

Strengthening the Supervisory Function for Children in the Information Technology Era

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Abstract— This paper is a critical analysis of the rapid development of information technology that has entered into various lines of life, including the lives of children. The phenomenon in the field shows that the impact is not always positive, but also negative. In this paper, the writer discusses the importance of environmental awareness of the supervisory function in children's development in the era of information technology. The discussion is completed by relevant supporting data and theoretical studies. A variety of alternative solutions are offered as input for those who responsible for the children's development, including; parents in the family environment, educators in the school environment and all adults in the community. From the results of the study, it can be concluded that the cooperation of supervision between the three existing educational environments that is family, school, and community needs to be improved so that the development of information technology supports the realization of the best generation in the future.

Keywords—*Strengthening, Supervisory Function, Children, Information Technology Era*

I. INTRODUCTION

Living in the era of technology and information entails opportunities and challenges. It provides us with easier access to everything. Throughout numerous applications available on various media, the elements of effectiveness and efficiency begin to be put ahead. Customs and traditional culture in the various sides of life started to diminish. This phenomenon of cultural transformation from the traditional to the technological culture can be seen in various aspects of human life, including the workforce, family environment, education, entertainment, trade services, health, transportation and others.

In an attempt to gain utmost benefit, the rapid development of the information technology should be equal with one's knowledge and skills to use and control the effect of it. Most experts have spoken at the Conference, both on the national and the international level, that in this era of information

technology, the one who mastered information technology will be the one to conquer the world. On the other hand, those who are not familiar with the information technology will be overrun by it [1].

The development of information technology occurs rapidly and disseminates into the world of children. The expansion of widespread platforms and information technology has also influence children. On the positive side, it provides economic and social opportunities for children to develop their creativity. For instance, many children become famous entertainer after posting their video of singing, reciting, acting, which is economically profitable for them and their family. But on the negative side, children are badly affected by being excessively attached to technology in everyday life. There are an increasing number of crimes on children through cyberspace, such as social aberrations and the emergence of new diseases due to extreme use of information technology. Reported from CNN-Indonesia-Indonesia, Child Protection Commission (KPAI) stated that Indonesia is currently in an emergency situation of online pornography and crime on children [2].

According to KPAI, since 2011 to 2014, the number of child victims on online pornography has reached 1,022 children. Other data about the harms towards children caused by the influence of the digital media are also reported by VOA-Indonesia about the dangers of Facebook. A report from ECPAT International estimated that each year, 40,000 to 70,000 children are involved in trading, pornography or prostitution in Indonesia. The data stated above are the impact of using only one platform (Facebook). The number could increase even more if another platform like YouTube is included.

The huge influence of the information technology requires the discretion and mature mentality of its users. Children often negatively affected because they indeed have yet to reach the level of maturity in various things including thinking and acting. Therefore, to protect the children from the danger that

arises from the development of information technology, we need to improve the environmental supervisory function on children. Thus, based on the background of the problem explained above, the writer entitled this paper "Strengthening the supervisory function for children in the information technology era".

II. DISCUSSION

A. *The Concept of Children Supervision*

There are many definitions of supervision. Taken from a variety of literature, supervision is named as one of the aspects of management activities. This is in line with the arguments made by [3] that supervision is one of the management functions to ensure that work goes according to the standards established in the planning. If the supervision is exercised, then the process will lead an individual or organization to achieve the goals. Victor D. Situmorang and Joseph Juhir in [4], defined supervision as the attempts and actions that were taken in order to know the end-point of an execution of the task, its standards and the goals to achieve. If the authorities of a program in certain context implement supervision in a professional and sustainable manner, they can definitely drive the most effort to achieve more and risk less. Another opinion on the supervision is also asserted by Sondang p. Siagian in [4], who claimed that the supervision is a process of observation of all activities in an organization to ensure that all tasks undergone under a predetermined plan. This is supported by [5], who stated that the definition of supervision is a process to determine a task and how it is performed in accordance with the plan.

Based on the notions of supervision presented by the experts above, then it can be inferred that supervision is one of the essential parts in a process used to ensure the most possible goals of a program. In relation to the child development, in a small context, a child can be illustrated as the main element of the future program of each family, meanwhile, in the large context; every child is the important element of a country. Their growth and development should be excellently established in order to ensure the good future of every family and country

B. *Maintaining the Integrity of the Specifications*

Despite many people say that today is the era of information technology, it is unconfirmed whether they have the same understanding about the nature of information technology itself. To understand what is meant by information technology, the experts presented an understanding of information technology. [6] stated that information technology is any form of technology that is applied (used) to process and send the information in electronic form, microcomputers, mainframe computers, barcode readers, software, transaction process, software

worksheets, communications equipment, and networks.

Lucas' definition of information technology is identical with media engineering of technology that is used in processing and delivering various forms of information. [7] said that the information technology is a hardware device functioned to collect, process, forward and exchange the social values and information between individuals. Meanwhile, [8] suggested that information technology is the technology used to process data, including to process, obtain, compile, and manipulate the data in various ways to generate good-quality information. Thus, from the explanations above, it can be concluded that the era of information technology is a period where platforms of information technology are widespread and numerous human activities are facilitated by tools from a various media platform.

C. *Strengthening the Environmental Supervision on Children in the Information Technology Era*

The maturity in thinking and acting is a characteristic to distinguish adults from children. The development of knowledge in health and the increase of social welfare cause the children's quick physical development. Consequently, it sometimes hard to differentiate between the adults and the children. However, the negative impact of the information technology era is derived from the children's inability to use the media wisely.

The role of educational environments, including the family, school, and community is urgently needed to control and supervise children to ensure their development is appropriate for their age. Of the three educational environments, the one which takes the primary role is family [9], however, without the support of the other environments (school and community), the purpose of the supervision will be difficult to achieve. Hence, the writer offers several strategies on children's supervision of the information technology as follows;

1. Triple Central Education Cooperation

Good cooperation between families, schools, and communities in conducting supervision on the children's use of information are highly needed. The cooperation may be formed as time-spending agreement, provided facilities and the content and the consequences of violation. This way, the possibility of children to be exposed to harmful information and applications can be minimized [10].

2. The Availability of the Sensory Device

The Ministry of Communication and Information Technology (MENKOMINFO) need to actively provide an updated device to censor the dangerous sites for children.

3. The availability of the creative platform

Many children are exposed to the digital devices because they have fewer channels to creativity that they spend most of the time with their applications. We need to provide children with the creative platform so they can spend their time energy and mind on positive activities [11].

4. Positive communication culture

The family, school, and community need to accustom good communication with children in order to ease them to convey their feelings and curiosity [12].

III. CONCLUSION

Children nowadays cannot be separated from the advancement of information technology. Supervision is required to optimize the useful outcomes and minimize the dangers of the information technology. The supervision provided to the children will work optimally when a good cooperation between triple education centers (school, family environment, and community) is established. The unity of the vision and the mission of the triple educational center can save the future of the younger generation.

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