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THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN SHAPING CHILDREN'S CHARACTER

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Abstract- *The role of parents in shaping children's character has a significant impact on children's personal and social development. This research explores the key role of parents in shaping children's character through various interactions and influences in daily life. The type of research that researchers conduct is qualitative field research. The data sources that researchers use are primary data sources and secondary data sources. The primary data sources that researchers used were 20 parents and 25 children aged 6-12 years. The findings of this study reveal that, the role of parents in shaping children's character is carried out with five roles of parents, namely educating through behavioral examples, implementing an early education system, conducting a habituation system, a culture of dialogue between parents and children, and applying the principle of justice in managing the time available. Thus, it can be concluded that the role of parents in shaping children's character is not just a task, but an important mission that requires active involvement, deep understanding, and strong commitment.*

Keywords: role of parents, education, child character

INTRODUCTION

Parents play an important role as one of the primary and fundamental educational influences for a child. This is because a child is nurtured and brought into the world by parents, and develops towards adulthood under their guidance. In education management, positive behavior models from parents can influence how children learn and interact in formal and informal education environments (Akmal et al., 2015). Parents serve as early role models for a child, as children usually see and imitate their parents. Parents' actions and behaviors will be mirrored by their children, influencing whether children exhibit positive or negative behaviors. Basically, parents have the duty and responsibility to shape the moral character of their children, with the understanding that children's behavior tends to reflect the behavior of their parents (Purniasih & Ariawan, 2022). In addition, the period of child development is a critical period in the formation of individual character that will have a long-term impact on their lives. In this context, the role of parents is the main factor that greatly influences the formation of children's character (Hibatulloh & Ali, 2023). By providing a moral foundation, values, and emotional support, parents have a central role in shaping children's personalities. This implies that the formation of children's character starts early, even from the time the child is born. Many parents do not understand their duties as educators at home, they only provide school education to children even though the formation of good or bad character of children begins with the upbringing of parents at home. Children will grow and develop with the habits they experience. Children are easily influenced by the associations that occur outside, it all also happens because parents do not form good character strongly in children from an early age (Tan & Yasin, 2020).

The role of parents can be done by educating, fostering and raising them to adulthood. Parents are the main key to success in shaping children's character. The first step is an important thing that must be considered and maintained as well as possible, because in fact a child is created in a state ready to accept good and bad (Zubaidah et al., 2023). It is only the two parents who make a tendency to one of them. Character formation is also largely determined by parents, especially in infancy. The period that determines how character formation. Therefore, children who are often given advice, see good things, enough affection, then after adulthood the child's character will be well formed (Zubaidah et al., 2023). The importance of the role of parents in shaping children's character is not only limited to genetic aspects or the physical environment, but also involves interpersonal interactions, communication, and education of moral values. Parents as the main model for their children, provide examples that will form the basis of children's behavior and attitudes towards the world around them. Involved parents can ensure effective communication between school and home (Lembong et al., 2015). This aims to understand the educational innovations implemented at school and apply them consistently at home (Saraswati et al., 2014). In addition, evaluating parental involvement and the implementation of educational innovations can provide valuable insights for the development and improvement of children's character education programs (Hutomo et al., 2012; Darmanto et al., 2014).

Children should have essential character values, including conscience and a spirit of generosity. Values of conscience include traits such as courage, honesty, and peace-loving, while values of giving involve loyalty, trustworthiness, respect, courtesy, friendliness, and kindness. As primary educators, parents should have the ability to instill these character values in their children. Building character is not a matter of memorization, but rather develops through habits, attitudes adopted in challenging situations, and words spoken to others. Given the importance and

intricacies of the challenges that children face, parents must instill positive character traits early on to strengthen their children's foundation. This proactive approach aims to ensure that children, in the future, are not entangled or unduly influenced by external factors outside the home environment (Berkowitz & Grych, 1998). This is because there is hope that one day children will have good character. Parental role modeling has a significant impact on children's character building. Parents who model positive behavior, morality, and responsibility can help form a strong character foundation in children. In addition, communication between parents and children also plays a key role in shaping character (Darmawan et al., 2018). Education of moral values, ethics, and social norms through open and respectful dialogue can help children understand these concepts and internalize them in their daily behavior. Furthermore, emotional support provided by parents can shape children's self-confidence, mental resilience and emotional well-being. Parents' availability to listen, pay attention, and provide positive support can help children overcome developmental challenges and develop a balanced character (Febriani et al., 2023). Thus, the role of parents in shaping children's character is an important aspect in directing children's development towards individuals who have moral values, responsibility, and empathy. Parents' awareness of their role as models, educators, and emotional supporters is key to creating an environment that supports the formation of positive and strong children's character. Therefore, given the importance and complexity of the problems that exist in children that will result in children can be trapped and influenced by the environment outside the home that is not good so that it can lead to a moral crisis. Based on the background that has been described, the focus of this research is the role of parents in shaping children's character.

RESEARCH METHODS

The type of research that researchers do is qualitative field research. The data sources that researchers use are primary data sources and secondary data sources. Primary data sources that researchers use are 20 parents and 25 children aged 6-12 years. Researchers used various data collection methods to achieve these research objectives with observation methods, interview methods, documentation methods. The observation method is an indicator in recording behavior and direct interaction between parents and children aged 6-12 years. In this way, researchers can observe their relationships in various contexts, including at home, school, or in everyday situations. The interview method was used to gain insights directly from the participants, namely parents and children. Interviews provide an opportunity for them to talk about their experiences, views and feelings regarding family relationships. This can provide an important subjective dimension to understanding the factors that influence the relationship. The documentation method was a tool to gather information from various related documents. These consisted of family records and children's growth histories.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Character is personality or morals in which there are basic values of behavior based on the nature and way of thinking that is unique to each individual to live and work together both in the family and community environment (Peterson & Seligman, 2004). The character will be attached to a person's ethical or moral point of departure which usually has a connection with the evil or bad nature of a person. The root of all evil and bad actions, acts of crime, lies in the loss of character. The initial foundation of character formation has been built since childhood and parents are the main educators and factors that support the formation of children's character are the school environment and society (Djazilan & Darmawan, 2021). In addition, various other sources add knowledge that will lead a person to have enormous abilities. Early childhood has different characteristics from adults, because early childhood grows and develops in many different ways. Therefore, of course, we must understand and understand the various basic characteristics of early childhood. Failure to cultivate a good personality at an early age can form a problematic person in adulthood. Character building in early childhood is problematic. Because those characters will be the center of attention to be developed and directed into positive characters. Children's character building can be done by parents starting from the age of 0-8 years. In this period the child's character is still subject to change and is very dependent on the life experiences he goes through. In addition, it is through this environment that children get to know the surrounding world and the social patterns of life that apply daily. It is through this family environment that children experience the initial socialization process. Parents usually devote their attention to educating their children, so that the child gets the basics of a correct and good life association, through the cultivation of discipline and freedom and their balance. At this time parents and other family members conduct socialization through affection, on the basis of which affection is educated to recognize certain values, such as the value of order, the value of peace and other values. In the family environment, parents are responsible for a family or household, and it is appropriate if parents devote attention, supervision and guidance to educate children so that the child acquires the basics and patterns of good and correct educational life associations, through the cultivation of discipline and freedom in harmony.

Children are a trust given by God to humans (6-12 years old). What the child becomes in the future is very dependent on the parents. Parents and the surrounding environment will shape it. The role of parents is as good educators in the family who will form a good child's personality, the development of the child's personality will be controlled and shaped with guidance and assistance, because parents are the first place of education for children. Parents are the first and most important center of education because since the emergence of humanity until now. Parents always influence the growth of the character of each human being. Parents play an important role in shaping the character of their children by being their primary guide and role model. Guidance involves the use of effective behaviors that effectively lead children to become valuable individuals. For this to work, the effective behaviors exhibited by parents need to be reinforced by community policies implemented by regulators and adhered to by all members of the community in various aspects of daily life.

The role of parents in shaping character means teaching children good character and disciplining children to behave according to what has been taught. Parents are also obliged to create a warm and peaceful atmosphere and become a positive role model for children. This is in accordance with the opinion below. Since birth, his mother has always been by his side. Therefore, the child will imitate his mother. The father's role towards his child is also great. The role of parents is quite large, children recognize the meaning of good and bad from parents through what is often seen, heard in parents, speech, actions displayed especially by parents. Thus, when a child's character has been formed, parents are obliged to develop it. Character development is done by instilling basic ethical values. The goal is for children to have good character. Indicators of good character consist of understanding and caring for basic ethical values and acting on the basis of core ethical values or pure ethics. In detail, there are 10 ways that parents can do to develop good character in children, including: (1) putting the duties and obligations of fathers and mothers as the main agenda; (2) evaluating in spending time during the day/week; (3) preparing to be the best example; (4) opening eyes and ears to what children are absorbing or experiencing; (5) using the language of character; (6) children will be able to develop their character if their parents use straightforward and clear language about good and bad behavior; (7) giving punishment with love; (8) learning to listen to children; (9) being involved in children's school life; (10) not educating character through words alone. In addition, how should parents educate and care for children from an early age so that the child grows into a person with character below are ways that can be applied in the formation of children's character by parents, namely: (1) supporting children's self-confidence; (2) paying attention to children's good behavior; (3) setting limits and being consistent with discipline directed at children; (4) giving your time, presence, and attention to children; (5) being a good role-model; (6) communication is a priority in relationships with children; (7) unconditional love; (8) teaching children to have problem-solving skills.

Regarding the role of parents in shaping children's character, then: (1) giving examples of good behavior to children such as speaking politely to elders has been taught, but children are getting older and more aware of socializing with their friends. Educating through behavioral examples has been applied, by teaching politeness and scolding him, but the child is getting older starting to be brave with older people, then if his wishes are not fulfilled then the child will get angry and cry. For this reason, shaping children's character for honesty, mutual respect, courtesy, kindness, friendliness, and obeying religious rules for children aged 6-12 years is very good through behavioral examples, and it has been taught such as speaking politely and maintaining attitude. Parents play an important role in shaping their children's character by being their primary mentors and role models. Guidance involves the use of effective behaviors that effectively lead children to become valuable individuals. For this to work, the effective behaviors exhibited by parents need to be reinforced by community policies that are implemented by policymakers and adhered to by all members of the community in various aspects of daily life. In everyday life, parents must also improve their behavior first. Train themselves as well as model their children to be honest, friendly, and obey the rules in accordance with Islamic teachings. This makes children able to leave the bad and carry out the good; (2) early childhood education can indeed affect the formation of children's character, if children are freed not taught what they want to be, I teach help, honesty and tell the rewards that will be received if they lie. Parents play a very important role in early education for their children. For children, parents are the first and main educators known before the community and school environment. Parents should educate from an early age to be honest, respectful, polite, kind, friendly, and obey the rules. This aims to provide provisions for children's character in later development. Early education for children must be given because children learn first with parents and then teachers. Like a building of early education for children is a foundation if the foundation is strong the building will be strong, and vice versa, if the foundation is not strong then the building is not strong either, because parents are the determinants of success and child character. That way parents try to teach children honesty, mutual respect, courtesy, kindness, friendliness, and obeying the rules. That way educating children from an early age will create habits that will shape the character of the child and parents as the main educator can educate their children from small things. Children will be educated to get used to speaking openly, honestly and obeying the rules. However, relationships can also affect children's character, so parents must also be careful in including children in relationships. This aims to make the application of the early education system to get honest characters, mutual respect, courtesy, responsibility, kindness, friendliness, and obeying the rules well formed; (3) parents say they have familiarized their children in obeying religious rules, for example carrying out worship on time. Parents have familiarized a child towards inner training safety and will

be more effective if supported by a habituation system. Accustoming children to apply honesty, mutual respect, courtesy, kindness, friendliness, and obeying the rules so that children have good character. as cultural symptoms and social symptoms will shape children's character for the better. Accustoming children to obey religious rules so that children can have good character is very effective and has been implemented, for example, carrying out the five daily prayers regularly so that they have good character; (4) the culture of dialogue between parents and children is already running. Parents have been able to sort and choose words in dialoguing or giving advice, because every word that comes out of what parents say to children will be quickly captured and attached to the child's memory. Dialogue with children that is mutually enjoyable is also very necessary in the formation of children's character. Having a reciprocal dialog giving advice while listening to the complaints experienced by children is very effective in shaping children's character. Dialogue is a situation that expresses a feeling, expresses complaints, complaints to parents whose nature is very strong and full of tenderness. Dialogue with children to develop children's character who are honest, respectful, responsible for the tasks assigned, kind, friendly, and obey religious rules given purely without reciprocation; (5) managing available time, this is where parents are required to be selective and wise in determining the allocation of time for careers and responsibilities as parents. From the results of the discussion, there is a role of parents in shaping children's character to apply the principle of justice in managing the available time.

CONCLUSIONS

The role of parents in shaping children's character is carried out with five roles of parents, namely educating through behavioral examples, implementing an early education system, conducting a habituation system, a culture of dialogue between parents and children, and applying the principle of justice in managing available time. Thus, it can be concluded that the role of parents in shaping children's character is not just a task, but an important mission that requires active involvement, deep understanding, and strong commitment. Parents are not only responsible for fulfilling their children's physical needs, but also have a great moral, emotional and intellectual responsibility. Parents are the main role models for children. Positive actions and behaviors shown by parents will be a strong example for children's character development. Therefore, self-awareness of the values upheld and consistency in daily behavior are important keys in shaping children's character. In addition, being actively involved, being a good role model, building healthy communication, teaching moral values, and providing emotional support are all integral parts of a parent's role in shaping a child's character. By doing this, we not only steer children towards a successful life, but also contribute to the formation of individuals who have positive values and strong ethics in society. Based on this statement, several suggestions are given, including: (1) parents should maximize the principle of fairness in managing the time available for children so that character building runs more effectively; (2) children should respect each other, be polite, have a sense of responsibility, be kind and obey the rules and children should be able to be more open with both parents and understand their parents' busy schedules.

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