

# **THE USE OF NEW MEDIA HABITS FOR MUHAMMADIYAH BANTUL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ACCESS RELIGIOUS INFORMATION AND DISASTER**

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## **ABSTRACT**

The new media has now entered a wide variety of life. The presence of gadgets with different brands more easily and cheaply obtained. Almost every individual has gadgets like mobile phones. Technological devices is largely now has the ability connected internet access. The use of these gadgets are not the same from one person to another, as well as the existing generation. Generation gap between parents and teens is a logical consequence in the use of communication media in everyday life. Teens today, as the digital generation, has a unique and distinctive way in consuming new media.

This study was conducted to gain an initial understanding of how new media usage behavior for students in Muhammadiyah Bantul high school, as a high school under the auspices of Muhammadiyah Organization, which is based on the Islamic values. Specifically, this study is directed to find out how high school students of Muhammadiyah Bantul accessing religious and disaster information using technological devices that use internet access. Assuming that was built as a school that is based on Islamic values will have an impact on access to religious information. Similarly, Bantul as a disaster risk area, then the students will use devices to search for disaster information. Data obtained with the distribution of questionnaires to the students. The data obtained were processed and presented in the description of the number and percentage to describe the phenomenon that occurs about the problems that are the focus of study.

The finding showed that the majority of high school students of Muhammadiyah Bantul have access the internet through technology owned devices. In using these gadgets, the use of mobile phones to access information related to religion are still low. Similarly, disaster information accessed through mobile phones also showed low yield.

**Keywords:** information, internet, phone, religious, disaster

## BACKGROUND

Advances in technology and information in the last decade has brought many consequences in daily activities. The presence of this technology makes it easy for all of users getting information or carry out daily activities using a variety of hardware is widely available and can be easily obtained. Through the latest information and communication technology, the world seemed to be no longer bulkhead as significantly limits. All kinds of information, knowledge and so on, can be easily accessed from various parts of the world at anytime. This condition occurs in a wide range of generations. In fact, especially the younger generation is very concerned with the technology. Lifestyle changes making the hardware technology is becoming a symbol of progress and modernity society.

The technology for the younger generation, or commonly referred to as new media to communicate and information seeking has changed the views and judgments on various issues related to the technology. In everyday life is often found many teenagers and young people who can not get out of gadgets owned. Ranging from public places such as shopping centers, offices, up to the private sphere for example, rooms, toilets, the technology looks always in hand. In every activity adolescence seems to rely even like hanging with its gadgets, are more likely to focus their attention to the technology than other things that are in the surrounding environment.

The use of technological devices among teenagers this becomes interesting for further to study. Why is this important to do? There are many reasons that can be searched to get the answers. Especially teenagers who are still sitting in junior high school and above is the generation that was born and raised in a transitional period that communication technologies magnitude. So that teenagers today is the generation of technology. So meaningful communication technology devices, it makes a change behavior patterns in search of information. Such conditions not only occur in and cosmopolitan or megapolitan like Jakarta and Surabaya, but has spread to several other cities in Indonesia, is no exception Yogyakarta. Discussion on how the trend of behavior and communication technology devices use this information in Yogyakarta, known as student city increasingly necessary.

Special Region of Yogyakarta as a province consists of five two-level areas namely: Yogyakarta municipality located in the middle, Bantul District on the south side, Kulonprogo on the west side district, Sleman regency on the north side, and Gunung Kidul district on the east side. The focus of this study will only look at how the behavior of high school students of Muhammadiyah Bantul in accessing and using new media for special interests, i.e. for information related to the religious and information related to the disaster. Information on the religious be traced further important to remember SMA Muhammadiyah as an organization or entity which is under the auspices Persyarikatan Muhammadiyah teach with the Islamic values in everyday life.

While information on the disaster need to be explored because Bantul as one of the disaster-prone areas in Yogyakarta, especially natural disasters. Will thus obtain information on how teenagers in this case lesson in using communication technology devices and their information in accordance with the needs of the context in which they live.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

Muhammadiyah Bantul High School is a school that is under the auspices of Persyarikatan Muhammadiyah. As an upper middle educational institutions, the school is sufficient demand by students to be the purpose of education and is a private school that is characterized by the greatest Islamic values in Bantul, Yogyakarta. Muhammadiyah Bantul high school has a total of 283 students. Students who responded as much as 123 people. In the data collection sample size of 43.46% of the total population. In survey research required minimum sample size no definite limit. The sample size obtained was able to meet the needs of the research. The greater the number of samples will give more significancy and meaningful than the number of samples slightly (Kartono, 1990). The more samples taken, the more closely with actual reality. The survey was carried out to get an idea of how the use of new media among the population. Therefore, the data required is the distribution of frequency and percented to see the number. This study is not meant to find a causal relationship or the other.

## **DISCUSSION**

### **The use of new media**

The presence of information and communication technology has given the changes that are meaningful to users. The changes are also felt by high school students in the Muhammadiyah Bantul on behavior using communication media. The presence of communication technology devices used to access the internet. Surfing habits through device communications technology began to match the habit of information seeking through conventional media. Data obtained showed that 78% or as many as 89 students of Muhammadiyah Bantul high school have known and internet accessing for various purposes. These habits vary from once (1x) up to eight (8x) times in one week in internet access. When compared with the habit of using television (TV), the TV by their consumption by 86%, the number of 106 people. It means that the presence of TV have started displaced and replaced by the communications and information technology, slow but sure. If further review, when compared with the habit of newspapers reading and magazines, it was found that students were never consumed by percentage respectively 51% and 71%. It means that there is 63 students who do not read newspapers and 87 people who did not read magazines. Things like this have

consequences on the increasing abandonment of conventional communication media such as newspapers and magazines as well as turning towards the use of new media in meeting the needs of the necessary information.

Changes in the behavior of the use of new media is certainly a consequence to change habits to access information by students. For the purposes of whether students access the internet through its technological devices? There are several findings obtained to explain it. Muhammadiyah Bantul high school students use the internet to search for information related to a wide range of product knowledge among others, and also entertainment as much as 73%. This means there are 90 people who make searching or browsing for purposes of products compliance information and entertainment. Further information search related to the duties of the teacher in the school to be done by 72%, or in other words, there are a number of 88 students. Lastly, the students use the internet access for the benefit of updating the information as much as 59%, which means that as many as 72 people. Seeing these data indicate that the use of internet access via the technology they have aimed to obtain information related to everyday needs that are lightweight. This is consistent with the interests of doing work activities at school. On the other hand, it could also signify that the school curriculum activities have started using online as a reference source of knowledge and learning in schools. Therefore, if the teacher and the curriculum is designed not directed at online resources as learning materials, the internet access by students may also not be too high or frequently. However there is another possibility that is the case, the information from the teacher during the learning process of students considered boring or do not sufficiently explain the material in depth. This can be explained through the findings related to the latest information search interests that percentage decreased by 14% of students who are looking for product information or numbered 72 people from 90 students.

By looking at such findings have then led to the understanding that the audience will determine how the information search process. It identifies how the audience will be active in information accessing through the internet. “Dengan menempatkan khalayak pada posisi memiliki harapan atas media dan informasi yang dikonsumsi, pendekatan uses and gratifications berpijak atas asumsi dasar bahwa khalayak memiliki pilihan terhadap media maupun informasi yang ingin” (Triyono and Yuliarso, 2011: 14). Speaking about the uses and gratification then that becomes the main focus is self audience. Blummer (1979) in Rubin (2008: 534) explains that the “audience activity is the core concept in the uses and gratifications. Audience activity Refers to the utility, intentionality, selectivity, and involvement of the audience with the media”.

### **Religious information search**

Proprietary technology hardware has been owned equally by high school students in Muhammadiyah Bantul Yogyakarta Special Region. Muhammadiyah Bantul high school students use the internet to search for information related to the religious field. 63% or as many as 78 people show that they do so. It shows that the use of the Internet to find information that is relevant to the issue of religion can be quite high. However, in general, information accessing via the internet is done to fulfill the task given by the school teachers. The number of students who use the Internet as a means of supporting the learning task completion by 53.66%, or 66 people. It means that not every student access to religious information through the internet solely to meet the obligations of formal education. This situation means that access to religious information are being made to meet the requirements of the learning process in order to get a high end value. Students perform such access has not been based on a fundamental requirement in him stating that they do need it. While the remaining 12 students or 9% seek religious information for other purposes. This indicates that the basic reason of access to religious information that is because the motive was awarded from another party.

Other findings related to the web site or frequently visited Muhammadiyah Bantul high school student is accessing the site owned by the Muslim community organizations amounted to 30.89% of the people or as many as 38 people. When reviewed further, while the Islamic organizations mentioned by respondents varied namely: Muhammadiyah, Nahdatul Ulama (NU), Hizbut-Tahrir, the Majelis Ulama Indonesia (MUI). The findings obtained data is quite interesting because the students who take shelter in schools under the organization of Muhammadiyah seek religious information not only from the web of Muhammadiyah. This condition can be explained from two sides. First side, that students have had adequate understanding of religious materials possessed, therefore students have high confidence that what is learned and what is delivered through religious lessons at school as a provision in the understanding and practice of religion in daily life. So that only a few are trying to find out other information for comparison through cyberspace. Then the second side, from the side of the students who try to see the sites of organizations of Islam other than Muhammadiyah suggests two possibilities namely whether the web of Muhammadiyah less attractive in terms of content and layout for the students to know, or the student does have a strong desire to see and find out from another point of view which can be obtained from other Islamic organizations. There is a possibility of students want to compare and find an explanation for the problem of religious happening. It is still to be done searches through a series of advanced research related to these findings to gain greater understanding.

Habits of students accessing the site to search the various types of information they need. Data research findings showed that 48.71% of the 78 students who access

religious information or 38 people claiming to seek information related to the stories told in the Qur'an. In addition, these respondents using the internet to search for information related to the Prophet Sunnah. The amount of data that is 69.23% or 54 of the 78 people who access the religious information. While 15 people or 19.23% of students searching for information in addition to the story in the Qur'an and Prophet Sunnah. From this data it can be seen that the awareness of students to search for the required information related to the field of religion is quite varied, but not too high. This is possible because as an educational institution that has become the Islamic background kemahfuman that equip learners with keagaaman subjects with a larger portion than the public schools. So the assumption that high school students still rely on Bantul Muhammadiyah learning materials sourced from books or literature teachers and support available in schools.

Besides the use of the web as a search for information about religious for high school students of Muhammadiyah Bantul Yogyakarta, which is possible can be accessed through a variety of hardware technologies such as personal computers and notebooks can also be accessed via mobile devices. The mobile phones today have been compatible with the needs of the virtual world. Not only connected, the smartphone has been widely circulated on the market and used by many students are no exception. In order to know more detail about how students use mobile devices for further purposes in relations to religious information, the mobile phone has now been enabled for embedded or installed a wide variety of software or applications.

Of the 123 respondents who researched many as 24 people who answered the question that the application installed on their mobile phones linked to religious information. This means that by 19.51% who use applications relevant to religion. When compared with the ownership of mobile phones that every student has as the 19.51% figure is relatively small. However, when compared with students who access the Internet for information purposes keagaamaan the amount of 48.71%, then the religious application is nearly half of the total. That is quite a lot of students who use the application as part of the search for information relevant to the subject of religion. While the rest of 80.49% of the total 123 students do not use or do not install the application on their mobile phone. There are various variants of the reasons the answer as to why they do not use the application on the device telecommunications, ranging from mobile devices that do not support applications buried the students do not know the application of religious that can be used in their mobile phone, until the memory is not sufficient if there should be additional applications. This indicates that the technology used Bantul Muhammadiyah high school students can not all be used or support to access the internet or relevant given additional applications as needed.

When seen further, the use of the application has a number of variants. Among other students using prayer time reminders application number 16 people or 66.66% of the 24 users of the application. The presence of this application will help the user to

determine when the prayer schedule implemented and reminded to do so. Besides the prayer schedule applications, other applications are widely used student is pointing towards the qibla. Users of these applications were very rarely only 4 persons or 16.67% of the 24 users of the application. The use of this application will be of great benefit for users who frequently travel outside the city who have never visited to determine the direction of the qibla when praying. Most likely Muhammadiyah Bantul high school students do not yet require this application because of mobility outside the region is not high so it is easy to recognize and know the exact direction of qibla. As for the use of the chant application (qiro ' ) Surah in the Qur'an worn by 9 students or 37.5% of 24 users of the application.

The use of the application as described above is only 9 respondents out of 24 users of the application or 37.5% said use these applications every day. Then 9 out of 24 users utilize applications often enough (1 week 3-5 days) or 37.5%. The rest rarely use these applications. This indicates the use of Islamic content are many applications available are not widely used by respondents. The lack of use can be due to several reasons, namely the mobile support is not used and is not familiar applications to help simplify the use of religious activity for the user. This is understandable because it is associated with habits and are also suspected due to the use of these applications require a separate fee, minimal pulse to subscribe to the internet. While students pulses mobile shopping is still limited in number and still have a job and a steady income to finance his life. Meanwhile, judging from usefulness, the number of respondents 24 people or 100% stated that the actual use of these applications can assist them in carrying out religious activities.

Information circulating through the application of web religious Islamic organizations used a variety of the respondents assessed their level of confidence to the veracity of the information contained therein. As many as 44 people or 36% of respondents said convinced of the truth of the information on the grounds that the information is sourced from the party that can be trusted. While as many as 33 people or 27% undecided and 2 or 2% gave no opinion convinced of the truth of information that is conveyed through the application. This indicates the level of confidence the students of Muhammadiyah Bantul high school to the contents of the information is still relatively low. These conditions need to be addressed by the applications developers or for Islamic organizations to be able to guarantee the accuracy of the application and the web is used.

From the series of data which has been described can be understood that the use of the internet by students is widespread. It has become a trend among students from cities to remote villages. This internet presence fully utilized for various purposes. The students use the internet to search for information related to the task to be completed. This condition indicates that the awareness of the benefits that can be achieved through the internet. In terms of religious information that is accessed by the student indicates

that new media bring the transmission function. Dominick (2001) in Prajarto and Latifah (2012: 71) explain that “media merupakan jembatan untuk megkomunkasikan hal yang penting dan hal yang tidak penting, serta nilai yang penting dan tidak penting bagi masyarakat”. Religious information is one of the values that are considered important by audiences and useful for their lives. Religion is no longer simply be a way of life but also a way of life. So audiences feel the need to search for information related to it. This has encouraged the public to access the new media. For Islamic organizations that provide information on the religious presence of this new media can be a means simultaneously perform the functions of information and persuasion. Information which raised religious organizations can be a means to disseminate values and persuade others to agree and follow the content of the information contained therein.

Flew giving statement on the role of the internet as the embodiment of the new media seems indeed show shape, "development of unique forms of digital media, and the remaking of more traditional forms of media to adopt and adapt to the new media technologies" (Flew, 2005: 3-4) , That through the Internet is much to changes in the communication behavior of the consumer, including students who are in the digital generation. However, even though the students have had access to information disclosure via the internet, the technology has always brought the mobile phone can not be used optimally to seek religious information. The students have not much to install applications that are relevant and can help carry out religious activities. As for the problems faced because the mobile device is not compatible or their ignorance of the applications that can be utilized in assisting their lives. Therefore, when judging from this user perilaku indicates that mobile students actually used for the purposes of the basic functions of communication is the creation of hardware or phoned to call and send or receive short messages. Character audience like this needs attention from many quarters. Such a situation could lead to an opportunity for stakeholders to educate the use of mobile phones to mencari useful information.

### **Disaster information search**

In addition to use for the purpose of information retrieval religious, the technology can be used also for various purposes, among others, to search for information related to the disaster. From the data obtained showed as many as 43 respondents or 35% of the 123 respondents use their mobile phones to access information relevant to disaster. 75.19% did not use the rest of their telecommunications devices to search for the information.

From 43 respondents that using their mobile devices to acces disaster information, all of them are looking to use their mobile phones to search for information related to the disaster through the news sites Vivanews, CNN, Liputan 6, OkeZone, Meteorological, Climatology and Geophysics Agency (BMKG). Meaning that students

access the information on the disaster from news sites and government agencies to monitor constantly weather changing and earth movements. In addition there are also Google as a search engine to look for information related to the disaster. These sites are thought to provide information about disasters that occur quickly and in real time so as to monitor the developments taking place periodically and accurately.

Aside from news sites and official government agencies tasked with monitoring and addressing disaster accessed by the respondents, the type of information that is often conducted searches disaster consists of a chronology of events, the victim and so on have been as many as 29 people from 43 people or by 67.44%. As for the categories of information on how prevention, anticipation, disaster preparedness have been as many as 22 of the 43 respondents who access disaster information via the website or by 51.16%. 3 persons of 33 respondents stated that they are looking for other information related to the disaster, or by 6.9%. From these data indicate that the search of disaster information by students of Muhammadiyah Bantul high school conducted to monitor conditions update related to the disaster that is around them.

One important finding in this study on how frequently students access disaster information. The data obtained show that only 2 of the 43 students who accessed the information of disaster or only 4.6% who update the information every day. On average students to access information category every 2-3 days which peaked at 11 people or 25.58% of the total. As for the remaining 20 people 46.51% stated only once a week. This condition indicates that the sensitivity of the students in terms of awareness of the importance of always updated about the disaster is still relatively low. When observed, the Yogyakarta area is generally quite large potential for disasters, especially natural disasters.

Although infrequent updating such information, the respondents stated that the information received through the web greatly help them in knowing natural disasters and preparedness to deal with it and help relieve the victims in the event of such disasters as many as 9 people or 20.93%. While 20 respondents or 46.51% was helped by the existence of such information, and the remaining 32.36% who said they had information of these sites do not provide any assistance to them.

When examined more in-depth functionality of new media in this case mobile phones and other technological devices that are connected to the internet network in terms of disaster information. The new media carry out the function of early educational users. It is like the view Prajarto and Latifah (2012: 58) which states that “Masalah edukasi selain berkaitan dengan pemaknaan atas informasi juga terkait dengan kemampuan informasi dalam melakukan pemberdayaan. Berkembangnya jurnalisme *online* sebagai jurnalisme model baru yang memungkinkan orang lebih mudah mengakses berita maupun informasi dimanapun dan kapanpun mereka menginginkannya juga memungkinkan berlangsungnya pencerahan (*enlightment*) bagi masyarakat.”

The presence of mobile devices has been very helpful and make it easier for users to access the information for their daily keperluan. The concept of technology according to Rogers (1986: 4-5) as cited Rahadrjo (2011: 8-9) states “memiliki 3 hal yakni *interactivity*, *de-massification*, *asynchronous*. Interaktifitas berarti kemampuan berbicara balik kepada para penggunanya. Sedangkan demasifikasi berarti tidak bersifat massal namun personal, serta asinkronis berupa kemampuan mengirim dan menerima pesan sesuai yang diinginkan para penggunanya”.

Related to disaster management “bukan berarti harus menunggu sampai datangnya bencana baru dilakukan komunikasi kepada banyak pihak terkait termasuk masyarakat. Dampak paling awal dari terjadinya bencana adalah kondisi darurat, bahwa korban tidak mampu memenuhi kebutuhan-kebutuhan dasarnya dengan kapasitasnya sendiri “(Lestari, 2011: 92-93). Therefore, the presence of communication technologies become an important means for the delivery of disaster-related information. Such information will inform about the state of disaster. In normal circumstances it is expected that the information submitted be an early warning or may even be used as a means to anticipate possibilities that will occur when the disaster struck. This is because disasters usually come in unexpectedly earlier time.

The process of information searching via internet is still low for a distinctive and specific purposes is still low in everyday life. This sort of thing happens in other countries like the United States. Research that have been done there showed approximately the same results. Mundorf and Laird (2008: 590) states that "as far as good for using the internet, information seeking, and entertainment ranked highest, Followed by convenience. There were no significant differences between the males and females".

### **Conclusion**

Of data explanation and discussion above, we can conclude several things related to the behavior of accessing information by students. In terms of finding information related to religious, Muhammadiyah Bantul high school students have used the internet through technological as available means. The benefit of access to information via the internet is still dominated by the need to find products and entertainment. However the differences in the use of mobile devices as a tool for accessing religious information. Accessing information through install of the relevant application such as prayer time reminders, and so on. The low use of the software or the application associated with the issue of technical devices that do not support or ignorance about the existence of the application that can be used. Related to the needs of disaster information search, use of communications technologies that are held daily in the form of mobile phones also showed still low. Muhammadiyah Bantul high school students have not been a lot of mobile phones owned optimize the ability to seek out information that is relevant to disaster.

Therefore it is necessary to attempt a better education to the students in order to optimize the technology of the device's ability to access critical information such as

religious and disaster. This will provide great benefits for users in addressing the problems that exist in the neighborhood.

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