

Smart Parenting Rooted in Local Wisdom: A Solution to Digital Disruption in Early Childhood

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ABSTRACT

The digital transformation brings dual impacts on early childhood parenting practices. On one hand, children are increasingly exposed to technological devices, social media platforms, and various digital content. On the other hand, conventional parenting approaches that rely on face-to-face communication and traditional social values are beginning to face limitations. This paper examines parenting challenges in the digital technology era along with alternative solutions through the concept of smart parenting grounded in local wisdom. This study was conducted by analyzing various forms of parental guidance practices in several communities, including adaptive parenting training programs, smart parenting seminars, and efforts to integrate local cultural values with contemporary parenting approaches. The findings indicate that parents need a proportional parenting approach: optimizing the responsible use of technology through supervision, control, and active accompaniment, while instilling character values, spirituality, and local cultural wisdom as the ethical foundation for children. The smart parenting approach based on local wisdom demonstrates effectiveness in increasing awareness, competence, and active involvement of parents in facing digital era challenges. Therefore, adaptive parenting strategies that integrate technology with noble cultural values can be a strategic solution in shaping an early childhood generation that is not only digitally competent, but also possesses strong character and commendable moral values.

Keywords: Smart parenting, local wisdom, early childhood parenting, digital era, adaptive parenting

INTRODUCTION

The digital technology revolution has brought about fundamental changes in various aspects of human life, including child-rearing practices. The rapid advancement of information and communication technology has had a substantial transformative impact, particularly on the generation of children born and raised amid the dynamics of the digital revolution (Darni & Perdana, 2024). This situation presents a unique paradox for parents: on the one hand, technology provides unlimited accessibility and learning opportunities; on the other hand, it introduces complexities in upholding the fundamental parenting values that have proven effective across generations.

The impact of digital disruption on young children is clearly evident in their daily activities. Children aged 2–6 are now familiar with various technological devices, educational apps, and a wide range of digital content. A study (Putri, 2022) indicates that exposure to digital technology during the “golden age” has multifaceted consequences: while it can stimulate cognitive abilities, it may also hinder social skills and emotional development if not managed wisely (Sugiana et al., 2025) state that today’s children are digital natives who have been exposed to electronic and digital media from the very

beginning of their lives. The use of the internet and digital devices by young children has an impact across various dimensions, particularly on their early childhood development. Excessive use of digital technology affects physical motor and social-emotional development, as the physical motor activities necessary for children's optimal growth become severely limited.

Principles such as community cooperation, good manners, respect for elders, and a harmonious way of life have proven their role in shaping the nation's character for hundreds of years. However, the transmission of these values faces significant obstacles in the digital age, when children spend more time interacting with screens than with their conventional social environment.

In this context, smart parenting does not merely refer to the use of advanced technology in child-rearing, but rather to a smart strategy that combines technological advancements with traditional wisdom. (Siregar & Ramadhani, 2024) define smart parenting as intelligent parenting by parents or adults aimed at meeting children's needs, providing protection, and educating them in daily life to achieve optimal development. This concept acknowledges that technology is neutral, while the quality of its implementation depends on the values and principles underpinning its use.

Empirical evidence shows that a large number of parents face difficulties in responding to the challenges of digital parenting. Some feel overwhelmed by technological advancements and tend to grant their children unlimited access without adequate guidance. Others adopt a defensive stance and try to shield their children from technology, even though such actions may actually prevent children from keeping up with the times. (Mustakim, et al., 2024) explain that technological advancements and an increasingly globalized world demand that parents adapt optimally to parenting as times change, where traditional child-rearing methods are beginning to be abandoned in the face of an increasingly evident era of disruption.

A study (Handayani & Arri, 2024) using bibliometric analysis reveals that research trends on early childhood parenting have seen a significant increase from 2016 to the present, with a primary focus on five clusters: childhood education, achievement, behavior, parenting, and challenges. This indicates that parenting issues in the digital age have become a serious concern in both academic and practical circles. (Saragih & Fuadah, 2024) found in their study that an authoritative parenting style has the most positive impact on all aspects of child development, particularly in social and cognitive growth. Conversely, authoritarian and permissive parenting styles tend to have negative effects, especially on children's emotional and social development. These findings reinforce the argument for the importance of a balanced and wise parenting approach. Furthermore, a gradual approach also influences children's emotional and social development.

(Aisa, 2024), through her smart parenting seminars in the digital age, demonstrated that educating parents about digital parenting successfully improved participants' understanding and created practical smart parenting guidelines covering the introduction of technology to children and parents, as well as setting limits and monitoring children. The concrete outcome—a pocket guidebook—proved effective in educating parents on how to address the negative impacts of gadgets while also leveraging

their positive effects. (Zafranudun, 2018) developed the concept of a smart web portal for early childhood education using an intelligent information system as a way to enhance parents' ability to access information about their preschoolers' daily activities and empower teachers to utilize ICT tools. This innovation highlights the importance of integrating technology into communication between schools and parents.

(Sharivo & Gulruhsol, 2025), in their study on innovative mechanisms to ensure community participation in the preschool education system, emphasize that active community involvement is crucial for ensuring the quality, accessibility, and inclusivity of early childhood education. This study identifies challenges in building effective partnerships between preschool institutions and community stakeholders, and proposes modern and practical solutions. The significance of this study lies in the urgency of formulating a parenting model suited to the realities of Indonesia. The majority of available parenting literature originates from Western cultural contexts, which may not necessarily be relevant to the values and social conditions of Indonesian society. Meanwhile, the local wisdom possessed by the Indonesian people is abundant and has the potential to serve as a solid foundation for building effective parenting strategies in the digital age.

Through a comprehensive analysis of the challenges and solutions for smart parenting rooted in local wisdom, this study aims to provide practical insights for parents, educators, and stakeholders in the field of early childhood education. It is hoped that the results of this study can serve as a reference in developing parenting approaches that are not only adaptive to technological advancements but also remain rooted in the noble cultural values of the nation, thereby producing a generation that is technologically savvy yet possesses strong character in line with Indonesia's national identity.

METHOD

This study employs a literature review approach using a descriptive qualitative method. A literature review is a systematic research method for identifying, evaluating, and interpreting all research relevant to a specific research question (Snyder, 2019). In the context of this study, the literature review enables the researcher to develop a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon of digital parenting from the perspective of Indonesian local wisdom, as well as to identify existing research gaps for further exploration.

A descriptive qualitative method was applied to provide an in-depth and comprehensive overview of the challenges and solutions of smart parenting based on local wisdom. This method allows researchers to explore the meaning and context of various literature sources, as well as identify patterns and themes emerging from the collected data.

The data sources for this study consist of 15 scientific articles and recent research studies published between 2018 and 2025, with a primary focus on publications from the last five years to ensure the relevance and timeliness of the information. Selection criteria for sources include: (1) relevance to the topics of smart parenting and early childhood,

(2) quality of research methodology, (3) credibility of the publisher, and (4) contribution to understanding the integration of local wisdom into digital parenting.

The data analysis process was conducted through the following stages: (1) categorization of findings based on main themes, (2) identification of patterns and trends in the literature, (3) synthesis of information to identify challenges and solutions, and (4) interpretation of results within the context of Indonesian local wisdom. The validity of the study is ensured through triangulation of sources and cross-checking information from multiple references to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the findings.

RESULT

Based on an in-depth review of 15 relevant sources, a comprehensive overview has been obtained regarding the challenges and solutions of smart parenting grounded in local wisdom in addressing digital disruption among young children. The findings of the study are presented in the following table:

Table 1. Summary of Literature Review Findings

No	Author	Title	Findings
1.	Melia Darni, Dedy Ilham Perdana (2024)	Strengthening Family Sociology in the Digital Age: A Study on Family-Based Early Childhood Parenting Literacy	The role of the digital age in children's development is highly significant; it has a substantial impact on children's development from both positive and negative perspectives, and there has been a rapid advancement in technology that influences children's patterns and lifestyles in the digital age. The role of parents in this context is crucial, given the accelerating pace of technological advancement, which has made access to technology extremely easy.
2.	Siregar, Ayumi Ramadhani (2024)	The Application of Smart Parenting Among Working Mothers in Fostering Early Independence in Aek Pining Village, Batang Toru Subdistrict	In today's rapidly evolving era of globalization, there have been significant and complex changes in the roles and functions of mothers, leading to a decline in their involvement in raising children. The role of parents—particularly mothers—is crucial in fostering independence. Smart Parenting refers to the intelligent approach taken by parents and other adults to meet children's needs, provide protection, and educate them in daily life, with the aim of achieving optimal development. Busy work schedules often lead mothers to make mistakes in raising their children. The objectives of this

			study are to examine mothers' smart parenting practices toward young children, to assess the level of independence among young children, and to evaluate the outcomes of implementing smart parenting among working mothers in fostering independence in young children in Aek Pining Village, Batang Toru Subdistrict.
3.	Wilma Annisa Putri, - (2022)	Parental Supervision of Gadget Use Among Children Aged 5–6 in Sialamungu Village, Tuah Madani Subdistrict, Pekanbaru City	Parental Supervision of Gadget Use Among Children Aged 5–6 Years in Sialangmunggu Village, Tuah Madani Subdistrict, Pekanbaru City. This study aims to determine the extent of parental supervision regarding gadget use among children aged 5–6 years in Sialangmunggu Village, Tuah Madani Subdistrict, Pekanbaru City. The use of gadgets in daily life affects not only the behavior of adults but also that of children, one of the impacts being on social interaction skills. Thus, as technology becomes more advanced, there are greater risks and negative impacts for users; if used excessively by children without parental supervision, the consequences can be severe.
4.	Milawati Valantia dan Munawaroh (2025)	Parenting Dilemmas in the Digital Age: Striking a Balance Between Modernity and Local Values (A Case Study of Generation Z and the Baduy Tribe)	A balance between modernity and cultural preservation. Effective digital parenting practices can help equip the younger generation to navigate the challenges of the digital age without losing their sense of identity or their connection to local traditions.
5.	Dede Mahmudah (2020)	Efforts to Promote ICT Empowerment and Protect Generation Z in the Digital Age	It is evident that various parties have undertaken initiatives aimed at developing and improving the quality of Generation Z's human resources, particularly in the field of ICT. Furthermore, various efforts and guidelines have been implemented by all stakeholders to protect Generation Z from the potential negative impacts of ICT use.

6.	Aufia Aisa (2024)	Smart Parenting Seminar in the Digital Age	The smart parenting seminar successfully enhanced the understanding of the participants (10 members of the Gambiran Village Posyandu and PKK cadres) regarding child-rearing practices in the digital age. A concrete outcome of the seminar was the creation of a pocket guide on smart parenting that covers technology literacy, setting limits, and monitoring children—a resource that can be consulted at any time. The seminar received a positive response and proved effective in educating parents on how to address the negative impacts of gadgets on children while leveraging their positive benefits
7.	(Simarmata et al., 2024)	Parenting Strategy Support for the Community of Sinar Jaya Village, Mandalawangi Subdistrict, Combining Local Wisdom and Modern Methods	The parenting support program in Sinar Jaya Village combines local wisdom with modern methods to improve the quality of child-rearing. This program aims to analyze the parenting strategies being used and their impact on children's development. The results of the guidance indicate that the combination of traditional values and modern approaches yields positive outcomes in shaping children's character—fostering independence, noble character, and readiness to face the challenges of the modern world. This combination has a positive impact on children's development, including enhancing their social, emotional, and cognitive skills.
8.	Mustakim, Hamim Farhan, Agustien Lilawati, Ode Mohamad Man Arfa, Ladamay, Musayyachah, Rina Sekar Pratiwi	Early Childhood Parenting in the Age of Disruption	Technological advancements and the increasingly global nature of our times demand that parents adapt quickly to changing times. Traditional parenting methods are beginning to be abandoned as the era of disruption becomes increasingly evident before our eyes. The purpose of early childhood parenting training in the era of disruption is to address the challenges parents face due to their busy work schedules, rapid

		technological advancements, the prevalence of gadgets, social media, YouTube, online games, and negative news. The training is conducted using lectures, discussions, and group brainstorming. The training process consists of an assessment phase, an implementation phase, an evaluation phase, and a review phase.
9.	Sugiana and Prasetyo, Tommy Rizki Prasetyo and Nawangsasi, Devi and Drupadi	The Digital Age: Physical, Motor, and Social-Emotional Development in Early Childhood
		Physical, Motor, and Social-Emotional Development in Early Childhood. Today's children are digital natives—that is, they have been exposed to electronic and digital media since birth (Indonesian Medical Association). This “Digital Native” generation can easily access learning resources and other activities online, ranging from educational materials to video games. The use of the internet or gadgets by young children has a significant impact on various aspects, including health and various aspects of early childhood development. Excessive digital use affects physical motor and social-emotional development, as the physical motor activities necessary for a child's growth and development are greatly reduced; children often suppress hunger, thirst, and the urge to use the restroom, which disrupts the digestive system.
10.	Handayani, Arri (2024)	The Bibliometric Analysis of the Research Trend About Parenting the Early Childhood Children
		This study reveals the most prominent research topics and trends in early childhood parenting from 2000 to 2023. This research is important for identifying topics that have been studied and existing gaps, as well as providing insights for further research development. Consequently, new innovations and research opportunities in early childhood parenting will arise more frequently. The results found a significant increase in the number of published articles related to parenting or early childhood

		parenting from 2016 to the present. Furthermore, based on a network visualization, the researchers identified 72 items across 5 clusters: childhood education, achievement, behavior, parenting, and challenges.
11.	Berlyna D Saragih, Fahmi Fuadah (2024)	The Influence of Parenting Styles on the Early Childhood Development at Tkk Kasih Mulia Cimahi Early childhood development is a crucial period in the formation of a child's physical, cognitive, and emotional growth. Parental care plays a vital role in supporting a child's development during this phase. This study aims to analyze the influence of parenting styles on early childhood development at Kasih Mulia Cimahi Kindergarten (TKK). The background of this study is based on the fact that many parents do not fully understand how the parenting styles they apply affect their children's development, especially during the critical early years for the growth of various aspects of child development. The objective of this study is to explore the relationship between various types of parenting styles—authoritative, authoritarian, permissive, and neglectful—and their impact on children's physical, social, emotional, and cognitive development. A quantitative method using a survey approach was employed in this study.
12.	SK Kholboya (2025)	Innovative Mechanims for Ensuring Community Participation in The Preschool Education System This article examines innovative mechanisms for increasing community participation in the preschool education system. Because active community involvement is essential for ensuring the quality, accessibility, and inclusivity of early childhood education, this study analyzes international experiences and local practices. It identifies current challenges in building effective partnerships between preschool institutions and community stakeholders, and proposes modern and practical solutions. These solutions include the integration of

		digital platforms, participatory planning approaches, and community-led initiatives aimed at strengthening educational outcomes. The article concludes with recommendations for policymakers and education leaders to develop sustainable and collaborative engagement models in the early childhood education sector.
13.	(Zafranudin et al., 2018)	Early Childhood Education Smart Web Portal Using Intelligence Information Systems
		Preschoolers are still heavily reliant on their parents when it comes to school matters. This is why there must be very close communication between teachers and parents. In this day and age, where instant messaging or video calls are just a click away, it is very easy to take photos or create reports on student activities and send them to parents. A smart portal is well-suited for this system. This paper proposes that a smart web portal be developed within an intelligent information system (IIS) for early childhood education as a way to enhance parents' ability to access information or knowledge about their preschoolers' daily activities and to empower teachers to utilize ICT tools. A smart web portal for early childhood education that utilizes an intelligent information system represents a new approach to distributing knowledge about information resources among organizational stakeholders, such as parents, teachers, and students.
14.	Rahmah, M Hadi,& Wahdini (2022)	The Influence of Parental Role and Parenting Pattern Through Children's Discipline on Children's Independence in Kindergarten B
		This study aims to examine the influence of parental roles and parenting styles on children's discipline through their level of independence at Kindergarten B in Sungai Bilu Urban Village. A total of 134 children in Group B of the Sungai Bilu Urban Village Kindergarten participated in this study, which employed a quantitative descriptive research design. Data collection methods

			included observation and the distribution of questionnaires. Multiple correlation analysis and path diagrams were used to illustrate the relationships between variables based on the assumptions used in the data analysis.
15.	Salasiah, Asniwati, Rustam Efendi (2018)	Instilling Character Values in Early Childhood in The Perspective of Curriculum and Parenting (Multi-Site Study in PAUD Islam Sabilal Muhtadin and PAUD Mawaddah, Banjarmasin, Indonesia)	Instilling character values from an early age is the responsibility of parents, educators, tutors, the community, and the government. Therefore, unity, harmony, and cooperation in instilling character values from an early age must be supported and optimized collectively. Consequently, this article will discuss the implementation of character values during childhood from the perspectives of the curriculum and parental upbringing at Sabilal Muhtadin Islamic Early Childhood Education (PAUD) and Mawaddah PAUD in Banjarmasin. Both schools implement character values through their curriculum and parental upbringing. This study uses qualitative techniques with informant discovery in the description. The data collection techniques in this study include participant observation, in-depth interviews, and document analysis.

Parenting Challenges in the Era of Digital Disruption

Based on the literature review table above, it has been identified that the acceleration of technology and rapid societal transformation categorized as the era of disruption has given rise to new challenges in early childhood parenting (Mustakim et al., 2024; Darni & Perdana, 2024). Conventionally, parenting strategies have relied more on direct interaction, physical supervision, and social norms; however, in this digital era, children are increasingly exposed to gadgets, social media, online games, unlimited internet content, and negative information (Sugiana, et al., 2025). This situation places pressure on parents, especially those who are busy earning a living and have little free time to fully accompany their children (Siregar & Ramadhani, 2024).

To address these challenges, a training program was conducted for parents at TKM NU 295 Roudlotun Nafilah in Gresik, with the aim of helping parents understand adaptive parenting styles, effectively manage their children's technology use, and instill character and religious values in their children's lives (Salasiah, Asniwati, & Efendi, 2018). This

training was conducted in two phases using lectures, discussions, and group brainstorming, through the following stages: preparation, implementation, assessment, and evaluation (Mustakim, et al., 2024).

The presented materials included parenting in the digital age, play contracts between parents and children, age-appropriate use of digital technology, the instillation of character and religious values, and the development of parental awareness to become “smart parents” in facing disruption (Aisa, 2024; Imamudin, et al., 2024). During the program, participants were actively engaged in group discussions, creating a “dream tree” for their children, and establishing mutually agreed-upon gadget usage contracts. Evaluations indicated that participant attendance and engagement were satisfactory, enthusiasm was high, and the presented materials were deemed relevant to parents’ needs in the digital age (Handayani & Arri, 2024).

The training results indicate that most parents are beginning to realize that traditional parenting alone is no longer sufficient to address digital challenges (Valantia & Munawaroh, 2025). They are beginning to apply the principles of technology-based smart parenting—that is, utilizing gadgets, digital educational media, apps, and platforms with supervision and clear time limits (Siregar & Ramadhani, 2024; Zafranudun, 2018).

The concept of “immune selfer” has also been introduced, which refers to a parenting approach that uses technology as a support, not a substitute for direct interaction. Parents increasingly understand the importance of internal family communication to protect children from exposure to negative content and foster healthy relationships (Saragih & Fuadah, 2024). The instillation of religious values and character education from an early age is emphasized as an effort to ensure children are not only technologically savvy but also possess a strong moral and ethical foundation (Salasiah, Asniwati, & Efendi, 2018).

Integrating Local Wisdom with Modern Methods

Overall, this training demonstrates that empowering parents with knowledge and skills is essential for them to become effective guides for their children in this era of disruption (Mahmudah, 2020). An adaptive parenting approach that selectively integrates technology with the instillation of noble values is the recommended model (Sharivo & Gulruhsol, 2025). This study confirms that the success of early childhood parenting in the digital age heavily depends on parents’ ability to act as mediators between technology and children’s development.

Conventional parenting strategies rooted in local values such as mutual cooperation, respect for parents, and cultural norms remain dominant and serve as the foundation for raising children (Imamudin, et al., 2024). However, with the rise of modernization and the influence of globalization, there is a growing need to update parenting strategies so that children do not fall behind in facing the challenges of the times (Valantia & Munawaroh, 2025).

In an effort to address these challenges, guidance was provided to parents in Sinar Jaya Village to integrate principles of local wisdom with modern parenting methods such as open communication, positive discipline, and a loving approach—to foster a parenting

style that is more adaptive, contextual, and effective (Imamudin, et al., 2024). This guidance involved observing the community's daily life, conducting interviews and discussions, and organizing hands-on activities to help parents understand and apply the introduced parenting strategies (Syariffudin, Ahmad, & Sulaiman, 2023).

The results of this program's implementation indicate an increase in parents' knowledge, awareness, and skills in raising children in a more balanced manner (Imamudin et al., 2024). Parents began adopting a more dialogic approach in communicating with their children, replacing authoritarian parenting styles with positive discipline, and integrating local values as a strong moral and social foundation (Saragih & Fuadah, 2024). Children raised in environments that implement this blended parenting strategy demonstrate positive development in independence, self-confidence, social skills, and academic achievement.

Challenges and Implementation Strategies

However, implementing this strategy is not without challenges. Some parents initially resisted the idea of modern parenting, feeling that it conflicted with local traditions (Valantia & Munawaroh, 2025). To overcome such obstacles, a dialogic approach and the involvement of traditional or community leaders are necessary to foster acceptance (Sharivo & Gulruhsol, 2025).

Program sustainability is also a critical aspect—without consistent local policy support or community networks, positive outcomes will be only temporary. Therefore, the implementation of this parenting model should serve as a reference for other regions, particularly in rural areas, with adjustments to local cultural conditions (Imamudin, et al., 2024).

Monitoring Children's Use of Electronic Devices.

The next aspect examined concerns parental supervision of gadget use among children aged 5–6 years. The analysis results indicate that gadget use that is not adequately supervised by parents has a negative impact on parent-child interactions: communication becomes hindered and ineffective (Putri, 2022; Sugiana et al., 2025). Some parents tend to allow their children to use gadgets without limits or adequate supervision, which can subsequently trigger developmental disorders in children, both cognitively and mentally (Darni & Perdana, 2024).

These findings align with child development theories that emphasize the importance of direct social interaction during early childhood. Thus, this study underscores that parental supervision of gadget use is a crucial aspect in ensuring optimal growth for young children; without proper supervision, children are vulnerable to negative impacts that can hinder their development (Putri, 2022; Sugiana et al., 2025).

For future development, it is recommended that similar training be expanded to other communities, strengthening parents' skills in the use of educational technology, and continuing to develop parenting programs that are responsive to changing times.

CONCLUSION

A review of the literature indicates that conventional parenting strategies are no longer sufficient to address the complexities of parenting in the digital age. Children require adaptive guidance that integrates technology with the internalization of character values, spirituality, and local wisdom. Smart parenting is the key to guiding young children, where parents act as wise mediators between children and technology, encompassing supervision of gadget use, time limits, and the optimization of educational media.

Parent training and support programs have proven highly effective in enhancing parents' understanding, competence, and awareness regarding adaptive parenting approaches. The integration of local wisdom with contemporary methods yields a balanced parenting approach. Cultural values such as communal cooperation, etiquette, respect, and social norms can serve as a strong and relevant moral foundation when combined with positive discipline, open communication, and affection. Adaptive parenting supports children's holistic development—not only in digital literacy but also in independence, communication, morality, and academic achievement.

In light of these findings, it is recommended that parents become more involved in their children's activities with gadgets through supervision, setting limits, and providing guidance when children use gadgets or other technologies. The instillation of moral values must continue to be aligned with the dynamics of modern life and the environment. Parents are advised to avoid both authoritarian and permissive parenting styles, and instead prioritize dialogic communication and positive discipline.

These efforts are not solely the responsibility of parents but also require the involvement of educators and educational institutions to provide education to both parents and children. Educational institutions are advised to conduct regular parenting training using participatory methods so that parents not only understand the theory but can also immediately put it into practice. The provision of supporting materials such as books, modules, parenting apps, and other resources is also crucial. The influence of the environment is highly significant for the development of both children and parents. Selecting a conducive environment is critical, so it is important for parents to be more aware of their children's development and the environment in which they are currently living.

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