

## Ethical Internet Use Among Teenagers in The Digital Era

Cholid Fadil<sup>1</sup>, Saifuddin Zuhri<sup>2</sup>, A. Muammar Alawi<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1,2,3</sup>Universitas Pembangunan Nasional "Veteran" Jawa Timur, Indonesia

**Corresponding Author:** cholid\_fadil.ep@upnjatim.ac.id

---

### ARTICLE INFO

*Keywords:* Internet User Ethics, Among, Teenagers

*Received :* 28 March

*Revised :* 29 April

*Accepted:* 29 May

©2024 Fadil, Zuhri, Alawi:  
This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Atribusi 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



### ABSTRACT

In today's digital age the use of the Internet in particular social media has become a passion for teenagers. It has led to a decline in ethics and morals in mainstream youth, where social values are becoming one of the identities of Indonesians. The article was created because of the writer's interest in bullying and even the death threats made by Indonesian netizens on Thai social media (facebook), which in turn sparked a fight that even prompted hate speech among citizens. The case of course affects Indonesian identity in the eyes of other countries. The main purpose of the article is to learn the level of media awareness and ethics in young children and to analyze how social media ethics can affect national identity. The authors further study using qualitative methods using social social samples (15-17 year old) and supported by the review literature. According to research, the authors have tried to provide some of the problem solutions: socialized media education, maximize family roles as the first "teacher", and government policies on social media users.

---

## **INTRODUCTION**

The digital era indicates that the development of information and communication technology is currently very rapid. The development of technology is known as the internet that allows anyone, anywhere, and anytime to be easily connected to each other (Ibrahim and Akhmad, 2014). The Internet has united all its users in all parts of the world into a large container that seems to be without barriers or boundaries. The main consequence of the existence of the internet is the connection of the entire community into cyberspace. People from various demographic and geographical backgrounds can exchange information, knowing foreign policy developments to the lives of each individual. All can happen in a barrage of clicks from their computer or mobile phone. In extreme terms it is said that the internet keeps the world in the grasp of man. People from various demographic and geographical backgrounds can exchange information, knowing foreign policy developments to the lives of each individual. From the development of the internet then emerged new innovations to meet human social life, namely with the presence of various social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, and so on. Currently many individuals have social media accounts from young people to adults, even today often found social media accounts belonging to minors as a form of following trends as well as to access all available information.

Internet users in Indonesia continue to increase every year, reported from (kominfo.go.id, 2020) the results of the 2019-2020 Indonesian internet user survey amounted to 73.7 percent, up from 64.8 percent in 2018 or around 196.7 million users. This figure certainly shows that more than half of Indonesia's population uses the internet. Based on statistika.com survey shows the presentation of internet users (2019) based on age grouping. Age 5-12 years (7.39%), 13-15 years (7.86%), 16-18 years (9.66%), 19-24 years (18.72%). From the data from the survey results imply that underage internet users are quite high from the overall figure. Of course, this can have a negative impact if not addressed properly because those underage users do not understand enough knowledge of how to communicate effectively in social media and the consequences of using the internet itself. Age 5-12 years (7.39%), 13-15 years (7.86%), 16-18 years (9.66%), 19-24 years (18.72%). From the data from the survey results imply that underage internet users are quite high from the overall figure. Of course, this can have a negative impact if not addressed properly because those underage users do not understand enough knowledge of how to communicate effectively in social media and the consequences of using the internet itself. Basically, the use of the internet has two sides. On the one hand, the internet is seen to make it easier for people to communicate and connect with each other in the virtual world (Van Dijk, 2006). On the other hand, the internet and social media have a negative impact when dealing with ethics and morals. Although the concept of ethics and morals in the universal scope is something fluid, but in the life of Indonesian people with their customs and culture, ethics and morals are things that are upheld. Manners and manners in everyday life have strict rules and cannot be tolerated if violated. Even Indonesia is a country that is famous for its good ethics and social norms

as part of the nation's identity. With the concept of freedom and speed, users are trapped in virtual reality and it is difficult to get out. In reality, the internet and social media are widely used contrary to ethical and moral values. This conflict of behavior, norms and ethics is dominated by adolescents. This conflicting behavior can take the form of bullying or rude comments on social media. As a case in point, recently there was a lot of buzz about the behavior of Indonesian netizens who bullied, berated, said rudely, and even gave death threats on one of the Facebook posts belonging to a married Thai LGBT couple. As a result of these actions, Thai citizens chose to take legal action to resolve the problem. In addition, the account owner also expressed his amazement at the behavior of Indonesian people who were considered dramatic, rude, immoral and excessive. From the description of the case, of course, it can be seen that behavior that is not in accordance with ethics and social norms refers to politeness and the use of abusive language that contrasts with the image of Indonesian, carried out by a small number of Indonesian social media users can cross out the identity of the Indonesian nation (pancasila) in the eyes of other citizens. From the example of the case, it also implies that the application of ethics using the internet by Indonesian users is still very minimal, this is exacerbated because it does not only occur in the national scope but has penetrated to the international scope.

National identity or national identity is an important part of the sustainability of the establishment of a country, without identity many other countries will seize it. This understanding of national identity itself is an identity of a nation. In the outline of national identity is a group of people who have characteristics and give birth to collective actions that are given national designations. This national identity as a characteristic, identity, distinctive nature that grows and develops in a country so that it becomes a differentiator from other countries. One of the identities of the Indonesian nation is pancasila (non-physical). Pancasila as the identity of the nation is interpreted as the personality (attitudes and behaviors) displayed by Indonesian society which reflects the five values of pancasila. Awareness of the importance of national identity is now starting to decline, the reason why national identity is important for the nation and state is for the awareness of other countries towards the existence of Indonesia, important for the sustainability of the Indonesian nation and state, as a unifier of the nation, as a characteristic, and as a foundation or grip of the state to develop. Therefore, maintaining the image of the nation's identity is an important part that must be realized by all Indonesian people as a shared responsibility and goal because after all, the identity of the nation affects how Indonesia's sustainability in establishing good relations with other countries. However, in this digital era, the culture begins to fade, especially among teenagers where they are the ones who play an important role in the future of the nation. In general, many types of changes occur during adolescence: physical, biological, mental, emotional, and psychosocial. The various changes that occur during adolescence can affect a person's personal life, family environment, and society (Murdiono & Fadillah, 2023)

In the social values prevailing in society, courtesy is upheld. Courtesy should be done anywhere, anytime, and to anyone because basically attitude is the main thing. This form of fading manners is in the form of disrespecting others by saying and acting rudely. Because even things that look trivial can ignite emotions that may lead to violence. In Javanese language, it has also been spoken "Ajining Dhiri Dumunung ing Lathi" which means that a person's self-value lies in his tongue (speech). The real evidence that currently often occurs is the war on social media. Many commented rudely, unimportant, immorally, and hurt their hearts and even brought elements of SARA. The negative impact of this digital era is very dangerous if it is not prevented and handled properly because it can damage the morale of the younger generation determining the future of the nation.

The purpose of writing this article is to determine the level of awareness of the application of ethics in the use of social media, especially among adolescents and analyze how social media ethics can affect national identity. The results of this research are expected to be used as a reference for the public regarding the importance of applying ethics on social media as a form of national identity awareness is a shared responsibility. This article is expected to be useful in encouraging ethical studies in the digital era so as to give birth to intelligent and civilized humans.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This type of research uses descriptive qualitative methods with a literature review approach. Qualitative research is research that seeks to present the truth of social reality and uses more inductive approaches. In qualitative research, data collection is guided by the facts found at the time of data collection. The target in this study is the internet user group of underage adolescents aged 15-17 years. Data collection techniques in this study used the distribution of electronic questionnaires (google forms) in the form of several questions and available options and documentation. After the data is collected, it is then analyzed descriptively by tabulating the presentation of each question and answer which will then be discussed further with a literature study and in the end conclusions can be drawn. The data analysis activities of this research, namely:

First, data reduction. At this stage, researchers summarize and select important things obtained from informants or research targets, namely social media users of underage adolescents aged 15-17 years.

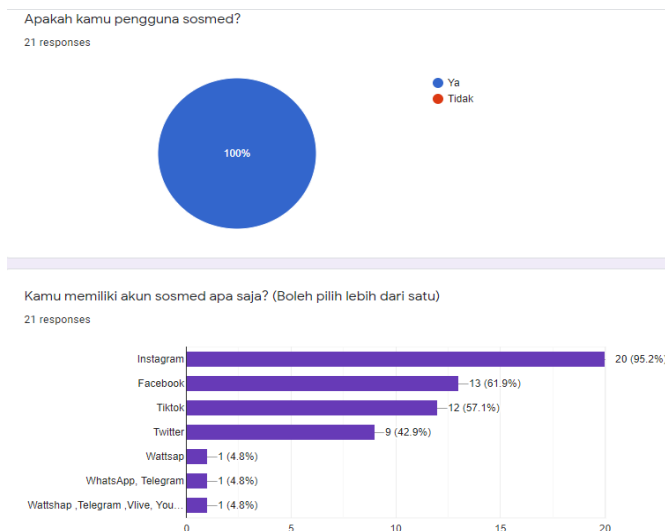
Second, the presentation of data. A set of information that gives the possibility of drawing conclusions and taking action. At this stage, the data that has been systematically arranged in data reduction, then grouped based on the subject matter.

Third, draw conclusions. Conclusions in qualitative research are new findings or something that previously there was still no clarity that had been found in the results of the study.

## RESEARCH RESULT

According to the results of an electronic questionnaire we conducted during the week to several minors. It can be concluded that from the research we get, some children still do not know what the impact of using social media is, do not know how ethics in using social media, and do not know that declining ethics in using social media can affect the Indonesian nation.

Of the 21 respondents who filled out our questionnaire, all were social media users. On average they have more than 4 social media. Popular social media among them are Instagram, Facebook, and also TikTok.



Among the 21 respondents, there are 3 children who still do not know what the impact of using social media is.



Social media itself is a media in the form of a site and application that involves internet-based technology. This media encourages and allows its users to connect with anyone, both from the closest people and strangers they don't even know.

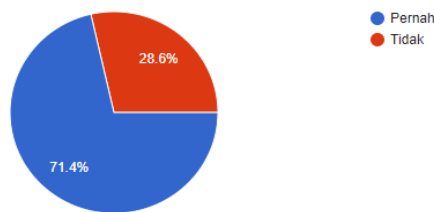
Most social media have age restrictions, but not infrequently these teenagers fake their age. Even though on social media many advertisements are not suitable for children. There are also many game ads that contain violence and pornography.

The negative impact of using social media is that they can be addicted to social media. They can also create distance between children and families. What should be children their age can chat with parents instead spend their time surfing social media. Their health can also decline as a result of excessive social media use, such as their reduced vision.

Among the 21 respondents, there were 15 people who had encountered conflicts among social media users. 11 argue that the cause of the conflict is a lack of awareness in the application of ethics. In addition, the cause of the conflict is due to differences of opinion, lack of tolerance, lack of knowledge of existing social norms and also considers that the culture is the most correct or we often refer to it as ethnocentrism.

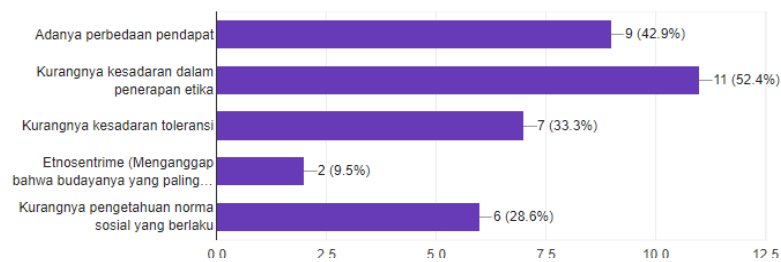
Apakah kamu pernah menjumpai konflik diantara pengguna sosmed?

21 responses



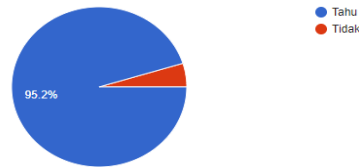
Menurut kamu apa penyebab dari konflik tersebut?

21 responses

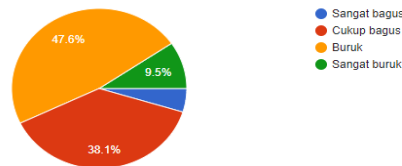


Because the most answer is a lack of awareness in ethics, in the responder there is 1 respondent who still does not know how ethical in using social media. As many as 10 respondents think that the application of ethics in social media in Indonesia is bad, as many as 8 respondents think that the application of ethics in social media in Indonesia is quite good, 2 respondents think that the application of ethics in social media in Indonesia is very bad, and only 1 respondent thinks that the application of ethics in social media in Indonesia is very good. By looking at the questionnaire, it shows that ethics in social media in Indonesia are still poor.

Apakah kamu tahu bagaimana etika menggunakan sosmed?  
 21 responses



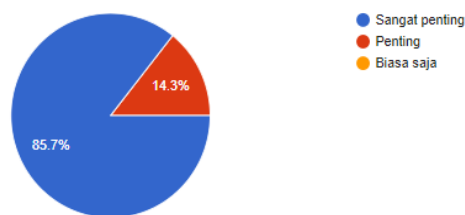
Menurut kamu bagaimana penerapan etika bersosmed di Indonesia saat ini?  
 21 responses



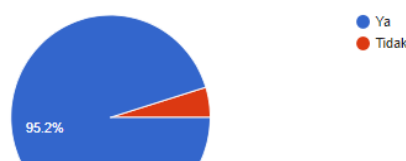
Ethics can simply be interpreted as good and bad actions that must be obeyed by every individual in his social life. In relation to communication, Cappuro (2008) mentions ethics as a self-associative process, which is an endless search process using various actions both overtly and implicitly. Ethics is related to respect, care, and relates to communication both individually and socially. In other words, ethics govern the way we communicate with each other as moral human beings.

Of the 21 respondents, there was 1 person who did not know that the ethics of using social media could have an impact on the image of a national identity and 4 people did not know that the decline in ethics using social media could affect the Indonesian nation.

Menurut kamu seberapa penting suatu bangsa memiliki citra yang baik?  
 21 responses



Apakah kamu tahu bahwa etika menggunakan sosmed dapat berdampak pada citra suatu identitas bangsa?  
 21 responses



National identity or national identity is an important part of the sustainability of the establishment of a country, without identity many other countries will seize it. The notion of national identity is an identity of a nation. In the outline of national identity is a group of people who have characteristics and give birth to collective actions that are given national designations. This national identity as a characteristic, identity, characteristic that grows and develops in a country so that it distinguishes it from other countries.

With the decline in ethics in using social media, it will affect a nation. One example is what happened recently. Namely, there was one netizen who commented on the Facebook page of an LGBT couple in Thailand. This netizen not only interfered in the affairs of someone's personal life, but also went so far as to post death comments on the Facebook page of an LGBT couple in Thailand. This frightened LGBT couples in Thailand so much that they hired lawyers to investigate the case. They just want to share their happiness, but what they get is the comment of death. Their lawyers didn't understand what this netizen meant. He didn't know why people who weren't even Thai citizens would suddenly comment on the private lives of Thai citizens. This also angered their lawyers so they revealed that "If there are Indonesian citizens who enter Thai territory, then they will be prevented and not allowed to enter Thai territory". This immediately surprised Indonesian citizens. Because not a few of them struggle to learn Thai, get scholarships to study there, even to work there.

The ideas of one nation from another are different. Likewise with culture, the trust of nations with one another. For this reason, if you see posts on social media, before commenting, you should think about it first. Whether the comment will entertain or will it even make the creator of the post sad.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

The internet and social media cannot be separated from human life. They have been attached and become a system that merges with their own lives. As users of social media they are not necessarily free, but they are also limited by ethics and morals that prevail in society. So it is necessary to hold a balance between two sides, namely the use of science and technology and continue to apply ethics and norms that characterize the identity of the Indonesian nation itself, so that an intelligent and civilized generation of the nation can be born. Based on the results of the study, most respondents realize that the application of social media ethics in Indonesia is currently still quite bad but they also realize that awareness of the application of ethics is important because it can affect the image of national identity, and some of the respondents also still do not know how the application of ethics in social media so that it needs to be overcome from an early age. The solution that can be done to overcome the decline in ethics in using social media is first, by socializing social media education to adolescents, it can be done through formal educational institutions and also the government through digital literacy education. Second, maximizing the role of parents as "teachers" first, children's attitudes and behaviors are often influenced by family conditions, In this case, if the role of parents can be done well, it can be reflected in the attitude and behavior of

children. Third, the government must also take part in overcoming this problem in the form of designing policy products related to the use of social media by minors, such as age restrictions for social media users, providing conditions "must have an ID card" for prospective social media users who will register. These policies can at least minimize underage social users so that cases of violations of social media ethics can also be reduced. In addition, awareness from within children as users of social media also needs to overcome these problems, can be through awareness in using social media appropriately and still maintain applicable norms and behaviors, and the most important thing is that there must be awareness from oneself to learn ethics thoroughly.

## REFERENCES

- Endah, T., Dimas, A., & Akmal, N. (2017). *Kajian Dampak Penggunaan Media Sosial Bagi Anak dan Remaja (Vol. 1, No. 1)*. Puskakom UI.
- Fahrimal, Y. (2018). Netiquette: Etika Jejaring Sosial Generasi Milenial Dalam Media Sosial. *Jurnal Penelitian Pers Dan Komunikasi Pembangunan*, 22(1), 69-78.
- Rianto, P. (2019). Literasi digital dan etika media sosial di era post-truth. *Interaksi: Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi*, 8(2), 24-35.
- Murdiono, J., Fadillah, AS. (2023). Analysis of Changes in Speaking Manners by Mixing Indonesian and English: A Case Study of Generation Z Teenagers. *International Journal of Applied Research and Sustainable Sciences (IJARSS) (Vol. 1 No. 3)*, 215-224
- Nurrachmi, S., & Ririn, P. (2018). Etika Komunikasi Netizen Di Media Sosial (Studi Etnografi Virtual Terhadap Etika Berkomunikasi Netizen Dalam Menerima Berita Dan Informasi Pada Halaman Facebook E100 Radio Suara Surabaya). *Jurnal Ilmu Komunikasi UPN Veteran Jatim*, 1(1).
- Hartono, D. (2020). Fenomena Kesadaran Bela Negara Di Era Digital Dalam Perspektif Ketahanan Nasional. *Jurnal Kajian Lemhannas RI*, 8(1), 15-34.
- Putri, F. A., Harun, M., & Kairannisa, P. (2020). Makalah Kewarganegaraan Identitas Nasional.
- Rayta, A. (2018). Pengaruh Teknologi Terhadap Identitas Bangsa Indonesia di <https://www.google.com/amp/s/m.kumparan.com/amp/amanda-rayta/pengaruh-teknologi-terhadapa-identitas-bangsa-indonesia> (di akses 23 April)
- Lesmana, N. (2016). Lunturnya Budaya Sopan Santun di [https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kompasiana.com/amp/nadhialmana/lunturnya-budaya-sopan-santun\\_57d9642e2b7a6100486247ba](https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.kompasiana.com/amp/nadhialmana/lunturnya-budaya-sopan-santun_57d9642e2b7a6100486247ba) (di akses 23 April)