



Freedom of Expression and the Need for Digital Literacy in Today's Digital Age

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Abstract. This paper discusses the freedom of expression that must be supported by increasing literacy to face the digital era. Freedom of expression is an individual right guaranteed by the constitution. Differences in literacy levels will affect differences in individual control in the process of interpreting existing information, especially information circulating on social media. Access to information and social support may increase. Several cases were found in the realm of freedom of expression such as misuse of social media. This article discusses some of the new reorientations of learning that are considered to affect vision, responsibility, social sensitivity and logical ability, and honesty. This paper recommends the role of the government, the community, and parents to ensure freedom of expression and fulfill literacy needs so that all people are ready to face the digital era.

Keywords: Freedom of Expression · Digital Literacy · Social Media

1 Introduction

Freedom of expression and opinion is interpreted as the inherent right of every human being, to possess. Freedom of expression is used to express views and opinions, whether between individuals or groups. The concept of human rights in terms of freedom of expression and opinion is related to the conception of the state of law.

Freedom of expression is supported by the development of media and technological advances. Technological progress is recognized as very helpful for human life. On the other hand, sometimes it has a negative impact. The negative impact of social media is that it is prone to addiction to the internet, prone to hoaxes, conflicts, disclosure of one's privacy, character assassination, and vulnerability to the bad influence of others. This negative impact can be reduced if there is an increase in community literacy. Literacy development is needed to educate the public so that they are not easily influenced by untrue news.

The lack of knowledge that people have about digital progress is very challenging for the current generation to how they can introduce through education, in general, the importance of digital literacy itself.

This study uses a legal approach to analyzing the protection of netizens in freedom of expression on social media in Indonesia. In addition, it also uses a case approach which is carried out by evaluating cases related to regulations.

2 Discussion

2.1 The Right to Free Speech in Indonesia

In Indonesia, the right to freedom to express opinions is very much regulated in the regulations of the Law or in government regulations that are currently in force. Indonesia regulates freedom of opinion and expression in Article 28E paragraph “everyone has the right to freedom of association, assembly, and expression of opinion.” Article 28F “Everyone has the right to communicate and obtain information to develop his personal and social environment, as well as the right to seek, obtain ownership, convey information using any kind of available channels.

However, the process of free speech in Indonesia is inseparable from the abuse of freedom of speech, because the abuse of free speech can result in long-term divisions. Due to the lack of control, freedom of speech is abused. Without clear control, citizens will be overconfident that all self-defeating policies and their organization will be opposed on the grounds of free speech and perceived as irrelevant policies.

To prevent abuse of freedom of expression and opinion, law, the spirit of society, social order, and politics play an important role in limiting freedom of expression. Freedom of expression in society is believed to be the best way to find the truth. As for freedom of expression is not absolute, the UDHR states that this freedom of expression does not mean free as possible.

Electronic media and social media become platforms for the flow of various information and of course, this is a forum for citizens to have opinions and expressions. In the context of a democratic country, the media can become a forum for conveying public aspirations. Social media has an impact on new characters, and audience-generated media, allowing the public to distribute the content they collect themselves. The practice of produce-sage means producing as well as consuming content. The negative thing that is recorded is the tendency to argue on social media which is starting to be colored with negative content. The emergence of the phenomenon of culture, and the existence of social media are inversely proportional to literacy skills so the media as a public space tends to turn into a container that contains negative content. Social media is one of the effective and innovative mobility efforts to move society. Thus, in the end, the development of information technology through social media causes dynamism in the presentation of information with various electronics (Smartphones, Notebooks, Tablets, etc.)

Freedom of expression in the press is relatively better when compared to the freedom of individual citizens. In the press community, there is the God of the Press who protects the press from the demands of all expressions revealed, while individual citizens whose knowledge of the ethics and legal implications of their internet activity is relatively lower than the press society has no protection at all.

In national legal instruments, the restriction of rights has been regulated in article 28J paragraph (2). This article has a common context of restrictions on the right to freedom of expression and opinion contained in international legal instruments. A person in expressing his opinion is obliged to be subject to the restrictions applicable to the legislation. This is necessary for the sake of ensuring the rights and freedoms of others. Then it is regulated in the Criminal Code related to law enforcement related to

freedom of expression article 15, article 310 paragraph (1). Article 45A of Act No.19 of 2016 concerning Electronic Information and Transactions. On October 8, 2015, the police issued a Circular Letter from the Chief of Police No. SE/6/X/2015 on Hate Speech where freedom of expression is restricted by certain elements.

2.2 The Need for Digital Literacy for the People of Indonesia

What is the real meaning of digital literacy? In the previous literacy era of print media, ideas and expressions essentially consisted of only one form. As for digital literacy, the form of expression uses digital codes that produce sounds, images, and words, so there are parametric variations that apply to the core of digital expression. To be able to be digitally literate, there must be the ability to decipher complex images and sounds, as well as the syntactic meanings of words. Digital literacy also improves our ability to match media to the information offered to audiences. In further studies, this digital literacy process involves authentic multi-text, processed with diverse devices and code-switching to understand the content of multiple users on a single subject.

Developing the definition of media literacy initiated by W. James Potter, the author tried to divide the definition of digital literacy into three similar categories (by replacing media objects with digital technology) namely umbrella definition, process definition, and goal definition. Differences in literacy levels will of course have an impact on differences in individual control in the process of interpreting existing information, especially information circulating on social media. On the one hand, social media can be seen as one step closer to democracy on the internet, and closing the digital divide between developing and developed countries. Access to information and social support may increase. But on the other hand, some negative cases are found in the realm of free speech along with the intense use of social media in society.

Talking about digital literacy cannot be separated from the post-truth era. The post-truth era comes as a result of increasing polarization, inequality of economic growth, denial of belief in science, and an increasing fraction of the media landscape. The transformation of the media landscape that occurred in the new media era was indirectly one of the causes of the emergence of the post-truth era. The correlation between the rapid use of social media and all the warmth of the conversation about post-truth is motivated by several reasons.

This digital literacy need involves technological, cognitive, and social competencies in facing changes in digital technology. Users must be digitally literate to master the sociological, cognitive, and pedagogical challenges caused by the increasing penetration of the internet. Individuals must learn, collaborate, and solve problems effectively in a virtual environment, and communicate effectively in a technology-mediated social environment.

The purpose of having digital literacy skills is to provide more control to the audience in interpreting messages that pass by in digital media. The whole media message has a visible meaning, accompanied by many deeper meanings stored in it. Differences in literacy rates will, of course, have an impact on differences in individual control in the process of interpreting existing information. According to Potter (2001: 10), individuals with a low level of literacy will tend to be receptive to the meaning of the apparent message, which is created and determined by the media. With the limitations

of perspective, it has a smaller, shallower, and less organized structure of knowledge, so it is not capable of being used in the process of interpreting the meaning of the message. Finally, the individual will find it very difficult to identify the accuracy of the information, sort out controversies, be aware of the content, as well as develop a broader perspective.

The use of social media as a place of free speech remains associated with advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand, social media can be seen as one step closer to democracy on the internet, and closing the digital divide between developing and developed countries. Access to information and social support may increase. Given the characteristics of Indonesian society which has a high social attachment, the use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter has become popular. But on the other hand, some negative cases are found in the realm of free speech along with the intense use of social media in society. Based on data from communication and information service Indonesia West Java 2012, the channel for spreading hoax news is mostly 92.4% found through social media. Therefore, the relationship between digital literacy and efforts to overcome hoax cases needs to be explored more, especially in the social media group with the most hoax cases, namely microblogs (Twitter) and SNS (Facebook and Instagram).

The role of parents in this matter is also needed to help shape the characteristics of children in this digital era. The involvement of parents in shaping the child's personality aims to prevent deviant behavior that is with moral norms and moral values in the child. Thus, parental parenting means a process of interaction between parents and children which includes activities such as nurturing, educating, guiding and disciplining in achieving the process of maturity both directly and indirectly. Parenting is also related to the responsibility and obligations of parents towards the child. According to the Indonesian Republic Act, Number 35 of 2014, Article 26, parents in the family are obliged and responsible for: (1) nurturing, maintaining, educating, and protecting children; cultivating the Child through his abilities, talents, and interests; (c) prevent the occurrence of marriage at the age of the child; (d) provide character education and the cultivation of ethical values in children.

Parents are expected to be able to protect children from the threats of the digital age but not hinder the potential benefits they can offer. Based on these things stated, parents can apply models or parenting patterns that are wise, positive, effective, constructive, and transformative. The main parenting or parenting style is effective parenting or parenting. This kind of parenting is not just how to educate an effective child. Effective parenting is closely related to mentality and character. Parents need to their rain mindset. Parenting needs to be built in parents and trained consistently so that parents can become exemplary figures that children want.

Each type of parenting or parenting style applied to each child his an impact on the child's character development in the future. Authoritarian parents produce children who grow up to be regulatory-abiding people and have high competence. However, authoritarian parenting is a negative risk for children, namely children who do not feel happy, experience obstacles in establishing good relationships with many people, have fairly low self-esteem (children feel uncomfy), and tend to be quick to depression.

This means that parents are not only skilled and understand all kinds of things and technical terms of the digital devices and media that the child will buy or have

used. However, as long as the child is still dependent on the parents, parents must know, not limit, what it is for and how digital devices and media are used by the child. Parents should understand that digital devices and media are technologies that are like a double-edged knife.

3 Conclusions

Every society in Indonesia has the right to speak and express opinions, regardless of race, race, or religion. Indonesia is one of the democracies because democracy provides an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the freedoms they have in people. After all, cause one's freedom is limited by the freedoms of others. Freedom of Expression is an important element in the course of democracy and public participation. If people's freedoms are violated, it can be said that the government has taken place in an authoritarian manner. As an effort to prevent freedom of expression and opinion, namely freedom of expression is limited by law, the spirit (morality) of sociality, social and political order (public order) of a democratic society. To grow digital literacy at the individual level, we can make efforts in several ways. First, develop an accurate awareness of information exposure by sorting out credible sources. Second, continue to enrich ourselves with science so that the structure of knowledge we build becomes stronger. Third, compare the same information from one media platform to another to get many points of view. Fourth, reflecting on a personal opinion on an issue, whether that opinion is rational enough with all the sources of information we have. Finally, foster a culture of verification and actively correct false information that is circulating. Digital literacy efforts to date are the best way to overcome hoaxes as a form of irresponsible free speech. The role of the government, society, including parents, is needed to ensure freedom of expression and increase literacy needs. It is necessary to socialize thoroutoer to create social resilience, netizens who are smart and selective in sorting out information, for a healthier social media climate.

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