



# Education in the Disruption Era for The Millennial Generation: Efforts to Increase Social Values in The Community

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**Abstract.** Christian education educates and restores the personal relationship of God's creation to know the Creator and the inherent divine truth about the purpose of His creation. If education fails to perform its function, there will be moral decadence in the individual and society with various violations interfering with the welfare of the community and affect the process of character building for the growing and developing generation in its time. The millennial generation as the successor befalls in a disruption era that is uncertain about the truth and the crisis due to social media that dominates their lives, thus Christian education is dealing with the challenge of saving some of their lost population. Durkheim's theory believes that collective morality will have an impact on personal morality, thus the church as a social institution of a faith community can increase its function as a unifying tool that builds collective awareness for the moral development and faith growth of every church member, including the millennial generation, which has become a separate part due to its existence in the middle of a virtual community. The concern for this condition is manifested by descriptive qualitative research methods which result in the conclusion that Christian education in the disruption era for the Millennial generation is a transformational effort through inculcating social values as part of community members who are aware of their identity and calling as creations with the character of Christ, compatible with the Bible, with divine nature and ready to excel in competing in the globalization era.

**Keywords:** Disruption era, Millennial generation, Social values.

## 1 Introduction

Indonesia is known as one of the internet user countries which dominates the market with survey indicating that Indonesia was ranked 4th in the world with a duration of use reaching 8 hours per day in 2018, but the use of this technology have not been maximally supportive of life as intended by the existence of internet because the majority of our society uses social media as a lifestyle intended for chatting, social networking, browsing, or just viewing photos and watching videos. The impact of abuse

and non-optimality has led to crime rates, a crisis of moral degradation, and an alarming explanation of social phenomena [1].

The fact of an increase in the use of social media in Indonesia was recorded in 2017 as much as 23% to 30% in 2018 and it had reached 63 million people and 95% in 2021 for social networking with an average time usage of 3 hours 23 minutes per day, whereas the use of gadgets in children and adolescents for more than 3 hours per day will be vulnerable to addiction, while online game addiction occurs when the symptoms interfere with self-functions, such as relationship, education, work, other routine activities for 12 months [2]. As an illustration of one of the facts on gadget addiction to the growth dynamics of youth group congregation (15-24 years) in the last 10 years (2007-2016) which reached 53.2% growth in faith, which can also be interpreted that 46.8% has neither grown nor decreased for a decade [3, p. 61]. It is related to the data generated from the spirituality survey of younger generation with a total of 4,095 respondents found that 97.4% are connected to the internet and almost 50% of respondents use social media more than 5 hours per week and even 11.4% use more than 20 hours a week [4].

This condition indicates that human life is inseparable from civilization and technology developed in each era and has continued since the creation of man in which interaction between fellow humans as social beings in their daily life has produced a non-static cultural system, as culture is the results of human creations that are studied and continue to be taught on an ongoing basis and maintained for functions that affect the dynamics of human life in their efforts to survive [5, p. 230]. This cultural system arises from the urge and desire to defend the lives of both individuals and their communities from any threat and challenge for the sake of their survival of which fulfillment is alleviated by culture within the limits of their capabilities, so that the urge produces material culture as a result of human work known as technology [5].

The present era is a disruption era which is referred to by Jaja as "Tomorrow becomes Today"[6] that this era is marked by the presence of a new order that fundamentally changes various aspects of people's lives as a result of the birth and development of new inventions in the field of technology in an innovative and massive manner. This phenomenon is known as the technological disruption era due to the emergence of new technologies that have shifted old technologies and shaken up the industry by producing novelty. The other side of the nature of this technological disruption is destructive, as it has made old technology and communication systems become obsolete but also creative as it creates more efficient and effective innovations [7].

John Naisbitt called this period the "Technology Drunk Symptom" or culture shock or popular culture characterized by instant problem solving and excessive worship of technology. This creates a fondness for technology that is limited to just plaything or anything, rather than intended for development of science or development of human life which has an impact on relationships or the intertwining human life that is far from one another but is also snatched away by the pull of an attractive and instant display [8]. Therefore, based on this phenomenon, the role of Christian education in this disruption era has undergone an urgent situation which Agustinus Hermino considers that education is the key word for efforts to

improve the quality of human life. In accordance with the nature of education itself, which plays a vital role in the process of maturation of the quality of life to understand the meaning and nature of life as well as for what and how to carry out the duties of life and the life correctly [9, p. 137].

Various researches related to Christian Education in the disruption era for the Millennial generation in an effort to increase Social Values in the Community have been carried out, one of which was Mesirawati et al. who discussed the role of Christian ethics education in social media in the disruption era, which resulted in the conclusion that due to the misuse of social media in the disruption era and ethical challenges from the wrong use of social media, it had an effect on moral decadence so that Biblical Christian ethics education could lead believers as modern human to become the light in the use of social media in accordance with Christian faith [10]. Likewise with Fredik Melkias Boiliu et al. who conducted a study themed on the role of Christian religious education in the digital era as an effort to overcome the excessive use of gadgets in children in the family in the disruption era 4.0. with the results concluded that the role of Christian religious education as an effort to anticipate excessive use of gadgets to be carried out by schools with the maximum role of Christian religious education teachers. Due to the task of Christian education teachers to teach God's Word, they need to understand what is happening in the lives of their students so that the results of their teaching will have an effect on achieving the goals of Christian religious education. Thus from this research, the findings are obtained that help in the urgency of the study of Christian Education in the disruption era for the Millennial generation: Efforts to increase Social Values in the Community.

## **2 Methods**

The explanation of the phenomenon of society, especially those related to the condition of the millennial generation in the disruption era, prompted this research to find the underlying problem and contribute to the solutions that will be offered. Furthermore, based on this struggle using descriptive qualitative methods [11], the topic of Christian education is selected and the disruption era is analyzed from the study of Biblical Theology, Systematic Theology, Sociology of Religion and the field of Christian Religious Education based on the Bible to build a finding as the basis for Christian in the context of religious social life in the midst of the dynamics and fluctuations of society in the disruption era. The results of analysis from each of these studies have been synthesized to become an effective strategy formulation for Christian institutions in carrying out their functions as providers of Christian education, especially for the millennial generation in this disruption era.

## **3 Finding and Discussion**

Disruption as considered a necessity has led humans to progress with significant changes and affects the human mindset caused by technological innovation, which in itself has an impact on human life [12]. The achievement of a society towards welfare

and prosperity depends on the next generation, which in the midst of this disruption era deals with very massive and volatile competition and dynamics of life so that a level of excellence is required from qualifications, competence, character, mental, moral and excellence that is ready to compete with the other nations. Christian education in the domestic or local scope, which is families, churches, schools, and national scales such as denominations, synods, government curricula for the millennial generation requires adjustments to progressive, innovative and creative learning patterns, so that the basic needs of sprinkling values on intellectual, emotional, social, moral, faith, spiritual and other multi-intelligence growth and development lead this generation to an adequate and qualified level of maturity and excellence.

Harmadi [13], relating the development of information technology in this disruption era, has the same opinion as Durkheim that morality, collective morality in particular, will have an impact on the development of personal morality, so that the National Education System Law no. 20 of 2003 also formulated the goal of national education, which is to increase faith and piety to God Almighty and noble character in the context of educating the nation's life which is not only to achieve intellectual intelligence. Access to the most effective contribution to moral development is religious education as it is believed by Durkheim that religious teaching will not produce humans who will destroy the earth and human civilization, but between material facts and non-material facts, which is culture and social institutions have proven to be an effective unifying tool for primitive societies, especially in terms of shared morality or the so-called collective consciousness. Likewise, for modern society, although most of them are united by bonds in virtual communities, there has been interdependence with one another in the need to build identity as a moral nation by showing self-identity in the form of non-material social facts, in which religious education is believed to be still effective as a tool for moral formation to balance mental health as stipulated by the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003 Article 3, therefore "Developing the potential of students to become human beings who believe and fear God Almighty, have noble character, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens."

### 3.1 The Essence of Disruption Era

The disruption era is a situation and condition occurring due to changes in the process of industrial conditions as a result of the development of information technology in exchange for the old system with digital technology [14]. In this era, the change does not occur gradually just like climbing stairs, but rather an explosive nature resembling a volcanic explosion that destroys the old ecosystem and replaces it with a new exceptionally different ecosystem [15]. Kasali in his book *Self Disruption* states that the disruption era is a transitional era that delivers information through social media quickly and efficiently, which has caused the effect of updating information quickly, massively and unwittingly [16, p. 45]. This transition period has changed the human paradigm which is very different from the previous era to an era full of optimism, intelligence, and practicality in conducting transactions. Another book written by Kasali

states that the disruption era is a process of real change occurring as a result of the presence of the future into the present [17].

The term of disruption era was originally used in the world of industry and technology to describe changes in circumstances due to the development of industry and information technology that resulted in new innovations in exchange for the old system with digital technology.[14] In this era there is a phenomenon of a shift in the order of society which switches from the real world to the virtual world [18], with the impact of the spread of information through the fast, efficient and unimpeded social media [17]. In addition to its unique characteristics, which is the application of artificial intelligence[19] that changes the way human life becomes more optimistic, intelligent and practical [16].

The disruption era also known as the era of the digital revolution 4.0 that opens up opportunities for mankind, including Christians in order to use this technology to carry out its mandate in expanding the Kingdom of God through church functions, which is *marturia*, *diakonia*, *koinonia*, and education through advanced digital technology. Although this era leading to industry 5.0 is likely to find social disclosures leading to discord [20]. However, the negative impacts that are smartly managed will produce useful potential such as smartphones that can be used to share God's word quickly and precisely, as well as help in processing sermons that can be done anywhere and anytime [21], still rely on the leadership of the Holy Spirit [22, p. 18].

### **3.2 Theology in Christian Education in the Disruption Era**

Theology is the result of studying the development of God's revelation in history as the original Bible statement which has gone through a systematic compilation process covering historical periods with the doctrinal emphasis of each biblical writer who is different from one another but as a whole in unity [23]. Systematic theology seeks to capture and maintain various forms of biblical discourse within a conceptual framework that can be understood by humans throughout the ages to this date, in which the field of hermeneutics is closely related to producing the Biblical interpretations according to the underlying context. Because it is related to the process of organizing Christian Education as the implementation of God's noble creation of humans with various potentials in order to be capable to think, communicate, feel, pay attention, and socialize to develop and used for the survival of mankind in a society with various dynamics.

Christian education exists to develop and increase the potential of faith that forms believers as part of a faith community that grows to maturity and is involved in maintaining personal and collective faith commensurate with the character of Christ. The scope of Christian education is not limited to formal education in school or church institutions and even families, but must be open and inclusive in the community so that its presence has an effect on the closest community [24, p. 47]. Education is actually a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential so that they have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and the skills required for their development and the welfare of the community in Indonesia in its environment.

Thus, Christian education in the disruption era, without exception, continues to carry out the task as agents of change who process God's people into salt and light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16) that are consistent and having no fear of various changes with the basic belief that the divine truth of the Bible and the essence as God's creation who is endowed with various potentials will be able to struggle and survive as a people who have been separated in holiness, so that the task of religious education for adults in the family and church is to create an environment through a process of togetherness that invites, gathers, and involves others to research, ponder, and act in faith and toward faith. The strategies in this Christian education process include, listening and sharing stories, about conversing, listening, establishing relationships, obedience and the mysteries of life, as well as sharing hope for the future and seeking the welfare of the community in their environment.

### 3.3 Christian Education and Social Society

The thriving philosophy of humanism has influenced the mindset of human and all aspects of life which among other things has anesthetized human for the success they have achieved, so they no longer rely on God the Creator and overlook that their potential and abilities all come from God's grace. The achievement of human success in general has an impact on changing attitudes that become overly confident and self-reliant. Yonathan explained that one of the characteristics of the philosophy of humanism is to make human the highest authority in their lives with reason as the standard in setting ethics for society and knowledge as a result of human inventions [25]. Human make themselves as gods who are misled by the devil's deception who think that they are capable of being like God (Gen. 3:5). Humanism also teaches that human behavior can be improved through human wisdom, which is education and modern psychology with the assumption that everything should be centered on human interests, thus anything pleasing human must be pursued without absolute moral standards as everything depends on human interests alone.

The development crisis in the disruption era that disregards religious education, ethics, morals, and human character [26] results in a moral decline, which is a condition in which individuals and community groups no longer observe the applicable rules and procedures in society,[27] especially among teenagers of which emotions are still unstable and is looking for identity so that they are easily influenced by information they freely accept[28] without being able to distinguish what is right and what is evil as there is no filter of truth formed through religious education in their families. This condition results in the emergence of various social problems due to social shocks such as cyber bullying, pornography, poor communication, threats, hate speech, disruption of children's emotional and physical development, the habit of revealing secrets, etc. [29], recruitment of prospective terrorists, human-trafficking, prostitution, the spread of lgfts through social media. Another impact of excessive use of gadgets and even addiction according to Chusna, Puji Asmaul is that children become more emotional, tend to be rebellious, being sluggish to do any activity and tend to shut down and isolate themselves as they are limited in establishing interactions to build relationships with others in the real world [30].

Families in the disruption era have lost their function as educational centers for their children as the Bible commands (Deut 5:4-9) because the knowledge that should have been first obtained from parents and families has been usurped by the role of social media which is to spread information and is considered by the child as a truth. As a result, children do not feel and have emotional, social and spiritual attachments with their families as their parents are extremely occupied with their gadgets. Therefore the assessment of children's abilities and growth is only viewed from their intellectual development from academic reports, rather than from the overall growth of their gifts and talents that their parents and families must explore and develop. Home is no longer a place of recreation after activities outside it, but children are already enjoying choosing a hotspot place with their friends regardless of parental control about what platform they are relishing [31].

The use of social media on young people has positive and negative impacts with the emergence of indications on individual behavior that is already at a disturbing stage and order, which the decline in ethics, manners, customs, social values, as well as cultural norms and the community environment [10]. Christian education examines various domains of life such as cognitive, affective, psychomotor, and values that affect the pattern of thought, speech, attitude, decision making and behavior or action. Divine message of truth in Lev. 11:45, "Be holy because I am holy" is a mission carried out by Christian educators in the midst of a society that is being shaken and unstable by the misperception of gadgets that have succeeded in making their users overlooking about time and ethical-moral values applying in society. Assumptions about Christian education which are considered as prisons or restrictions for creative expression in free behavior are further strengthened when Christian educational institutions disregard their duties and calls that are shifted and eroded by the times. Even though the absolute truth of God's word is authoritative and valid for human life at all times, it remains solid, but if Christian educational institutions do not stand firm with their vision and mission, then the millennial generation as the successor and pillar of faith of the future church will be vanished [32].

## 4 Conclusion

Human life will continue to be in line with the culture it produces, including knowledge and technology that develops and continues to innovate. Knowledge and technology shall not be overlooked as God's wisdom that develops various scientific discoveries comes from the purpose bestowed by God with useful results for human survival and glorifying God. Therefore, technological progress, including in this disruption era, must be controlled by human, rather than keeping human away from their Creator, but must become a tool in materializing human relationships with God and other people to love mutually, rather than mislead and destroy each other. Christian education has the task of building a community of faith and the general public to become a community that upholds social values as God's creatures who are sovereign over the eras and the impact of progress it has created without exception. This means that awareness of the threat of the loss of millennial generation due to this disruption

era must be a warning and a struggle to reclaim them to be in the order of the faith community both in the midst of families, churches, schools and wider communities such as denominations as a forum for growth and achievement in the likeness of Christ's character. The urgency of the role and function of Christian education is an awareness as well as a torch for the struggle with a long and endless road, but it will end with joy and victory that glorifies God for providing a choice of the way, the truth, and the life that is facilitated for the millennial generation as the successor of the torch of Christian faith.

**Research Contribution:** Moral decadence due to the era of disruption experienced by the millennial generation as digital beings has separated them from the social community, both society in general and the Church as a community of faith. The church as an institution that serves as a forum for building collective morality greatly impacts the development of the personal morality of each citizen as Durkheim believes that religious teaching is an access to contribute to moral development. For this reason, the church needs to increase its function as a transformer in Christian Education adaptively, progressively and creatively in an effort to reach the millennial generation which is partly lost as its existence is conditioned as a digital-native in a virtual community.

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