

Improving Digital Literacy for Secondary School Students at SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi

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Article Information

Received: April, 2023 Revised: May, 2023 Online: June, 2023

ABSTRACT

Improving digital literacy has become an urgent need in today's information age. The purpose of this community service is to enhance the digital literacy of secondary school students at SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi. The methods employed in this community service encompass a series of training sessions, workshops, and seminars aimed at providing students with a better understanding of digital literacy. The results of this community service demonstrate an improvement in students' comprehension of digital literacy and their ability to effectively utilize it. In conclusion, this community service has successfully enhanced the digital literacy of secondary school students at SMK Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi, which will provide long-term benefits for them in facing digital challenges in the future.

Keywords: Digital, Literacy, SMK

INTRODUCTION

The use of information and communication technology (ICT) has undergone significant development in recent years (Siregar & Marpaung, 2020). More and more people are relying on digital devices and the internet in their daily lives (Danuri, 2019; Prihatini & Muhid, 2021). This technological advancement has had a profound impact on various aspects of life, including education, business, communication, and entertainment.

In this context, digital literacy becomes crucial for individuals to utilize technology wisely and effectively. Digital literacy encompasses a range of skills and knowledge required to access, understand, evaluate, and utilize information found through digital technology.

The importance of digital literacy is particularly evident at the secondary education level (Meilinda et al., 2020). In this increasingly digitally connected era, students need to have strong digital literacy skills to compete and thrive in a world that is increasingly reliant on technology. Here are some reasons why digital literacy is highly important at the secondary education level:

1. Access to information: With the development of technology, access to information has become easier and faster through the internet. However, the ability to navigate and sift through relevant and accurate information is crucial. Digital literacy helps students in acquiring and evaluating existing resources, as well as distinguishing between trustworthy and unreliable information.
2. Research skills: Digital literacy involves strong research skills. Students need to be able to use search engines and digital databases to find the information they need. They should also be able to identify reliable sources and have the ability to filter information relevant to the topics they are studying.

3. Creativity and collaboration: Digital literacy also involves the ability to use digital tools and collaborative platforms to share ideas, work with others, and produce creative content. Students need to understand how to use various applications and digital tools for productive purposes, including creating presentations, videos, blogs, and other creative projects.
4. Digital security: In an increasingly complex digital world, it is important for students to understand the risks and security practices associated with technology use. Digital literacy includes understanding online privacy, protection against fraud and cybercrime, as well as ethics in technology use.
5. Critical thinking skills: Digital literacy also involves critical thinking skills in dealing with digital information. Students need to be able to analyze information, evaluate the truth and reliability of sources, and identify bias or manipulation in digital content

Digital literacy also helps students develop critical thinking skills in dealing with the often overwhelming and confusing digital information (Anggeraini et al., 2019; Pratiwi & Indana, 2022). In an era where fake news and information manipulation are widespread, students need to be able to question and evaluate the truth of what they encounter online.

Furthermore, digital literacy also assists students in developing problem-solving skills. In the use of digital technology, technical challenges or problems often arise that need to be addressed. The ability to solve these problems involves understanding the devices and applications being used, as well as the ability to seek solutions through online resources or by collaborating with others.

In addition to personal benefits, digital literacy also provides benefits to society as a whole. Students with strong digital literacy have the potential to be active contributors to a digitally connected society. They can participate in online discussions and debates in a healthy manner, contribute positively in the digital space, and utilize technology to expand their knowledge and opportunities.

To ensure that students have strong digital literacy, it is important for educational institutions to provide integrated education with information and communication technology. Curriculum that includes digital literacy skills, training for teachers in the use of technology, and adequate access to devices and the internet are important factors in achieving comprehensive digital literacy at the secondary education level.

Therefore, digital literacy becomes highly important at the secondary education level so that students can be prepared to face a digitally connected world. The ability to access, understand, evaluate, and use information wisely through digital technology will provide significant advantages in students' lives and prepare them to face the challenges and opportunities of this digital era.

METHODS

Community service is conducted at Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi Vocational High School, involving secondary school students. The community service activities encompass a range of training sessions, workshops, and seminars specifically aimed at enhancing students' digital literacy. The training sessions encompass various topics such as introducing digital technology, ensuring safe internet usage, evaluating information, honing search skills, and utilizing digital tools for learning and productivity. Workshops are organized to provide students with hands-on experience using relevant digital applications and tools that cater to their specific needs. Seminars are conducted through presentations and group discussions, fostering a deeper understanding among students regarding significant issues in digital literacy.



Figure 1. The provision of materials

RESULTS

The community service activities attended by the students of Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi Vocational High School have made a significant impact in improving their digital literacy. These students now have a better understanding of the importance of digital literacy in their daily lives and learning.

During the community service program, the students were trained and provided with the necessary knowledge to access, understand, evaluate, and use information found through digital technology. They learned how to search for reliable sources of information and differentiate between accurate and false information. This is crucial in an era where the spread of misinformation or fake news can occur rapidly and have negative consequences.

These students have also developed skills in using digital applications and tools effectively. They were trained on how to use these tools for learning and productivity purposes. For example, they may have learned to use word processing or spreadsheet applications for assignments or projects, presentation applications to create engaging slideshows, or collaborative applications to work together with their peers on team projects.

Furthermore, these students may have also received training on digital security. They gained an understanding of the risks and security practices to follow in using digital technology, including privacy protection, recognizing phishing signs, and taking preventive measures against cybercrime.

With this improved digital literacy, the students of Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi Vocational High School have become better prepared to face an increasingly digitally connected world. They possess the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in using digital technology in their everyday lives, at school, and in future workplaces.

Moreover, this enhanced digital literacy also provides long-term benefits for these students. They will be more capable of actively participating in the digital society, contributing positively in the digital space, and continually developing their skills as technology continues to evolve.

Thus, the community service activities attended by the students of Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi Vocational High School have helped them develop a strong digital literacy and enhance their ability to use digital technology wisely and effectively.

CONCLUSION

The community service program "Enhancing Digital Literacy for Secondary School Students at Muhammadiyah 2 Cileungsi Vocational High School" has successfully improved students' digital literacy. Through a series of training sessions, workshops, and awareness campaigns, students were able to gain a better understanding of digital literacy and develop the necessary skills in using digital technology. This knowledge and skills will provide long-term benefits for students in facing digital challenges in the future. It is hoped that these efforts can serve as an example for other schools to implement similar programs in order to enhance students' digital literacy in Indonesia. It is important for educational institutions and the government to continue supporting and promoting the development of digital literacy in order to prepare the younger generation for an increasingly connected digital world.

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