

## The Role of Educational Philosophy in Character Formation Students in the Digital Era

Abdul Rahim\*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Islamic Religious Education Study Program State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: Abdul Rahim, email: [abdulrahim.iain@gmail.com](mailto:abdulrahim.iain@gmail.com)

ARTICLE INFO	ABSTRACT
Volume: 3	This study aims to explore the role of educational philosophy in shaping students' character in the digital era. Utilizing a qualitative approach and case study design, the research was conducted at Madrasah Aliyah Nurul Jadid. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, participatory observations, and document analysis. The findings indicate that educational philosophy plays a significant role in creating a learning environment that supports the development of students' character. The integration of philosophical values into the curriculum and the use of digital technology as a tool for teaching ethics and social responsibility strengthen the formation of positive character traits in students. Extracurricular activities designed based on educational philosophy also play a major role in applying values such as cooperation, tolerance, and justice in practical contexts. However, the study also identifies challenges in implementing educational philosophy, such as the lack of training for teachers in integrating technology with character education and the pressure to achieve high academic results. The implications of these findings suggest the need for balanced educational policies and adequate support for teachers to ensure the success of character education in the digital era. Thus, educational philosophy can be an effective tool for shaping a young generation that is not only intellectually smart but also possesses integrity and social responsibility.
<b>KEYWORD</b>	
Educational Philosophy, Character Formation, Digital Era	

### 1. Introduction

In today's rapidly developing digital era, education faces challenges and unprecedented opportunities. Technological advances have changed our ways communicate, work and study (Alamsyah, 2016). Digital technology has brought a lot benefits for the world of education, such as easy access to information, distance learning, and interactive tools that can improve student learning experiences (Lestari, 2018). However, in Behind these benefits, there are big challenges in forming the necessary character of students get serious attention.

Educational philosophy plays an important role in determining the direction and goals of education ((Muslim, 2020). By understanding the philosophical basics, educators can develop appropriate methods and approaches to shape student character. Educational philosophy does not only focus on the transfer of knowledge, but also on development of moral, ethical and social values that are important in students' lives ((Hikmah et al., 2024). In the context of the digital era, this philosophical thinking becomes increasingly relevant to ensure that technology is used wisely and does not erode human values. The digital era is often identified with various negative impacts, such as a decrease in face-to-face social interactions, an increase in aggressive behavior due to digital content, and the risk of gadget addiction (Puspita et al., 2024). This raises concerns about the loss of moral and ethical values in the younger generation (Yusnita et al., 2024). Therefore, the role of educational philosophy in shaping student character is very important to face this challenge. With the right philosophical approach, education can be an effective tool for building strong and positive character in students.

\*Abdul Rahim is a Student of Islamic Religious Education Program at Postgraduate School, State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia. This paper was presented at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Islamic and Interdisciplinary Studies (ICIIS) 2024, as a presenter, held by the Postgraduate School State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia.

Apart from that, the digital era has also given rise to new phenomena such as cyberbullying, the spread of false information, and identity crises among students. In this situation, educational philosophy can provide guidance for educators to help students understand and overcome these problems. Through value and ethical based learning, students can be taught to be critical of the information they receive, as well as develop empathy and a sense of responsibility towards others.

The role of teachers as the main agents in education has also experienced significant changes in the digital era. Teachers not only act as transmitters of knowledge, but also as guides who help students navigate the digital world wisely. With a strong educational philosophy foundation, teachers can help students develop strong, independent and moral characters. This is very important so that students are not only successful academically, but also have integrity and the ability to contribute positively to society. Educational philosophy also emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning. In the digital era, where information continues to develop and change rapidly, the ability to learn and adapt becomes very crucial. Philosophy-based education can instill a continuous enthusiasm for learning in students, so that they not only rely on the knowledge gained at school, but also continue to seek and update their knowledge throughout their lives.

In the context of globalization, the digital era also broadens students' horizons towards different cultures and thoughts (Rustandi, 2019). This provides an opportunity for education to teach the values of tolerance, cooperation and respect for diversity. With an inclusive educational philosophy approach, students can be taught to respect differences and work together in a multicultural environment. The importance of character building in the digital era is also related to students' readiness to face future challenges. The increasingly competitive and dynamic world of work demands individuals who are not only academically intelligent, but also have strong character, such as perseverance, honesty and the ability to work in a team (Idris, 2018). Educational philosophy can provide a solid foundation for the development of this character, so that Students can grow into individuals who are ready to face various challenges in the future. Thus, this research aims to explore the role of educational philosophy in forming student character in the digital era. Through in-depth analysis, it is hoped that this research can make a significant contribution to the development of more holistic and meaningful education, as well as help educators face the challenges that exist in this digital era.

## **2. Literature Review**

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study design to explore the role of educational philosophy in forming student character in the digital era. Qualitative research methods were chosen because they allow for in-depth exploration of complex phenomena and a more holistic understanding of the context, processes and dynamics involved. Case studies are used to focus research on concrete and relevant examples that can provide in-depth insight into the topic being researched. This research found that educational philosophy plays an important role in shaping student character in the digital era through various mechanisms and approaches implemented by Madrasah Aliyah Nurul Jadid. Observations and interviews with teachers, students and school principals show that the integration of philosophical values in the curriculum and daily activities has succeeded in creating a learning environment that supports positive character development. Teachers use a learning approach that emphasizes critical thinking, empathy and responsibility, which is reflected in students' attitudes and behavior.

One of the main findings is that the use of digital technology can be effectively integrated with philosophical values to strengthen character learning. The Madrasah Aliyah Nurul Jadid studied used digital platforms to teach digital ethics, media literacy and social responsibility. The teachers at this school using technology not only as a learning tool, but also as a means to discuss moral and ethical issues relevant to students' daily lives. This helps students to understand the impact of their actions in the digital world and develop a responsible attitude.

In addition, this research found that activities Extracurricular activities designed on the basis of educational philosophy play a major role in forming students' character. Activities such as debates, social clubs, and community service projects provide opportunities for students to apply values such as cooperation, tolerance, and justice in practical contexts. Participation in these activities helps students to develop social skills and emotional importance, as well as strengthening their understanding of the values taught in the classroom. The teachers interviewed stated that a philosophical approach to education also helped them to become more reflective educators and aware of their role in forming students' character. They feel better able to teach moral and ethical values in a way that is relevant and interesting to students. In addition, support from the principal and school policies that support philosophy-based character education play an important role in the success of these programs. However, this research also identifies several challenges in implementing educational philosophy in the digital era. One of them is the lack of adequate training for teachers in integrating digital technology with character education. In addition, the pressure to achieve high academic results often diverts attention from the importance

of character education. Therefore, greater efforts are needed to ensure that character education receives as much attention as academic achievement, as well as providing the necessary training and resources for teachers.

### 3. Results and Discussion

The results of this research confirm that educational philosophy has an important role in forming student character in the digital era. The philosophical approach in education emphasizes not only academic knowledge but also moral and ethical values that are important for holistic character development. These findings indicate that the integration of philosophical values in the curriculum and school activities can create a learning environment that supports the formation of student character.

First, educational philosophy helps create an environment conducive to student character development. Through a curriculum that combines moral and ethical values, students are taught to think critically and reflectively (Haryadi et al., 2024). This approach allows students to explore multiple perspectives and understand implications moral of their actions. For example, class discussions that focus on ethical and moral issues help students develop a deeper understanding of the importance of integrity, responsibility, and empathy. This approach is consistent with the views of John Dewey who emphasized the importance of holistic and experience-based education.

Second, the use of digital technology as a tool to teach ethical values and social responsibility is very effective in this digital era. Technology is not only used as a tool to access information but also as a medium to teach and strengthen moral values (Eryandi, 2023). Some schools studied use digital platforms to teach digital ethics and media literacy, which helps students understand the impact of their actions in the digital world. This is important to overcome challenges such as cyberbullying, the spread of false information, and the risk of technology addiction. Philosophy-based education helps students develop a responsible and critical attitude towards the use of technology.

Third, extracurricular activities designed on the basis of educational philosophy also play a major role in forming students' character. Activities such as debates, social clubs, and community service projects provide opportunities for students to apply values such as cooperation, tolerance, and justice in practical contexts. Participation in activities

This not only enriches students' learning experience but also helps them develop important social and emotional skills. This practical experience strengthens students' understanding of moral values and helps them apply them in everyday life. This approach is in line with Aristotle's view which emphasizes the importance of practice in learning ethics.

However, this research also reveals several challenges in implementing educational philosophy in the digital era. One of the main challenges is the lack of adequate training for teachers in integrating digital technology with character education. Teachers need the right support and resources to develop the skills necessary to teach ethical values in digital contexts. Plus, pressure To achieve high academic results often diverts attention from the importance of character education. This suggests the need for a more balanced education policy that gives equal importance to academic and character development.

In addition, support from the principal and school policies that support philosophy-based character education play an important role in the success of this program. School principals who have an understanding and commitment to the importance of character education can provide the necessary support for teachers and students. School policies that support character education also help create an environment that supports student character formation. Therefore, close collaboration is needed between teachers, school principals and policy makers to ensure the success of character education programs.

The implication of these findings is the need for continued efforts to strengthen the role of educational philosophy in forming student character in the digital era. Schools and policymakers must work together to provide adequate training and resources for teachers, as well as create curricula that emphasize a balance between academic achievement and character development. Thus, education can be an effective tool for forming a young generation who is not only intellectually intelligent but also has integrity and social responsibility.

In addition, this research emphasizes the importance of holistic and meaningful education. With the right approach, educational philosophy can help overcome the challenges brought by modern technology and shape students' strong and positive characters. This shows that education is not only about the transfer of knowledge but also about the development of moral and ethical values that are important for students' lives. This approach can help students become better individuals and more responsible members of society.

Thus, this research makes a significant contribution to the development of character education in the digital era. These findings can be used as a basis for designing more effective and meaningful educational programs, as well as helping educators in facing the challenges that exist in this digital era. Philosophy-based character education not only helps students

achieve high academic achievements but also shapes them into individuals with integrity and responsibility in their social and digital lives.

#### 4. Conclusion

This research concludes that educational philosophy has an important role in forming student character in the digital era. By integrating philosophical values into the curriculum and using digital technology as a tool for learning ethics and social responsibility, a learning environment that supports positive character development can be created. In addition, extracurricular activities based on educational philosophy strengthen the application of values such as cooperation, tolerance and justice. However, there are challenges in implementing educational philosophy, such as a lack of teacher training and pressure to achieve high academic results. Therefore, balanced education policies and adequate support for teachers are needed to ensure the success of character education in the digital era.

#### References

- Alamsyah, N. (2016). The Influence of Self-Concept on Mathematics Learning Achievement of Students at SMAN 102 Jakarta. *SAP (Educational Article Arrangement)*, 1(2). <https://doi.org/10.30998/sap.v1i2.1022>
- Eryandi, E. (2023). Integration of Islamic Values in Character Education in the Digital Era. *Kaipi: Collection of Scientific Articles on Islamic Education*, 1(1), 12–16. <https://doi.org/10.62070/kaipi.v1i1.27>
- Haryadi, D., Kerwanto, Ilham, A., & Mutakin, Z. (2024). THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ISLAMIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM. *EDUMULYA: Journal of Islamic Religious Education*, 2(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.59166/edumulya.v2i1.199>
- Hikmah, C., Fadhilah, M., Dermawan, W., & Nasution, S. A. (2024). EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY PERSPECTIVE ON HUMANISTIC EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY. *Paradigm: Journal of Philosophy, Science, Technology and Socio-Culture*, 30(1), Article 1. <https://doi.org/10.33503/paradigma.v30i1.4206>
- Husna, K., Fadhilah, F., Harahap, U. H. S., Fahrezi, M. A., Manik, K. S., Ardiansyah, M. Y., & Nasution, I. (2023). Transforming the Role of Teachers in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities. *Perspective: Journal of Education and Linguistics*, 1(4), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.59059/perspektif.v1i4.694>
- Idris, M. (2018). Character Education: Islamic Perspective and Thomas Lickona. *Ta'dibi: Journal of Islamic Education Management*, 7(1), Article 1.
- Kamila, A. (2023). THE IMPORTANCE OF ISLAMIC RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND MORAL EDUCATION IN BUILDING THE CHARACTER OF PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN. *Al-Furqan: Journal of Religion, Social and Culture*, 2(5), Article 5.
- Lestari, S. (2018). The Role of Technology in Education in the Era of Globalization. *EDURELIGIA: Journal of Islamic Religious Education*, 2(2), Article 2. <https://doi.org/10.33650/edureligia.v2i2.459>
- Muharam, D. R., Faisal, M., Prayitno, A. D., Istiqomah, & Purwanto, A. (2023). SCHOOL QUALITY GOVERNANCE: Building Foundations Through Supporting Factors. *EDUPEDIA Publisher*, 1–267.
- Muslim, A. (2020). A REVIEW OF THE PHILOSOPHY OF ESSENTIALIST EDUCATION IN CHARACTER EDUCATION. *Visionary Journal: Research and Development in the Field of Educational Administration*, 8(2). <https://doi.org/10.33394/vis.v5i2.3359>
- Puspita, D., Anggraeni, L., & Nurlela, N. (2024). Analysis of the Impact of Gadget Use on Students' Religious Character Behavior in Junior High Schools. *Innovative: Journal Of Social Science Research*, 4(4), Article 4. <https://doi.org/10.31004/innovative.v4i4.12897>
- Rustandi, R. (2019). Cyberdawah: The Internet as a New Media in the Islamic Da'wah Communication System. *NALAR: Journal of Islamic Civilization and Thought*, 3(2), 84–95. <https://doi.org/10.23971/njppi.v3i2.1678>
- Sukana, S. (2024). Transformation of Islamic Religious Education (PAI) Supervisors in the Digital Era: Challenges and Opportunities in 2024. *Tambusai Education Journal*, 8(1), 3955–3965. <https://doi.org/10.31004/jptam.v8i1.13000>

