SAFE INTERNET AT A YOUNG AGE: A DIGITAL SAFETY GUIDE FOR MTS YAPPI JETIS STUDENTS

Bintan Nafisatul Mardliyah[1*], Inayati Sari Pratiwi[2], Khoirunnisa Ichlasul Amal[3]

UIN Sunan Kalijaga, Yogyakarta
21104020021@student.uin-suka.ac.id[1]

Abstract – *The development of information and communication technology, especially the internet, has had a significant impact on education. Digital media facilitates access to information, online learning, and technology skills development. However, without adequate digital literacy, students are at risk of being exposed to threats such as online fraud, hoaxes, cyberbullying, and negative content. The webinar activity at MTs YAPPI Jetis aims to provide students with an understanding of digital safety literacy, so that they can use the internet wisely and safely. Although digital media has great benefits, inappropriate use can reduce learning discipline and affect mental health. Therefore, the role of parents, teachers, and the community is crucial in instilling good digital literacy to support students' academic achievement as well as keep them safe in the digital world.*

Keywords: *Digital Literacy, Internet Ethics Internet Safety, Privacy*

1. INTRODUCTION

In today's interconnected world, the internet has become an essential tool for learning, communication, and entertainment. For young students, such as those at MTS YAPPI Jetis, navigating this vast digital landscape presents both opportunities and challenges. While the internet offers unparalleled access to information and educational resources, it also poses significant risks if not used wisely (Marpaung et al., 2022). The increasing reliance on digital tools and platforms makes it imperative to address internet safety from an early age. Young students are particularly vulnerable to online threats such as cyberbullying, exposure to inappropriate content, and privacy breaches. Therefore, educating them about safe internet practices is essential in helping them make informed decisions and protect themselves in the digital space.

The advancement of the digital age, with increasing internet connectivity and technology, brings not only benefits but also new challenges. In this context, digital ethics plays a crucial role in equipping people with the understanding and competencies needed to utilize digital technologies responsibly and safely. Education on digital ethics helps individuals understand their rights and responsibilities online. This not only enables them to protect themselves from online risks such as cyberbullying, fraud, and data theft but also encourages the positive use of digital technology. With a good understanding of digital ethics, people are expected to utilize technology to have a positive impact, both for themselves, others, and the wider community (Syahda et al., 2030).

As young learners increasingly engage with digital platforms, it is crucial to equip them with the knowledge and skills to use the internet safely and responsibly. Understanding how to protect personal information, recognize reliable sources, and avoid online dangers are fundamental aspects of digital literacy that can safeguard students from potential threats (Lufhfia, 2015). Through the provision of this knowledge, it is expected that individuals will be better prepared to face various obstacles and risks in the digital realm. In addition, they will also be able to optimize the various opportunities available in cyberspace in a useful and responsible manner.

The education system needs to continuously evolve to provide learners with a comprehensive insight into the digital landscape. This includes raising awareness of potential dangers, instilling digital ethical principles, and developing skills in the wise use of digital media (Sugiarto & Farid, 2023). This guide aims to provide MTS YAPPI Jetis students with essential strategies for maintaining their digital safety. By focusing on critical areas such as evaluating online information, ensuring internet security, and adhering to proper internet etiquette, this guide seeks to empower students to navigate the online world confidently and safely.

2. METHOD

The method used in this activity is counseling in the form of providing understanding to students about the importance of media literacy and its application when consuming social media. The technique used was the lecture

method accompanied by demonstrations and questions and answers to make it easier for students to understand the concept of digital literacy. The number of students targeted in this activity was 40 people who were 9th grade students of MTS Yappi Jetis which was held on Friday, July 26, 2024.

3. **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This webinar activity was implemented through socialization, asking for answers, and evaluating with a method lecture. The lecture is presented using presentation slides that combine text, images, animations, and videos to make material socialization clearer and more interesting for the audience. Activities This was held at MTs YAPPI Jetis, District Saptosari, Regency Mountain South, attended by 40 participants from class IX.

Figure Digital Literacy Webinar

The material discussed covers digital literacy, critical information, avoiding hoaxes, analysis of source information, security internet, privacy internet, and various types of ethics on the internet. Apart from the delivery material, there is also a session to ask for answers. The students in a way actively respond to questions from the presenter and are given a chance to submit questions if there is a missing thing understood. This pushes students to solve problems, thinking more critically and creatively so that they can understand the material presented.

Figure 2. Group photo of teachers and participants of the Digital Literacy Webinar

Activity is one of the efforts to build awareness and concern among teenagers about digital security when they surf in the digital world. On the other hand, there is hope that after obtaining knowledge and skills, teenagers can become agents of change and can participate as well as build awareness in the surrounding community to guard security and safety in using digital media (Syafuddin, 2023). Through role active generation young as agent changes, expected can push all over layer public around for more caring and wise in utilizing digital technology.

The use of digital media among students has become a need, especially for support activity study teaching. However, without the existence of planting ability and correct digital literacy, the use of digital media can cause students to decline (Dewi et al., 2021). This is because the convenience provided by digital media can cause students to lack discipline, be lazy to study, and be distracted by things that are not productive. Without adequate filters and skills in using digital media, students can fall into detrimental things, such as *cyberbullying*, exposure to negative content, plagiarism, and so on.

Urgency in digital literacy in this modern era covers the use of digital devices efficiently, access to source online power, evaluation critical to available information, as well as involvement in social interaction in the digital world (Giroth et al., 2024). Digital literacy is the ability to create and distribute content in various formats, work the same, communicate more efficiently, and understand when and how to use digital technology wisely to support the process (Sidyawati et al., 2021) . This includes the ability to:

a. Use digital devices with effective

This matter means understanding the methods to utilize devices like computers, smartphones, or tablets for productive and beneficial purposes. The utilization of digital devices effectively impacts positively the learning process Because push students to be involved in all aspects of education and

motivates them to absorb more information (Mufliva & Permana, 2024). Effectiveness also involves management time use and maintenance of personal data security moment use of digital devices.

b. Understanding and evaluating online content

In the digital era filled with the amount of information, the ability To differentiate fact from opinion has become more important (Restianty, 2018). Understanding and evaluating online content means being capable of analyzing information found on the internet critically. With a developed ability to read in a critical way, individuals can make more decisions, convey opinions more clearly, and participate in a way more actively in an increasingly diverse society connected through digital technology (Fauziah, 2024). Skills This helps avoid the distribution of misleading and detrimental information.

c. Communicate and collaborate online with safe and responsible answer

Every individual must be responsible for the use of technology for communicating in life every day. Content like news fake, fraud, and speech hatred, until radicalism can damage the digital ecosystem (Restianty, 2018). This happens Because content negatively influences the influence method view and understanding of every internet user, which has the potential to trigger conflict and division in society. Therefore, keeping ethics and ensuring the truth of the information shared is very important for protecting a healthy digital ecosystem.

There are some things to notice when using the internet, including that is:

1) Critical information increasingly digital era forward, we are faced with much information that is widely available on the internet. However, not all the information we have gathered there can be trusted. As internet users, we must develop the ability analysis critical to the information we have met (Fauziah, 2024). Questions such as " What source is this credible?" and "Is it information supported by strong evidence?" must always appear in thought. Don't direct trust or spread information before ensuring the truth.

   a. Avoiding *Hoaxes*

   A hoax can be interpreted as lies spread on the internet. Avoiding *hoaxes* means being capable of identifying and rejecting information that is not correct or misleading circulating on the internet. To do it, it's important to inspect source information, compare it with news from trusted sources, and evaluate whether information has its own valid evidence. In addition, do not be easily influenced by the provocative title or information that has not been verified in its clarity (Hamzah & Putri, 2020). By always thinking critically and verifying facts before spreading them, we can help prevent the spread of hoaxes in society.

   b. Inspect source

On the internet, the information we get needs to be analyzed as the source for information, the own valid and reliable sources. Checking source information is important to ensure that we depend on accurate and selective information for information obtained (Kalsum et al., 2022). Things that can be done to inspect a source are to look for known background behind the author, check the website's reputation, see date writing, as well as look for information-related news from various other relevant and available sources.

2) Security Internet

Security going online is a method to guard ourselves. We are still safe moments using the internet. This is why we need to be aware of security in using the internet and avoid danger while online (Rini & Sidhiq, 2015). Some things to pay attention to safety moment surfing the internet are: a. Avoiding online fraud

Online fraud is a crime or action of cheating that is done via the internet to cheat people or organizations with the objective to steal money, personal data, or information valuable to others. Fraud This is done by utilizing digital technologies and online platforms, such as email, social media, fake websites, applications banking, and *e-commerce* (Kalsum et al., 2022). The following are several forms general of online fraud:

(1) *Phishing*

Fraudsters disguise themselves as organizations or legitimate individuals via email, message text, or social media to get personal information, such as passwords, phone numbers, card credit, or identity data. *Phishing* usually uses tactics to urge the victim to act immediately, like announcing existing suspicious activity in the account.

(2) Fraud *E-commerce*

This happens when somebody buys a product or service online but No one accepts the goods said, or product received No by description. Sellers usually offer very cheap prices to interest the victim's attention. (3) Fraud lottery and prizes

The victim was contacted via email or message and notified that they had to win the present big or lottery, but for the claim present, the victim was asked to pay cost administration or tax moreover formerly.

(4) Fraud Work False

Fraudsters offer work that seems valid, but ask the victim to pay the cost of administration, training, or equipment. In many cases, promised work no once there is.

(5) Fraud Investment *Crypto*

Fraud often involves offer-related fake with cryptocurrency or fraud involving theft of digital wallets. Scammers can promise

profit from investment in crypto without risk, even though this only tricks them into getting money from the victim.

With the more developed technology, online fraud continues to innovate. Therefore, it's important to always be alert and careful about activities in cyberspace. Some methods to avoid online fraud among others are:

- a) Don't give information personal or finance in a haphazard way.
- b) Verification of every email, message, or suspicious offer.
- c) Use official and secure websites when doing online transactions.
- d) Avoid clicking links or attachments that are not known.
- e) Use a strong password and enable two-factor authentication.
- f) Always alert to how good an offer is for it to become a reality.

b. Privacy go online

Privacy going online is the right individual to control the information the person they are sharing and how the data is used at the moment doing online activities. With the increasing risk of data breaches and abuse of information, maintaining online privacy becomes more crucial (Anggen Suari & Sarjana, 2023). The information that is needed is protected among them is an email address, address home, password, and telephone number.

3) Internet Ethics

Internet ethics is a set of rules and principles that govern good and responsible behavior answer moments interact in cyberspace. Knowledge and skills about ethics going online is one of competent digital literacy (Ahyati et al., 2023).

a. Honor other people's privacy

Honor privacy means no spying, accessing accounts, or information on other people's personal information without permission. Everyone has the right to protect his data, and violating this right is a violation serious to ethics.

b. Communicate with polite

When interacting on social media, email, forums, or other online platforms, avoid the use of harsh words, provocation, or insult. Important for guards to be professional and respectful, even though there are different opinions.

c. Avoiding the spread hoax and information false

Don't spread fake news, hoaxes, or rumors that can mislead or harm others. Always verify the information before sharing it to prevent misinformation.

d. Value right create

When using content created by others (images, videos, music, text), make sure to give credit or obtain permission if required. Using content without permission is a violation of law rights.

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e. Do not do *cyberbullying*

Avoid demeaning, mocking, or abusive behavior and harassing others online. *Cyberbullying* can impact serious emotions for the victims and is a very inappropriate action.

f. Avoid spam and ads excessive

Don't send messages that are not wanted or over and over again to others, especially advertisements or promotions that are not requested. This includes annoying mass email sending or spam comments on social media.

g. Behave responsible answers in the forum or online community

Any forum, group, or online community usually has rules or manners. Obey rule this, please contribute in a way positive, and avoid *trolling* (disturbing) discussion in a way on purpose).

By applying ethics online, we can help create a more digital environment safe, positive, and fun for everyone.

4. CONCLUSION

Digital literacy is an essential skill for students in the modern era to use digital media wisely and productively. Without adequate digital literacy, students risk falling into negative behaviors such as lack of discipline, lazy learning, and being influenced by harmful content such as cyberbullying and hoaxes. Digital literacy includes the ability to use digital devices effectively, understand and evaluate online content, and communicate and collaborate safely and responsibly online. The importance of internet safety and ethics in the use of digital media is also emphasized to protect ourselves from online fraud, maintain privacy, and create a positive and safe digital environment. By applying the principles of digital literacy, internet safety, and ethics, students can optimally utilize technology to support their learning process and personal development.

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