

# Development of Digital Literacy at SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo in Facing Digital Development in the Era of Society 5.0

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## ABSTRACT

The development of digital literacy in the era of society 5.0 is increasing among the younger generation who are part of today's technology. This study aims to determine the readiness of schools in preparing for digital literacy in the era of Society 5.0 and to determine the ability of students to utilize digital literacy in the era of Society 5.0 in competency development. This research was conducted on Monday, October 11, 2024 at SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo with 20 students and 5 teachers at this junior high school as participants in this study. This research uses a qualitative method. This study obtained data through interviews and questionnaires. The results of this study show that 85% of students are able to utilize digital literacy platforms in facing the society 5.0 era. The school is ready to provide a competent and significant digital literacy platform to face digital literacy in the era of society 5.0.

**Keywords:** Digital Literacy, Society 5.0 Era, Junior High School

## INTRODUCTION

*Society 5.0* is a concept of a smart society that combines the physical and digital worlds with advanced technology to create human welfare. *Society 5.0* was first introduced by the Japanese government as a vision of the future that integrates advanced technology with human life to create a society that can not only use technology, but also face social challenges and improve the quality of human life. Hayashi (2017) noted that the concept of *society 5.0* does not only focus on the manufacturing sector, but also aims to solve various social problems through the integration of physical and virtual spaces. *Society 5.0* relies on *big data* technology collected by the Internet of Things (IoT) to be processed by artificial intelligence (AI) with the aim of being a solution in solving human problems.

The concept of *society 5.0* requires the education sector to adapt to the digitalization of the learning system. This will have a great influence on the world of education by changing the way of learning, teaching, and accessing information. In addition, *society 5.0* emphasizes the integration of technology in people's lives with the aim of creating an education system that is more inclusive, personalized, and adaptive to student needs. Herlambang (2018) stated that education today must be oriented towards efforts to equip the superior generation with various abilities and skills in the context of *society 5.0* without ignoring the moral aspects and sensitivity to socio-cultural reality.

In the context of education, digital literacy is an important skill for students to master in facing the challenges of *society 5.0*. Digital literacy in the era of *society 5.0* includes an understanding of how the technology used can improve the quality of life and solve social problems. The increase in digital literacy by students makes them able to adapt to technological changes and can create a better future. Kurniawati & Baroroh (2016) also argue that digital literacy is needed to avoid false information or *hoaxes* because easily available sources of information have a great potential to cause misinformation from websites whose truth is unknown. In addition, the fact

about the low literacy ability of students in Indonesia, especially literacy skills (science, mathematics, and language) as evidenced by the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) from 2000 to 2019 still shows that the literacy ability of Indonesian students is still low.

The problem of low literacy skills of students in Indonesia is caused by the misunderstood understanding of literacy and traditional print-based literacy learning that tends to dominate in the classroom (Unsworth, Cope, & Nicholls, 2019). This makes understanding digital literacy as a solution to improve students' literacy skills in Indonesia.

For example, in *Pangreh*'s short story, there is a story about the abuse of power and the lack of transparency that causes social harm among the community. In the digital era, phenomena like this have equivalents in the form of dishonest information, data misuse, and loss of public trust due to the misuse of technology by irresponsible parties. Like the *Pangreh* case which was revealed through the insistence of the community and state representatives, in *society 5.0*, social control over digital ethics is very crucial. Digital literacy in schools not only focuses on technical skills, but also teaches students to understand the importance of honesty, accountability, and transparency in interacting in the digital space.

SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo as an educational institution has an important role in preparing students to be able to adapt to digital advances who can understand digital literacy. Through the development of digital literacy, schools are expected to form a generation that is ready to compete in the *era of society 5.0*. This development requires support from various parties, including the government, schools, educators, students, and also adequate infrastructure. With technology facilities, teacher training, and the implementation of relevant curricula, schools can increase students' readiness to face the challenges of the digital era.

This study was conducted to analyze the readiness of SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo in preparing students' digital literacy and to assess the extent of students' ability to utilize digital technology. With the help of *the short story Pangreh* which is used as a medium in conveying the values of the importance of digital literacy, this research is expected to provide insight into strategies that schools can implement in the development of digital literacy so that students are able to face changes in the *era of society 5.0* better. In addition, this research focuses on the readiness of SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo in developing digital literacy competencies that are not only technical, but also include moral and ethical dimensions. This is expected to form a generation that is not only

technologically proficient, but also socially responsible in using the technology for the common good.

## METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method that aims to describe a phenomenon in detail and depth based on the informant's perspective. According to Sugiyono (2015), qualitative research is suitable for researching objects under natural conditions with the researcher as the main instrument (p. 15). This method was chosen because it aims to understand the readiness of schools in preparing for digital literacy and students' ability to utilize digital literacy in the *era of society 5.0* in depth.

The data collection technique is in the form of interviews conducted to understand the extent of school readiness in providing facilities and infrastructure that support digital literacy in the era of society 5.0. Interviews were conducted with teachers and students as informants. This interview also explores teachers' views on the importance of digital literacy for student competency development.

In addition, data collection techniques are also carried out using questionnaires or questionnaires. Questionnaire is a data collection technique that is carried out by giving a set of questions or written statements to respondents to answer or fill in (Sugiyono, 2015: p. 199). Questionnaires or questionnaires were distributed to teachers and students at SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This study revealed that the level of digital readiness at SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo varied. Based on observations of 20 students and interviews with 5 teachers, most of the students already have basic knowledge about the use of digital technology, although there is still a need for improvement in digital critical skills and ethics.

Based on the results of the research conducted on October 11, it is known that SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo has taken proactive steps in preparing students and teachers to face the *era of society 5.0*. The school has shown readiness in preparing students for the *era of society 5.0* through the development of structured digital literacy. Technology facilities, access to digital learning platforms, and training for teachers and students have been provided so that students have adequate digital competencies. Students are able to take advantage of digital literacy platforms in facing the society 5.0 era.

As many as 85% of students at SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo have proven to be able to effectively utilize digital literacy platforms in learning and competency development. This shows that the majority of students have the understanding and ability to use digital devices and platforms provided by the school. They can use various digital applications and platforms to search for information, do assignments, and access learning materials independently. This achievement indicates the readiness of students to face the *era of society 5.0* with digital skills as a basic need.

The school is ready to provide a digital literacy platform competently and significantly to help students develop digital skills that are in line with the demands of the times. Technology facilities, access to digital learning platforms, and training for teachers and students have been provided so that students have adequate digital competencies. Teachers and students of SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo as research respondents also acknowledged the need for continuous training related to digital literacy that is more in-depth, covering aspects of security, ethics, and critical thinking skills. Although the infrastructure is quite adequate, the existence of a sustainable program for schools can make it easier for teachers to improve students' digital competencies.

To strengthen the ethical aspect in digital literacy, the school uses *Pangreh*'s short story as a reflection material for students. *Pangreh*'s short stories are used as a literacy medium that helps students understand ethical values in community life, including in a digital context. The story of the Pangreh character describes the abuse of authority by a village official used as a medium to convey important values such as integrity, responsibility, and honesty. In the story, Pangreh abuses his trust for personal gain, so that the community feels disadvantaged and social justice is disturbed. This is relevant to ethical challenges in the digital era so students need to have an awareness that the use of technology must be accompanied by social responsibility.

Through the discussion about *Pangreh*'s story, students were invited to understand that digital literacy is not only about technical skills, but also about how technology can be used for the common good without harming others. The use of these stories successfully encourages students to internalize ethical values and apply them in daily digital interactions, such as respecting privacy, verifying information before disseminating it, and using technology wisely.

The analogy between digital developments in the *era of society 5.0* and *Pangreh*'s *short story* can be seen in terms of justice and transparency. *Pangreh*'s short story highlights the injustice in the application of the law with corrupt officials still able to escape punishment even if proven guilty. This illustrates that the absence of mature digital literacy can exacerbate injustices in the digital society, such as the spread of incorrect information or lack of supervision in the use of technology. In the digital context, without critical thinking skills, students can become victims of information manipulation or data misuse by irresponsible parties.

In *Pangreh*'s *short story*, the public is disappointed with the unfair legal system. Although the hope for justice still exists, such as when there is a demand for Pangreh to have his hand cut off, the reality is that the law is not implemented as it should. Likewise, in the digital context, low digital literacy can create injustice. If SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo does not have sufficient digital literacy, it

will be difficult for them to assess correct information, secure privacy, or avoid negative impacts in cyberspace.

In closing, *Pangreh*'s short story and the challenge of digital literacy at SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo show how important honesty, transparency, and critical skills are as the foundation for building a just society in the digital era. The case of Pangreh, which was initially trusted by the public and turned to the detriment of its surroundings, reminds us of the importance of supervision and the application of moral values in every action, especially in the digital space. With the commitment of SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo in providing a digital literacy platform, it is hoped that students can have adequate skills to face the society 5.0 era competently.

Overall, this study shows that the digital literacy program at SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo has successfully prepared students to face the challenges of the society 5.0 era. The technical readiness and integration of ethical values in this program is expected to produce a generation that is not only skilled, but also wise and responsible in using digital technology.

## CONCLUSION

This research shows that SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo has taken significant steps in preparing students to face the challenges of *the society 5.0 era* through the development of digital literacy. The results of the study indicate that 85% of students are able to make good use of digital literacy platforms, proving that there is sufficient readiness to face this era. In addition to technical skills, the school is also committed to providing a platform that supports digital-based learning in a competent and significant manner.

However, digital literacy is not only about technical skills, but also includes an understanding of digital responsibility and ethics. This is important so that students are not only proficient in technology, but also able to use it wisely and responsibly, avoiding misuse that can harm themselves and society. Awareness of social responsibility and honesty values, as reflected in *Pangreh*'s story, also needs to be emphasized in digital literacy education so that students have integrity in utilizing technology for the common good.

With these results, it is hoped that SMP Negeri 41 Purworejo can continue to strengthen the digital literacy program that not only hones skills, but also forms the character of students who are ready to contribute positively to society in the digital era.

## ATTACHMENT

### **Pangreh**

Tasuranan Village is being shaken by a case. Recently, the issue of theft has arisen. Strangely the theft is carried out little by little, but it happens to everyone. People started talking about this case. The loss of a sum of money is associated with pesugihan tuyul and speeding pigs. The problem is, this loss is not every day, it always happens simultaneously at the beginning of the month.

"Definitely this is so that we don't get suspicious, so that these tuyul or speeding pigs operate on the move," some residents began to theorize. Over time, the suspicions of the residents narrowed. Pangreh, one of the devices in the village, currently has unnatural wealth. His life is hedonistic. In fact, if you think about it, his salary as a kaur is impossible to buy all that. In the midst of public pressure, state representatives were present to investigate. He couldn't dodge anymore. The available evidence shows that he stole. "Cut, cut off his hand," shouted the resident who escorted him into the prisoner's car. "We demand that Pangreh have his hand cut off," someone shouted. "Agreed," greeted another. "Okay, all of you calm down, we will cut Pangreh," the state representative calmed down.

"Alhamdulillah, finally something is still sharp," people muttered. They felt that for a long time the law for thieves was never fair. The Pangreh trial became the concern of cyber citizens.

Until his appearance smiling while waving in front of the camera surprised many parties. Later I found out that what was cut from Pangreh was not his hand. The law is still the same!

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