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## ALPHA GENERATION PERSPECTIVE ON THE USE OF TECHNOLOGY IN FILTERING ACTUAL INFORMATION THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

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### ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the Alpha Generation's perspective on the use of technology to filter actual information through social media. Generation Alpha refers to individuals born between 2010 and 2025, who grow up and live in an increasingly connected digital age. In an information-abundant environment, it is important to understand how these young people use technology to access and filter current information. This study uses narrative inquiry. This research was conducted with 3 participants, with an average age of 13-15 years. This research is expected to be able to examine the perspective of the alpha generation in exploring social media to filter actual information. This research aims to help academics, practitioners, and other stakeholders better understand and support young people to deal with the challenges of 'bird' information in today's rapidly developing digital era by providing a deeper understanding of the use of technology and social media in filtering information actual information. This study is grounded in the theory of digital literacy levels proposed by Lankshear and Knobel (2011: 167). The study found three 13-15-year-old children of the Alpha generation, who value accessibility and speed in obtaining information through social media. They value personalization and engage in online conversations, demonstrating critical skills in filtering information, verifying information, and contributing to social change.

**Key Words:** Alpha Generation; Actual Information; Social Media; Technology

### INTRODUCTION

A significant shift has occurred in how we access information, share information, and obtain information due to the development of technology and social media. The generation after Generation Z, known as the Alpha Generation, was born in an era where the use of digital technology has

become part of people's routine lives. They can connect with people and places worldwide because they have had unlimited internet and social media access since childhood. As a result of advances in technology and information, today's children, who are members of the so-called "Alpha Generation," are starting to enter the

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world of digital literacy. Literacy in digital technology is not inherently uncommon in today's society; almost everyone uses digital in everyday life— aspects of everyday life, such as logging on to the internet and using various electronic devices. A research study conducted in 2015 by international agencies and the Ministry of Communication and Informatics revealed that around 30 million internet users in Indonesia are thought to have originated from childhood and adolescence. The research was conducted in Indonesia. They use social media every day of their lives. In the same year they did, there were 72 million active social media users, according to data obtained from social marketing agencies. (Retnowati, 2015; Mustofa and Budiwati, 2019).

Likewise, with gadgets, it can be accepted that many young children use gadgets in public places such as restaurants, supermarkets, and other places of business. They use these devices to play games and watch movies they like. Children often show greater adaptability when using digital technology, such as smartphones or tablets, than their parents. Several researchers (Munawar et al., 2019) came to this conclusion.

In a world full of information, it is essential to know how Generation Alpha uses technology and social media to sort it out. This generation has different ideas and viewpoints that change as technology changes. They may be better at using technology and have more skills, but they also have to deal with new problems managing and processing the information they see. However, digital technology use has contrasting positive and negative effects on children in their formative years. Addiction is one potential drawback. Due to its effect on the release of dopamine, which reduces the maturity of the Pre-Frontal Cortex (PFC) (Paturel, 2014, p33-34), gadget addiction will increase the prevalence of the risk of attention disorders and hyperactivity. Technological advances have led to negative consequences (physical and psychological damage to humans, such as symptoms of ADHD and hyperactivity), as evidenced by previous studies cited by Tufail, Khan, and Saleem (2015, p71). The diversity of parental roles no doubt accounts for digital media's various effects on children.

Davidson (2012) shows that children need parental guidance to use the internet properly. Therefore, parents must have a solid understanding of digital literacy to

guide their children effectively in satisfying their natural curiosity and educational needs. According to Potter (2005:22), media literacy is as follows: "Media literacy is a set of perspectives that we actively expose ourselves to the media to interpret the meaning of the roles that we face. Our knowledge structures are the foundation upon which we build our perspective. We require various instruments and primary components to construct knowledge structures. These are the instruments that represent our capabilities. The information gleaned from various media and the natural world is the primary source. When we actively use it, it means that we are aware of the messages and purposefully interact with them."

In contrast to Potter, Zacchetti (2011: 47) proposed a definition of media literacy founded on a critical approach. He states, "Media literacy is the ability to access, understand, and critically evaluate media content and different media aspects, as well as create communication in various contexts." Literacy in the media encompasses all forms of media, including but not limited to television and movies, radio and recorded music, printed media, the internet, and other forms of digital communication technology.

An alternative view holds that digital literacy is more than just the ability to use digital tools proficiently and effectively; it is a mindset (Eshet, 2004). In light of Lankshear & Knobel's (2011: 167) view, there are different levels of digital literacy. Such as, one must have a firm grasp on the fundamentals of digital media in order to function at the level I (Digital Competence) competency level. The ability to use digital media in a professional context or within a narrow academic field, such as education, healthcare, or business, is required at Digital Usage Level II. One's capacity to transform their use of digital media to generate novel, beneficial innovations, and creativity increases as they progress to level III (Digital Transformation). The degree of computer literacy can be evaluated in terms of these steps.

This research aims to help academics, practitioners, and other stakeholders better understand and support young people to deal with the challenges of 'bird' information in today's rapidly developing digital era by providing a deeper understanding of the use of technology and social media in filtering information actual information.

Therefore, this research can provide a solid foundation for developing relevant educational strategies, policies, and initiatives to support Generation Alpha in developing better media literacy, recognizing valid content, and making more intelligent, informed decisions in an increasingly globalized world connected.

## **METHODS**

### **Research design**

This study uses a narrative research design as its methodology. Narrative inquiry is a research method that collects stories by generating and documenting these narratives, interpreting them within the framework of the literature in the field, and processing the implications for the people who participate in the research. In addition, this research project provides an in-depth analysis of the resulting data through qualitative methodologies. That is, the research design related to this study aims to learn more about the perspective of the alpha generation on the use of technology in filtering actual information through social media. In particular, this research is interested in learning more about how the alpha generation feels about this topic.

### **Research site and participants**

This research was conducted on 3 participants with an average age of 13-15 years. Furthermore, the researcher explained the course of the research to students who were willing to participate without coercion from the researcher.

### **Data collection and analysis**

For primary data collection, researchers used online personal interviews using Google Meet. The personal interviews focused on individual students, meaning that the researcher conducted the interviews at different times with each participant. The researcher's second decision was to conduct interviews with each participant at various times over a long period. This is done to maximize the amount of information that can be obtained. During the interview, Indonesian was used.

To conduct interviews, the researcher allocated 20 minutes for each participant. At this stage, the researcher will use a voice recorder to obtain information from interviews and notes to highlight critical points from the discussion. The interviews focused on the views of people belonging to the alpha generation regarding using technology to filter actual information obtained through

social media. In addition, researchers use various methods to analyze this qualitative data (Braun et al., 2006). The thematic analysis process can be broken down into six distinct steps, as outlined by Braun and Clarke (2006). Each step is described and explained, with the following exceptions: (1) Familiarize yourself with the data; (2) Create initial code; (3) Looking for a theme; (4) Evaluating the theme; (5) Defining and Naming Themes; and (6) Reporting Results.

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Findings

This study aims to understand the views of the alpha generation on the use of technology in filtering actual information through social media. The findings of this study are based on their answers in the interview process. They are presented in five categories, namely (1) what applications are often used to find the latest information, (2) the accuracy of information received through social media, (3) attitudes in responding to information received, (4) sorting the latest information through the media, and (5) the right way to overcome the information crisis in Indonesia.

### What Applications Are Often Used to Find the Latest Information

In today's digital era, the Alpha generation, which consists of individuals born between 2010 and 2025, has grown up with highly advanced technology. From the interview results, three participants stated that the application they often use to filter information is Twitter. As illustrated by one of the participants representing his views as follows:

*"I often use Twitter as a source of information because the information is obtained quickly." (Shaa-p3)*

As we can see from the excerpt above, one of the participants has a reason to be relevant because Twitter offers direct access to the thoughts, news, and views of individuals from various fields and backgrounds. Generation Alpha can easily find the latest and most exciting information by following relevant accounts and exploring topics that interest them. In addition, one of the participants (Gege-p2) revealed that by using Twitter, they could quickly check the latest news, keep up with the latest developments, and participate in online discussions. The answer from Gege represents this finding:

*"Twitter anyway, it is usually faster there." (Gege-p2)*

Apparently, from the answers above, the Alpha generation has

expressed a positive outlook. Therefore, the two participants stated that Twitter is an application often used by the Alpha generation to find the latest information. With its features and high accessibility, Twitter is a powerful tool for Alphas to stay connected to the world, gain new insights, and participate in global conversations.

### **Accuracy of Information Received Through Social Media**

In some cases, the Alpha generation needs to be accompanied by adults or educators who can help them develop critical and theoretical skills in evaluating the information they receive through social media. This includes checking sources of information, seeking confirmation from credible sources, and considering multiple perspectives before jumping to conclusions. Through analysis of the interview transcript data, quite interesting findings emerge, indicating that the Alpha generation can obtain accurate information via Twitter in exploring the latest information. In these interviews, participants demonstrated proficiency in selecting reliable sources of information and using critical judgment to assess the accuracy of the content they encountered on these platforms. The

first participant (MA-p1), the second participant (Gege-p2), and the third participant (Shaa-p3) had different responses but were equally relevant to the amount of information accuracy received on Twitter. The following quote represents this:

*"Pretty accurate." (MA-p1*

*"50%." (Gege-p2)*

*"95% of the information on Twitter is very accurate." (Shaa-p3)*

From the illustration above, it can be seen that the three participants have different perspectives. They recognize that social media, including Twitter, can provide information that is only sometimes reliable. Therefore, they use various strategies to ensure the accuracy of the information they receive. One of the strategies mentioned is to verify information through verified sources or official accounts. They also seek additional information from trusted sources outside of Twitter to ensure the legitimacy of the information.

In addition, the participants acknowledged using analytical reasoning to evaluate the content or information they found on Twitter. Before jumping to conclusions, they do their best to gather as much information as possible and look for

any traces of research or facts that might support their statements. This shows that Alpha generations have developed the critical ability to investigate information on Twitter, not just accept actual information without thinking about it.

However, it is essential to remember that while there may be findings indicating the accuracy of the information Alpha Generation receives via Twitter, this means that only some information that can be found on the platform is always correct. Even if every effort is made to validate and verify the source of the information, it is still possible that the information may contain errors or need to be more accurate. This is especially true if the effort has yet to be made to validate and verify the source of the information.

### **Attitude In Responding to Information Received**

The three participants showed various attitudes in responding to the information they received through various sources, including social media such as Twitter. In the interviews and observations, several observable attitudes were found.

The first is skeptical and critical. Some Alphas have developed a

skeptical and critical attitude toward the information they encounter. They do not receive raw information directly, but do additional research, verify sources, and look for evidence or facts to support a given claim. This attitude helps them avoid spreading fake news or inaccurate information. This is in line with the explanation from the third participant (Shaa-p3) and the second participant (Gege-p2):

*"I did not immediately believe the information, first look for the coordinates of the information. I prefer to read comments from other users, so I do not eat this information raw." (Shaa-p3)*

*"It is important to find out the truth of an information. Because to know whether the information is valid/hoax." (Gege-p2)*

The second is selective and picky. They tend to be selective in choosing the sources of information they follow and trust. Then, they look for verified accounts that are seen as an authority in their field or have a trustworthy track record. By carefully selecting the information sources they follow, the Alpha Generation seeks to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the information they receive. As described by the first participant (MA-p1) as follows:



*"We have to look for information that has just been published in other media as well, filtering whether it is true or not." (MA-p1)*

The third is being open to multiple perspectives. Along with critical abilities, Alpha generations also show an open attitude to diverse perspectives. They recognize the importance of listening to multiple points of view before making judgments or conclusions. Generation Alpha tries to understand different views and engages in discussions that allow for a healthy exchange of opinions. As expressed by the following three participants:

*"Freedom in opinion is necessary, but do not add information whose source is unclear. We really have to think before we act; now your finger is your tiger." (MA-p1)*

*"It is good, but some people do not like people's opinions, so fights happen. Because we have to think about the impact after we comment. Moreover, negative comments can make the person hurt." (Gege-p2)*

*"Very good, as long as the opinion follows the current events and there is evidence. Because our comments can hurt other people by our typing, the intention is to be a joke, but it becomes a problem." (Shaa-p3)*

This open attitude to diverse perspectives helps Alphas develop more mature critical thinking skills. By confronting different opinions, they are trained to evaluate arguments, identify sound logic, and distinguish between subjective opinions and objective facts.

### **Sorting the Latest Information Through Social Media**

The researcher is also very interested in understanding how the three participants sort the latest news through social media. This understanding can provide deeper insight into the strategies, skills, and decisions made by the Alpha generation in filtering and selecting news on social media platforms. This is evidenced by the expressions of the three participants as follows:

*"By reading the whole, comparing it with others, reading from reliable sources too." (MA-p1)*

*"Enter your age or date of birth. So adult content cannot be opened." (Gege-p2)*

*"As smart as we are, I prefer to read comments from other users so as not to eat this information raw." (Shaa-p3)*

Based on the answers above expressed by the three participants, when filtering information on social



media such as Twitter, the first participant (MA) tends to read and compare the news content with other news. This shows that MA tends to look at the context and comparisons between various sources of information before making judgments or conclusions. This approach demonstrates good critical skills in filtering information on social media. The second participant (Gege) stated that he used information content verification on Twitter by entering his age or date of birth. This verification aims to prevent participants from accessing or exposing themselves to content that is not appropriate to their age or interests. This shows that Gege has privacy awareness and is careful in choosing the information they receive on social media.

Meanwhile, unlike the third participant (Shaa), she explained that she sorted information based on personal interests by reading comments from other users regarding the news content. This suggests that Shaa relies on the interaction and feedback of other users as a source of information and guidance in selecting stories that are relevant to their interests. This approach demonstrates courage in discussions and seeking

multiple perspectives before making judgments.

### **The Right Way to Overcome the Information Crisis in Indonesia**

In the next point, the Alpha Generation Perspective section examines the right way to deal with the information crisis in Indonesia. This relates to the perspectives of the three participants in preventing hoax news on Twitter. In fact, from these findings, the three participants tended to digest the information received and search for information in other media. This is believed to reduce the level of information crisis in Indonesia. As explained by one of the three participants as follows:

*"By digesting information from clear sources, not being easily influenced by news that spreads are also important."*  
(MA-p1)

In addition, browsing news quickly on social media such as Twitter has an accuracy level that is sometimes high and sometimes low. So, based on the facts expressed by the second participant (Gege-p2), he prefers to avoid questions that have nothing to do with news content on social media. Like the following quote:

*"Avoiding irrelevant questions."*  
(Gege-p2)

The statement above shows that each individual is responsible for overcoming the information crisis. They encourage people to be intelligent and responsible users of social media. This is in line with the expression of the third participant (Shaa-p3), who invites you to check and verify the

information before sharing it, not to spread fake news, and to respect different perspectives in online discussions, such as the following quote:

*"Browsing various social media, of course, by sorting the information that is seen." (Shaa-p3)*

## Discussion

### **Alpha Generation Perspective on the Use of Technology in Filtering Actual Information Through Social Media**

Based on the analysis presented above, the findings are relevant to the perspective of the Alpha generation on the use of technology in filtering actual information through social media. In this case, the Alpha generation has a mature perspective on using technology to filter actual information through social media. They use their digital skills and media literacy to sift through information, consider multiple perspectives, and take a critical stance on the algorithms used in social media platforms. Their awareness of the importance of filtering information and their ability to manage and select accurate information provides hope for social media's wise and responsible use in seeking actual information. Eniyati, S., NS, R.C., Zuliarso, E., & Wismarini,

D. (2021) also described the same research results. Young people are the most vulnerable when consuming media, so educating them about digital literacy is crucial. Generation Alpha understands that comprehensive media literacy education can only resolve the information crisis. They think it is imperative to develop skills in analyzing, evaluating, and filtering information. Media literacy instruction is important for all students and should start early, according to members of Generation Alfa. This will enable individuals to identify reliable sources of information, spot false claims, and avoid being misled.

Additionally, Generation Alpha values social media for its ability to facilitate communication, education, and engagement on global issues. They see social media as a tool that informs them and gives them a platform to make a difference in the world. This view

reflects their determination to use the internet and social media as tools for personal growth and societal betterment. When Alphas use social media, they can talk to whomever they want. Nevertheless, this freedom needs to be more understood. Being free does not mean having no morals. Many social problems occur because people do not know how to behave on social media.

Conversely, social media users are sometimes fooled by fake news (hoaxes) that are spread to cause trouble. Some essential things that need to be known about how to use social media correctly (Anis, 2018) are not using offensive language or harsh words, not spreading information about SARA, pornography, or acts of violence, checking the truth of the news, and respecting other people's work. Moreover, keep your personal information private.

The same result is proven by (Swandhina et al., R.A., 2022) that adults are just some of the ones who use digital literacy, especially when using different technological tools. In the world of children, too, many types of technology are used in different ways daily. Also, this research shows that when Alpha Generation children use technology, they have a significant ability and understanding to explore various types

of news on social media. They can use search tools and filter information effectively. However, the effects of using this technology can be multiple, with positive and negative impacts. Several previous studies found that many parents directly supervise their children's use of gadgets in various ways. They do this to ensure their children's healthy and responsible use of technology. This supervision may include setting usage time limits, monitoring content accessed, and discussing technology use with children. Parents' efforts to monitor the use of gadgets by Alpha generation children are essential to maintaining their safety and well-being in the digital world. With the proper supervision, parents can help their children understand the ethics of using technology, filter the information they receive, and develop the critical skills needed to differentiate between accurate and fake news.

However, it is essential to remember that supervision is not the only factor contributing to understanding and responsible use of technology. Media literacy education in schools and continuing teaching at home also have an essential role in helping the Alpha generation to become intelligent and critical users in dealing with information on social media.

## CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTION

The results of this study found three participants with an average age of 13-15 years, which are children of the Alpha generation. These three participants provided their perspectives on using technology to filter actual information through social media. Based on research findings and discussion that the Alpha generation values accessibility and speed in obtaining information through social media. They rely on platforms like Twitter to get up-to-date information quickly and easily. They tend to look for information relevant to their interests and take advantage of personalization features on social media to get content that suits their preferences. This Alpha generation has a desire to engage and interact in online conversations. They use social media to share opinions, comment, and discuss current topics with other users. They demonstrate critical skills in filtering information on social media, such as realizing that personal opinions not based on facts and theory can lead to an actual information crisis. Generation Alpha actively verifies and validates information before receiving it, with an awareness of the risks of false information. Generation Alpha sees social media as a tool to stay connected to the world and participate in global issues. They also use social media to gain

new insights, contribute to social change, and influence positive change. This is consistent with the purpose of this study, which is to find out the perspective of the alpha generation on the use of technology in filtering actual information through social media.

For further research, it is suggested to study the balance in the use of technology. Generation Alpha needs to manage their time and avoid over-reliance on social media. Further studies can also investigate what applications provide diverse and trusted information sources to gain more complete and objective insights for Generation Alpha.

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