

Pastoral Assistance for Youth with Gadget and Internet Users in the Seventh Day Adventist Church

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Abstract:

The purpose of this study was to obtain empirical data on pastoral care for adolescent gadget and Internet users in Church. This study applies a descriptive method with a qualitative approach, through this research it is intended to describe the implementation and role of pastoral assistance to adolescent gadget and internet users in the Waldensia Adventist Church. The data collection technique was done through interviews with a sampling method, namely snowball sampling. The result of this research is that pastoral assistance to teenagers who use gadgets and the internet at the Waldensia Adventist Church is still not running optimally. The goal of pastoral care that is not fully realized is due to the lack of specialists in youth assistance and the low awareness of the community that adolescent development is a shared responsibility. Provision of understanding of the development of technology and information that is lacking as well as training on pastoral assistance for youth ministers that have not been carried out optimally. Functions that play a role in pastoral assistance for youth gadget and internet users only include the functions of guiding, nurturing and empowering. Pastoral assistance efforts that have been carried out by the church so far have only been through Youth worship, which is mostly done to those who are physically ill.

Keywords: Pastoral Assistance, Addiction, Gadgets, online games.

1 Introduction

In this modern era, the internet is almost everyone's primary need. Not only teenagers, but parents and even children have used the internet a lot. Whether it's for communicating, shopping, social media, playing games, or for other purposes. The existence of the internet does provide convenience for every individual to carry out daily activities. So do not be surprised if the need continues to increase.

In this day and age, humans can quickly get information that is happening on the same day.

This is influenced by the existence of an Internet network that can facilitate various human activities in this world. The internet can also make it easier for us to carry out remote activities that are needed at this time (Wibowo et al., 2021)

The internet is a giant computer network, spread throughout the world and consists of millions of computers of various types (Burhan R, 2003). Group chats over the internet can bridge all over the world, gender, age, religion, while being closely homogeneous in education and ideology (Putnam, 2000). That's why the use of the internet in the social world must be with good and appropriate governance, especially as a means of education, economic progress, and public health. The internet can be accessed in various ways, one of which is by using a gadget. Various types of internet use other than email, including messaging, webside, also in the form of blogs (Beaudoin, 2008). Gadgets are electronic media in the form of mobile phones, smartphones, laptops and tablets that have various applications in them. Gadgets are tools to activate and run all existing social media, even among teenagers, many use gadgets that are connected by the internet network to play games, obtain information and establish communication facilities. The positive impact of gadgets is that it makes it easier for someone to get information in the form of writing, images, and videos. In addition, the use of the internet can also be done as a means of communication and entertainment, so that various social media such as facebook, youtube, twitter can be opened via the internet.

The use of the internet and gadgets has both positive and negative impacts on adolescents. Adolescent is someone who is growing into an adult, entering puberty where there are physical, biological, psychological, and social changes (Geldard, 2011b). The positive impact is that it makes it easier for teenagers to communicate with many people without requiring a lot of money. For example, through social networks, teenagers can communicate with people from various parts of the world. With the advancement of technology, teenagers find creative and challenging games that can benefit their creativity (Musbahiroh, 2013). However, not all use of gadgets has a positive impact. Excessive use of gadgets makes teenagers lazy to write and read. With the use of gadgets, teenagers are more tempted by the color variations on the display of their gadgets. This visual media causes teenagers to be lazy to read (Musbahiroh, 2013). In addition, the negative impact of excessive use of gadgets and the internet will result in a decrease in social skills. Teenagers do not care about others and do not understand the ethics of socializing with the surrounding environment (Musbahiroh, 2013). It's even more ironic that you can't respect your elders. Teenagers always want to get something fast without seeing the process. Various studies of Internet use among adolescents show that the Internet has become an inseparable part of the daily lives of children and adolescents in Indonesia. Therefore, the Ministry of Communication and Informatics sees the need for various efforts to increase their awareness, knowledge and skills in relation to Internet security. This can be achieved through socialization, literacy education and training (Halim, 2015).

The impact of using gadgets and the internet that has been described above also occurs in the Waldensia Adventist Church. Facts that occur in the field, both teenage boys and girls are users of gadgets and the internet. Most teenage boys spend their time playing games with their gadgets, while girls spend their time using social media such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter and Instagram. It is very easy for teenagers to access various information and communicate, requiring the role of the church as one of the containers that shape the personality of teenagers. Adolescence itself presents so many challenges, because of the many changes that must be faced starting from physical, biological, psychological, and also social changes (Geldard, 2011). One of these changes is influenced by the use of gadgets and the internet, therefore church pastoral assistance is needed to prevent and resolve adolescent problems related to the media. Adolescence is a time when teenagers are in primary socialization, where all the information and experiences around them will be carried when they grow up.

According to Jean Piaget, adolescence in its development is at the level of formal thinking operations, where adolescents work systematically trying all possibilities (Crain, 2014). Adolescents are not only in their mathematical and scientific reasoning, but also include the social life of adolescents (Crain, 2014). Likewise, Erik H. Erikson places the developmental period of adolescence as confronted with identity versus identity confusion. Today, individuals are faced with the challenge of determining who they are, how they will become, and which direction they want to take in their lives (Santrock, 2011). Based on the problems above, church pastoral assistance is needed in order to guide, care for, nurture, protect, and help youth (Engel, 2007). Pastoral assistance has several functions, among others: first, the function of healing (healing), namely a pastoral function that aims to overcome some damage by returning the person to a whole and leading him to a better direction than his previous condition. While the second is the function of sustaining, which is helping people who are injured (ill) to survive and go through a situation in which recovery to its original condition (Engel, 2007). The third function is guiding, which is helping people who are in confusion to make definite choices among alternative thoughts and actions. The fourth function is to restore (reconciling), namely the effort to rebuild the relationships that have been damaged between humans and God and each other. The fifth function is to empower (empowering) this function helps the counselee to become a helper for himself in the future when facing difficulties. In addition to these five functions, Howard Clinebell added another function of pastoral care, namely the function of nurturing or nurturing (nurturing), which is to enable people to develop their God-given potentials (Engel, 2007). Pastoral role in a crisis and misfortune in life, both individuals and families, even in the crisis of social change in society though (Engel, 2007). Pastoral care is a calling that must be carried out by everyone who has responded to God's call (Engel, 2003). This pastoral assistance is not only the responsibility of the pastor, or clergy, but all believers are called to carry out this pastoral task, including members of the Waldensia Adventist Church, whose youth use gadgets a lot (Engel, 2003).

2. Literature Review

Definition of Adolescence

Adolescence is a period of transition in development between childhood and adulthood, which involves biological, cognitive and socio-emotional changes (Santrock, 2007). The word teenager comes from the English word adolescence which was adopted from the Latin *adolescere* which means teenager, which means "to grow into an adult" (Padmomartono, 2003) Adolescence places a person between the childhood stage and the adult stage, this stage begins with the events of adulthood which have been widely described as "puberty" (Geldard, 2011) Puberty refers to the biological events that accompany the first menstruation in women and the first ejaculation in men (Geldard, 2011) In addition to going through a period of biological change, adolescents are also undergoing cognitive changes in which a teenager will develop abstract thinking skills, find ways to think about relationship problems, understand new ways to process information, and learn to think creatively and critically (Geldard, 2011)

Pastoral

Assistance Pastoral care (pastoral care), which in the biblical language is often used the term shepherding comes from the word shepherd. The herding process itself has existed since the first humans; Adam and Eve. God's punishment is an attempt to repair and rebuild relationships that are not harmonious as a process of God's shepherding of humans (Engel, 2003). On the other hand, God's shepherding process is also a form of human responsibility to God. In this shepherding process, God acts as a shepherd who comes to help His created people, find the root and causes of the problems they face, as well as efforts to improve human relationships with God (Engel, 2003). Pastoral care, which in the Bible is used to carry out pastoral duties, not only restores but also develops people in their

potentials who can also develop people in their potentials that can be used to serve God in service to others (Engel, 2007). Jesus knows everyone's needs, not just outward problems but the touch of Jesus' love felt by those who come with various illnesses and sufferings, gives a spiritual dimension, awakens and inflames a spirit of hope in life (Matthew 15:30; Luke 4:40; 6: 9). Pastoral care is a vocation that must be carried out by everyone who has responded to God's call (Engel, 2007). The term "pastoral assistance" is a combination of two words that have the meaning of service, namely the word mentoring and the word pastoral. Thus, the term mentoring has the meaning of partnership activities, working hand in hand, accompanying, sharing or sharing with the aim of growing and strengthening each other (Beek, 2012) This pastoral care is the basis for pastoral care, to manifest love, care and concern for those who are in struggle, especially their feelings (Engel, 2007) The New Testament Bible view of the role and function of the shepherd cannot be separated from the understanding of the work of the Lord Jesus as the Great Shepherd and the Good Shepherd. Jesus Christ is a Messianic figure who declares Himself to be the Good Shepherd, because He has succeeded in carrying out God's will (John 10:11). Jesus always saw the purpose of His ministry, namely that the church which is God's people should be built up. Congregation building is a pastoral goal that is carried out by the Lord Jesus and the church as His body towards His members (Engel, 2003)

Gadgets And Internet

Gadget according to the dictionary means a small electronic device that has a special function. A gadget refers to a small device or instrument that has a specific useful practical purpose and function. Gadgets themselves can take the form of (mobile phones, smartphones, laptops, tablets, notes, mp3s and others) (Herawati, n.d.). According to Wing Winarno, "Gadget is a term that comes from English, which means a small electronic device that has a special function". In Indonesian, gadgets are called "acang". One of the things that distinguishes gadgets from other electronic devices is the element of "novelty". This means that from day to day gadgets always appear by presenting the latest technology that makes human life more practical. Common features on gadgets are internet, camera, video call, telephone, email, sms, bluetooth, wifi, games and mp3 (Lioni et al., 2014).

The use of gadgets itself has both positive and negative impacts. The negative impacts of excessive use of gadgets themselves are as follows: first, the tendency to use gadgets excessively and inappropriately can make someone not care about their environment both within the family and society. Second, there is a gap between students who have gadgets and students who do not have gadgets that can instill hedonic, asocial traits in each child and then develop into groupings in friendship (Lioni et al., 2014). Third, the ease of accessing various information and communication media causes children to be lazy in moving and doing activities. Excessive use of gadgets also has an impact on adolescent health, especially brain development, child psychology, in addition to decreasing the function of the senses (eyes), for example.

The positive impact of using gadgets is that teenagers are able to hone their creativity and intelligence, a variety of coloring, reading and writing activities will affect the brain development of teenagers. Furthermore, it is more time and energy efficient because teenagers can access all information and write on their tablet. Gadgets and various facilities in it can also make it easier to communicate without being limited by age, place, and time (Iis Widiawati, 2014) Internet systems can cover the whole world and involve thousands of connections from computer networks, providing an extraordinary amount of information that can be explored by adolescents (Santrock, 2007). An individual or egoistic lifestyle raises various problems and worries everyone in an effort to achieve success and achieve a better future.

3. Methodology/Materials

This research will be conducted using a descriptive method with a qualitative approach, which is described in this study is pastoral assistance to adolescent gadget and internet users at the Waldensia

Adventist Church. This type of descriptive research can be interpreted as a problem-solving procedure investigated by describing or describing the current state of the object of research (Hadari Nanawi, 1994) Qualitative methods are built on the basis of intellectual understanding and arguments supported by empirical data. The object of research is humans (teenagers) related to everything they do. The research was conducted at the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Waldensia in North Minahasa Regency. In the data collection process, the method that will be used is to conduct in-depth interviews with church pastors and youth and youth church committee members. In interviews conducted with teenagers, the sampling technique used was snowball sampling, where in determining the sample, first one or two people were selected, but because these two people did not feel complete with the data provided, the researchers looked for other people who were considered know better and can complete the data provided by the previous two people (Sugiono, 2012)

In addition to conducting interviews and observations on adolescents, the author also conducted a literature study (document study) to obtain data on pastoral care for youth who use gadgets and the internet at the Waldensia GMAHK. Respondents in this study were church pastors and members of the church committee. In this study, the location chosen was the Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Waldensia Congregation.

The main data source is verbal information obtained through in-depth interviews with the church pastor, church committee, and youth at the Waldensia Seventh-day Adventist Church. This source is equipped with physical data in the form of documented data. Secondary data such as documents will be obtained through church documents and writings on the topic under study.

4. Results and Findings

The results of the research conducted by the authors show that there is an awareness of the negative impact of using gadgets and the internet by teenagers, for example, as the following interview results: Gadgets and the internet are a double-edged sword on the one hand useful but on the one hand can injure destroy. The church and parents' concern about the negative function of gadgets is that teenagers see pictures or videos that are difficult to stop because they are easy to access and become individuals who are not able to socialize well.

In addition, for teenagers who are game enthusiasts, they will spend time playing games, spending their money on purchasing internet data packages and also other opportunities such as studying, gathering with family and friends, going to church and also going to school. The use of gadgets and the internet that is not wise will make someone become an individual and only play in their virtual world while the real world is actually waiting for them with all the realities that teenagers must know and live.

Pastoral assistance is understood as assisting members of the congregation in terms of faith. When there are residents who experience problems, the church can take a stand to help them. Pastoral assistance can be done by visiting residents, but the visit is not just a visit, but there is reinforcement for those who are visited.

Pastoral care is increasingly contextual in today's digital world, which also influences changes in order and lifestyle so that it requires an adaptive pastoral care approach without losing the essence of pastoral service itself. This study proposes the foundation of Christian Faith in creative and innovative pastoral ministry (Alifia, 2021).

Gadgets and the internet are a form of technology and information development that will continue to develop along with the development of various fields of science. Communicating is one of the human needs, where it shows the existence of humans as social beings who are interconnected and need. Gadgets and the internet are one of the communication media that can now be enjoyed by all circles of society, even toddlers have been introduced to gadgets by their parents as a medium for learning and playing. These communication tools bring a lot of great influence in the world of teenagers in particular, where when gadgets and the internet are used incorrectly or excessively without parental

supervision, gadgets can affect children's social interactions with their environment, both the internal (family) and external (school environment) environment. church, community and friendship). Along with the development of various technologies and information, gadgets are increasingly equipped with various applications, so that they are not only used to receive messages or make calls, but also to play games, access all information, whether educational, entertainment, news, sports and also activate all media. social media as a form of trend that is currently developing. Parents in providing these facilities to their children also have various reasons, such as because they don't want to see their children stuttering in technology or the cool term is "untechnical", some are forced by their children, some buy them so their children can easily access all the information they need. needed in its development. The development of technology and communication cannot be avoided because teenagers live in a digital world, but the most important thing is that parents and the church specifically in this study can accompany them and provide limits on the use of gadgets and the internet. Adolescence is a time when someone is looking for their identity and trying various ways to answer all their confusion and curiosity.

The youth of the Waldensian Adventist Church are in a time like this, where they are always dissatisfied with what they have or understand now. This makes them do various things such as exploring their abilities with existing media such as gadgets and their internet network. This existence is in line with Erik H. Erikson's thinking that adolescence places them in a developmental period faced with identity versus identity confusion (Santrock, 2007). With various applications in their gadgets, a teenager will be able to express himself and also develop his potential. For example, with social media such as facebook, fuel, instagram, path, twitter, line, whatsapp, they will easily establish communication with all people in various parts of the world, they can also show their various moods in their social media. Based on the research conducted by the author, it appears that teenagers at the Waldensia Church often use social media that is activated from their gadgets to express their moods that are easily volatile, such as feelings of pleasure, anger, disappointment, hurt, sadness and even words. cursing there.

The phenomenon of game addiction in general and online games in particular is a problem not only for the community but also for church members. The solution found by the researcher is to provide pastoral assistance to church members who are addicted to these activities (Tumundo et al., 2021).

This existence refers to G. Stanley Hall's concept of a storm and stress (storm and stress view) in adolescents where this is a turbulent period filled with conflict and mood swings. According to this view, the thoughts, feelings and actions of adolescents vary between pride and humility, good intentions and temptations, happiness and sadness (Santrock, 2007). For teenagers who use their social media wisely will not get into trouble, but for those who use it unwisely it will actually make them unable to grow. This is evident from some teenagers who are in conflict and then they just vent their anger on social media with words that curse and demean each other, it will make them fall into a failure to communicate and lack respect for one another. If this situation cannot be handled properly, one teenager will feel inferior or lazy to make friends and do activities together. Communication is one that supports the development of adolescents, because everyone will definitely communicate to get something or express their thoughts. However, it should be realized that communication is not only done in cyberspace, but also in face-to-face meetings and joint activities. This awareness must be possessed by teenagers so that they do not become individual individuals, but are able to socialize with their surroundings.

According to Erik H. Erikson, it is precisely in adolescence that an individual begins to see or realize himself, has a past and a future that is exclusively himself (Nuhamara, 2008). Adolescence is a time when a person makes memories and anticipations about the future. A period in which an individual seeks a special identity. This situation is manifested in adolescent relationships with peers, relationships in family, community, school and church. Teenagers are happy with group life according to gender, age level, hobbies and so on, showing that their lives are influenced by the community and

also the dynamic changes that occur in society. In the past, teenagers could play with various traditional games such as playing baseball, marbles, kites, hide-and-seek and so on that emphasized the presence and communication, but now all these games are rarely found because various kinds of sophisticated and more challenging games can be done by them alone. gadgets they have.

The existence of adolescents in the Waldensia Congregation's Seventh-day Adventist Church is in line with Jean Piaget's thinking about adolescents which places them at the operational level of formal thinking. Adolescents experience cognitive development, generally they begin to question many things that have been taught to them, so it is not uncommon for many teenagers to reject some or even all of the values and beliefs that were learned or acquired during childhood (Nuhamara, 2008).

By understanding the change in the mindset of teenagers in a more rational direction, it is very dangerous if the church only fills teenagers with meaningless activities. One of the advantages of working or serving youth is that at this time teenagers are very open to things or ideas and guidance. In addition, adolescence is a period where they have started to make a number of decisions and commitments (Nuhamara, 2008). The whole existence of these youth is a challenge for the family and the church to guide them in their development process.

Teenagers will always try new things and be close to their world to show their identity, and a feeling of wanting to be praised and cared for. However, we must also be able to understand their hearts because there are teenagers who will open up and tell stories when they experience problems and failures, but there are also teenagers who will actually close themselves off and it is not uncommon for them to suddenly become depressed and become quiet suddenly. It is the dynamics of change and development of youth that we should understand as a family and also a church. Various kinds of support need to be carried out by the church and parents, for example sociological support that emphasizes living together in a community that provides a comfortable atmosphere for adolescents to be able to develop and explore themselves. they. In addition, there is support that is educational in nature, so that in using gadgets and the internet there must be a time limit as well as the sites that can be accessed by them, so that they can use this opportunity to find information and good shows. The mentoring given during childhood will have a great influence on their personality life and development in the congregation. In general, pastoral assistance is given as a form of ministry in the church that is useful for helping others who are facing problems or helping them to live well. The skills in shepherding are essentially the skills to communicate and relate in a way that promotes growth (Clinebell, 2002)

Teenagers who experience various dynamics of change in their lives need someone and a comfortable place for them to share all their curiosity and also the problems they are experiencing.

Understanding the benefits of using gadgets and the internet has opened up opportunities for teenagers to use them both positively and negatively. So far, teenagers have not received much attention from the church regarding the development of this technology, especially providing assistance and empowering teenagers in their search for identity. The service provided to youth is limited to the relationship between the servant and those served in worship, catechism, drama training, singing and music. Awareness of increasingly rampant developments in all fields leads to an understanding of the importance of mentoring for adolescents. Pastoral care provided by the church needs to be complemented by parental (family) assistance.

Pastoral care for youth requires an introduction to youth and also their development, as ministers or counselors, we must be able to become a friend to them. A friend means that we provide time for teenagers, pay attention to them in all circumstances and problems they face, and become motivators or helpers when they have difficulties and fall into problems. The Lord Jesus cares so much for children and loves them even though most people think that children are useless and make a fuss. There is a consequence given to each of us who do not care about children (teenagers). Seventh-day Adventist Church of the Waldensia Congregation tries to assist the youth in their worship, faith-building activities together in the form of conversations and non-formal meetings. However, this assistance is still not

reaching personally and especially overcoming the problems of the development of gadgets and the internet in the lives of teenagers. The path that can be taken by the church is to conduct visits with parents to equip them about the development of technology and information so that they can become control for teenagers in all circumstances. The sermons delivered in worship services are still lacking because everyone has a different appreciation so that space is needed to meet both the church and youth as well as with parents.

Perfect pastoral care is a form of complete help to others which includes physical, mental, social and spiritual needs. Because God who is the creator, is caring and nurturing well, so when pastoral is linked to the term mentoring, it is meant to deepen the meaning of mentoring work. This assistance not only has a horizontal aspect (from human to human) but also manifests a vertical aspect (relationship with God) (Beek, 2012)

Understanding adolescent development is one of the best alternative efforts in guiding adolescents. God's purpose with man is wholeness. Only as complete human beings can we carry out our duties as believers in the image of God. Humans are imperfect creatures, imperfections include socio-economic, physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, and so on. This shows how important pastoral assistance is, especially among youth. The growth of the congregation that begins with teenagers is the beginning of the development and also the success of ministry in the church in the future. The development of technology and information (gadgets and internet) is not something that needs to be prevented from being known to teenagers, but it is assistance to them that the church needs to do. Thus, the task of pastoral assistance with the aim of strengthening becomes the task of all Christians (Beek, 2012).

5. Conclusion

Based on the results of research conducted by researchers, the overall conclusions are as follows;

1. Pastoral assistance for youth who use gadgets and the internet at the Waldensia Adventist Church is still not running optimally, this is due to a lack of knowledge about pastoral assistance, youth development and knowledge about technology and information development (gadgets and internet) among church employees, especially for the youth department.
2. The function of pastoral assistance for teenagers who use gadgets and the internet at the Waldensia Adventist Church is closer to the functions of guiding, empowering, and nurturing. The guiding function is provided through conversations, both formal and informal in order to explore the needs of teenagers and their problems, the empowering function is provided through the provision of facilities such as conducting seminars and training on the use of gadgets and the internet properly and correctly. While the function of parenting is given through attention and providing a sense of comfort and safety for adolescents in all joint activities both in church and in family and community
3. Pastoral assistance that has occurred in the Waldensia Adventist Church has been carried out by the pastor, while the assistance should be carried out by all those who have received the work of salvation from God in this case should also be carried out by all youth ministers and also all citizens. This is evidence of the promise of all residents in the baptismal service who stated that they would be willing to guide and remind when a child in his growth had problems or made deviations
4. The church and parents (families) still haven't done many activities together, especially to assist youth in their holistic growth, the joint activities carried out by both of them are still limited to meetings held when teenagers will do sidi confirmation and in several ecclesiastical events that involve all citizens. Routine meetings, especially discussions about adolescent development and the problem in particular the problem of using gadgets and the internet properly, have not been carried out.

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