

What the Bible Says About Education: A Critical Review of Biblical Education and Its Relevance in the Era of Globalization

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Abstract

Understanding the meaning of education is very important for the formation of human character and intellect. In the Christian context, the Bible is the main reference source in understanding education in accordance with God's will. The meaning of education in this context is teaching, rules, regulations and all things related to educating, instructing and disciplining God's people, namely His human creation. However, in the current era of globalization, the challenges and dynamics of education have experienced significant changes. This article aims to conduct a critical review of the concept of the meaning of education according to the Bible and criticize its relevance in the digital era of globalization. Through studying Bible verses related to education, several basic things were identified, such as the importance of knowing God through reading the Bible, examining the purpose of education and God's teachings from the Old Testament to the New Testament and the time of the Holy Spirit. However, advances in digital technology have changed the landscape of the meaning of education, giving rise to new challenges, namely distractions from the meaning of education in the Bible. This article explores how the teaching or educational values that God gave to Adam and Eve reached the Israelites as HIS chosen nation, during the Old Testament, the New Testament and so on up to the present. Whether teaching or upbringing through God speaking directly, through the voices of prophets, apostles and the Holy Spirit: can it still be applied adaptively and transformatively to answer educational challenges in the era of globalization? This review emphasizes the need for a balanced educational approach between Biblical values and technological advances, starting with motivating a person so that there is a desire to find out through the desire to read the Bible. This will enable people, especially the younger generation of Christians, to understand the holistic meaning of education according to the Bible, which strengthens faith, character and skills needed to face the complexities of the times.

Keywords: Bible, Education, Distraction, Digital Era and Globalization

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INTRODUCTION

In an era of globalization that is increasingly developing rapidly, an era where a lot of information can be accessed and is even filled with fast and instant answers accompanied by instructional articles, the meaning of education is facing challenges, especially for Christians (Churches/society). Challenges and opportunities complement each other. With the presence of all this information, have we become wiser? On the one hand, technological advances have brought

many conveniences and innovations in various aspects of human life, including the world of education for Christians, so that the meaning of education itself seems to be obscured by the challenges and opportunities it creates. This results in concerns about the loss of moral and spiritual values which should be the foundation of education. In this context, the study of what the Bible says regarding the meaning of education in the form of God's teachings, rules and regulations to discipline His people, becomes relevant for further study, because of the tendency **distraction** about the meaning of education and truth from the Bible as an impact of the spread of globalization. The distractions referred to in this case are things that hinder human focus on God or things that divert and distance human attention to conditions outside of God. World globalization is the process of bringing in many changes that change the patterns and order of human life following trends that apply globally. As a result of globalization, many things or conditions in the world are digitalized to make it easier to play global rules. Including the world of education. Responding to global changes in the world, what does the Bible say about education?

The Lord God is the Great Teacher and main instructor for Adam and Eve, since the foundation of the world. Then at the time when God introduced the Torah through the prophet Moses, Moses was also the main teacher or first human teacher for the Israelites. At that time, studying the Torah was a must for every Israelite. And nowadays studying the holy books of the Bible is important for every Christian's journey of faith. In Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction." This verse describes knowledge or education as a path to wisdom, and not simply coming to school and making or not making assignments in order to become clever. Or go to school to just get a diploma or certificate as proof of expertise. However, the expression "fear of God" means the desire to honor, put God first, starting with the desire to know God through His word. So that you can become wise and spiritually mature and not just clever. Because smart people are not necessarily wise, but wise people are automatically smart people.

From the time of the Old Testament and New Testament until the time of the Holy Spirit, namely today, education or teaching from God to humans was conveyed in different ways. In this context, the education in question is the teaching, rules and regulations from God to His human creation, with the aim of disciplining His people so that they achieve salvation according to God's will and how they are relevant in the context of education in the current era of globalization. All of these things are stated in the Bible, because all writings inspired by God are useful for teaching, for revealing errors, for correcting behavior and for educating people in righteousness (2 Tim.3:16).

RESEARCH METHODS

The method used in this writing is a qualitative method. Data was obtained from Biblical texts and also using books that discuss and highlight the things that are the focus of the writing, literature related to education from a Biblical perspective and education in the era of globalization. Data analysis was carried out descriptively-critically. The approach used in this writing is literature study, which is a data collection technique by studying literary sources related to the problem being discussed.

In this research, the author provides some Bible texts that are relevant regarding education or knowledge regarding teaching, rules and regulations from God.

DISCUSSION

Old Testament times

Based on the facts of the Biblical narrative, from the time of Adam and Eve to the time of Noah, and throughout the Old Testament, God conveyed His education and teachings to humans in several ways, namely:

Creation and Creation, Through the creation of the universe, God revealed His existence, His greatness, the beauty and order of His creation to humans as witnessed by the author of the Book of Psalm 19:2-6 and the Book of Job 12:7-10. The creation process itself is a form of God's teaching about His omnipotence, wisdom and goodness. The echo of God's message can be understood by everyone, regardless of language. It also reveals to us that everything God created was truly very good (Genesis 1:31), and creation itself reflects God's greatness. Observations of nature can provide insight and teaching about God and His plans. The book of Job 36:22 writes that God is glorious in His power, so that there is no teacher or educator like Him. The primary and first method that God uses to educate and communicate with humans is through the act of creation of the universe known as **General Statement.** Furthermore, humans understand and learn to recognize God's actions through inductive observation of the natural environment created by God. It is God who teaches humans to be knowledgeable (Job 21:22) through the teaching of God's Torah. Even farming is taught by God, not forgetting customs, it is God who teaches humans. The next method used by God to communicate His teachings is through figurative language or metaphor. God is a Spirit, has no form, so God cannot be described in detail (Deuteronomy 4:15). There is nothing, whether animal, plant or human, in this universe that can be analogous to a form of God. Jesus reaffirmed in New Testament times that God is Spirit (John 4:24).

Direct Communication or Divine Manifestation, God communicates directly with humans, such as when He spoke to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2-3). God often appears Himself directly or through special manifestations, such as fire, angels, or natural phenomena (Genesis 3:24, Exodus 3:2-6, 1 Kings 19:11-13). God also spoke directly to Noah, giving instructions and warnings about the coming flood (Genesis 6-9). God provides guidance, warning and teaching to humans. God spoke directly to Moses on Mount Sinai and gave him the Ten Commandments and other laws (Exodus 19-20, 24:12). God spoke directly to the prophets, such as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and several other minor prophets, then they conveyed God's word to the people (Isaiah 1:1-2, Jeremiah 1:4-10), because they were Prophets is God's mouthpiece. God's teachings are conveyed through sermons, discourses and the writings of the prophets.

Laws and Agreements/Regulations; Before the time of Moses, God had established His laws and decrees, such as the command not to eat meat with its blood (Genesis 9:3-4). God establishes His covenants and laws formally, such as the covenants with Abraham, Moses, and David (Genesis 12, Exodus 20, 2 Samuel 7). The decrees conveyed to Moses were the decree to sanctify the Sabbath Day (Genesis 31:12-17), the two tablets of the law (Exodus 31:18), and the two new stone tablets (Exodus 34). Moses was commanded to write down the laws and regulations

given by God (found in Exodus 24:4, Deuteronomy 31:9). Other books in the Old Testament were also recorded by prophets and writers inspired by God. God's laws and decrees were a form of moral and ethical education for the people of Israel at that time and many of those laws and decrees are still relevant until now as a rule that educates people to become better according to God's will.

Teaching in Synagogue and Home, through parents who are obliged to teach the Torah and Jewish traditions to their children at home (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). In the synagogue, the reading and teaching of the Torah becomes the center of teaching and learning activities (Luke 4:16).

The time of the New Testament and the Time of the Holy Spirit until now

The Incarnation of Christ, Teachings and Example of Jesus; God conveyed His teachings directly through His incarnation in Jesus Christ (John 1:1,14). Jesus educates through His teachings written in the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John), and becomes the personification and direct embodiment of the teachings of the Lord God, known as **Special Statement**.

Through Living Examples of Godly People and Believers; Pious and faithful people such as Abraham, Moses, Joseph, David, and many more were examples of living based on God's word (Hebrews 11– witnesses of faith). Through their obedience and loyalty to God and through the flow of their lives, even though they are also not free from mistakes and are often punished for disobedience, the piety they show is still far greater than their mistakes. And God commanded through them to teach people many goodness and virtues for the sake of salvation in the afterlife (Matthew 28:20).

Through the Scriptures; God has inspired and recorded His word that contains rules and education through writers namely prophets and apostles into the Bible, which consists of the Old Testament and the New Testament. The Bible is the main source of God's teachings, decrees, and will for mankind. Because all the writings in the Bible were inspired by the Lord God to teach people, to point out mistakes and improve people's behavior, and aim to educate people in Divine truth (2 Timothy 3:16-17), so that the effect of all of that is to equip every human creation- It is with good deeds that have an impact on the safety of the future.

Through Teaching in the Church/Faith Community; to be a place where God's Word is taught and applied in everyday life. Pastors/pastors, elders, deacons, teachers, and spiritual leaders are responsible for conveying God's teachings to the congregation (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Through the Power of the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit works in the hearts and minds of mankind, leading them to understand and apply God's teachings (John 14:26, 1 Corinthians 2:10-13). The Holy Spirit provides wisdom, understanding, and the ability to apply God's word to people's daily lives. Sometimes there are times when God reveals people's minds so that they understand the Holy Scriptures (Luke 24:45). Apart from opening human minds, God is also able to open human hearts so that they can understand and comprehend God's Word (Acts 1:14). God does all of this for every human being who truly wants to be educated by God or who wants to seek the truth from the Word itself.

So, God uses various methods to convey education through His teachings, decrees and words to mankind starting from the time of Adam, the time of Moses

or the Old Testament, so that humans have clear instructions for living a life that pleases Him. Even though God no longer conveys His teachings directly as in Old Testament times, today God remains faithful in conveying His teachings to mankind through the Word that became flesh (John 1:1-4), namely the teachings of Jesus Christ, the teachings in the church, the power of the Holy Spirit, and examples of believers who live according to His teachings. The purpose of all this is so that His people return to Him and worship Him as Lord and Savior, and that people are not double-minded in their lives.

In general, God communicated His teaching or His education in the Old Testament through theophany, covenant, law, and through the prophets. While in the New Testament more through the incarnation of Christ Jesus, the teaching of Christ Jesus through the disciples and apostles, as well as the work of the Holy Spirit for the Church. In other words, there is education in the form of general statements and education in the form of specific statements. The general statement is that God expresses Himself through His creation of the universe. And the special statement is through Jesus Christ as the Word who became a human being as proof of an example, and the education of God's love for humans (John 3:16).



Picture 1. God's Education to Humans

The meaning of education according to the Bible and the meaning of education in the era of globalization

As previously stated, the meaning of education in this context is in the form of teaching, rules, regulations and all things related to educating, teaching and disciplining humans as God's people with the aim that humans can live according to the truth of God's Word, because humans are His creation. which is truly very good according to Genesis 1:31, then the meaning of education according to the Bible focuses more on forming human character to live holy lives and glorify God. For without holiness no one will see the Lord (Hebrews 12:14). Responding to the

extraordinary impact of God's upbringing and teachings on humans, the following Christian figures summarize their views on the meaning of Christian Education:

According to **Jerome** (345-420), Christian education is education that aims to educate the soul so that it becomes God's temple. Jerome considers that Christian education must direct the human soul to become a suitable place for God, in accordance with the teachings of Matthew 5:48.

According to **Martin Luther** Christian education is education that aims to elevate the authority of the Bible to a primary position and underlies all forms of teaching. Apart from that, Luther also tried to get the government closer to being involved in the world of education, paying attention to developing a formal curriculum according to age level, and encouraging parents to develop home or family-based Christian education.

According to **Augustine**, Christian education is education that aims to teach people to "see God" and "live happily." Bible studies focus on God's actions

Campbell Wyckoff (1957) states that PAK makes everyone aware of God and His love in Jesus Christ, so that they know themselves and their true situation, and grow as children of God in Christian fellowship, fulfill their common calling as disciples of Jesus in the world, and continue to believe in hope Christian.

Werner C. Graendorf (1976) stated that Christian Religious Education (PAK) is a teaching and learning process that is based on the Bible, with Christ as the center, and relies on the power of the Holy Spirit. This process guides each individual at various levels of growth through teaching based on the Bible to know and experience God's plan and will through Christ in all aspects of life. In addition, PAK prepares individuals for effective ministry by focusing on Christ as the Great Teacher and His commandments that mature the disciples.

The secular world recognizes education and teaching as a conscious human effort to develop the potential that exists within humans, both physical and spiritual, in accordance with the cultural values of society, so that the two go hand in hand. God educates, teaches, and introduces all His rules and regulations through the flow of human culture. Through the world of Christian religious education, the teaching of knowing God is introduced. However, as time goes by, especially in the era of globalization with increasingly sophisticated and digital technological advances, many people are increasingly ignoring God's upbringing and teachings. In many cases, humans no longer rely on God, instead they are increasingly crazy and proud of their knowledge, innovation and creation. In fact, one of the philosophical foundations of the world of education in Indonesia today echoes "...humans who physically or mentally do not depend on other people, but rely on their own strength. Learning is directed at liberating, building independence and sovereignty of students, but while still recognizing the authority of educators. "Education is intended so that students as humans and members of society can achieve the highest safety and happiness."

In this case, it seems as if the meaning of education in the era of globalization teaches humans that in terms of education they only rely on their own strength. In fact, humans are social creatures who need other people in their daily activities.

It is as if humans have forgotten who the creator of humans is, and who the Great Teacher has been since the foundation of the world, as written in the following books:

In the book of Daniel 1:17 "To the four young men God gave knowledge and wisdom about various writings and wisdom, while Daniel also had understanding about various visions and dreams". Further, the Book of Proverbs 2:6 says God is the one who gives wisdom, from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

In Exodus 21:3 "...and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, and understanding and knowledge, in all kinds of work,..."

It turns out that all human intelligence, knowledge and other skills are a gift from God, not human strength itself. Even what humans are proud of now, namely AI (Artificial Intelligence), turns out to be nothing compared to God's divinity. Acts 1:29 confirms that: "Because we are from God's seed, we must not think that the divine state is like gold or silver or stone, a creation of human art and skill." Job 36:26 writes that "Indeed, God is great, beyond our knowledge, the number of His years cannot be investigated."

In fact, these two statements in the Acts of the Apostles and Job, already represent teaching or a statement from God that only God is the Great Teacher and from God comes all human knowledge and intelligence.

Development of Technology in Education.

Advances in digital technology have significantly changed the landscape of the meaning and meaning of Christian education. Various digital platform innovations such as social media FB, Ig, online learning, online games, YouTube videos, artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and many more, have opened up new opportunities in the teaching and learning process. Digital technology also allows wider and faster access to information. Robots were created by humans to help humans with tasks in many ways. The crucial thing to fear is, can robots created by humans become competitors to humans themselves? Many schools in developed countries already use robots as human educators. On the one hand, all technological progress is actually good as long as it does not distance humans from God. If in the name of world education which is wrapped in the container of knowledge it actually distances humans from God, then this makes the true meaning of education/the meaning of education according to the Bible seem to be blurred or deliberately obscured by world technology and science as a result of advances in digital technology in this era. global.

Challenges and Opportunities for Education in the Digital Era.

On the one hand, digital technology in the global era in view of the educational landscape in relation to education according to the Bible brings new challenges that are no less exciting, such as face-to-face interactions via zoom, cognitive distractions, and vulnerability to the spread of inaccurate information or hoaxes. But on the other hand, digital technology also offers opportunities to increase the effectiveness, efficiency and reach of education more easily and quickly. Without realizing it, the meaning of Christian education is increasingly obscured by the progress of science and distances humans from recognizing God's

truth. As proof, there is more and more time for humans to pursue knowledge and education (even Christian religious education), and less and less time for humans to seek God's presence and the truth of His Word, as exemplified by Daniel: three times a day he knelt, praying and praising the Lord God (Daniel 6:10). In the name of gaining knowledge and pursuing higher education, people forget themselves and without realizing it, worldly knowledge and education lead people further away from God. God educated humans through Solomon in the teachings of Proverbs 1:1-7 which is written that to receive education, intelligence, truth, honesty and wisdom, the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and education. Furthermore, God said through Solomon's writing in Proverbs 9:10 that "the beginning of wisdom is the fear of the Lord, and to know the Holy One is understanding".

However, the current fact or phenomenon is that through advances in information technology, humans are now creating AI robots that match or even claim to exceed human intelligence. As if it had not occurred to humans that in Genesis 1:28, 31, God said that let humans be fruitful, fill the earth; and seed plants as human food; and God says that all His creation is truly very good. The sad thing that has happened is that there are humans who have married robots and made robots their life partners, on the grounds that robots will not cause problems for humans in terms of emotions and finances. Humans feel that they are becoming more intelligent and knowledgeable, but they are becoming more and more depraved in morals and insulting God with science. Because robots cannot have children and grandchildren, know and love the Lord God with all their heart and soul, with all their mind, let alone love others as themselves (Luke 10:31).

M. Lynn Stackhouse and Peter J. Paris, in their book entitled: *God and Globalization: Religion and the Powers of the Common Life*, writes that there are 3 symbols of gods who control the globalization of the world that humans currently deify more than God. The three god symbols are the God Mammon (Materialism), the God Mars (violence and war), and the God Eros (pornography). These three divine symbols work together to create a worldly, global educational landscape, so that human ethics and spirituality are no longer humanity's main priority. In this case, humans prefer to follow worldly education and teachings rather than following education and teachings according to God.

DISCUSSION RESULTS

Critical Analysis of the Meaning of Education According to the Bible in the Digital Era of Globalization and the Relevance of Biblical Values in the Context of Digital Education

Analyzing the meaning of education according to the Bible in the era of digital globalization and the relevance of Biblical values in the context of digital education requires a deep understanding of the Bible as a guide to life, and how to apply it in an increasingly technology-based world while motivating fellow humans to seek the truth by reading. Bible. The following are some of the meanings of education according to the Bible, as follows:

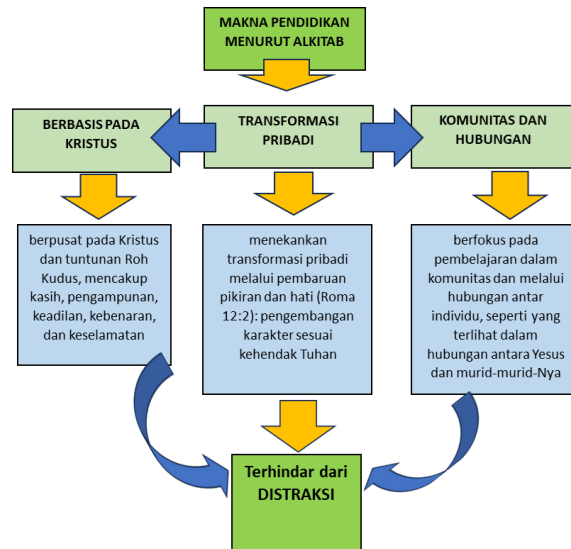


Figure 2. The meaning of education according to the Bible

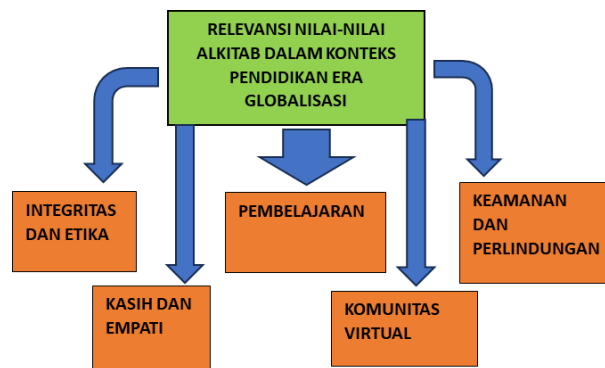


Figure 3. Relevance of Biblical Values in the Educational Context of the Globalization Era

Integrity and Ethics: in the digital era of globalization, where information can be easily manipulated, the Biblical values of honesty and integrity are very important. Digital education must include teaching about the ethical use of technology and information.

Love and Empathy: The values of love and empathy taught in the Bible are very relevant to the context of digital interactions, where they often occur *cyberbullying* and lack of empathy, so that Christian education in accordance with the teachings written in the Bible must promote positive and loving interactions in cyberspace.

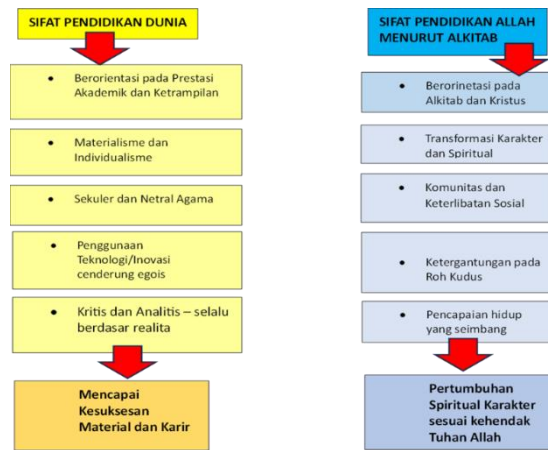
Lifelong Learning: The Biblical principle of wisdom and knowledge (Proverbs 4:7) emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning. In the digital global era, this means using technology for good things and continuing to learn and develop ourselves with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

Community and Virtual: While traditional education emphasizes physical communities, the digital era offers the opportunity to build strong virtual

communities. Biblical values of community support and brotherhood can also be applied in this context. Such as conveying the good news of the Gospel on TikTok, YouTube, Facebook and other performances that build faith.

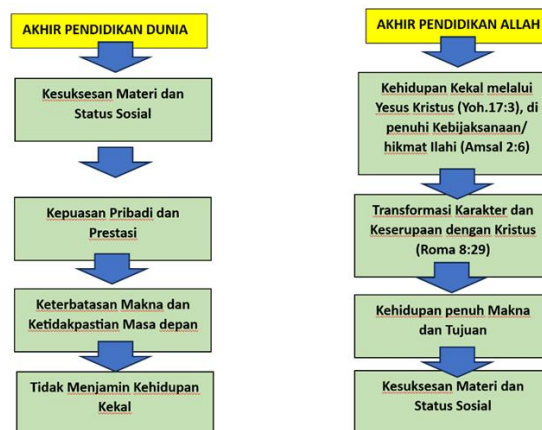
Security and Protection: In a digital world, it is important to teach children and teenagers about online safety. Educational norms and teachings of virtue and Biblical wisdom about protection and guarding oneself from harm can be applied in a digital context to create a healthy and safe learning environment.

The Nature of World Education and the Nature of God's Education



Picture 4. Nature of World Education and God's Nature of Education

The End of World Education and the End of God's Education



Picture 5. The End of World Education and the End of God's Education

CONCLUSION

The meaning of education according to the Bible remains relevant in the digital era with its emphasis on the values of integrity, love, lifelong learning and community. The challenges of modern technology require wise application and Divine wisdom in the Holy Spirit to ensure that education in the digital, global era remains ethical, safe and transformational by integrating Biblical values in digital

education so as to create a generation that is not only technologically savvy but also has character. , responsible and ethical in accordance with the teachings of Christ. Human obedience to learning God's teachings in the Bible is the encouragement of the Holy Spirit. Because obedience is more than relationships. If every day humans want to commune with God, it will be easier for humans to obey God's teachings because humans really know Him who is the Great Educator. Biblical educational and teaching values that can be identified include: love, fear of God, truth, justice, self-discipline, and devotion without seeking revenge. Education and God's teachings make humans wise, intelligent, prudent, and love honesty. (Proverbs 1:2-4). These values are the foundation for the formation of character and knowledge that is in harmony with God's will, so that human destruction will no longer occur due to not knowing God and His upbringing (Hosea 4:6).

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