

## The Role of Educational Technology in Utilizing Social Studies Learning at Junior High School Level

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### Abstrak

Peran teknologi pendidikan dalam pemanfaatan pembelajaran IPS pada tingkat Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) sangat penting dalam meningkatkan mutu pendidikan, khususnya di era digital saat ini. Teknologi pendidikan dapat membantu siswa mengembangkan strategi pembelajaran yang lebih interaktif dan efektif serta meningkatkan kemampuan siswa dalam memahami konsep IPS melalui teknologi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggali dan memahami peran dan potensi teknologi pendidikan dalam meningkatkan proses dan hasil pembelajaran IPS di tingkat sekolah menengah pertama. Hal ini diharapkan dapat berkontribusi dalam mengembangkan inovasi pembelajaran IPS yang lebih efektif dan menarik bagi siswa. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian adalah deskriptif kualitatif, dengan pengumpulan data menggunakan kuesioner yang melibatkan tujuh responden siswa SMP.

**Kata kunci :** *Teknologi, Pembelajaran IPS*

### Abstract

The role of educational technology in utilizing social studies learning at the Junior High School (SMP) level is vital in improving the quality of education, especially in the current digital era. Educational technology can help students develop more interactive and effective learning strategies and improve students' ability to understand social studies concepts through technology. This research aims to explore and understand the role and potential of educational technology in enhancing the social studies learning process and outcomes at the junior high school level. This is hoped to contribute to developing social studies learning innovations that are more effective and interesting for students. The method used in the research was descriptive qualitative, with data collection using a questionnaire involving seven junior high school student respondents.

**Keywords :** *Technology, Social Studies Learning*

### INTRODUCTION

In today's era, which is commonly called the modern era of technology, it is not a strange thing anymore when used; it is a very natural thing. What's more, school education is critical in learning; junior high school students must also feel helped by the role of education technology today. Not only students but teachers also feel very helpful. The existence of educational technology can make the way students learn more enjoyable, easier to understand, and more relevant.

The current development of education is that many teachers still use the lecture teaching method and copy notebooks, with the 2013 curriculum of learning education currently less effective in still using such teaching methods to students. Juniors, only possibly, students can't reject such a treatment, where teachers who hold all their control should be involved in developing current education and social studies learning, which is often highlighted. Changing the way of teaching by utilizing current technology can use quizzes, games, and explaining materials through infocus projectors to stay energized quickly in learning.

However, not all teachers at the junior high school level can use technology today; at least a few teachers can use it, especially in schools in remote areas; indeed, teachers in the region prefer books and blackboards. Few teachers can use technology today, not because they do not want to use it but because they are confused about how to use or use the technology they want to use, so they prefer books and blackboards, which are considered more accessible. Even if regional teachers understand and can use it is easier and more accessible in social science education learning.

Social science education (IPS) teachers at the junior high school level are divided into four subjects: Geography, Sociology, Economics, and History. Therefore, modern learning methods are needed not to be included in the current learning material.

In social studies learning, learning activities are not only about conveying material. But learning how to express opinions, change our thinking, have empathy, sympathize, and study the past. In which there is utilization and impact.

Current educational technology is very useful. For example, it can be easy to get information, give and send assignments through teams, check school entry schedules, do assignments with cellphones or laptops, buy textbooks online, and so on. With the current technological development, it is impossible not to use technology, and in the current globalization era, almost everyone uses it.

#### **Previous studies**

The rapid development of information technology in the current era of globalization cannot avoid its influence on the world of education. In education, it aims for students to understand in general, including computers and information, meaning that students know the terms used in information and communication technology. The role of information technology in learning, in addition to helping students in learning, is quite influential for teachers, especially in the use of facilities to enrich their teaching abilities.

#### **Gap**

There are similarities with other journals whose social studies section is divided into four; the rest have no similarities with other journals.

#### **Empirical reasons**

Getting acquainted with this material related to social science (IPS) aims to interact socially well in school life and the surrounding environment. With technology, learning social education can be more engaging, interactive, creative, and accessible for students to understand. Technology is beneficial for students in learning social science with current technology using one of which is quizzes or games. understand.

#### **Basic Theories**

Learning is everything used to convey messages from the sender to the recipient, feelings, and student interests and attention so that the learning process can be achieved.

The article "The Role of Educational Technology in Utilizing Social Studies Learning at the Middle School Level" discusses the importance of educational technology in improving the quality of social studies learning at the Middle School level. The authors, Reza Ramadani and his colleagues, highlight the benefits of using technology in social studies education, including increased student engagement, understanding of concepts, and overcoming learning barriers. This article begins by emphasizing the importance of technology in modern education, stating that technology can help students develop more interactive and effective learning strategies. The article also notes that many teachers still need to learn about

traditional methods, such as lecturing and note-taking, which may be ineffective in today's digital era. It then discusses the role of technology in social studies learning, citing previous research that shows how technology can improve learning by providing exciting and varied learning media. We also mentioned the benefits of using technology, such as quickly accessing information, completing assignments, and collaborating with peers. The methodology section explains the qualitative research design used, including data collection through questionnaires and analysis of responses. We aim to understand the role and potential of educational technology in improving social studies learning outcomes at the junior high school level. The results and discussion sections highlight the findings, including the importance of technology in improving learning efficiency and teachers' ability to teach effectively. The author also discusses the challenges of using technology, such as internet limitations and the need for teachers to be proficient in using educational technology

## METHOD

### 1. Research design

The method we used in this study is qualitative descriptive research, with data collection through questionnaires. Qualitative research methods aim to understand and explain the meaning of a phenomenon in its natural context.

### 2. Participants

The respondents of our questionnaire are middle school students involved in the research as research subjects who will attend social studies classes using educational technology. Teachers are involved in the research as social studies instructors, where they will teach classes using educational technology.

### 3. Instrument

Google Forms is the tool used for research using a questionnaire method. We use Google Forms because it is easier to get research results. You only need a mobile phone, internet access, and a Google account.

### 4. Data Analysis

To analyze and identify data, we use various qualitative analysis methods. Involves the collection and analysis of non-numeric data, such as interviews, observations, and case studies, to understand the use of educational tech

### 5. Research Ethics

Privacy and data protection, we ensure that the data collected from students, teachers, is kept confidential and used responsibly in accordance with data privacy regulations. In research ethics, we will maintain the privacy of the respondents who fill out our questionnaire because we do not want to invade their privacy.

Article Title	Author	Institute
Peran Teknologi Pendidikan Dalam Pemanfaatan pembelajaran IPS	Luluk Baikuna, M. Farhan Hidayatuloh, Muhamad Fikri Rizal I, Nafiatul Fitria, Nurul Ulfatun Anjelina, M. Rivan Eko Mahendra, Marlina", Agustina)	UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung
Prinsip Dan Tujuan Pembelajaran Ips Membangun Warga Negara Berpengetahuan Luas Dan berpikir Kritis	Dea Safitri, Dekan Antanias, Dinda Oktavia, Putri Audya Sari, Radya Amalia, Syifa Salsabila	UIN Sumatera Utara Medan
Pengaruh Pemanfaatan Teknologi Berbasis Game Kahoot Terhadap Respon Peserta Didik Pada	Maudhotul Mazarina, Nailariza Umami	Universitas Bhineka PGRI

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## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In modern education, educational technology has an important role to improve the quality of education. By utilizing educational technology, students can learn independently and flexibly, and can interact with teachers and classmates through online learning platforms. Apart from that, educational technology can also help overcome obstacles in learning by providing interesting and varied learning media. The progress and development of science and technology have brought many changes to life, including education. Education is also defined as a process carried out by a person to obtain knowledge, understanding and ways of behaving in accordance with needs. Education can be obtained anywhere, one of which is through advances in information technology.

The use of learning facilities and resources greatly influences learning activities at school. The results of observing learning resources really support learning activities, because they make learning active and fun. Apart from that, the role of educational technology in social studies learning is the effectiveness of the use of educational technology, such as mobile applications, online platforms, or interactive software, in increasing students' understanding of Social Sciences (IPS) materials. The existence of technology in utilizing social studies learning at junior high school level shows that with technology learning becomes effective and easier. Students can use handphone or laptop as technological tools used in learning, apart from that, students use technology to search for information and communication. The increasingly rapid development of technology currently has an unavoidable influence on the world of education. The role of technology in utilizing social studies learning at junior high school level is that it can help students learn, especially in utilizing facilities to enrich their abilities. By accessing the internet on technological devices such as handphone or laptops, students can add new insights, besides that, students can also find information more easily. Students can also look for interesting additional material that can add to their own insight.

This qualitative research was conducted on junior high school teachers and students. The research on the role of educational technology in utilizing social studies learning at the junior high school level includes 1. What is the role of educational technology in social studies learning at the junior high school level 2. What is the role and competency of teachers in utilizing educational technology to optimize social studies learning in junior high schools 3. The role of educational technology in increasing junior high school students' participation in the social studies learning process.

In this research, it was found that the role of educational technology in utilizing social studies learning at the junior high school level for teachers is that it can help improve the efficiency and quality of learning, as well as improve teachers' abilities in teaching in social studies classes. Its role is very important, especially in interactions between teachers and students. Technology is a learning tool that will make learning effective and efficient because it can make it easier for teachers and students to obtain lesson information and for students it can also increase understanding. There are many roles in social studies learning where critical skills are really needed among students, they will be faced with various problems in social studies learning and are required to be able to solve them. Social studies learning can also develop the ability to think creatively, critically, and be able to solve problems, and be able to make decisions more quickly. The role of technology is very effective in contributing to improving the quality of education, especially social studies learning, providing extraordinary convenience in carrying out social studies learning tasks. Teachers see the role of educational technology as very important in helping to solve learning problems in the school context, but in the broader context of society by developing and utilizing various resources.

In this research, it was also found that the role of educational technology in utilizing social studies learning at the junior high school level for students is that it can help students

learn social sciences and can access lessons more easily. The role of technology can also provide more interesting teaching methods that can increase students' interest in learning so that students do not get bored easily. The internet is also an important component because it can help students to find the information they want, such as answers to assignments from teachers, the internet can help students to access various sources of relevant information so that they can enrich the quality of their insight. In terms of the role of educational technology in utilizing social studies learning at the junior high school level, many use platforms as learning media such as Power Point which makes it easy to understand social studies material, using Power Point can clarify the material presented in a more interesting way. Power Point can also increase students' creativity in developing through communication with presentations. Internet limitations are one of the challenges or limitations in using educational technology to support social studies learning. Using technological tools such as projectors is one way to ensure that material can be heard carefully and interestingly and is easier to understand. Projectors are usually used for learning through power point presentations or learning videos. The role of technology in facilitating distance learning can also be through the Zoom or Google Meet applications in accessing social studies material from anywhere and at any time. Through these applications students can discuss and interact online.

The role of technology is to improve learning efficiency and educational technology can also help improve learning efficiency by integrating various scientific fields in an integrated manner and technology can also help facilitate learning through the process of designing, developing, utilizing, managing, and evaluating learning resources, using technology can also help increase student participation by providing online learning platforms that can be accessed from anywhere and anytime, and also overcome obstacles in learning by providing interesting and varied learning media.

The use of educational technology has helped to improve the efficiency and quality of learning, as well as improve the ability of teachers to teach in the ips classroom, the role of educational technology is very important in helping to solve learning problems in the context of schools, but in the broader context of society, by developing and using various resources.

The role of technology is very effective in contributing to improving the quality of education, especially social studies learning, getting extraordinary convenience in carrying out social studies learning tasks, its role in social studies learning, can develop the ability to think creatively, think critically, be able to solve problems, and be able to make decisions more quickly, the use of technology also increases student interest in learning because of a more attractive display, so that students do not feel bored when learning takes place.

The role of technology is to improve learning efficiency and educational technology can also help improve learning efficiency by integrating various scientific fields in an integrated manner and technology can also help facilitate learning through the process of designing, developing, utilizing, managing, and evaluating learning resources, using technology can also help increase student participation by providing online learning platforms that can be accessed from anywhere and anytime, and also overcome barriers to learning by providing interesting and varied learning media. The second theory supports that, Improving students' learning experience By using simulations, learning games, and interactive multimedia, students can learn more naturally and enjoyably, so that learning becomes more motivating and interesting. (Arief Rahman, Ella Dewi Latiffah 2022.) Using technology can also help increase student participation by providing online learning platforms that can be accessed from anywhere and anytime, and also overcome barriers to learning by providing interesting learning media.

Theory, keep learning, learn in a comfortable place and learn through simulation and visualization. This technology makes learning easier, faster, and easily understood by students and teachers. (siti aisyah, Muhammad Sholeh, Indah Bunga Lestari, Lusi Dwi Yanti, Nuraini, Puspitri Mayangsari, & Rayi Arista Mukti 2024) The use of educational technology has helped improve the efficiency and quality of learning, as well as improve the ability of teachers to teach in ips classes, the role of educational technology is very important in helping to solve learning problems in the context of schools, but in the wider context of



society, by developing and using various resources. The use of technology also increases students' interest in learning in a way because the display is more attractive, than usual so that students do not feel bored when learning takes place, the theory that supports is by utilizing technology, can take advantage of the availability of information technology in adding insight and skills in designing and providing creative and varied methods, so that students' interest in learning can increase. (Andi Sadriani, Ibrahim Arifin & M.Ridwan Said Ahmad 2023.)

## CONCLUSION

The role of technology in learning ips in schools is very influential can increase efficiency in learning by integrating various fields by using technology can also facilitate learning through the process of designing, developing, utilizing, managing, and evaluating learning resources, by using technology in learning can also help increase student participation by providing an online learning platform that can be accessed from anywhere and anytime without any time restrictions, and also overcome obstacles in learning by providing interesting and varied learning media. Students' attitude and learning achievement will greatly affect their ability to understand the material presented by the teacher. Social Studies (IPS) is a subject with extensive and quite complex learning material at the junior high school level. The purpose of social studies learning is not only to achieve understanding but also to instill attitudes in students, so it takes teacher activity that plays a role in achieving goals through predetermined learning aspects. The broad and complex teaching material makes it difficult for students to understand the material if it is only presented by a rigid teacher so that they cannot understand it. Therefore, to make it easier for students to understand the teaching material, there must be a clear and concise teaching method that can help students understand the material in a critical and non-threatening way.

There are several ways that teachers can utilize technology in educational media, such as creating their own educational media, downloading content from the internet, buying media available on the internet, and so on. The teacher's ability to keep up with the current times where learning already uses a variety of sophisticated technologies. The purpose of this study is to explore and understand the role and potential of educational technology in improving the process and results of social studies learning at the junior high school level, so that it is expected to contribute to the development of social studies learning innovations that are more effective and interesting for students.

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