live their life path is developed (Firmansyah et al., 2021). To actively assist students in developing their potential to possess spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the necessary skills for themselves, society, the nation, and the state, education is a deliberate and planned effort to create a learning environment and learning process (Ichsan, 2021). It facilitates people to face life's obstacles and live comfortably in a constantly changing world. This is the great educational goal of humanity. Considering that the changes brought by globalization impact various aspects such as ethics, politics, social, and culture (Suryadi, 2024). In an effort to change the social order, education has two competing and interrelated goals that influence its precarious position. On the one hand, education must preserve the status quo, in this case, culture, while on the other hand, it must adapt to the times and innovate (Puji, 2024).

According to Ki Hajar Dewantara, education is an effort to liberate humans in the sense of becoming independent beings who do not depend psychologically or physically on others. His guiding motto was "ing ngarsa sang tuladha, ing madya mangun karsa, tut wuri handayani." This slogan is translated as "tut wuri handayani" (providing direction and support from behind), "ing madya mangun karsa" (creating ideas and initiatives in the middle), and "ing ngarsa sang tuladha" (leading by example) (Septiani, 2024). Education plays an important role in training the younger generation to think critically, respond wisely, adapt quickly, and reject things that are inconsistent or do not align with culture while still adhering to regulations (Laka et al., 2024). In its institutional role, education should adapt and perform its duties according to societal demands. Through education, various strategies for fighting to uphold and preserve the nation's culture can be taught and guided (A Sazilli, 2022).

Education in the Digital Era

Many aspects of daily life have changed in the digital era, including various settings. In the modern world, two interconnected components are always involved in every change. In every situation, there are advantages and disadvantages. Religion, culture, or nationality do not hinder the spread of the latest information. Considering that the enhancement of students' knowledge today requires vast amounts of information, this can be advantageous for the education sector (Olifia et al., 2024). With the current information systems, teachers can easily access information without having to make announcements to everyone when using digital technology. Digital phones can be used to write announcements several times before sending them to recipients. This can be done by sending repeated emails to the relevant recipients via WhatsApp. It's easy, affordable, and practical. Many individuals, particularly those working in education, such as instructors and students in various schools, benefit from the many conveniences offered by modern digital technology. Educators no longer need to deliver announcements to everyone when utilizing digital technology (Sulistyaningrum et al., 2023). You can write an announcement on a digital phone several times before forwarding it to the recipient, simply providing them with all the necessary information via WhatsApp. It's user-friendly, affordable, and practical. The digital age today offers many benefits for various sectors, particularly those in education, including teachers and students in schools. It's

relevant to forecast the potential negative impacts behind the incredible benefits (Linawati et al., 2024).

Referring to the objectives and principles of education emphasized by Ki Hajar Dewantara, "education" and "teaching" are interchangeable synonyms. The reason we teach is to help students develop their life skills, both internally and externally. On the other hand, anything done with the goal of guiding a child towards any aspect of character is called education. It is believed that this product will be capable of providing, in a broader sense, both education and teaching as efforts to prepare students for all aspects of human life, including social and cultural life (Budiwati & Fauziati, 2022). The foundation of culture in society is education. According to Ki Hajar Dewantara, one of the main contributors to the development of a civilized Indonesian society is education. It is possible to instill and practice in the classroom values of humanity that can be inherited or passed on. The aim of beneficial education and teaching for daily life is to liberate humans as members of a single community. According to Ki Hajar Dewantara, the goal of education is to achieve the following: directing every aspect of a child's personality to ensure their safety and maximum satisfaction as human beings and as members of society. To improve behavior (not basic) in life and the development of the child's natural forces, educators can only guide the growth or life of the natural forces within the child (Fauzan et al., 2024).

CONCLUSION

The main principles of Ki Hajar Dewantara's education include independence, integrity, and accountability. These ideals remain relevant even as education evolves, especially in the digital era. Education in the digital age can utilize technology to promote active learning, provide access to information, and build the necessary skills to navigate the digital landscape. "Ing Ngarsa Sung Tulada" (In Front, Be a Role Model): This principle emphasizes the importance of educators as role models. Even as technology advances, digital education still requires educators who can set an example and provide guidance. In the digital context, this means that educators must model responsible technology use and guide students to develop their potential through various digital tools. Technology can also help children discover their interests and skills, as well as unlock their full potential in different fields. "Ing Madya Mangun Karsa" (In the Middle, Foster the Spirit of Innovation): This principle encourages creativity and innovation in education. In the digital era, it can be applied by leveraging technology to allow students to collaborate online, engage in creative projects, and solve problems together. Technology provides students with access to explore new ideas and develop their creative skills, which are essential in our rapidly changing world. "Tut Wuri Handayani" (From Behind, Provide Support): This principle emphasizes the importance of supporting students so that they can grow well. In the digital era, this means that technology can be used to offer support to students in various forms, such as access to rich learning materials, interactive learning tools, and platforms for sharing knowledge. Furthermore, this principle also teaches the importance of social responsibility, which can be introduced to students through involvement in collaborative projects or activities that connect them with the global community, fostering a sense of social responsibility in an increasingly connected digital world. By applying these principles of Ki Hajar Dewantara in the context of the digital era, education can become more relevant, innovative, and positively impact the development of students' character and skills in the future.

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