

## Extracurricular Role of The Scouting Movement in The Formation of Children's Character in The Digital Era

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### ABSTRACT

**Background.** Scout extracurricular activities in elementary schools focus on improving students' skills, leadership, and sense of responsibility. The scout movement aims to build character and develop positive values through outdoor activities and practical learning. This is particularly important in the modern era, where children face challenges brought by digitalization.

**Purpose.** The objective of this research is to explore the role of the Scout Movement in forming children's character in the modern era, specifically addressing how scouting activities can help children develop their character to face the challenges posed by digitalization.

**Method.** This research employs a qualitative method using journal and book analysis as the primary data sources. An in-depth literature review is conducted to examine how the Scout Movement contributes to character development in children.

**Results.** The analysis reveals that the scout movement significantly influences children's character formation, particularly in areas such as discipline, responsibility, cooperation, and independence. The literature reviewed indicates that the moral principles and life skills taught in scouting activities help counteract the negative effects of the digital era, such as technology addiction and decreased social interaction. Scout leaders are identified as key figures in modeling and facilitating the character-building process.

**Conclusion.** The research concludes that the scout movement remains relevant and effective in shaping children's character, even in the face of digital era challenges. It contributes positively to personal and social development. To maximize the benefits of scouting in building character, the study suggests collaboration between schools, parents, and scout organizations.

### KEYWORDS

Character Formation, Children, Digital Era, Scout Movement.

### INTRODUCTION

Children's lives in the digital era which is increasingly developing rapidly cannot be separated from the influence of technology and information. They have integrated the use of electronic devices and access to the internet into their daily lives. Although it has several advantages, such as making it easier to access information and communicate, it also raises several problems related to children's character development. Gadget addiction is one of the most striking negative effects,

**Citation:** Pardede, P, A., Maulana, A., Hasibuan, H, R, A., Nasutian, N, A.,& Siddik, F. (2024). Extracurricular Role of The Scouting Movement in The Formation of Children's Character in The Digital Era. *Journal of Multidisciplinary Sustainability Asean*, 1(2), 58–64.

<https://doi.org/10.70177/ijmsa.v1i2.1016>

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**Received:** June 12, 2024

**Accepted:** July 21, 2024

**Published:** September 03, 2024



which can cause them to lose time interacting directly with other people and interfere with the development of their social skills.

Additionally, children's exposure to inappropriate or unedifying content can influence their principles and habits. In circumstances like this, character education is increasingly important and necessary. The aim of character education is for children to become ethical, responsible people and able to interact with society well. Extracurricular activities are one method of character education that has been proven effective. The Scout Movement, founded by Baden-Powell in the early 20th century, has long been known as a movement that focuses on developing character through educational and constructive activities. In Indonesia, the scout movement, or boy scouts, has a long and rich history of educating young people to become disciplined, independent and responsible people. Scouting offers children the opportunity to learn hands -on, interact with nature, and work together in groups. Through various interesting and challenging activities, values such as solidarity, leadership and love of the country are instilled. However, to face the challenges of today's technological era, the Scout Movement must continue to change and find new ways to stay relevant. The basic principle of scouting about character building through practical experience is still very relevant even though technology has changed the way children learn and interact. The aim of this research is to find out how the scout movement shapes the character of children in the modern era.

This research concentrates on how scouting can help children compensate and overcome the adverse effects of technology. The various activities provided by the Scout Movement are intended to improve important life skills. For example, camping activities teach children about independence, teamwork and responsibility. They also learn how to solve problems and find creative solutions. These skills are increasingly important for children in the digital era because they are required to think critically and adapt quickly to change. In addition, scouts teach moral and ethical principles through activities that prioritize social and environmental concerns. Children are educated about the importance of protecting the environment, respecting diversity, and behaving politely and respectfully towards others.

These values help children to continue to communicate and interact morally in cyberspace in the digital era, where social interactions often occur virtually. However, scoutmasters, parents, and school support play an important role in forming a child's character. Parents have an important role in helping and encouraging children to participate in Scouting activities, and scoutmasters help children understand and internalize the principles taught.

Support from schools ensures that Scout activities receive sufficient attention and are well integrated into the curriculum. Qualitative methods were used in this research to gain a better understanding of the role of the Scout Movement in forming children's character in the digital era. Data was collected through analysis of various relevant literature, including books on character education, academic journals about the Scout Movement, and research on the impact of the digital era on children's development. It is hoped that this research will provide comprehensive insight into how scout activities can help overcome the challenges of the digital era and continue to function as an important forum in forming children's character through the use of this method. Overall, this research aims to show that the Scout Movement is still an effective way to educate and shape children's character, even though it faces challenges in the digital era. Scouts can continue to contribute positively in building a young generation that is strong and ready to face future challenges by changing methods and activities according to current developments.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

To investigate the extracurricular role of the Scout Movement in forming children's character in the digital era, this research uses qualitative methods. The choice of qualitative methods allows researchers to gain a deeper understanding of the phenomenon being researched, especially those related to experiences, perceptions and perspectives from various sources regarding Scout activities and their impact on the formation of children's character. The main data sources for this research are books and scientific journals related to this topic. These books include literature on character education, non-formal education theory, history and development of the Scout Movement, as well as the challenges of the digital era. These journals also include research articles discussing the impact of Scout activities, character education in the digital era, and empirical studies on character education. This research began with literature identification and selection.

Topic relevance, source credibility, and year of publication are the selection criteria used in searching various relevant sources, both books and scientific journals. The main focus is on the latest literature directly related to the Scout Movement, character education, and the digital era. Once the literature is selected, the content is analyzed by thoroughly reading each book and journal selected. This analysis records important information about the role of the Scout Movement in forming children's character. The information recorded includes main ideas, experimental results, and arguments supporting the importance of Scouting's work in the digital environment. Next, the data obtained from literature analysis is categorized based on relevant research themes. The role of scout leaders, the influence of scout activities on children's social skills, the challenges children face in the digital era, and how to adapt scout activities are some of these themes. To make it easier to draw comprehensive and systematic conclusions, this categorization helps organize the data. To ensure that the data obtained is consistent and trustworthy, so that the research results have a high level of reliability, researchers triangulated sources by comparing information from various books and journals. This action was taken to increase the validity of the findings. Pre-categorized thematic analysis was used to draw conclusions. Using information collected from literature, researchers draw conclusions regarding the role of the Scout Movement in forming children's character in the digital era. This conclusion shows how scout activities can address the problems faced by children in the digital era and shows how relevant and effective the scout movement is in shaping children's character. Researchers also pay great attention to the ethical aspects of research in this research. They ensure that all literature used is respected and used correctly. Every concept and result taken from books and journals should be given proper credit as a way of honoring the author's original work.

This qualitative method that focuses on literature analysis provides researchers with the opportunity to develop a deep and comprehensive understanding of complex topics. By utilizing credible academic sources, this research not only describes the role of the Scout Movement in forming children's character in the digital era, but also provides insight into how Scout activities can continue to adapt and remain relevant amidst changing times. Through this approach, this research seeks to show that even though the digital era presents various challenges, the Scout Movement remains an effective means of educating and forming children's character

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In the digital era, many aspects of life have changed, including the way children interact, learn and develop. Technological advances have offered easy and fast ways to get information as well as new ways to learn. However, the digital era also brings challenges, especially in terms of character formation in children. Children raised in high-tech environments tend to spend more time in front of

screens, which can reduce the amount of time they spend interacting face-to-face with their peers, family, and surrounding environment. This condition can hinder their social and emotional growth and weaken important moral and ethical values in social life.

The Scout movement is very important in this regard. Scouting is an extracurricular activity that focuses on character education. These activities teach children about important aspects of their personality, such as discipline, responsibility, independence, leadership, cooperation, and social awareness. These activities also offer children hands-on experience in facing challenges, working together with others, and respecting the environment and nature. Scouts can build strong and positive children's character and overcome the negative effects of the digital era by using this comprehensive approach.

Its experiential learning approach is an important component of the Scout Movement. Children are invited to learn directly through activities such as camping, hiking, and community service projects. These activities not only provide you with fun and challenges, but also give you the opportunity to learn important values that are essential for life. For example, camping teaches children about independence, responsibility, and teamwork. They were given instructions on how to build tents, make simple meals, and keep the camping area clean. This activity improves their practical skills besides growing their self-confidence and awareness of their responsibilities.

Natural adventures such as hiking also have many benefits. Children learn the importance of preserving nature and appreciating natural beauty. They learn about the role of humans in maintaining the balance of the environment and ecosystem. Direct experience in nature can foster a sense of love and concern for the environment, which is very important in this day and age where environmental issues are increasingly important. Outdoor activities also increase children's physical and mental resilience. Ultimately, their character is strengthened by their ability to overcome physical hardships such as fatigue and fear. In addition, the scout movement emphasizes the importance of moral and ethical principles. Children are taught to respect others, work together in teams, and show empathy and concern for others through various activities and exercises. Children are invited to help clean up the neighborhood, visit orphanages, or help people in need with community service projects.

They foster a sense of social responsibility through the importance of giving and sharing. These values are very important for maintaining children's morality and integrity in the digital era, where social interactions often occur virtually. The role played by the scoutmaster is very important in this character formation process. Coaches help children understand and internalize the values taught. Good coaches not only teach but also set an example through their attitudes and actions. Children are encouraged to take responsibility for their choices, think critically, and take action. To create a positive and supportive learning environment, coaches must provide support and guidance. Parents and schools also play an important role in supporting Scout activities. Parents are expected to support and encourage their children to actively participate in Scouting activities. They can get involved by following their children's progress in Scouting activities, providing moral support, and even participating in activities together. Schools also play an important role in providing adequate facilities and time for Scout activities. But we must not ignore the difficulties that exist in the current technological era. Children in today's highly connected world are exposed to various influences from technology such as social media, the internet, and others. Therefore, the Scout Movement must follow trends and utilize technology to achieve its goals.

For example, scouts can use digital platforms to share information, communicate with members, and conduct online training. Additionally, scouting programs can be adapted to include digital skills and media literacy, which are critical for kids today. This research shows that the scout

movement can still play an important role in forming children's character, despite the many challenges that come with the technological era. Scouting can help children develop strong and positive character through activities that focus on direct experience, moral and ethical principles, and support from coaches, parents, and schools.

The Scout movement can remain relevant and effective in educating the younger generation to become moral, responsible people and ready to face future challenges. Thus, this research emphasizes how important it is to work together with many people to maximize the benefits of scouting activities in building children's character in the digital era. To ensure that the positive values taught by scouts can be firmly ingrained in children, support is needed from the entire community, including parents, schools and community organizations. The Scout movement can continue to be one of the best ways to build strong character and integrity in Indonesian children if all parties work together well.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusion of research on identity politics in village head elections in Perdamean Village, Tanjung Morawa District, shows that for several decades, the scout movement has been an important part of character education in Indonesia. The role of the Scout Movement is increasingly important in the era of modern technology because of the many challenges faced by children when using technology. According to this research, extracurricular activities, especially scout movements, are very important for shaping children's character amidst rapid digital development. Although technology has many benefits, such as easy access to information and various innovations in learning, it also has negative effects. Gadget addiction, lack of social interaction, and exposure to nonsensical content are some of these impacts. In situations like this, Scouting is a very useful option to offset the influence of technology in children's lives. The main finding of this research is that the Scout Movement is able to provide healthy learning experiences and hands-on activities. Through activities such as camping, hiking, and community service projects, children not only learn practical skills but also learn important values such as responsibility, independence, and cooperation. For example, they learn to set up a tent, cook, and keep the environment clean. This activity not only teaches basic life skills, but also builds self-confidence and the ability to work together in a team. Direct experience with nature also helps children understand and appreciate the environment. This is very important to foster a sense of responsibility towards the environment in an age where environmental issues are increasingly important. Furthermore, the scout movement is very important for instilling moral and ethical principles. Children are taught to respect others, work together, and show social awareness and empathy through various activities. For example, children are invited to participate in social activities such as cleaning the environment, helping orphanages, or helping communities in need in community service projects. Children gain knowledge about the importance of sharing and being kind to others through activities like this, which is an important basis for building a moral and responsible character.

These values help children to maintain morality when communicating online in the digital era, where social interactions often occur virtually. It should not be overlooked how important the scoutmaster's role is in this process. Coaches help children understand and internalize the values taught. Good coaches can encourage and encourage children to think critically, take responsibility, and take action. To create a positive and supportive learning environment, coaches must provide support and guidance. Coaches ensure that lessons learned during Scouting activities can be applied to a wider range of situations by incorporating Scouting principles into children's daily lives. Parents and schools also play a very important role in supporting Scout activities. Parents who



actively support and encourage their children to participate in Scouting activities can have a significant positive impact. Parents can get involved by following their children's progress in Scouting activities, providing moral support, and even participating in some activities together. On the other hand, schools can provide better facilities for their children to participate in Scouting activities. However, facing modern-day challenges also requires the Scout Movement to change and use technology to support its goals. Scouts can use digital platforms to communicate with members, conduct online training, and disseminate information. This allows them to reach more students and makes education more interactive and engaging. Scout programs can also be adapted to include digital skills and media literacy, which are critical for today's children. In this way, scouts can help children develop strong character and the skills needed to succeed in the digital world. This research confirms that even though the digital era brings various challenges, the Scout Movement remains an effective means of educating and forming children's character. With activities that focus on direct experience, moral and ethical values, as well as support from coaches, parents and schools, Scouts can help children develop strong and positive characters. Through adaptation and innovation, the Scout Movement can continue to be relevant and effective in educating the younger generation to become moral, responsible individuals and ready to face future challenges.

Overall, this research emphasizes the importance of collaboration between various parties to maximize the benefits of Scouting activities in forming children's character in the digital era. Support from the entire community, including parents, schools and community organizations, is very important to ensure that the positive values taught through Scouting can be firmly ingrained in children. Through good cooperation, the Scout Movement can continue to be an effective tool in forming strong characters in Indonesian children with integrity. This conclusion emphasizes that although the digital era brings various challenges, with the right strategy, the Scout Movement can continue to make a significant contribution to the formation of positive and strong children's character.

## AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTION

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing.

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