

# Navigating Democratic Parenting Patterns in Parenting in the Digital Era

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## ABSTRACT

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The rapid advancement of technology and access to information in the digital age has greatly impacted children, known as the digital native generation. While technology offers easy access to information and educational tools, it also presents risks such as internet addiction and exposure to harmful content. The family, especially parents, plays a crucial role in shaping children's character. Parents need to teach, guide, and protect children from the negative impacts of technology. This article delves into the concept of democratic parenting, which is considered effective in addressing these challenges. In this approach, there is an emphasis on two-way communication, allowing both parents and children to express their opinions. It focuses on setting realistic boundaries, balanced supervision, and responsible development of digital skills. This parenting style helps children learn to manage their screen time and develop healthy digital habits. Additionally, children are taught to think critically, respect diverse opinions, and become independent. Parents should familiarize themselves with their children's technology, set time limits for using digital devices, choose safe and educational content, and actively engage in their children's digital activities. With the right guidance, children can utilize technology for positive self-development, tackle technological challenges, and grow into responsible, critical, and adaptable individuals.

*Keywords:* Democratic Parenting, Digital Era, Child Development

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The advent of Industry 4.0 has ushered in a transformative era in the manufacturing sector, characterized by the integration of advanced digital technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics. This technological revolution has fundamentally altered the landscape of industrial operations, demanding new skills and competencies from the workforce. As organizations strive to adapt to these changes, the focus on talent management has become paramount, highlighting the need to identify, develop, and retain individuals who are proficient in these new technologies. The complexity of these technological integrations not only requires technical skills but also demands enhanced cognitive and interpersonal abilities, such as problem-solving, adaptability, and collaboration [1]–[4].

In the digital era, the development of technology and digital media today is no stranger to society. With technology, communication is made easier, especially in learning and learning anywhere and anytime just by using technology and the internet. According to [1] Currently, technological developments affect children's character. Without us realizing it, technology is a big threat to the nation's next generation because technological developments make children have bad characters, such as children becoming addicted to playing with gadgets without the concept of learning. Because of this, technological developments have a big impact and play a big role in people's lives. Technological developments have a big impact, both positive and negative, on its users, including society, parents and children. Currently, the digital era has influenced children's world, especially in the rapid development of technology and information [1]–[3]. It is not surprising

that today's children are called the digital native generation, because they have been familiar with digital devices since birth [4]–[6]. This is because children who live in this digital era have a unique characteristic, namely high levels of internet dependency behavior. So this behavior directly influences the character development of children who are usually referred to as Generation Z who live in the digital era. Gen Z's behavior is characterized by the widespread use of digital media so that parents develop parenting models to create a generation that does not receive the negative impacts of the digital era. But use media wisely to benefit children's development in a more positive way [7].

As we know, the family is the smallest unit in society which has an important role as the initiator of national and state life. Building a household requires strength and struggle so that all family members can carry out their duties and responsibilities based on the family structure, and become successful parents in raising children with good physical and spiritual morals. The family is the first place where an individual learns the values, norms and ethics that will shape their character in the future. The role of the family is very essential in educating and guiding children so that they grow into individuals who are responsible, independent, and able to contribute positively to society. Apart from that, family is also the main source of emotional support and love. Within the family, each member can find the sense of security and comfort necessary to face various life challenges. Technological developments increase internet use. Parents have the responsibility to meet their children's needs, educate, guide and care for them. This responsibility includes religious, material, physical, moral, spiritual, psychological, social and sexual aspects, all of which are part of education. This emphasizes the important role of parents in protecting children from the threats of the digital era. Therefore, determining the right parenting style is very important because it will affect the child's life and emotional, physical and social development. Democratic parenting forms the characteristics of children who are independent, accept criticism, are able to control themselves so that children are able to establish good relationships with parents and other people. Children and parents have each other the opportunity and freedom to regulate and be regulated, even though there are rules, parents do not restrain and force children to follow the rules, but in a democratic parenting style, parents and children have two-way communication where, in communication, neither party is the dominant party. Parents must listen to their children and vice versa.

## 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Pierre Bourdieu's theory of cultural capital is very relevant in understanding social dynamics in the digital era, especially in the context of democratic parenting. Bourdieu identified cultural capital as a form of capital that includes knowledge, skills, education and cultural tastes possessed by individuals. In this context, implementing democratic parenting can be seen as an effort to ensure that all children have equal access to various forms of cultural capital, including digital knowledge and skills. In the digital era, technology plays an important role in the distribution of cultural capital. Fair access to technology and the internet enables children to develop digital skills that are essential for future success. However, the digital divide is still a big problem, where children from economically disadvantaged backgrounds may not have the same access to technology and digital education compared to children from more affluent families. Bourdieu argues that disparities in access to cultural capital can reinforce and prolong social inequalities. Therefore, in implementing

democratic parenting in the digital era, it is important to pay attention and ensure that all groups, especially children, have adequate access to digital technology, especially for learning needs.

### 3. METHODS

This research employs a bibliometric analysis to systematically review and synthesize the existing literature on talent management within the context of Industry 4.0, focusing on the required skills and competencies. The initial step involves the collection of data from Google Scholar, utilizing keywords such as "Industry 4.0", "talent management", "skills", and "competencies". The search is refined to include papers published within 1962-2024 to ensure relevance to current technological contexts. Using VOSviewer software, the data is then analyzed for co-citation, co-authorship, and keyword co-occurrence to identify the most influential authors, seminal works, and emerging themes in the field. This bibliometric mapping facilitates the identification of trends, gaps, and the evolution of research interests over time. The analysis also includes a critical examination of the content of the most cited works to deepen the understanding of the consensus and debates within the scholarly community about essential skills and competencies for Industry 4.0, providing a comprehensive overview of the academic landscape in this area of study.

### 4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this digital era, the development of technology and information is not only felt by adults, but technology also influences children. The development of technology and information provides space for everyone to explore and express the conditions they are feeling, including children who have curiosity tends to be great. With the development of technology, children can now easily find out and learn about their hobbies or things that are trending at that time. Data shows that internet use is sufficient According to the Finnish Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS), in 2022 around 24.96% of young children (under 6 years of age) will have internet access. At 5-6 years of age, this figure increases to around 39.97%. Where most children access the internet via devices such as gadgets. And 88.99% of children over the age of 5 use the internet to play on social media, accompanied by searching for information, entertainment, and the internet is used as a medium for learning. Although specific data for 2024 is not yet fully available, trends from previous years show that internet usage rates among young people tend to increase along with the general increase in internet penetration in Indonesia. Given this increased access, it is important for parents to monitor their children's internet use to avoid the risks and negative impacts of technology use on children.

#### 4.1 The Impact of Technological Developments on Children

In general, every change or development must have a significant impact, both positive and negative. This technology is considered a function that is detrimental to many people, especially children. However, technology is also considered a function that allows children to play and learn in various ways. Widiawati, et al (2014) gadgets are sophisticated devices or technology equipped with various applications that can provide news, social media, information and entertainment. The use of this gadget is very popular among teenagers and children. Children aged 6-12 years are referred to as the intellectual period, where children in this case are in the learning process. Children's mindset is generally more open, easy to accept new things, innovative compared to parents. Children prefer to use gadgets, because nowadays gadgets can not only be used as communication tools, but gadgets can be used as information and entertainment tools.[5] Parents need to update and follow developments in the digital world and master it, as well as provide clear and consistent boundaries and rules regarding the use of digital media. As well as providing examples to children and education before using digital media with children. The presence of the internet adds to the comfort of gadget users in this regard. Entertainment features in the form of various games that are very easy to use and download via the internet.

The positive impact of gadgets on children can provide education in terms of information, as well as educational games that encourage children's thinking and memory. The use of gadgets can increase children's creative abilities by providing tools and applications that allow them to explore, create digital works of art, and solve problems in innovative ways. Apart from that, gadgets can also help in developing technical skills that are relevant in this digital era, such as typing skills, creative software use, game development, digital photography, basic programming and coding, animation and multimedia. Furthermore, gadgets can be effective tools in learning, allowing access to learning videos, e-books, interactive applications that make the learning process more interesting and fun. With the right assistance from parents or educators, children can take advantage of this technology to develop their interests and talents, as well as broaden their horizons and knowledge about the world they can access through technology.

Meanwhile, the negative impact of the use of technology on children can affect children's growth and development, children's psychology, decrease children's learning intentions, and influence children's social behavior towards the environment, family and those closest to them, becoming social (anti-social) who only focus on just the gadget. Gadget use can also increase the risk of bullying in children, especially on social media. Apart from that, excessive use of gadgets and technology can cause physical health problems such as sleep disorders, tired eyes, and potential obesity due to lack of physical activity such as exercise. Apart from that, children can also be exposed to age-inappropriate content, which can affect their moral and ethical development. Uncontrolled use of technology can also hinder children's communication and empathy skills. Lastly, children can become addicted to gadgets and technology, which can disrupt daily activities and routines and reduce the child's overall quality of life.

#### **4.2 Implementing Democratic Parenting in the Digital Era**

According to [5] In the family, parents are the initial education providers who provide education to children. [8] states that parenting is a fundamental thought about how to behave towards children. According to [9], parents should not punish children, but should set rules for children and show love to them. Parents adjust their behavior towards their children based on each child's development, because each child has different needs and abilities. Parenting patterns are a series of behaviors that are applied consistently to children. Children recognize this pattern of behavior and it can have both negative and positive impacts. Parental guidance or parenting patterns in general greatly influence a child's personality. The parental leadership model in raising children is reflected in independence, self-definition and understanding, making choices and planning for the future. According to [10], the way parents educate their children is very influential in shaping the child's personality from childhood to adulthood. Apart from that, the parenting style used by a nation will produce children with unique personalities. In this digital era, parents must be wise in guiding children's development, the increasingly rapid development of technology is increasingly becoming a threat for children to grow without parental guidance and supervision, as we know, children in this digital era cannot be separated from activities that involve technology both in learning and playing. [11], parenting can be interpreted as the way parents treat children, which includes caring for, nurturing, teaching, educating, guiding, training. This is realized through discipline, giving examples, punishment, rewards, and leadership in the family through words and actions. parent. Parents in the digital era must understand their children's development, not just master technology in the digital era [12]. The discussion in this article focuses on the application of democratic parenting in the digital era. According to [13], democratic parenting focuses on educational aspects in guiding children. In this approach, parents more often provide understanding, explanations and reasoning to children so that they understand the reasons behind the expected behavior. Democratic parenting is an approach to educating children that emphasizes a balance between freedom and control and involves two-way communication between parents and children. The aim of this parenting style is to create a supportive and loving environment where

children feel appreciated and heard, but still have clear boundaries and rules. Democratic parenting is a combination of permissive and authoritarian parenting which aims to harmonize thoughts, attitudes and responses between parents and children. Democratic parenting is a way of raising children that pays attention to and respects children's decisions and freedom, but this is not arbitrary, but parents still manage and guide children with full attention. According to [9] The use of democratic parenting also has an important role in helping individuals or parents to regulate children's excessive use of gadgets. According to [11] Parenting patterns can be seen from the parents' educational background, parents who have a bachelor's degree prefer to apply a democratic parenting style. Meanwhile, parents who apply a permissive and authoritarian semi-democratic parenting style have a high school education background. With the definition of democratic parenting above, we can see that the application of democratic parenting in the use of technological media for children is very effective, for various reasons related to technological developments and children's needs to adapt to a world that continues to change, even in terms of rules but children still feel safe and comfortable. The following are some of the main reasons why democratic patterns are effective in the digital era:

1. **Two-way or open communication**, in a democratic parenting style, parents apply two-way communication. With this democratic parenting style, parents and children have space for discussion and boundaries within the family, each party has an equal role in the communication process, and are both good listeners, in this communication process, no party dominates. With a democratic parenting style, parents can better understand the rules that children can follow and accept in the guidance process as well as the rules for using technology for children.
2. **application of flexible and realistic limits**, the digital era requires rules that can adapt to rapid technological developments. Democratic parenting allows children and parents to jointly set realistic and flexible limits on technology use. This helps children learn to manage their screen time and develop healthy digital habits.
3. **Balanced supervision**, with a democratic parenting style, parents are able to provide balanced supervision without being too controlling. This allows children to feel trusted and given the space to learn from their own experiences, while remaining under the wise guidance of parents. Even though parents apply rules in the use of technology, parents do not restrain their children from these rules. For example, parents can ask children to openly discuss their online activities. This could include looking at the websites they visit, the apps they use, or their friends on social media.
4. **Development of digital skills with responsibility**, in a democratic parenting style, parents can teach children to think critically and make decisions wisely. In the digital era, these skills are critical to managing the use of technology responsibly. Parents provide understanding and encouragement for children to understand the consequences of their actions in the digital world, such as maintaining online safety and security. Parents also encourage children to be independent and responsible. In the digital world, this means they are able to make their own decisions regarding the use of technology, such as choosing useful content and avoiding negative behavior such as cyberbullying. However, despite this, children are not left to learn on their own, parents still accompany and educate the child so that the child is still monitored without feeling constrained or neglected.

Implementing democratic parenting in the digital era involves a balance between giving children the freedom to explore the digital world and providing clear boundaries and guidelines. In a democratic parenting style, children will have a personality that is ready to accept criticism from their parents, learn to understand and respect, have high self-confidence, and be able to take

responsibility in their social life. This democratic parenting style is the most effective parenting style in the digital era, because this democratic parenting style has an important role in helping children face the negative influences that come from the use of technology. This involves parents and children understanding the risks and benefits of technology wisely. Then children can learn to make responsible decisions in the use of technology. The application of democratic parenting in the digital era has a significant impact. There are several important points about the impact of implementing democratic parenting in the digital era, namely:

1. Increasing family connections, this democratic parenting style encourages communication between parents and children about how the use of technology can strengthen family ties and the possibility of parents to provide appropriate guidance.
2. Developing Critical Thinking Skills, children are taught to explore information independently, question and assess the truth of various information sources on the internet.
3. Appreciating diversity of opinion: By interacting with diverse views in the digital world, children can learn to respect differences of opinion, broaden their understanding of society, and develop the ability to work together with people who are different.
4. Encouraging independence, democratic parenting gives children the confidence to make decisions, learn from mistakes, and manage risks responsibly in the use of technology.
5. Minimizing the risk of violence and abuse, with an open and involved approach, parents can guide children in dealing with the risks of violence, abuse and fraud that may occur on social media.

Implementing democratic parenting in the digital era not only prepares children to face the challenges of technology, but also helps them grow into individuals who think critically, are responsible, and connected to the world around them.

## CONCLUSION

In this digital era, technology and information greatly influence various aspects of life, including the lives of children. This generation of children is known as the digital native generation who have been very accustomed to digital devices since birth. Technology has positive impacts such as easy access to information and educational tools, but it also carries risks such as dependence on the internet and exposure to negative content. In the current digital era, many parents use technology or digital media as a child care tool, for example, when children are fussy, people prefer to give their children gadgets to entertain their children so that they are quiet, so that parents can do their activities or work again without needing to pay attention or just ask questions. why are children fussy. According to [10] The role of parents in shaping a child's personality is very important, because this will influence how the child will develop and grow into an adult and independent individual. So, in this case we really need to realize that the role of the family, especially parents, is very important in shaping the character and behavior of children in the digital era. Parents have the responsibility to teach, guide and protect children from the negative impacts of technology. To face this challenge, implementing democratic parenting is considered very effective. Democratic parenting emphasizes two-way communication, setting realistic limits, balanced supervision and responsible development of digital skills. Through this approach, children are encouraged to participate in discussions regarding the rules for using technology. learn to manage brand screen time, and develop healthy digital habits.

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