

# Generation Z's Attitude towards Bible Study in the Disruption Era

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**Abstract**—The Disruption Era calls for the emergence of innovations in various fields, including in Christian Education. Generation Z (Gen-Z), the largest population in Indonesia today, is well-adapted generation to digital technology. Gen-Z Christians (GZC) who live in this disruptive era consider digital technology needs to be accompanied by mentors for their spiritual growth; especially in Bible study. For planning and determining the right learning strategies, their attitude towards Bible study needs to be understood first. The essence of the seven characteristics of Gen-Z are Figital, Hypercustoms, Realistic, Weconomist, Fomo, DIY, and Driven. The data collected was analyzed based on a qualitative descriptive method by using a survey through a questionnaire. 200 respondents using a purposive random sampling participated in the questionnaires collected from several cities in Indonesia. It can be concluded taht GZC's attitude is in line with the characteristics of this Gen-Z, they can be independent and realistic, but not hyper custom; they believe in the Bible and value spiritual mentors so they agree to actively study the Bible, especially using digital technology, and enjoy the benefits of studying the Bible with others.

**Keywords**—Generation Z, Disruption Era, Bible Study, Christian Education

## I. INTRODUCTION

According to the latest census, of the 270 million population of Indonesia, 27.94% are Generation Z, aged 10 to 26 years. This group of population are considered a demographic bonus in Indonesia [1]. Generation Z are proficient in digital technology (Digital Native) [2], and have distinctive characteristics [3] need guidance in terms of learning [4] and to develop spiritually [5]. The era of disruption accelerate the urgency to produce various innovations [6].

Innovation must be done because of the rapid advances in digital technology. Various disciplines, including Christian Education are challenged by this rapid change. Baart discovered that factors that lead young people to leave the church are

problematic churches (54%) and church is considered boring (14%) [7]. On the other hand, Generation Z Christian (GZC) still attends the church when they experience something interesting and unique [8]. This fact challenges the Christian Educators to be more innovative through programs to develop GZC's spirituality.

One way to develop the spirituality of GZC is by biblical teaching [9]. Teaching will be successful if Christians believe in the Bible and its truth [10]. One's faith will continue to grow while studying the Bible, including when using technology as the means lesson delivery [8]. The spiritual maturity of GZC can be best achieved by biblical teaching and experience.

In a study undertaken by Bilangan Research Center, one founding states that the quality of GZC's spirituality is indeed related to the development of digital technology, but the intensity of its use does not significantly affect the enjoyment of studying the Bible [11]. GZC is well adapted with the advancement in digital technology, but it is not enough to encourage Bible Study. More assistance needs to be given to them.

Previous studies on this generation [9] [12] have not yielded results on fundamental issues. The understanding of their character and attitude are essential to determine the kind of mentoring that needs to be applied [5]. By understanding their basic attitudes, appropriate learning programs can be prepared.

This research essential to be done to answer the question, "what is the attitude of Generation Z towards studying the Bible in the era of disruption?" The information obtained becomes supporting data for the development of Bible study in responding to the era of disruption.

II. METHOD

The method of choice for this research is the qualitative descriptive method, using a survey as the means of data collection [13]. The survey was conducted using a questionnaire. The components in the questionnaire were arranged based on concepts and theories that are relevant to the topic. Considerations used in the survey focuses on measuring attitude, consisting of cognitive, affective and conative components [14].

The characteristics of Generation Z according to D Stillman and J Stillman became the underlying theory. Generation Z is characterized by: Fidigital (can accept Physical and Digital), Hypercustoms (customizing everything according to their own needs), Realistic (can accept reality), Weconomist (supports mutual benefits), Fomo (Fear Of Missing Out) ie afraid of missing information, DIY (Do It Yourself), working alone, and Driven (motivated) [3]. Theories and concepts combined to underly the development of the questions. Respondents responded by selecting an answer on a multiple-choice list.

The population included in the survey are Christians aged 10 to 26 years, categorized as Generation Z [15]. Digital technology is easier to use by urban residents in Indonesia, because of the availability in urban settings [16]. This research uses a purposive sampling method of GZC who live in cities. They are in big cities of Medan, Jakarta, Bandung, Semarang, Surabaya, Palangka Raya, Makassar and Manado, as well as medium or small cities, such as Palembang, Bogor, Tangerang, Surakarta, Kediri, and Denpasar. After going through a pre-survey trial run, the questionnaires will be distributed to GZC that meets the criteria of the purposive sampling method. The collected data then will be processed and analyzed according to the points relevant to the topic and presented in a qualitative descriptive manner.

III. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A total of 200 respondents gave their responses. The respondent consists of men (43%) and women (57%) who come from 43 different churches with different denominations. According to their age group, most are aged 13-15 years (35%), then 19-22 (34.5%), while those aged 10-12 years are only 4%. The respondents consist of mostly grade school students (48%) and university students (43%) who live in the provincial capital city as much as 75% and in other cities as much as 25%. With that population composition, the findings of the survey analyze the attitude towards the Bible and Bible Study.

A. GZC believes in the Bible and must be studied diligently.

In Figure 1 it can be seen, as many as 64% stated that they often and very often read the Bible. As many as 89% of the respondents are indeed active in worship on Sundays, but only 22% are actively participating in the Bible reading groups, the rest have never or are no longer participating in Bible Reading groups. While those who are still actively participating in the Bible study program are 34%. From these findings, GZC turned out to be more active in participating in public worship than

reading, participating in the reading groups, or participating in Bible study programs. As many as 96% of them (ie 27% agree, 69% strongly agree) for the need for a Bible study program in today's world.

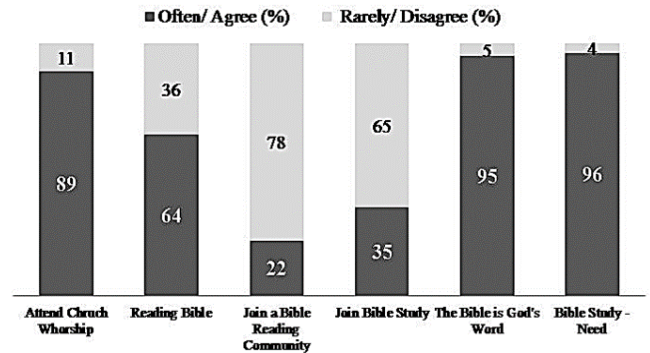


Fig. 1: GZC's Experiences and Attitude - Related The Bible

For the questions related to the characteristics of being driven, the respondents falls into these categories: a total of 61% agree, only 10% disagree, and 30% are in doubt. They are motivated, active, and eager to study the Bible because most of them believe in the benefits of the Bible. This data shows that more GZC believe that studying the Bible is necessary.

B. GZC prefers to use digital technology

Gen-Z has a lot of activities with technology, especially digital technology. This generation likes the digital world, often uses the internet; prefers visualized information; and processes information digitally as well as physically. In line with their proficiency in digital technology, this generation also shows the desire to always get the latest information, not wanting to be behind on information. This generation will try in various ways to get the latest information, even switching methods quickly to monitor the latest information. The love of digital technology and getting the latest information characterizes Gen-Z today.

These characteristics have been applied to GZC's attitude about studying the Bible. The results can be observed from the percentage of respondents who gave responses as listed in Table 1 below

TABLE I GZC'S ATTITUDE TOWARD BIBLE STUDY

Respos	GZC's Attitude		
	Disagree (%)	Neutral/ Ordinary (%)	Agree (%)
Appreciate Physical and Digital Bible	11	33	56
Trying to Get New Information	5	32	63

As many as 56% of respondents agreed and strongly agreed that using digital technology is their favorite way of studying the Bible. Only 11% disagreed. Information obtained that GZC tends to choose and use digital technology in reading and studying the Bible.

Liking and seeking new information was given by 63% of respondents; only 5% said no. From these results, it is indicated that GZC is currently trying to obtain new information about the Bible and Bible studies. GZC's closeness to digital technology can be seen in its attitude towards Bible study activities. They like to use digital technology and use it to get the latest information.

Ministry in the current era for the younger generation needs to pay attention to the development of digital technology [17]. The results of the survey above strengthen that argument for the design of the Bible learning program by utilizing digital technology.

C. GZC is not hyper-custom and can be realistic

The rapid development of technology forces innovation in various fields. Gen-Z, amid the era of disruption by digital technology, has prefers hyper-customization, but are realistic. They are very capable of managing choices. Their abilities are accompanied by their readiness to accept reality. These characteristics were applied to their attitudes toward Bible study activities. Figure 2 illustrates the summary of respondents' responses to this matter.

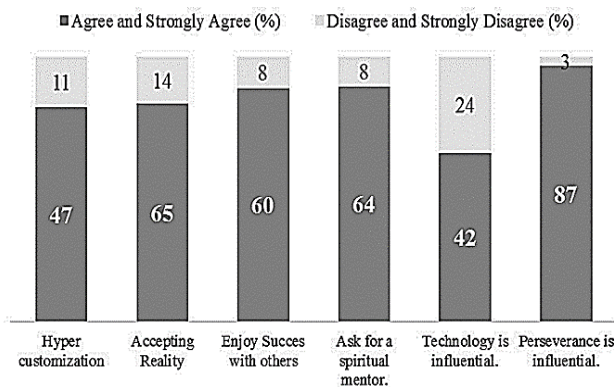


Fig. 2: GZC's attitude in several aspects

Questions were asked to determine the respondents' knowledge and preferences for customizing Bible study programs. They were allowed to express their agreement about organizing or participating in a planned Bible study program. It was found that only 47% agreed with it, and 11% were disagreed or strongly disagreed about it. Predictably, this relates to 64% of those who still respect a spiritual mentor. They are

more likely to entrust the arrangement of the Bible study program to a spiritual mentor.

While there are 42% of them who believe that technology is not always supportive and an important factor in studying the Bible is providing time and diligence (87%). This is a fact that deserves attention. While Gen-Z likes the use of digital technology, GZC believes that persistence is the determining factor in Bible study, not technology support.

D. GZC can work alone, but likes to share success with other people

One of the characteristics of Gen-Z is that it focuses on sharing with others. In addition to sharing roles, also enjoy success together. Although they will prefer to solve it themselves, if faced with a difficulty and challenge. This character seems likely to be present in GZC as well. The results of the survey on this subject are shown in Figure 2 as well.

In the survey, questions were asked about their enjoyment of the benefits of studying the Bible with others, as well as about cooperating and sharing roles with others in Bible study. It was found that only 8% did not, and 60% did. The existence of other people, including through friendship, does have a significant influence on the spirituality of the Christian youth in Indonesia. Those who have close Christian friends tend to have a better spiritual level [18]. GZC is still considering social relations related to his spiritual affairs.

To the questions related to doing things by yourself (Do it Yourself), only 57% responded 'agree' and 'strongly agree'. Even that attitude is still balanced with their willingness to ask someone to be a mentor and also to verify the information they have acquired with their mentors. The data informs GZC's attitude towards Bible study, related to the presence of other people. They are ready to be independent, but still respect someone who is a spiritual authority, and prefers to share success with others.

IV. CONCLUSION

It was found that the attitudes of Generation Z Christians towards the Bible and Bible study activities were: strongly believe in the Bible, respect spiritual mentors, agree to be active in Bible studies, prefer to use digital technology to study and obtain information, not hyper-custom, remain realistic, try to do it themselves, and enjoy the benefits of studying the Bible with others. In general, the attitude is in line with the character of Generation Z, while still acknowledging the authority of the Bible and respecting spiritual mentors.

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