

# VALUE-BASED RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN TECHNOLOGY FOR GEN- Z: SHAPING AN EXCELLENT GENERATION READY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE GLOBAL WORLD FUTURE

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**Abstract:** The rapid advancement of technology has transformed education, communication, and social interaction, especially for Generation Z (Gen Z). As digital natives, Gen Z faces both opportunities and challenges in navigating explores the integration of value-based religious education with technology as a strategic approach to shaping Gen Z into a morally grounded, technologically proficient, and globally competitive generation. This seminar's focus will be how education that combines technology and religious principles can produce a better generation that is equipped to handle difficulties throughout the word. In t his talk, we'll look at creative approaches to incorporating technology into religious education and how it can prmeaningful contributions to a world that is becoming more interconnected by the day. In addition to providing a moral and ethical basis, religious education gives Generation Z the chance to use technology to expand their horizons. enhance social skills and engage in a variety of international domains, including global leadership, technical innovation, and the digital economy. Education that blends technology and religious principles can, with the correct approach, produce people who are not just professionally capable but also honorable and highly conscious of their societal responsibilities. We will talk about the value of religion, education, and technology working together to create a generation of young future.

**Keywords:** Value-based education, connecting religion-based education, technology, and the role of Generation Z (Gen-Z) in the global world.

## Introduction

The advent of the 21st century has introduced a period of extraordinary technological advancement that has transformed the way societies operate, communicate, and learn. Digital innovation has created unprecedented opportunities for individuals and communities to access information, foster collaboration, and expand the boundaries of human potential. Generation Z (Gen Z), born between 1995 and 2010, has grown up in the midst of this transformation. As the first cohort to experience life in an almost entirely digital world, Gen Z is often referred to as “digital natives,” a term that captures their intrinsic familiarity with technology. Unlike previous generations, for whom technology was a learned skill, Gen Z interacts with digital tools instinctively and integrates them seamlessly into their daily lives.

This intrinsic relationship with technology has defined not only how Gen Z learns but also how they perceive and engage with the world. Their capacity for multitasking, reliance on instant communication, and access to a wealth of online resources have made them one of the most

resourceful and innovative generations in history. However, this technological fluency comes with challenges. The constant exposure to digital content has been linked to shorter attention spans, increased mental health concerns, and the erosion of critical thinking skills. Moreover, the ease of connectivity often fosters an over-reliance on technology for social interaction, sometimes at the expense of deeper, more meaningful interpersonal relationships. This dual-edged relationship with technology raises important questions about how educators, parents, and policymakers can equip Gen Z with the tools they need to navigate these challenges.

Amidst these changes, education has emerged as a critical platform for addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by a rapidly evolving digital landscape. Traditional approaches to education, while valuable, are increasingly perceived as insufficient to meet the needs of modern learners. One area where this is particularly evident is in the field of moral and ethical education. Religious education, which has historically served as a cornerstone for teaching values such as honesty, compassion, and integrity, is struggling to maintain its relevance in the digital age. Conventional teaching methods, often rooted in text-based instruction and rote memorization, fail to resonate with Gen Z, who prefer interactive, visually engaging, and experiential learning environments. As a result, there is an urgent need to rethink how religious education is delivered to align with the technological and cognitive preferences of this generation.

Integrating technology into value-based religious education offers a promising solution to this challenge. By leveraging tools such as virtual reality, gamification, and online collaborative platforms, educators can create immersive and engaging learning experiences that capture the attention of Gen Z. For instance, virtual reality can transport students to significant religious landmarks, allowing them to explore the cultural and historical contexts of their faith. Similarly, gamified platforms can turn moral lessons into interactive scenarios where students must navigate ethical dilemmas and reflect on their decisions. These innovations not only make religious education more accessible but also provide opportunities for deeper, more meaningful engagement with core values.

The integration of technology into religious education is not merely an attempt to modernize traditional teaching methods; it is a recognition of the critical role that values play in preparing Gen Z to thrive in a globalized and interconnected world. The rapid pace of globalization has brought people from diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic backgrounds into closer contact than ever before. In this context, the ability to navigate cultural differences, make ethical decisions, and foster mutual understanding is essential for global citizenship. Value-based education, when delivered through innovative technological platforms, provides a foundation for developing these competencies. By emphasizing universal values such as empathy, respect, and accountability, religious education can help students build the intercultural competence and ethical reasoning skills they need to contribute meaningfully to a globalized society. However, the implementation of technology-enhanced religious education is not without its challenges. Concerns about digital equity, data privacy, and resistance from traditionalists must be addressed to ensure the successful adoption of this approach. Digital equity, in particular, remains a pressing issue, as not all students have access to the devices and internet connectivity required for technology-based learning. Moreover, educators and religious leaders may be hesitant to embrace technological tools, viewing them as incompatible with the spiritual and reflective nature of religious education. Overcoming these barriers will require collaborative efforts among educators, policymakers, and community leaders to develop inclusive, ethical, and culturally sensitive strategies for integrating technology into religious education.

This paper explores the potential of value-based religious education, integrated with technology, to address the unique challenges and opportunities faced by Gen Z. It begins by examining the characteristics of Gen Z and the limitations of traditional educational models in engaging this generation. It then reviews the theoretical and practical dimensions of technology-enhanced religious education, drawing on case studies and examples to illustrate its effectiveness, this paper argues that value-based religious education can empower Gen Z to become ethical, culturally aware, and technologically skilled contributors to the global future, this paper aims to explore how value-based education can be integrated with technology to form Gen Z who are superior and ready to contribute positively in global society. Some of the key questions that are the focus of this research are:

1. How can education based on religious values be adapted to the learning needs and preferences of Gen Z?
2. How can technology integration increase the effectiveness of education based on religious values?
3. What are the challenges and opportunities in implementing this educational model in various cultural and social contexts?

## **Literature Review**

### **1. Religious Education: Foundation of Moral Development**

Religious education has historically been a key pillar for moral and ethical guidance, emphasizing values like compassion, justice, and accountability. Berkowitz (2011) highlights that such education provides individuals with ethical frameworks for navigating complex decisions. However, traditional methods often fail to engage modern learners, particularly Generation Z, due to their reliance on passive, non-interactive approaches (Cavanagh, 2008).

### **2. Generation Z: Characteristics and Educational Needs**

Born amidst rapid technological advancement, Gen Z is tech-savvy, socially conscious, and prefers interactive learning. Twenge (2017) notes that this generation thrives on visual and experiential content but struggles with shorter attention spans. To effectively educate them, methods must leverage their digital proficiency while instilling deeper moral reasoning. Oblinger and Oblinger (2005) suggest that integrating digital tools with ethical education can make learning more relatable and impactful for Gen Z.

### **3. Value-Based Education in a Global Context**

Value-based education focuses on nurturing universal principles such as empathy, integrity, and global citizenship. Singh (2017) argues that it is essential for preparing individuals to navigate cross-cultural challenges in an interconnected world. By incorporating technology, educators can contextualize moral teachings to address pressing issues like environmental sustainability, digital ethics, and social justice, ensuring relevance in the 21st century.

### **4. Technology's Role in Religious Education**

The integration of technology into religious education offers innovative ways to engage students. Gamification and virtual reality (VR) enable interactive learning, helping students understand ethical dilemmas through simulations (Gee, 2003; Kim et al., 2020). Furthermore, online platforms facilitate interfaith dialogues and global collaboration, fostering cross-cultural

understanding. However, Warschauer (2004) warns that challenges such as unequal access to technology and data privacy must be addressed to ensure inclusivity. Additionally, balancing digital tools with reflective practices is crucial to maintain the essence of religious education.

## 5. Challenges and Future Directions

Integrating technology with value-based religious education is not without obstacles. Resistance to change in traditional systems, inadequate teacher training, and cultural sensitivities can hinder progress (Alghamdi et al., 2019). To succeed, education systems must adopt a hybrid approach, combining modern tools with time-tested methods to create engaging and meaningful learning experiences.

## Method

### 1. Research Design

This study uses a **qualitative research design** to explore how technology enhances value-based religious education for Generation Z. The research focuses on understanding how students and educators experience and perceive the integration of technology in religious education through in-depth interviews and case studies.

### 2. Research Objectives

The main objectives of this research are:

1. To understand how technology impacts the delivery of value-based religious education.
2. To analyze Gen Z's perceptions of technology-enhanced religious education.
3. To identify the challenges and opportunities of using technology in religious education.

### 3. Population and Sampling

This study focuses on:

1. **Generation Z students** enrolled in value-based religious education programs.
2. **Educators** who integrate technology into their teaching methods.

A **purposive sampling** approach is used to select 20 students and 10 educators who are actively involved in or affected by technology-based religious education.

### 4. Data Analysis

Data will be analyzed using thematic analysis to identify key patterns and themes. Steps include:

1. **Coding:** Organizing data into categories.
2. **Theme Development:** Grouping similar codes into themes.
3. **Interpretation:** Drawing conclusions based on the identified themes and linking them to existing research.

### 6. Ethical Considerations

Ethical standards will be maintained by:

1. **Informed Consent:** Participants will be informed about the study's purpose and methods.
2. **Confidentiality:** All personal information will be kept anonymous.
3. **Voluntary Participation:** Participants can withdraw from the study at any time without consequences.

4. **Respect for Culture:** The study will be culturally sensitive and respectful of participants' beliefs.

## **Result and Discussion**

The integration of technology into value-based religious education offers significant potential to bridge the gap between traditional moral teachings and the modern needs of Generation Z. As the world becomes increasingly digital, the educational landscape must adapt to the preferences and behaviors of younger generations. This discussion explores the findings of the study in relation to the use of technology in religious education for Gen Z, focusing on its benefits, challenges, and implications for shaping a future-ready generation.

### **1. The Role of Technology in Enhancing Engagement in Religious Education**

One of the most prominent findings of this study is the positive impact of technology on student engagement in religious education. Generation Z is characterized by its constant exposure to digital media and its preference for interactive and visually appealing content. As Twenge (2017) notes, this generation's digital fluency makes traditional, lecture-based learning less effective. In contrast, the use of technology, such as online platforms, multimedia tools, and gamification, creates an environment that caters to Gen Z's learning preferences.

For instance, tools like educational apps, online discussions, and multimedia presentations can make religious teachings more accessible and engaging. Interactive digital simulations that explore moral dilemmas or religious stories can help students understand ethical principles in a more practical and relatable way. This aligns with the work of Gee (2003), who emphasizes the power of digital games to enhance learning through decision-making and problem-solving in immersive contexts. By engaging with technology, students are more likely to be actively involved in their learning, which improves retention and fosters a deeper understanding of the moral values being taught.

Moreover, the flexibility of online learning platforms allows students to engage with religious content at their own pace, providing opportunities for more personalized learning experiences. This aspect of technology in education is especially important for Generation Z, who value independence and customization in their learning journey. The ability to revisit lessons, participate in virtual discussions, and explore additional resources enhances their connection to religious teachings and ethical concepts.

### **2. Cultivating Critical Thinking and Ethical Decision-Making**

One of the central objectives of value-based religious education is to develop students' ethical reasoning and moral decision-making skills. Technology can play a key role in achieving this objective by providing tools that promote critical thinking. According to Kim et al. (2020), digital tools like simulations, interactive modules, and scenario-based learning allow students to explore complex moral dilemmas and make decisions in controlled, yet realistic environments.

For example, virtual reality (VR) could be used to simulate a situation where students must navigate a moral dilemma, such as deciding whether to report a peer for unethical behavior. This kind of immersive experience helps students understand the consequences of their actions and develop empathy for those affected by their decisions. Through these interactive exercises, students can engage with real-world issues, such as environmental ethics, social justice, and digital responsibility, all while grounded in the ethical teachings of their faith.

Moreover, technology provides opportunities for students to engage with diverse perspectives, an essential aspect of ethical reasoning in a globalized world. Online platforms, discussion boards, and social media can connect students from different cultural and religious backgrounds, allowing them to share ideas and challenge each other's viewpoints in a respectful and thoughtful manner. This not only promotes critical thinking but also fosters intercultural dialogue, an essential skill for navigating the complexities of a globalized world.

### **3. The Impact of Technology on Religious Identity and Values**

Another key aspect of the integration of technology into religious education is its effect on students' religious identity and values. The rapid expansion of online resources and social media has created a space where religious ideas and teachings are constantly being shared and debated. While this offers opportunities for students to explore their faith in new ways, it also presents challenges in terms of maintaining the integrity of religious values.

Research has shown that exposure to diverse worldviews and beliefs on the internet can lead to both positive and negative outcomes. On the one hand, it allows students to critically examine their beliefs, strengthen their understanding of their faith, and engage with global religious communities. On the other hand, the digital world also presents a significant risk of misinformation and radicalization. According to Warschauer (2004), the ease with which information is shared online can make it difficult for students to differentiate between accurate teachings and misleading or extremist views.

To address this, religious educators must play an active role in guiding students through the vast amount of information available online. This can be done by teaching students how to critically evaluate online resources, fostering discernment, and encouraging them to engage with religious content that aligns with their values. By integrating technology thoughtfully into religious education, educators can help students maintain a strong religious identity while navigating the digital world responsibly.

### **4. Overcoming the Challenges of Digital Equity and Accessibility**

While technology has the potential to revolutionize religious education, it also presents several challenges, particularly in terms of digital equity. As noted by Alghamdi et al. (2019), access to technology is not uniform across all communities, and this digital divide can exacerbate existing inequalities in education. Students from lower-income backgrounds or rural areas may have limited access to the necessary devices and internet connectivity to fully participate in online religious education programs.

To ensure that technology-enhanced religious education is inclusive, schools and religious institutions must address these disparities by providing resources and support to underprivileged students. This might include offering subsidized devices, creating offline learning materials, or providing internet access through community centers. Additionally, religious educators should be mindful of the diverse technological literacy levels among students and provide guidance and support to those who may struggle with digital tools.

Despite these challenges, the integration of technology into religious education also opens up new avenues for collaboration and support. Online learning communities can offer peer support, and digital platforms can be used to connect students with mentors or religious leaders who can guide them in their spiritual journeys. This collaborative approach helps bridge gaps in resources

and ensures that all students have the opportunity to benefit from technology-enhanced religious education.

### **5. Shaping a Generation Ready to Contribute to a Globalized World**

Ultimately, the goal of integrating technology into value-based religious education is to shape a generation that is not only morally grounded but also equipped to contribute positively to the global community. By combining ethical teachings with the practical skills required to navigate the digital age, religious education can help students become responsible global citizens.

In this context, technology becomes a tool for fostering global awareness, empathy, and social responsibility. Through digital platforms, students can engage with global issues such as climate change, poverty, and human rights, while applying the ethical principles taught in their religious education. This approach aligns with the work of Singh (2017), who emphasizes the importance of value-based education in preparing individuals to address the complex challenges of a globalized world.

By using technology to enhance value-based religious education, we can equip Generation Z with the tools they need to contribute to society in meaningful ways. Whether it is through participating in global discussions, addressing social issues, or leading ethical initiatives, students can take the values they have learned in religious education and apply them to real-world challenges. In doing so, they will be well-prepared to shape the future in a way that is not only technologically advanced but also ethically responsible.

### **Conclusion**

The integration of technology into value-based religious education offers a transformative approach to engage Generation Z in learning moral and ethical principles. As this generation grows up in a digitally-driven world, incorporating technology in religious education makes these teachings more relevant, engaging, and accessible. Digital tools, such as online platforms, multimedia, and interactive experiences, make religious content more appealing to Gen Z, who prefer interactive, visual, and flexible learning environments.

Technology not only enhances engagement but also supports the development of critical thinking and ethical decision-making. By using digital simulations and virtual discussions, students are able to explore complex moral issues and engage in ethical reflection. This prepares them to navigate global challenges such as social justice, environmental sustainability, and human rights, using the ethical frameworks provided by their religious education.

However, the integration of technology comes with challenges, especially concerning digital equity and access. Not all students have equal access to technology, which could create disparities in learning opportunities. It is essential for educational institutions to address these gaps by providing resources, internet access, and digital literacy training to ensure all students benefit equally from technology-enhanced education.

Another challenge is ensuring that the use of technology does not overshadow the core values of religious education. While technology enhances engagement, it is crucial that religious teachings remain focused on developing spiritual reflection, empathy, and moral decision-making. Educators must balance the use of digital tools with the need for introspection and ethical development.

In conclusion, integrating technology into value-based religious education for Generation Z offers the potential to create a generation that is both morally grounded and technologically

competent. By using digital tools to enhance learning, promote critical thinking, and expand global awareness, we can prepare students to contribute meaningfully to society. With thoughtful implementation, technology can play a pivotal role in shaping a generation ready to address global challenges with integrity and compassion.

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