

THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN CHILDREN'S CHARACTER EDUCATION

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Abstrak: Orang tua merupakan salah satu lembaga pendidikan yang pertama dan paling utama dalam diri seorang anak, karena seorang anak dibesarkan dan dilahirkan dari orang tua, serta akan berkembang menuju dewasa. Orang tua merupakan panutan pagi seorang anak. karena setiap anak mula-mula mengagumi orang tuanya semua tingkah orang tuanya di tiru oleh anak anaknya. Metode dalam penelitian ini menggunakan metode study kepustakaan (library research). Hasil dari penelitian ini peran orang tua menjadi sangat penting dalam pendidikan karakter anak yaitu untuk siap menghadapi berbagai macam kehidupan pada masa dewasanya kelak. Pendidikan karakter anak tidak lepas dari peran orang tua, dimana anak akan memiliki karakter yang baik apabila peran orang tua dalam membentuk karakter anak tersebut dijalankan dengan baik pula. Peran orang tua menjadi penentu karakter anak karena anak akan meniru perilaku orang tua dan orang tua merupakan orang pertama yang menjadi suri tauladannya.

Kata Kunci: Peran, Orang Tua, Pendidikan Karakter Anak.

***Abstract:** Parents are one of the first and most important educational institutions in a child, because a child is raised and born from parents, and will develop towards adulthood. Parents are a child's morning role model. because every child first admires his parents, all the behavior of his parents is imitated by his children. The method in this research uses the library research method. The results of this study indicate that the role of parents is very important in children's character education, namely to be ready to face various kinds of life in adulthood. Children's character education cannot be separated from the role of parents, where children will have good character if the role of parents in shaping the child's character is carried out properly. The role of parents determines the character of the child because the child will imitate the behavior of the parents and the parents are the first person to be a role model.*

Keywords: Role, Parents, Child Character Education.

Introduction

Parents are one of the first and most important educational institutions in a child, because a child is raised and born from parents, and will develop towards adulthood. Parents are a child's morning role model. because every child first admires his parents, all the behavior of his parents is imitated by his children. (Abdul Mujib, 2008) Children's behavior will be good if the behavior of their parents is good. And the child's behavior will be bad if his parents behave badly. In other words, it is the parents who have the duty and responsibility in determining the good and bad character of the child. The role of parents can be done by educating, fostering and raising them to adulthood. (Dindin, 2013).

In this case parents have a very important role, and parents are the first and main teacher for education and shaping children's character. Children's character is formed and placed in the environment where the child is through value education (Mitchell & Sackney, 2016). Children's character is influenced by biological or innate factors from parents and environmental factors. The values that children internalize will encourage children to embody these values in behavior (Fadhilah & Deswalantri, 2022). Repetition of the same behavior will produce children's character. The family, as one of the three centers of education, is tasked with forming positive habits as a strong foundation in informal education (Idris, 2018). With these habits, children will follow or adjust with the example of their parents. However, the busyness of work and the dynamics of modern society often force parents to leave their main duties as educators when at home. This happens because children and parents are getting less together (Nuary, Hartono, 2020).

As parents, they must have responsibilities, although the responsibilities of parents are different from the responsibilities of other parents. The most important responsibility of parents is to provide values and character education to their children (Hornby & Blackwell, 2018). Where parents are the first figure known by the child and indirectly or directly through the actions of parents will shape the child's character, the child's attitude that will appear and be done in the future (Lisa, 2020). Children will have a good and strong character if the character education process applied by both parents in the family is carried out properly and well, and vice versa. Because the family is the first environment for children in which children grow and develop both physically and mentally, as well as socially by absorbing and imitating everything they see and hear (Afandi & Mustajab, 2019; Fatahillah et al., 2023).

However, what is happening now is the lack of intensity of guidance given by parents to their children. This is because parents are too focused on how to meet the needs of clothing, food and shelter. Meanwhile, the need for guidance, love and affection is very minimal.

Parents initially played a role in guiding basic attitudes and skills, such as religious education to obey the rules, and for good habituation, but their role has expanded, namely as a companion to academic education (Mahbengi et al., 2021). The success of a child's education cannot be separated from the role of parents as the first teachers who introduce education in the midst of the family in the form of informal education (Goodall, 2018; Luschei & Jeong, 2021). This role is the initial step for them to climb the next levels of education. So that parents have a quite important role in directing, educating, and shaping children's personalities so that they have good character, religion, and also humanism (Fauziana et al., 2021; Nurasni, 2021).

Based on some of the explanations above, it is the basis for researchers to examine more deeply and describe the role of parents in children's character education.

Method

This research is a library research, what is meant by library research is a series of activities related to library data collection methods, recording, reading and processing research materials and this research is research that utilizes library sources to obtain research data. (Mestika Zed, 2004) The data source in this research is secondary data sources, namely journals, books and other reading sources that support the object of research. The data analysis used is content analysis.

Results and Discussion

The Role of Parents

According to the dictionary of psychology, character is personality viewed from an ethical and moral point of view. and morals, for example, someone's honesty, usually has relatively correct traits. right. (Aziz, 2011: 197-198). Character can also be defined as psychological traits, character, which distinguishes a person from other people (Elmubarok, 2007: 102).

Referring to the above understanding, it can be interpreted that personality is a term directed at the application of noble values in the form of behavior that is the same as morality. Personality is the values of human behavior that encompass all human activities, whether related to humans with God, with themselves, or humans with fellow humans, as well as humans with their environment, which are manifested in the form of thoughts, feelings, words, attitudes, or actions based on religion, norms and karma systems, laws, culture, and customs.

Good values that represent personality can be in the form of values in religious teachings and values that already exist in social life. If a person is able to apply these values in daily social life, then that person can be said to have character or a person with character, as

well as children. In simple terms, personality is an inherent characteristic of human beings since birth and is shaped by a lifelong learning process. Education is a process of changing human behavior, while character is a characteristic/identity inherent in humans. Lickona (Muchlas Samani, 2012: 44) describes character education to an effort that is intentionally designed to improve the character of students. Meanwhile, according to Scerenko (Muchlas Samani, 2012: 45) defines character education as a serious effort by looking for a positive personality and then developing, encouraging and empowering it through exemplary, study, and emulation practices which are the maximum effort to realize the wisdom of what is observed and learned.

Character education is not just teaching what is right and wrong, character education instills habits (habituation) about which things are good so that children become aware (cognitive) of what is right and wrong, able to feel (affective) good values and usually do it (psychomotor). In other words, good character education must involve not only aspects of "good knowledge" (moral knowing), but also "feeling good" (moral feeling), and "good behavior" (moral action) (Permono, 2013: 1).

Character education is an effort to instill habits in the form of good attitudes or behavior so that an individual understands and is able to feel and carry it out. According to Ratna Megawangi, the cultivation of good habits in children in character education is found in the Nine pillars of character as follows:

1. God and truth-loving behavior.
2. Attitude of responsibility, discipline and independence.
3. Attitude of trustworthiness.
4. Respectful and polite behavior.
5. Kind and humble attitude.
6. Attitudes of compassion, caring and cooperation.
7. Fair behavior and leadership.
8. Confident, creative, and unyielding attitude.
9. Tolerance and peace-loving behavior.

The nine characters are fundamental things that must be instilled in children from an early age. With the hope that one day children will become people who are useful to others, resilient and strong in facing challenges in the future. The cultivation of these character values should begin in the child's first environment, namely the family. So the role of parents in the family is as the basic foundation of children's character values to be able to develop in life in society. Character education has a higher meaning than moral education because character education is not only related to right or wrong, but how to instill habits about good things in life so that children have a high awareness and understanding as well as concern and commitment to establish virtues in everyday life (Harun, 2013: 303).

The Role of Parents

Determining the physical and mental development of children is the role of both parents as the first and main educators for children from birth to adulthood. In the process of forming knowledge, it is very important to be carried out by parents through various parenting methods. Education in the family plays a very important role in the development of personality, character, cultural values, religious and moral values and simple skills.

According to Thomas Lickona's opinion, people generally view the family as the most important source of moral education for children. They are the first teachers in educating morals. The relationship between parents and children is influenced by various special differences in emotions, which cause children to feel loved and appreciated or vice versa (Lickona, 2016: 48). Thus the conditions in the family also affect the character education of a child, a family atmosphere without violence is one of the most effective solutions to make a child feel comfortable, peaceful and serene when at home, finally the child has stable

emotions so that good character will be formed. Parents have many roles in influencing the mindset and behavior of a child. The roles of parents are as follows:

1. Parents can explain good and bad things to their children, it is important for children to get an explanation of whether the behavior is okay to do, or not in words that are easy to understand.
2. Harsh education will also cause the child's character to become harsh, although using harsh methods will discipline the child, but it will also, increase the likelihood of the child becoming uncomfortable.
3. What parents do will be imitated by the child, the child will follow what make a habit of their parents.
4. Parents should be able to protect their children from bad social environments.
5. Giving affection and encouragement, parents should shower their children with affection and respect, both when they get good test scores and when they do not get the desired results because they have worked very hard.

When associated with children's rights, according to (Sugiharti, 2005: 16) the duties and responsibilities of parents include:

1. Responsible for nurturing with love since the child was born.
2. Maintain and maintain children's health.
3. Providing play equipment, space and opportunities to play.
4. Provide education according to the interests and talents of the child.
5. Embedding religious education and protecting children from external violence.
6. Provide opportunities for children to develop and have opinions according to the age of the child.

The role of parents in influencing children's character is no longer only assigned to mothers. The father's role in shaping children's character is very large. Fathers should still be obliged to maintain interaction with their children, such as inviting them to talk, joke, and play. Young children obviously cannot be separated from their father.

The role played by parents in shaping character to children is done in the following ways (Widianto, 2015: 35):

1. Instill the value of goodness to children.
2. Using methods that make children have the desire to do good. The role of parents is done by giving several examples to children about the character that is being built.
3. Developing an attitude of loving good deeds. In order for children to develop good character, it is necessary to reward children who make a habit of doing good. Likewise, with children who commit offenses, so that they are given punishment that is educational in nature.
4. Carrying out good deeds. The character that has begun to be built through the concept is applied in the informal learning process in the family. In addition, parents also continue to monitor children's development in the practice of character building at home. Parents for children will be considered a model. All behavior of parents will be adopted by children. What parents do may be considered right by children. For this reason, parents must be able to set a positive example.

Rosikun divides the roles of a father and mother in the formation of a child's character. A father in the family has several roles as follows (Rosikum, 2018: 299-300):

1. As a loyal friend to his child.
2. Fulfilling the family's livelihood.
3. Developing the potential that exists in the child as well as a teacher for the child.
4. As an example of personality, affection, behavior and morality to the child. Father as a steady influence on the child towards the stage of maturity.
5. As a filter and monitor of children's social behavior.

6. As a counselor and friend for spoiled children.

In contrast to the father figure, a mother generally plays more of a role as a guardian of children's safety and health, as well as the first school for her child. The role of a mother is influenced on the basis of norms, culture, social class, and the type of socialization received. Thus, there is a wide variation in the behavioral manifestations caused by mothers to their children.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The role of parents is very important in children's character education, namely to be ready to face various kinds of life in adulthood. Children's character education cannot be separated from the role of parents, where children will have good character if the role of parents in shaping the child's character is carried out properly. The role of parents determines the character of the child because the child will imitate the behavior of the parents and the parents are the first person to be a role model.

The family environment is influential in shaping children's character, because children at this time spend a lot of time in the family environment. For example, the way a child dresses, acts, and behaves on a daily basis is usually not much different from the people in the family environment. The results of several studies show that half of the variability of an adult's intelligence is already formed in children aged 4 years. A further 30% improvement is formed by the time the child is 8 years old, and the remaining 20% improvement by the end of ten years of age, which is the absorption of the family environment for the growth of the child's character. Therefore, a good environment will form a positive character. Thus the conditions in the family also affect the character education of a child, a family atmosphere without violence is one of the most effective solutions to make a child feel comfortable, peaceful and serene when at home, finally the child has stable emotions so that good character will be formed.

So the role of parents in children's character education is decisive for the formation of the child's character. So it is hoped that parents realize the importance of character education for children, what parents must do first is understand the child's situation so that parents can know what methods they should use in shaping the child's character.

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