

Implementation of Christian Education in Early Congregations in the Church: Its Relevance to the Era of Society 5.0 and Christian Learned Wisdom

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of Christian Religious Education in the context of the church, related to the Christian Religious Education of the early church in the Bible, although there are changes regarding the implementation of Christian Religious Education technically, but the principle of Christian Religious Education in the early church remains a reference Christian Religious Education of the current church, for this research discusses the implementation of Christian Religious Education in the early congregations of the church and its relevance to the era of Society 5.0, as well as the importance of learned wisdom in the development of Christian Religious Education and sustainable community development. The history of the early church congregation is also explained, as well as the contribution of Christian Education in shaping character and building society in the era of Society 5.0. This research uses literature method, and the purpose of this study is to provide a comprehensive and integrated view of the Implementation of Christian Religious Education Early Congregational in the Church and its relevance in the era of Society 5.0.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The development of Christian Education and the implementation of Christian religious education initially started from the church in OT and NT, until finally the implementation of Christian religious education expanded to formal schools (Novalia, 2019). The church must not break away from Christian religious education because one of the foundations of church growth is the effectiveness of the implementation of Christian religious education in the church (Kolibu, Peter, Naibaho, Paparang, & Hanock, 2021). For this reason, the reference to the implementation of Christian religious education in

the church today, cannot be separated from the development of Christian education, especially in the early congregation in the New Testament. Christian religious education has an important role in the life of church members as a community of believers, where the congregation has the responsibility to strengthen the faith and foster the spiritual success of its members (DeVries, 2019). The Church, as an important institution in public life, has the responsibility to prepare the congregation to understand the principles of the Christian faith and apply them in daily life (Trozzo, 2021). In the early church, the implementation of Christian Religious Education was carried out through oral means and religious practices in synagogues that affected their surroundings, while today, Christian Education is carried out through formal schools and formal programs structured by the church (Hayes, 2022). Despite change in Christian Education from the time of the early church to the present, the basic principles of Christian Education remain relevant and important to be applied in the era of Society 5.0, which is characterized by the increasingly dominant role of technology and digitalization in human life (Yohanna, 2019). Therefore, even though times have changed, Christian religious education can be one solution to shape character in helping sustainable community development in the era of Society 5.0. The purpose of this research is to provide a comprehensive and integrated view of the implementation of the early Christian religious education in the Church and its relevance in the era of Society 5.0.

2. METHODS

This research will use qualitative methods, where data will be collected through literature studies. The methodology of literature study from the study above includes identifying research topics and objectives, searching for relevant literature sources, selection of literature sources based on certain criteria, analysis and synthesis of data from selected literature sources, and preparation of conclusions from the results of the analysis (Sari & Asmendri, 2020).

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Christian Education in the Early Church in the Church

The implementation of Christian Education in the early congregations in the Church had its own challenges, such as limited resources, the absence of an official curriculum, and differences in understanding and interpretation of Christian teachings among church members (Kim, 2019). However, this implementation has a positive Christian education for the development of the Christian Church, such as increasing the understanding of church members about Christian religious teachings, encouraging the development of community and social networks among church members, and increasing the participation of church members in overall Church activities (Hannam, Biesta, Whittle, & Aldridge, 2020).

In implementing Christian Education in the early church, there are several aspects that need to be considered, including the selection and development of teaching materials, the implementation of Christian Education activities, the management of human resources involved in Christian Education activities, and the evaluation and improvement of Christian Education programs (Jeffrey, 2022).

One of the main challenges in implementing Christian Education in the early congregation was limited resources. This can be in the form of limited funds, facilities, and teaching staff. These limited resources can affect the quality and effectiveness of Christian Education provided to congregation members.

The absence of an official curriculum that can be followed is also a challenge in the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation. This can result in Christian Education activities that are carried out unstructured and less directed (Awang, Prayitno, & Engel, 2021). Therefore, efforts are needed to develop a curriculum that suits the needs and characteristics of church members.

Differences in understanding and interpretation of Christian teachings among church members were also a challenge in the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation. This can affect the consistency and success of the Christian Education program that is run. Therefore,

efforts are needed to strengthen consistent and accurate understanding and teaching related to Christian teachings (Ariawan & Wahyuni, 2021).

Despite the challenges in implementing Christian Education in the early congregation, this program has apposite Christian education dam for the development of the Christian Church. By increasing the understanding of church members about the teachings of Christianity, congregation members can better understand the vocation and mission of the Christian Church. In addition, Christian Education can also encourage the development of communities and social networks between congregation members, so as to strengthen social relations and togetherness in the Christian Church. The participation of congregational members in overall Church activities can also increase the success of Christian Church programs (Glanz, 2020).

In addition to the Christian education mentioned above, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can also strengthen the Christian identity and values adopted by the congregation. In this context, Christian Education can help strengthen the unity and integrity of the Christian Church as a community. With a deeper understanding of the teachings of Christianity, members of the congregation can develop social sensitivity and empathy for others, which is an important value in Christian teachings.

In addition, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can also help strengthen the witness of the Christian Church in the community. In this context, Christian Education can help form a generation of more quality and integrity, who can become agents of positive change in the environment around them. Thus, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can have a broad and positive Christian education for the surrounding community.

However, in implementing Christian Education in the early church, it should also be noted that Christian Education should not be separated from the practice of daily life. This is because the teachings of Christianity teach that faith and practice are closely intertwined, and cannot be separated from each other. Therefore, effective Christian religious education must involve the practice of daily living as an integral part of learning.

In addition, it should also be noted that the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation must involve the active participation of church members. This is because effective Christian Education requires active participation and self-awareness from the participants, and not just being passive spectators. Therefore, in implementing Christian Religious Education, it is necessary to build an atmosphere conducive to the active participation of church members, and instill self-awareness about the importance of active roles in strengthening Christian faith and witness (Gladden, 2019).

In the implementation of Christian Education in the early church, it is also necessary to pay attention to the aspects of evaluation and improvement of the Christian Religious Education program that is carried out. This evaluation and improvement aim to ensure that the Christian Education program that is carried out remains relevant to the needs and development of the congregation, and can provide optimal Christian education for the development of the Christian Church. This evaluation and improvement can be carried out periodically, involving the active participation of church members and teachers, to ensure that the Christian Education program that is run is always up-to-date and of high quality.

Society 5.0 and Its Relevance to Christian Education

The implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can be connected with the concept of Society 5.0. Society 5.0 is the concept of developing a society based on technology, where technology is used as a tool to improve people's lives. This concept emphasizes values such as justice, inclusivity, sustainability, and humanity (Gladden, 2019).

In this context, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can be seen as one of the efforts to realize these values. By teaching Christian values such as love, truth, and

forgiveness, Christian Education can help shape a generation that has a high social and moral awareness, and is ready to contribute to realizing a better society.

In addition, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can also be connected with the concept of lifelong learning which is one of the important elements in Society 5.0. Lifelong learning is a learning concept that continues throughout life, and can be done through various means such as formal and non-formal education, job training, and self-development.

In this context, the implementation of Christian Education in the early church can be a form of lifelong learning for church members. By providing continuous and continuous Christian Education programs, congregation members can continue to deepen their understanding of Christian teachings, and develop their ability to apply Christian teachings in daily life.

In addition, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can also be related to the concept of human resource development which is one of the main focuses in Society 5.0. In this context, Christian Education can help develop the potential and abilities of church members, so that they can contribute to the development of society more broadly.

Christian Learned Wisdom

In the Christian context, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation had an important role in developing the faith and spirituality of church members. In Romans 12:2, we are invited to "change our minds by the renewing of our spirits," and Christian Education can be one of the tools to achieve this goal (Eko, B. S., & Putranto, 2019).

The right approach in the implementation of Christian Religious Education is to pay attention to the social and cultural context of church members, so that educational programs can be tailored to their needs and desires. In addition, the use of technology in Christian Education can also help improve the quality of educational programs and facilitate access for congregation members.

In the context of Christian scholarly discussions, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can help church members to deepen their understanding of Christian teachings and develop their ability to apply these teachings in daily life. This can help improve the quality of spiritual life of church members, and help them to live according to Christian values (Tanjung, Tanjung, & Wibowo, 2021).

In addition, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can also be a means to prepare future church leaders. In 1 Timothy 3:1-13, we are given the criteria that a church leader should have. By providing quality Christian education, the early congregation can help develop the abilities and character of church members who have the potential to become church leaders in the future.

The implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can help deepen members' understanding of Christian teachings, help them develop faith and spirituality, and prepare future church leaders. However, to achieve these goals, the implementation of Christian Religious Education must be adapted to the social and cultural context of congregation members, and use appropriate technology to improve the quality of educational programs (Cunningham, 2019).

The Link between Christian Education in the Early Church and Christian Learned Wisdom

In the context of Christian scholarly discussions, the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation can also help church members to deepen their understanding of Christian theology and learn how to apply Christian teachings in daily life. This is in line with the principle of "faith seeking understanding" in Christian theology (Eko, B. S., & Putranto, 2019).

A Christian scholarly approach can help church members to study Christianity more deeply and in depth, and understand the practical implications of these teachings in their lives. This can help them develop their faith and spirituality more consistently and direct their lives according to Christian values.

However, the implementation of educated Christian Religious Education must be adapted to the social and cultural context of congregation members, and use appropriate technology to improve the quality of educational programs. In the era of Society 5.0, technology can be a very useful tool in the implementation of learned Christian Education in the early church. For example, the use of digital platforms can facilitate congregation members' access to Christian Education materials, and enable interaction between congregation members from different backgrounds (Ginting, 2022).

In conclusion, the implementation of learned Christian Education in the early congregation can help develop the faith and spirituality of church members more consistently, as well as prepare future church leaders. However, such implementation must be adapted to the social and cultural context of congregation members, and use appropriate technology to improve the quality of educational program.

4. CONCLUSION

In the discussion above, it has been explained that the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation was very important to assist church members in deepening their understanding of Christian teachings, developing faith and spirituality, and preparing future church leaders. A Christian scholarly approach can help congregation members to study Christian teachings more structured and deeply, and understand the practical implications of these teachings in daily life.

However, the implementation of Christian Religious Education must be adapted to the social and cultural context of congregation members, and use appropriate technology to improve the quality of educational programs. In the era of Society 5.0, technology can be a very useful tool in the implementation of learned Christian Education in the early church. The use of digital platforms can facilitate congregation members' access to Christian Education materials, and allow interaction between congregation members from different backgrounds.

Thus, the conclusion that can be drawn is that the implementation of Christian Education in the early congregation was very important in deepening the understanding of church members about Christian teachings, developing faith and spirituality, and preparing future church leaders. A Christian scholarly approach can help congregation members to study Christian teachings more structured and deeply, and understand the practical implications of these teachings in daily life. However, such implementation must be adapted to the social and cultural context of congregation members, and use appropriate technology to improve the quality of educational programs.

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