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Digital Savvy: Know the Technology, Be Aware of the Dangers

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Abstract

The community service initiative titled "Digital Smarts: Understanding Technology and Its Risks" seeks to examine the difficulties encountered by pupils at Miftahul Huda Al Azz Junior High School regarding their utilization of digital technology and the related hazards. The primary concerns highlighted encompass insufficient awareness of potential hazards, including online fraud, identity theft, and adverse effects on mental well-being.

This community service initiative employed a socialization approach that included a pre-test, a presentation of the material, a post-test, and an evaluation of the activities. The findings indicated that numerous students were ill-equipped to confront threats in the digital realm, despite their significant dependence on technology.
The conclusion from this community service initiative is that training programs aimed at improving understanding of technology and its associated risks are crucial for cultivating students into more informed and proactive digital users, thereby facilitating safer technology use.

Keyword : *Technology risks, Digital education, Digital literacy, Miftahul Huda Al Azz School*

Introduction

In the contemporary digital age, the advancement of information technology has become an integral part of everyday life. Technology enhances communication, education, employment, and rapid information retrieval. This advancement also introduces new challenges, especially with the misuse of technology and the increasing prevalence of cybercrime. Communities, particularly adolescents and students, are among the demographics most susceptible to technology threats, including online fraud, identity theft, cyberbullying, and harmful online content.

An insufficient comprehension of digital security and ethical considerations in social media utilization can intensify these threats. Cyberbullying, as defined by Rahmawati et al. (2025), is harassment perpetrated via digital media, including social media, instant messaging applications, and other online platforms. This issue is escalating as students' internet usage intensifies. Inadequate digital literacy, deficient emotional regulation skills, and a lack of comprehension regarding the psychological effects of online conduct are significant contributors to cyberbullying, as observed by Oktavia and Alpiyasin F et al. (2025).

Research by En Tay, Alpiyasin F et al. (2025) underscores the importance of digital literacy socialization in enabling students to discern information and leverage artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance their learning experiences. By improving their digital literacy, students can evaluate information sources more judiciously and use AI more proficiently, thereby enhancing their experiences. This research demonstrates that education centered on digital literacy enhances students' capacity to manage varied information and equips them to succeed in a progressively digital landscape. Such endeavors are vital for cultivating a more discerning and adaptable generation in relation to technology.

This research underscores the need to incorporate digital literacy into the educational framework to mitigate technology disparities and cybercrime among teenagers. At SMKS PGRI Selaawi Garut, it is evident that imparting fundamental digital skills to students not only safeguards them against

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online risks but also cultivates a sense of accountability in their online conduct. By deepening their understanding of technology, these youths can make informed choices and navigate the digital landscape more effectively. This effort is essential as it equips them for a future in which digital participation is increasingly imperative.

This occurrence poses a difficulty that must be handled collaboratively. In middle school settings such as SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun, internet use often occurs without a thorough understanding of digital ethics and security, including concerns such as online fraud, identity theft, cyberbullying, and harmful content. Consequently, improving digital literacy in middle school education has become imperative for students, particularly the younger generation, to develop into intelligent, discerning, and responsible internet users.

In response to this issue, instructors and students from STMIK Mardira Indonesia partnered with SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun to implement the outreach program "Digital Smarts: Understanding Technology and Its Risks." This collaboration seeks to deliver direct teaching to students on the significance of using the internet productively and safely, while enhancing their contributions to fostering a technology-conscious educational atmosphere. This program aims to foster synergy between higher education and basic education to promote positive change in the learning environment. This outreach provides theoretical knowledge and promotes active student engagement in understanding the fundamentals of the digital realm while advocating preventive measures to mitigate risks associated with its use.

Method

The community service initiative, conducted by instructors and students from STMIK Mardira Indonesia in partnership with SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun, included the outreach program "Digital Smarts: Understanding Technology and Its Risks." The event occurred at the

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vocational training center of the Miftahul Huda Al-Azz Islamic boarding institution.

The intended audience for this activity comprised middle school pupils. This pick was predicated on the recognition that adolescents are engaged internet users for communication, entertainment, and educational assistance. This demographic is a primary target for numerous digital crimes, including the dissemination of hoaxes, phishing, and counterfeit content on WhatsApp, Facebook, and other online platforms. This group is essential as active participants in digital media, while parents are required to assist their children in engaging with the digital realm.

Improving comprehension and digital literacy among this adolescent demographic is anticipated to yield beneficial outcomes for all students at SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun. This effort aims to engage not only persons with advanced educational qualifications or technological proficiency but also those who lack expertise in the digital realm. The objective is for all societal sectors, particularly students, to comprehend the fundamental concepts of digital security and implement them in their daily routines.

The implementation stages of the community service comprised a preparatory phase that included identifying the target population, developing pertinent teaching materials, and creating content on digital literacy and the risks associated with internet use. The subsequent phase comprised workshops held at SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun, designed to elucidate the risks and benefits of the internet while presenting solutions for prudent use.

The subsequent phase comprised small group discussions and practical simulations, prompting the audience to exchange experiences and deliberate on the effects of online activity. The evaluation phase included Q&A sessions before and during the activity to assess the enhancement of knowledge and shifts in the attitudes of SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun students toward internet use.

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Results and Discussion

The community service event titled "Digital Smarts: Understanding Technology and Its Risks" took place on Monday, June 30, 2025, in the vocational training center of Miftahul Huda Al-Azz Islamic boarding school and was executed successfully. This program was a partnership between instructors and students from STMIK Mardira Indonesia and SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun, focused on improving students' digital literacy, specifically regarding internet ethics, security, and related risks.

The participant count reached 15, corresponding with the target demographic of adolescent pupils. The participants exhibited considerable interest throughout, evidenced by their punctuality, active engagement in discussions, and eagerness during the pre-test, post-test, and quiz with rewards. The events commenced at 8:30 AM with the committee's technical preparations. Participant registration commenced at 8:30 AM, followed by the opening ceremony at 9:00 AM, conducted by the MC.

Following introductory remarks from representatives of Al Azz school, the supervising professor, and the event coordinator, participants completed a pre-test to evaluate their preliminary understanding of digital literacy and its related hazards. The site of the community service activity at Miftahul Huda Al Azz School (SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun), Kp. Pereng No. 03/02, Talun, Ibun District, Bandung Regency, West Java 40384, as depicted in the image below:
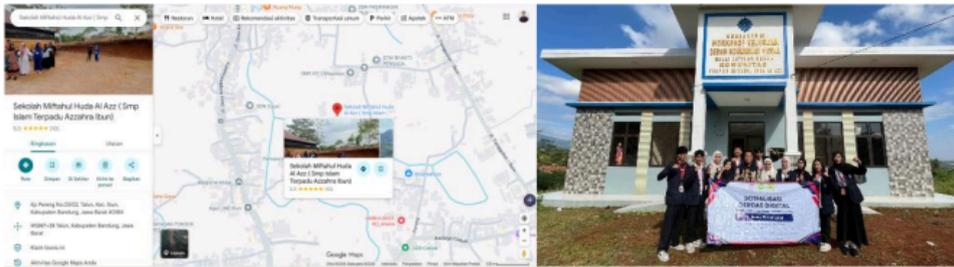
Figure 1. Location of Community Service Activities

Prior to the material presentation, many remarks were delivered by representatives of the school, the supervising professor, and the event coordinator, as depicted in the figure below:

Figure 2. Welcome from the school, lecturers, and the head of the committee

Subsequently, in the presentation segment titled "Digital Smarts: Understanding Technology and Its Risks," Putri Alivia Nur Khalizah and Trisna Saputra emphasized the significance of maintaining politeness and responsibility in online communication. Participants were informed about the diverse categories of common digital risks, including hoaxes, cyberbullying, and phishing, along with their effects on people and society as a whole. The material presentation is depicted in Figure 2 below.

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Figure 3. Delivery of Material

After the presentation, participants completed a post-test to evaluate their comprehension of the material. The results demonstrated a substantial improvement: whereas most participants correctly answered only 40-50% of the questions on the pre-test, their average score increased to 80% on the post-test. The program culminated in an interactive quiz encompassing questions pertinent to the provided subject. The three quickest participants with correct responses were awarded prizes as a token of appreciation for their involvement, as depicted in Figure 4. This activity effectively accomplished its objective of imparting to students a foundational comprehension of becoming discerning, critical, and responsible internet users.

Figure 4. Giving Prizes to the Audience

At the conclusion of the session, awards were awarded to delegates from Miftahul Huda Al Azz School (SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun), located at Kp. Pereng No. 03/02, Talun, Ibun District, Bandung Regency, West Java 40384, as a token of appreciation. This is illustrated in image 5 below:

Figure 4. Certificate Submission

Conclusion

The community service initiative, "Digital Smarts: Understanding Technology and Its Risks," was executed by instructors and students from STMIK Mardira Indonesia at Miftahul Huda Al Azz School (SMP Islam Terpadu Azzahra Ibun), Kp. The proceedings at Pereng No. 03/02, Talun, Ibun District, Bandung Regency, West Java 40384, occurred seamlessly and adhered to the established timetable. This event effectively imparted to students the significance of internet ethics, an understanding of many digital hazards, including hoaxes and harmful content, and ways to mitigate and confront these challenges.

The primary subjects addressed included internet ethics and digital risks, as well as strategies for safe and intelligent internet use, which significantly augmented participants' understanding. The pre-test and post-test findings demonstrated an enhancement in comprehension following the presentation

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of the information. Moreover, participants' eagerness during discussion sessions, Q&A, and interactive quizzes demonstrated that this activity met students' educational needs in the contemporary digital age.

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