

Internet acccess in indonesian secondary schools

[Technology](#), [Internet](#)



It has been argued that poor quality control in the internet materials, especially for students, may lead to accessing harmful information such as pornography and rudeness (Young Media Australia, 2006). Moreover, Bartlett and Miller (2001) assert that there are many digital users who access information without considering its reliability. These arguments seem to become supporting reasons why the internet is dangerous for students. However, Commonwealth of Australia (2006) states that there are many useful tools that can be used to filter harmful information such as filters, labels, and safe zones.

Schools can provide Internet filtering software to prevent students from accessing harmful and pornographic websites. Students, consequently, can only be connected to appropriate sites which can support their learning activities. Furthermore, schools can promote teachers supervision to encourage students to collect appropriate and reliable information. David Gelernter (n. d) contends that internet access is "an educational disaster in the making" (Time, n. d). He says that while the internet may be attractive for students because of its stylish and fancy packaging of information, the content it provides is quite often unreliable.

However, the internet could be a fundamental teaching tool in the near future. Becker (1999) point out that the internet is beneficial to help teachers generate an efficient and effective learning environment. Teachers may also search for examples of lesson plans and communicate with professionals to improve their teaching ability. The Internet, he adds, can be used to create an interactive lesson since students are encouraged to be more active and

Independent. For example, teachers can ask students to search for online materials on the internet and discuss it later in the classroom.

Indeed, the internet includes many useful tools that can be used as a great teaching tool, either for teachers or students. It is essential that Indonesian secondary schools should be wired to the internet since it may contribute to future career prospects. The internet offers great opportunities to enhance students' communication and technology skills. Indeed, communication technologies such as digital literacy have an impact on students' analysis and evaluation ability (Hague and Williamson, 2010).

Another point to consider is that the workforce these days demands mastery of digital technology (Gore, n. d). Consequently, students should be prepared to be a technological expert and this could be achieved by utilizing the Internet. Moreover, Former Vice President Al Gore (n. d) states that in the future, better salary would be provided for graduates who master these skills. It is clearly seen that internet access could support students to succeed in their future students' basic skills and inappropriate teaching tools, these arguments are overstated.

Indonesia secondary schools should no longer postpone to have internet access because students can improve their learning ability including basic skills and high technology skills by using beneficial tools that is provided in the internet. Moreover, these abilities are needed in the workforce, so students should be well prepared. For these reasons, governments should consider internet access as a priority in education development and allocate enough budget to provide it in every secondary schools. (word count: 589)