



## Pastoral Assistance for Adolescent Gadget and Internet Users in the Waldensian Seventh-day Adventist Church

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### Abstract

The aim of this research is to obtain data regarding Pastoral Assistance for Adolescent Gadget and Internet Users in the Waldensian Seventh-day Adventist Church. The type of research used is literature study. The literature study method is a series of activities related to methods of collecting library data, reading and taking notes, and managing research materials (Zed, 2008). Literature study is a required activity in research, especially academic research whose main aim is to develop theoretical aspects as well as aspects of practical benefit. Research results show that to overcome the lack of interest of teenagers in church worship, it is important for churches and pastors to understand the perspectives and needs of teenagers, and to create an inclusive, relevant and empowering environment for them. This can involve creating engaging programs and activities, listening empathetically to their concerns and questions, and building strong relationships between youth and the church community.

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## INTRODUCTION

The Internet is a giant computer network, spread throughout the world, and consists of millions of computers of various types (Burhan, 2003), a groupChat Through the Internet it can connect all worlds, races, ages, and religions, while being closely homogeneous in education and ideology (Putnam, 2000). That is why the use of the Internet in the social world must be properly and appropriately managed, especially as a means of education, economic progress and public health. The Internet can be accessed in different ways, one of which is using a gadget. Different types of Internet use besides e-mail, Including messages, website, also in blog form (Christopher, 2008).

a tool It is a form of electronic media Mobile phone, smartphone And laptops and tablets that contain different applications. Gadgets are tools to activate and operate all existing social media, and even among teens, many teens use Internet-connected gadgets to play games, obtain information, and provide means of communication. The positive impact of gadgets is that they make it easier for anyone to obtain information in the form of writing, images or videos. Apart from this, the Internet can also be used as a means of communication and



entertainment, so that various social media such as Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter can be opened online.

Internet use and *anda tool* It has positive and negative effects on teenagers. An adolescent is a person who grows into an adult and enters puberty where there are physical, biological, psychological and social changes (Guildard, 2011). The positive effect is that it makes it easier for teens to communicate with many people without needing a lot of money. For example, through social networks, teens can communicate with people from different parts of the world. With the advancement of technology, teens are finding creative and challenging games that can benefit their creativity (Msbihiru, 2013). However, not everyone uses *ita tool* Positive effect. Excessive use of devices makes teens lazy to write and read. With use *a tool* Teenagers are more inclined to have a variety of colors in the appearance of their gadgets. This visual media causes teenagers to be lazy to read (Musabiruah, 2013). Apart from that, there are negative effects from use *a tool* Excessive use of the Internet will lead to decreased social skills. Teenagers do not care about each other, and do not understand the ethics of socializing with their surrounding environment (Musabiruah, 2013). What is even more ridiculous is the inability to respect the elderly. Teenagers always want to get something quickly without considering the process

The impact of the use of devices and the Internet described above also occurs in the Waldensian Seventh-day Adventist Church. The facts that happen in the field are that young men and women are users *a tool* And the Internet. Most teenage boys spend their time playing games using their devices, while teenage girls spend their time using social media like Facebook, Tik Tok, Line, Twitter, and Instagram. It is very easy for teenagers to access different information and communicate, which requires the role of the church as a forum that shapes the personalities of teenagers. Adolescence in itself poses many challenges, due to the many changes that must be faced, ranging from physical, biological, psychological and also social changes (Guildard, 2011). One of these changes is affected by the use of devices and the Internet, so church pastoral assistance is needed to prevent and solve youth problems related to these media.

Adolescence is when teenagers are in the initial socialization stage, where all the information and experiences around them will be transferred to when they grow up. According to Jean Piaget, adolescents in their development are at the level of formal thinking processes, where adolescents work systematically to experience all possibilities (Crane, 2014). Adolescents are not only involved in mathematical and scientific thinking, but also include the social life of adolescents (Crane, 2014). Likewise, Eric H. Erikson, quoted by Santrock (Santrock, 2007), describes the period of development in adolescence as experiencing identity and identity confusion. (*Identity vs. identity confusion*). Nowadays, individuals face the

challenge of defining “who they are,” who they will be, and what direction they want to take in their lives.

The word teenager comes from Latin *grow up* It means to mature or grow into an adult (Panuju and Umami, 2005). Therefore, in the meaning of this word, adolescence is often understood as a transitional period from children to adults. According to Erik Erikson, quoted by Santrock, the period of adolescent development is at the age of 10-20 years which begins with the arrival of puberty. *puberty* Which indicates sexual maturity (Santrock, 2007). There are several changes that develop radically and turbulently during adolescence, which are: *Change physical (biological), Cognitive, social, emotional 3 and spiritual*. In this process of change, teenagers usually find themselves in a period where they have to struggle hard to obtain a new, independent identity.

Based on the above issues, church pastoral assistance is very necessary to guide, care, nurture, protect and assist adolescents (Engel, 2007). Pastoral care has several functions, including: First, the function of healing (*healing*) It is the pastoral function that aims to overcome some damage by restoring the person to his wholeness and directing him in a better direction than his previous condition. Meanwhile, secondly, the support function (*Sustainability*), that is, helping injured (sick) people survive and overcome the situation in which they return to their original state (Engel, 2007). The third function is guidance (*Guidance*), which helps people who feel confused make specific choices between various alternative thoughts and actions. The fourth function is to restore (*reconcile*), that is, efforts to rebuild damaged relationships between human beings, God, and each other. The fifth function is empowerment (*Enable*) This function helps the beneficiary to become a helper for himself in the future when facing difficulties. Apart from these five functions, Howard Klenbel added another function to pastoral care, which is the function of nurturing or nurturing (*Care*), that is, enabling people to develop the potential that God has given them (Engel, 2007). The quality of leadership and spirituality of a pastor has a significant impact in improving the quality of spirituality and ministry of the members he serves. When a pastor shows good leadership qualities and spirituality, the congregation will also grow in spirituality and ministry (Pardosi, 2015).

Pastoralism plays a role in crises and misfortunes of life, both individual and family, even in crises of social change in society (Engel, 2007). Pastoral care is a calling that must be fulfilled by all who respond to God's call (Engel, 2003). This pastoral care is not only the responsibility of pastors, shepherds, or clergy, but all believers are called to carry out this pastoral task, including the Waldensian Seventh-day Adventist Church, whose youth use many of the tools (Engel, 2003). Based on the above background, the author raises the title: **“Pastoral assistance for adolescent users a tool And the Internet in the Seventh-day Adventist Church**

## **THEORETICAL STUDY**

### **Definition of teenager**

Adolescence is a transitional period in development between childhood and adulthood, which involves biological, cognitive, social, and emotional changes (Santrock, 2007). *Adolescence* Which was adopted from *Latingrow up* It means "adolescent", and means "becoming an adult" (Padmomartuno, 2003). The stage of adolescence places a person between childhood and adulthood, and this stage begins with the event of puberty, which many describe as "adulthood" (Guildard, 2011). Puberty refers to the biological events that accompany the first menstruation in girls and the first ejaculation in boys. (Guildard, 2011). Aside from going through a period of biological change, adolescents also go through cognitive changes as the adolescent will develop the ability to think abstractly, find ways to think about relationship problems, understand new ways of processing information, and learn to think creatively and critically. . (Guildard, 2011).

Adolescence, which psychologists define as normal, is from 12 to 17 years. "During adolescence, with abundant physical energy, few middle school students tend to get bored with activities that involve simply sitting or doing the same activity for a long period of time. Instead of withholding their energy, it is better to direct it toward positive activities" ( Sujiman, Sumardiono, and Marfua, 2016).

According to Sarlito (2010), "Adolescence is known as a period full of difficulties. It is difficult not only for the individual concerned, but also for his or her parents, society, and often even for the police. This is because adolescence is a transitional period between childhood and adulthood." Levels of development in adolescence can be divided in different ways. One of the stages of adolescent development is presented by the American School Counselor Association (ASCA) and consists of the following stages: (1) early adolescence, 12-14 years; (2) middle adolescents, 15-16 years; and (3) late adolescents, 17-19 years (Sarlito, 2010).

Adolescence is a period in human life when age and role boundaries are often blurred. Adolescence is often considered a transitional period, where children no longer want to be treated as children, but judging by their physical development, cannot yet be considered adults. The characteristics of adolescents can be observed in several aspects, namely physical development, sexual development, causal thinking, overwhelming emotions, social development, moral development, and personality development.

### **Pastoral care**

pastoral care (*Pastoral care*) which is often used in biblical language the term shepherd which comes from the word shepherd. The process of herding itself has been around since the first humans; Adam and Eve. God's punishment is an attempt to repair and rebuild disharmonious relationships as a process of God's care for human beings (Engel, 2003). On the other hand, the process of God's care is also a form of man's

accountability to God. In this process of care, God acts as a shepherd who comes to the aid of people in his creation, finds the roots and causes of the problems they face, and tries to improve human relationships with God. (Engel, 2014).

pastoral care (*Pastoral care*) which is used in the Bible to carry out pastoral duties, not only restoring people but also developing their potential which can also develop people in their potential which can be used to serve God in serving others. (Engel, 2007). Jesus knows everyone's needs, not just external problems but the touch of Jesus' love felt by those who come with various illnesses and sufferings, which gives a spiritual dimension, awakening the spirit of life and inflaming it with hope (Matthew 15:30; Luke 15:30). 4:40; 6:9). Pastoral care is a calling that must be fulfilled by all who respond to God's call (Engel, 2014).

The term "pastoral assistance" is a combination of two words that have the meaning of service, namely the words auxiliary and the word pastoral. Thus, the term mentoring means activities of partnering, working together, accompanying, sharing, or sharing with the aim of growing and enhancing each other (Van Beek, 2012). This care is the basis of pastoral care, to show love, care and concern for the Mujahideen, especially their feelings (Engel, 2007).

"The New Testament biblical view of the role and function of the shepherd cannot be separated from an understanding of the work of the Lord Jesus as the great shepherd and good shepherd. Jesus Christ is a messianic figure who declared himself to be the good shepherd, because he succeeded in carrying out God's will (John 10:11). Jesus always saw the goal of his ministry as building the community that was the people of God. Building community is the goal of the care that the Lord Jesus and the church as his body does toward his members (Gospel, 2007).

The pastoral care provided by the Church cannot be separated from the guidance process. Accompaniment comes from the verb to accompany, as a helping activity, because for some reason you need to be accompanied. The interactions that occur in the mentoring process make mentoring mean activities of partnership, working together, accompaniment, and participation with the aim of mutual growth and completion in the relationship with the mentor. Mentoring puts both the mentor and the accompanying person in a balanced position and in a balanced position. A mutual relationship of harmony and harmony.<sup>38</sup> The word pastoral comes from Latin *shepherd*, in Greek *poimen* Which means shepherd (Engel, 2014). Traditionally, pastoral care is the task of the pastor who is the shepherd of his flock. The word Shepherd contains an understanding of the relationship between a loving God and vulnerable human beings who need direction and guidance. Pastoral assistance can be provided in two forms, i.e. how a person can accompany others, be physically and psychologically present, and listen actively and attentively (Engel, 2014).

Pastor a congregation He must also understand and comprehend well and correctly who he is, how he should carry himself, what he should possess and carry, how and what he should do (Siang, Sagala and Pardosi, 2023).

#### **identification a tool And the Internet**

a tool According to the dictionary, it means a small electronic device that has a special function. a tool Refers to a small device or tool that has specific useful practical

purposes and functions. *a tool* In itself it can take the form (*Phone, smartphone, laptop, tablet, note, mp3* et al) (Jati and Hirawati, 2014). *a tool* It is a term taken from the English language and means a small electronic device that has a special function." In Indonesian, *a tool* It is called "Akang". One thing makes the difference *a tool* With other electronic devices it is the element of "novelty". This means from day to day *a tool* It always appears by offering the latest technology that makes human life more practical. General features *ona tool* internet and camera, *video call*, phone, *Email, SMS, Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, Games* and mp3 (Leoni Wholiluluha and Normaliza, 2014).

the use *a tool* It has both positive and negative effects. Adverse effects of use *a tool* Excessiveness itself is as follows: First, the tendency to use *a tool* Excessive and inappropriate behavior can make a person ignore his surroundings, whether in the family or in society. Secondly, a gap arises between students who have *a tool* With students who don't have it *a tool* It can instill fun and anti-social traits in every child and then develop into a group of friends. (Leone, Huliluluhe, Normalisa, 2014). Third, easy access to information and various means of communication leads to children being lazy to move and do activities. Use *a tool* Excessive use also has an impact on the health of adolescents, especially brain development and children's psychology, in addition to weakening the function of the sense organs (eyes), for example. Positive effect of use *a tool* It is that teenagers are able to hone their creativity and intelligence, and that different coloring, reading and writing activities will influence the development of teenagers' brains. Moreover, it is more time and energy efficient because teens can access all the information and typing on their tablets. *a tool* The various facilities in it can also facilitate communication without being restricted by age, place and time (Widiawati, Sugiman and Edy, 2014).

The Internet system can span the entire world and include thousands of connections from computer networks, providing an extraordinary amount of information for teens to explore (Santrock, 2014). An individualistic or selfish lifestyle raises various problems and worries everyone in their efforts to achieve success and achieve a better future.

## **METHOD**

### **Research Design**

The type of research used is literature study. The literature study method is a series of activities related to desk data collection methods, reading and note-taking, and management of research materials (Zaid, 2008). The study of literature is a required activity in research, especially academic research that aims mainly to develop theoretical aspects as well as aspects of practical interest. Literature studies are conducted by every researcher with the main aim of finding a basis for obtaining and building a theoretical basis and framework of thinking and defining tentative assumptions or what are also known as research hypotheses. So that researchers can collect, customize, organize and use diverse libraries in their field of specialization. By conducting literature studies, researchers have a broader and deeper understanding of the problem to be investigated. This literature study is

conducted by researchers after they define the research topic and define the formulation of the problem, before going into the field to collect the necessary data (Dharmadi, 2011).

### **Data concentration techniques**

**Data Collection** The data used comes from textbooks, journals, scholarly articles, and literature reviews that contain the concepts studied

### **Data Analysis**

The analysis begins with search result materials that are considered sequentially from the most relevant, relevant and fully relevant materials. Another way could be, for example, by looking at the years of research starting with the most recent, and gradually moving back to the oldest years. Read the summary of each study first to evaluate whether the issues discussed are consistent with what the research aims to solve. Note the important and relevant parts of the research problem To avoid falling into the element of plagiarism, researchers should also record sources of information and include references. If the information comes from other people's ideas or research results. Make notes, quotes, or information that is systematically arranged so that the research can be easily retrieved if necessary (Darmadi, 2011).

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Pastoral assistance function for adolescents**

stages of adolescence (*Adolescence*) is a stage where they can actively grow. A variety of growth groups can be used to help young people strengthen their sense of identity (the core of their developmental goals); Develop new relationship skills with members of the opposite sex; Increase their sense of control over their lives; Affirm and direct their thriving sexuality; And develop their active faith and responsible moral values. Pedagogical counseling methods can be used proactively with members of educational groups and SED confirmation classes for youth (Clinebell, 2002).

The church must help new members grow in their faith and spirituality. The church must turn into a big family that loves each other regardless of social status. (Tanna and Bardossi, 2016).

As a pastor, responses to the use of devices and the Internet during your PA (youth and teens) services may vary depending on your church's approach and policies. In general, chaplains can do the following:

1. **Education:** Pastors can use this opportunity to educate teens about the importance of focus and respect for worship. The pastor can explain that using devices or the Internet during worship can disrupt focus and diminish the spiritual meaning of the experience.

2. **reminder:** Pastors can gently remind teens that using devices or the Internet during worship can be considered disrespectful to God and the church community.
3. **Church policy:** If there is a specific church policy regarding the use of devices or the Internet during worship, the pastor can remind teens of the policy and remind them to turn off their devices or put them away during worship.
4. **Discussion and reflection:** The pastor will also hold a discussion or reflection session after the service to discuss the impact of using devices or the Internet during worship. Pastors can listen to youth's opinions and provide guidance on how to better prioritize attendance and attention during worship services.
5. **Attractive alternatives:** Pastors can also look for creative ways to capture teens' attention during worship, for example by including items that are interesting and relevant to the lives of teens today, thus getting them more active in worship without the temptation to use gadgets or the Internet.

In adventurer and explorer *Hand phone* Used to find materials for development. Pastors will typically try to raise awareness and inspire teens to honor moments of worship as sacred and important times in their spiritual lives.

### **Teenagers' lack of interest in church services**

Teenagers' preoccupation with gadgets during worship occurs due to several factors. First, the use of gadgets such as smartphones can increase knowledge and facilitate communication, such that adolescents feel more productive if they use these gadgets (Elvina, 2022). Apart from this, the increasing availability of internet access on devices also results in children getting information and education through devices, which may keep them occupied during worship.

Millennials, who currently use technology and development as part of their daily lives, may cause teens to forget or not be aware of their religious obligations when using devices (Rustica, 2022). To overcome this problem, it is necessary to pay attention that the use of devices must be done at the appropriate time and not interfere with worship. Teenagers should also be taught and explained about worship obligations and why they should be taken care of when worshipping.

Several other factors that greatly influence why teens may not feel comfortable attending religious services include:

1. **Unattractive worship atmosphere:** Some young people feel that the content and form of worship are irrelevant or inappropriate to their needs and interests. They find it difficult to connect with the message or feel that worship does not meet their needs and questions in their lives.

2. **Not participating:** Teenagers feel that they do not have a significant role or contribution to the worship of the church. Lack of opportunities to actively participate in worship, for example through music, Bible reading, or service, can leave them feeling marginalized or unappreciated.
3. **Challenges of modern life:** In an increasingly crowded and digitally connected world, many teens may find it difficult to find the time or motivation to attend church services. Challenges such as busy school schedules, extracurricular activities, and academic pressure can make them feel that worship is not a top priority.
4. **Emotional and spiritual needs:** Some teens feel that church does not provide enough space for them to express or explore their emotional and spiritual needs. They may seek understanding and support in matters such as identity, life issues, and complex interpersonal relationships, but feel that the church is inadequate in providing these things.
5. **Disagreement with doctrine or politics:** Some young people have differences of opinion or concerns about church teachings or policies that may make them reluctant to worship. This could include issues such as the church's view of LGBTQ+ people, the role of women in church ministry, or approaches to social and political issues.

To address young people's lack of interest in church worship, it is important for churches and pastors to understand young people's perspectives and needs, and to create an inclusive, relevant and empowering environment for them. This can include creating engaging programs and activities, listening empathetically to their concerns and questions, and building strong relationships between youth and the church community.

Pastoral assistance is understood as assistance to members of the community in matters of faith. When there are residents facing problems, the church can take a stand to help. Pastoral assistance can be provided by visiting residents, but this visit is not just a visit, it provides strengthening for those visited.

Pastoral care which has become increasingly contextual in today's digital world also impacts changes in discipline and lifestyle such that it requires an adaptive approach to pastoral care without losing the essence of pastoral care itself. This study proposes a foundation of Christian faith in creative and innovative pastoral ministry (Alevia, 2021).

Gadgets and the Internet are a form of technological and informational development that will continue to evolve along with the development of different fields of science. Communication is one of human needs, which indicates the existence of humans as interconnected social creatures who need each other. Gadgets and the Internet are means of communication that can now be enjoyed by all levels of society, even young children have been introduced to gadgets by their

parents as a means of learning and playing. These communication tools have a great impact in the world of teenagers in particular, as when devices and the Internet are used incorrectly or excessively without parental supervision, the devices can affect children's social interactions with their environment, both internal (family) and external. (school environment). Church, community and friendship). With the development of various technologies and information, devices are increasingly equipped with various applications, so they are not only used to receive messages or make calls, but also to play games, and access all information, whether educational, entertainment, news or sports. And also activate all media. Social media is a form of trend that is currently developing. Parents provide these facilities to their children for various reasons, like they don't want to see their children stuttering in technology or the fancy term 'non-technical', some are forced by their children, some are bought by their children. They can easily access all the information they need. necessary for 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 churches, especially in this research, can accompany them and set limits on the use of devices and the Internet. Adolescence is a time when a person searches for his identity and tries different ways to answer all his confusion and curiosity.

Teenagers will always try new things and be close to their world to show their true identity, as well as feelings of wanting praise and care. However, we must also be able to understand what is in their hearts because there are teenagers who open up and tell stories when they encounter problems and failures, but there are also teenagers who really close themselves off and it is not uncommon for them to suddenly become depressed and suddenly become quiet. The dynamics of change and development of the younger generation are what we must understand as a family and as a church as well. Different types of support should be provided by the church and parents, for example social support that emphasizes living together in a community that provides a comfortable atmosphere for teenagers so that they can develop and explore themselves. they. Other than that, there is educational support, so that when using devices and the Internet there should be time limits and locations that can be accessed, so that they can use this opportunity to seek information and goodness. Displays. The help provided during childhood will have a significant impact on their personal lives and development in the group. In general, pastoral assistance is provided as a form of service in the church and is useful for helping other people who are facing problems or helping them live successfully. Pastoral skills are essentially the skills to communicate and communicate in a way that encourages growth (Clinebell, 2002)”

Teenagers who are going through different dynamic changes in their lives need someone and a comfortable place for them to express all their curiosities and problems.

Understanding the benefits of using devices and the Internet has opened opportunities for teens to use them both positively and negatively. To date, teens have received little attention from the church regarding technological developments, especially in providing assistance and empowerment to teens in their search for identity. The service provided to young people is limited to the relationship between the servant and those served in worship, Christian education, theatrical training, singing and music. Awareness of increasingly widespread developments in all areas has led to an understanding of the importance of guidance for adolescents. The pastoral care provided by the Church must be completed with the assistance of parents (family).

“Complete pastoral care is a complete form of assistance to others that includes physical, mental, social and spiritual needs. Because God is the Almighty Creator, the best educator and teacher, if pastoral care is linked to the term guidance, what is meant is to deepen the meaning of guidance work.” This assistance does not have a horizontal aspect. only (from human to human) but it also manifests itself vertically (relationship with God) (Beck, 2012).”

Understanding adolescent development is one of the best alternative efforts in guiding teens. God's goal for humans is perfection. We can only fulfill our duties as believers in the image of God as full human beings. Humans are imperfect creatures, and these imperfections include social, economic, physical, emotional, spiritual, relational, etc. This shows how important pastoral support is, especially among young people. Community growth beginning in adolescence is the beginning of development and also future ministry success in the church. The development of technology and information (gadgets, the Internet) is not something that teenagers should be prevented from learning about, but it is the church that needs to provide assistance to them. Therefore, the task of pastoral care with the aim of strengthening is a duty for all Christians (Beck, 2012).

## **CONCLUSION**

To address young people's lack of interest in church worship, it is important for churches and pastors to understand young people's perspectives and needs, and to create an inclusive, relevant and empowering environment for them. This can include creating engaging programs and activities, listening empathetically to their concerns and questions, and building strong relationships between youth and the church community.

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