15. DIGITAL LITERACY IN MINIMIZING THE SPREAD OF HOAX NEWS

by Abdul Gafur Marzuki
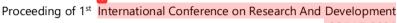

DIGITAL LITERACY IN MINIMIZING THE SPREAD OF HOAX NEWS

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Abstract. The availability of diverse information and easy access in the digital era has a negative side to the acceptance and review of information by the public. The availability of information that everyone wants makes a weakness, namely the number of hoax news present against the existing news. Departing from the above, the purpose of researching digital skills which will be an effort to suppress the rate of spread of hoax news that is widely circulated among internet-based media users, especially to students of MAN 1 Panyabungan. This study uses in-depth interviews with MAN 1 Panyabungan students and observations on their social media. This activity involved 20 students from Class XI. The results obtained from this study are 7 students based on the results of interviews and categorized as having high digital skills will be more introspective in carrying out news sharing activities by reading and re-checking the validity of the news received, 6 students prefer to directly share news without doing crosschecks. On the content and sources of news and the rest of the students chose to be indifferent to the activities of re-sharing the news they found. In this study, the level of awareness of MAN 1 Panyabungan students began to spread at the developing stage towards caring for news because of awareness of literacy and digital skills.
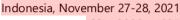**Keywords**: Digital conversation, digital capabilities, Hoax News.

INTRODUCTION

The development of technology in the field of communication is increasingly showing significant progress, this progress shows the development of styles in carrying out communication activities. Advances in communication technology make users feel comfortable in carrying out communication activities, distance and time, and other things that hinder communication are meaningless with adequate technical support. The existence of technology is something important in encouraging the formation of digital literacy for its users (Alexander et al., 2017; Cooke, 2017; Asyarotin et al., 2018; Guess et al., 2020), Communication technology that is supported by internet access provides a contemporary style of communication with easy and fast access that does not make users comfortable and safe, Technological advances with internet access provide an abundance of information that can be accessed anytime and by anyone. These results in a large amount of information circulating that cannot be accessed for the accuracy and validity of the information (Hartley, 2017; Hobbs, 2017; Jang & Kim, 2018).
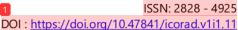
The existence of digital literacy makes any information acceptable and re-examined the validity of existing information, when digital literacy is juxtaposed with digital skills among students at the high school level and above, it is very helpful in reducing the spread of hoax news, this is because the age of users who are relatively young has the potential in finding the news they want, if digital skills and digital literacy are not possessed by these users, then hoax news that is widely circulated will be taken for granted which will lead to mal information and personal consequences for the user. However, it is not just the ability and digital skills, and digital literacy that are owned by its users, especially users who are in school; Instilling character in users is also a factor in preventing the spread of hoax news (Widiyati, 2019; Nyhan, 2020; Jones-Jang et al., 2021). The existence of digital literacy and skills coupled with character education strengthens the user's ability to stem hoax news.

The use of mass media such as social media in obtaining information is a new culture that was created in line with technological advances and the era of digitalization (Picton & Teravainen, 2017; Waldrop, 2017; Marlina, 2018), obtaining information during the undeveloped period of technology was mostly obtained from printed mass media such as newspapers and books, however. it continues to grow along with the development of information technology. This convenience often makes users confused about the abundance of existing information. However, by having digital literacy skills, all things related to publishing can be interpreted wisely, whether to be continued as an extension of the dissemination of information or not.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative descriptive method that explains in as much detail as possible by describing it. This type of research is often used in social research such as in research on digital proficiency which is a social phenomenon that exists in society. The subject of this research involved 20 students of class XI MAN 1 Panyabungan. The research subjects consisted of 12 women and 8 men. This data was obtained by observing through their social media, namely Instagram and Facebook. In addition, data collection was carried out through interviews, so that there would be adjustments between the results of interviews and observations of their social media.

The results of data collection are obtained through interviews which are drawn into a conclusion, then the validity of the data and adjustments to the data obtained from observations, then the data collection method is by citing references from news related to events that are currently viral, the news is obtained from online media or print media such as newspapers.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

Digital Literacy has been promoted by the government through the Ministry of Communication and Information or abbreviated as KOMINFO. Through this Kominfo, the government is determined to accelerate the development of digital transformation with

programs carried out through the National Literacy program together with the National Cyber-Creative Digital Literacy movement, not only that but there is also the Tular Nalar program initiated by Kominfo, Maarif Institute and also Mafindo (Shina, et al., 2021).). By carrying out the 4 pillars of digital literacy, namely digital proficiency, digital culture, digital ethics, and digital security, it is hoped that media users will always want to use these four pillars as a reference in surfing in a digital world that is free without boundaries.

1. **The attitude of MAN 1 students in responding to the news**

Digital skills are a must for MAN 1 Panyabugan students in minimizing the spread of hoax news. Hoax news will target emotions and reduce critical thinking. So that the effects caused in a piece of hoax news often lead to anarchic actions that will harm the media users themselves. From the 20 students of MAN 1 Panyabungan, it turned out that 7 students based on the results of the interviews could be categorized as having high digital skills. Students who are categorized as having high digital skills tend to be more introspective and can select the information they get after there is a truth in a piece of information or news.

Then based on the results of interviews conducted 6 students were categorized as students with a low level of literacy awareness. The news they get will be immediately shared again, this is because they want an acknowledgment that they are updating all existing news, whether it is viral or just information that is a joke. This is quite disturbing, without seeing the truth of the news, the choice to pass on information is the first step for the student. This tendency can be detrimental if it is maintained and there is a desire not to change the habit.

2. **The efforts of MAN 1 Panyabungan students in minimizing the spread of hoax news**

Hoax news is not just false news or news that is just looking for sensations or twisting a fact, but far from that, the hoax is information or news that is fabricated and presented repeatedly as if the news issue is true. . Hoax news exists and exists because of Internet support which quickly spreads hoax news with just one click and share. Then the news will spread in a relatively very short time.

Students of MAN 1 Panyabungan are young users who have a lot of time to interact with their smartphones, whether social interactions are done on social media or even make a post on status to inform their existence in all existing activities. Students of MAN 1 Panyabungan often receive information through their WhatsApp Group, Instagram, or Facebook, a variety of information is present every day in front of students via their smartphones. This makes the possibility of receiving a piece of hoax news intentionally or unintentionally, then they have or never received it and even retransmit it to other people.

This situation of high intensity in interacting with social media makes the students of MAN 1 Panyabungan aware, coupled with the news on television media regarding news that informs that someone who shares a piece of hoax news intentionally or

unintentionally in the public sphere has serious legal consequences. play. There are several ways that MAN 1 Panyabungan students can do in re-checking the information they get before they decide to share the information in the public sphere. There are many ways to check factual news or hoaxes, including:

a. *Google Search Engine*

The existence of a report whether it is a fact or not can be done by re-checking it on the google search engine, this will provide re-information, regarding whether the news is true or not. So that whatever matters relating to news, whether social sanctions or legal sanctions that can ensnare us as news disseminators, we can minimize and anticipate.

Checking in this way is very easy, just by opening the google page and then typing keywords from the news that we get, it will show a report that we can use as a reference whether or not the news is true. The existence of this action has greatly minimized the presence and spread of hoax news in the very disturbing community.

b. Check validity through Mafindo

Mafiindo is an organization engaged in the news that has the power of prudence in selecting news because the target of hoax news is depravity in a news report and even a crime that can destroy a country. Mafindo is an abbreviation of the Indonesian Anti-Defamation Society.

How to check facts through Mafindo by sending reports that we get either from social media or WhatsApp Group where the existence of the reports doubts the truth, the fast response, and accuracy provided by Mafindo are very helpful in stopping hoax news from circulating freely.

c. Fact check app (hoax Booster Tool)

The third step that can be taken by MAN 1 Panyabungan students is to check facts through an application that can be found on each smartphone that students have. This application helps us to find out whether the facts or hoaxes are information or news that we find. Not only that, a reference to the truth about a piece of information that we can also be presented directly in this application.

Use the Hoaks Buster Tools application by installing via the play store application, look for Hoaks Buster Tools with a blue application base and a yellow drill symbol. The way it works is very easy, by entering an image or the title of a news report in the fact-finding menu, with just one click the news that we can be detected quickly and will be immediately given information about the actual reporting.

Of course, with the 3 steps or methods above, they can make MAN 1 Panyabungan students decide whether they get a piece of news or information that is correct or not, then they will be able to easily make a decision again to keep sharing or just stop the
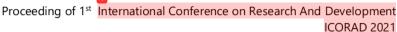
information they get. the spread of hoaxes not only harms a person but can result in the resilience of a region and even a country.

3. Digital Literacy as a solution in minimizing Hoax News

Digital skills are very helpful in researching a piece of information obtained whether it is a true report. Digital skills enable internet-based mass media users to act wisely in responding to and responding to all the scattered information flows. In addition, decision-making can also be done correctly, considering that digital skills are not only related to how a user can avoid reporting hoaxes and the effects they cause, but rather to an attitude in providing an overview or figuring out how someone uses the media. Hoax reporting will be minimized by users when media users have good digital skills, not only hoax news will be minimized but media ethics will also be formed by itself.

CONCLUSION

Of the many students of MAN 1 Panyabungan, it turns out that there are still students who do not have digital skills in screening hoax reports. Of the 20 students as subjects in this study, there were 7 students based on the results of interviews and categorized as having high digital skills would be more introspective in carrying out news sharing activities by reading and re-checking the validity of the news received, 6 students preferred to directly share news without checking the content and sources of the news and the rest of the students chose to be indifferent to the activities of re-sharing the news they found. In this study, the level of awareness of MAN 1 Panyabungan students began to spread at the developing stage towards caring for news because of awareness of literacy and digital skills.

Eliminating the spread of hoax news is an almost impossible activity, but efforts to minimize the spread of hoax news can be done by having digital skills and digital literacy, besides that, character education for students is a reinforcement, If the student has good character, then a hoax report can easily be warded off by the student.
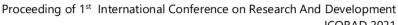
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