

**SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW (SLR):
THE ROLE OF LEARNING COMMUNITIES IN THE FORMATION OF CHILDREN'S
CHARACTER THROUGH CHILDREN'S EDUCATION BASED ON HABITUTION**

METHODS

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ABSTRACT

Early childhood education plays a significant role in shaping children's holistic development. Empowering learning communities has been recognized as an effective strategy in strengthening the initial foundations of early childhood education. This article uses the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) research method to explore the practice of empowering learning communities in early childhood education. Findings from SLR show that collaboration between parents, teachers, government and local communities can create a supportive learning environment for young children. Through analysis of existing literature, this article provides insight into how empowering learning communities can be an effective strategy in building a strong initial foundation for Early Childhood Education.

Keywords: *empowerment, learning community, Early Childhood, early foundations, collaboration, child development .*

INTRODUCTION

At an early age, children experience significant progress in various aspects, such as fine and gross motor skills, thinking, creativity, and language and communication. They also show

development in various types of intelligence, such as intellectual (IQ), emotional (EQ), spiritual (SQ), or religious (RQ), according to their stage of development. The importance of providing guidance and direction during this period is to facilitate the building of a strong foundation for holistic human growth and development. The learning process in early childhood should aim to present basic concepts that are meaningful to them through real experiences that enable them to explore their activities and curiosity optimally. (Ariyanti. 2016)

Based on the provisions of Constitution Number 20 of 2003, Early Childhood Education (PAUD) refers to coaching efforts provided to children from birth to 6 years of age through various types of educational stimulation. The main goal is to support children's physical and spiritual growth so that they are ready to participate in further education. . Article 9 paragraph 1 of the Law emphasizes the right of every child to receive education in accordance with their personal development, interests and talents. PAUD is considered important because: 1) early childhood is a sensitive period with rapid physical, motoric, intellectual and social growth, 2) most of a person's intelligence variability occurs in early childhood (the first 4 years), 3) early childhood is a crucial phase in establishing the basis for a child's growth and development.

The role of PAUD is very important in forming human character as a whole. The main goal of early childhood education is to develop positive character, high morality, intelligence, happiness, skills and strong spirituality. The early childhood education process can start either from the family environment or through educational efforts provided by family members. According to the regulations governing early childhood education, attention given to character formation is the main focus in building national civilization. Regarding character formation from an early age, it is considered a very important step because Currently, children are going through an important period in their development. Character education that starts from an early age has a significant and sustainable impact in shaping children's personalities, providing a strong foundation for their future development.

Learning communities are the right environment to shape the character of young children. By participating in social interactions with peers and adults who are active in the community, children. have the opportunity to internalize social values, improve their social skills, and foster mutually supportive and positive relationships. In the learning community, children are also given the opportunity to take part in

various activities that support character formation, including arts, sports and social activities. In learning communities, children are given opportunities to participate in various activities that support character formation, including arts, sports and social activities. Character formation in early childhood also occurs through continuous practice. Through daily routines, children are taught to obey rules, maintain cleanliness, and respect other people. This process helps them absorb positive values and form good habits from an early age.

Early childhood education has an undeniable role in shaping children's character and advancing national civilization. By introducing character education from an early age and involving the learning community, children have the potential to become quality individuals, show positive personalities, and be able to make positive contributions to society. So, it is important to provide proper attention and support to early childhood education, in order to ensure a better future for future generations.

Empowerment, at its core, involves giving strength or ability to vulnerable or weak individuals or groups, so that they can meet basic needs, improve economic well-being, and be involved in development processes and decision-making that affect them. This means giving them greater freedom, not only freedom of expression, but also freedom from poverty, ignorance and suffering.

Empowerment programs must be designed differently from other programs which may be authoritarian or sudden in overcoming poverty. Evaluation of empowerment programs requires a special methodology, which takes into account participatory dynamics, achieving success in meeting basic needs, increasing access to productive resources, and the level of involvement in the decision process. Thus, the evaluation approach must be more holistic and consider contextual factors and the long-term sustainability of the empowerment. (Ajeng, 2023)

The formation of a child's character should start in the family environment because this is where children first interact with other people. Character education should start from an early age because at that stage, children are very influenced by their surrounding environment. Apart from that, schools also play an important role in shaping children's character because of the significant role that teachers have in this process. Therefore, close collaboration between families, schools and communities is very important to provide holistic character education to children.

The main focus of education is to shape the human personality as a whole, which includes intellectual, emotional and spiritual aspects. As an institution, schools are morally responsible for guiding

children to reach the level of intelligence expected by parents and society. The role of teachers in this process is crucial because they not only serve as teachers, but also as educators who shape character and morals. children. Therefore, good connectivity between teachers, students and the school environment is an important key in achieving comprehensive educational goals. As educators, teachers are responsible for helping children gain knowledge that is useful for themselves and society, as well as forming good character and personality in accordance with educational goals to develop students' potential in all aspects, including intelligence, personality and noble morals. (Sudaryanti. 2012).

Character education should be implemented from an early age. This period is an important foundation for the formation of the individual in the future. Changing a person's character is not an easy thing because it requires time, consistency in habituation of attitudes and behavior, and a continuous process. However, with the right approach and starting early, we can still instill good character in someone. Forming independent character in children can be done through the application of habituation methods . This method was chosen because at an early age, children are still vulnerable and easily distracted, so they need a sustainable approach to manage their behavior, skills, abilities and thought patterns. Ulwan's opinion (1995) supports this by stating that habituation is a very appropriate method in early childhood education because children tend to be more responsive to teaching and habituation at this time compared to other ages. (Aini, NQ Faturohman, N, & Darmawan, D.. 2023)

During this period, children naturally gain knowledge through playing activities and exploring the environment around them. Effective early childhood education aims to support this learning process by creating a stimulating environment, providing substantial experiences, and promoting healthy social interactions. Apart from that, early childhood education also plays an important role in enriching their social skills, critical thinking abilities, creativity and increasing their independence. By providing a solid foundation in the early stages of life, early childhood education plays a central role in forming individuals who are strong and ready to face the challenges of the future.

The importance of early childhood education is also related to preventing developmental problems that may arise later in life. By paying appropriate attention to the early stages of development, we can identify and overcome developmental barriers more efficiently.

Therefore, early childhood education is not only about conveying academic knowledge, but also about forming individuals comprehensively, who are ready to face a successful and sustainable future. This method recognizes children's overall growth, including physical, emotional, social and cognitive aspects, with the aim that they can become independent individuals and have a positive impact in their social environment.

role of the learning community in this case is (1). Creating a learning environment that suits the developmental needs of early childhood. In this environment, children have the opportunity to interact with peers and adults who are skilled in applying habituation methods. Through these interactions, children can learn directly from experience and observation, allowing them to develop the skills and knowledge necessary for their development. In this way, learning communities create a solid foundation for children's growth towards independence and positive contributions in society. (2). Becoming a Model of Positive Behavior: Members of the learning community, including parents, teachers and other community members, act as models of positive behavior for children. They show examples of excellence in various aspects of daily life, such as tolerance, caring, honesty and hard work. By seeing and imitating these behaviors, children learn to internalize these values in their characters. (3). By incorporating religious values into daily activities, learning communities give children the opportunity to absorb and make these values part of who they are. Through various learning activities that are aligned with the habituation method, children not only learn about ethics and morality, but also develop attitudes that are valued in the religious beliefs they adhere to. This gives them a deep understanding of religious principles and enables them to apply them in their daily lives with full awareness. (4). Providing social and emotional support is one of the key roles of learning communities, where children are provided with meaningful support for their development. They learn the importance of cooperation, effective communication, and positive conflict resolution through interactions with community members (5). Promoting Collaboration and Exchange of Experiences, Learning communities provide opportunities for parents and other caregivers to share experiences, knowledge and strategies in educating early childhood children based on habituation methods. This enriches parents' understanding and skills in supporting children's character development.

Early childhood education has a huge positive effect on children's growth. The following are some important positive impacts of early childhood education:

1. Cognitive Development, Early childhood education paves the way for children to make progress in cognitive skills, including language skills, problem solving abilities, logic, and math skills. They are taught basic concepts and intellectual skills that help them understand the world around them.
2. Emotional Development, Through early childhood education, children are invited to explore and hone their social and emotional skills. They are given the opportunity to recognize and manage the various types of emotions they experience, strengthen positive social relationships, and build the ability to empathize with others . Supported by a supportive environment and sensitive teachers, children learn to interact healthily with peers and adults, and develop skills for working together and resolving conflicts in a constructive way.
3. Social Skills Through early childhood education, children are given the opportunity to interact with peers and adults involved in the learning process. This allows them to develop social skills such as sharing, communicating, working together, and resolving conflicts in a healthy way. . Thus, early childhood education helps them develop a solid foundation in social skills that will help them in their daily lives and interactions with the wider community.
4. Independence: Through early childhood education, children are taught to be independent. They are given the opportunity to make decisions, complete small tasks, and develop the skills necessary to care for themselves.
5. Interest in Learning: A positive and interesting educational environment at an early age can arouse children's interest in learning. Children will feel enthusiastic and enthusiastic about exploring the world around them, encouraging curiosity and intrinsic motivation to learn.
6. Language Ability, Early childhood education plays an important role in the development of children's language abilities. Children are taught speaking, listening, reading and writing skills, which helps them in communicating fluently and understanding information well.
7. Understanding Values and Ethics, Understanding Values and Ethics: Through early childhood education, children are given the opportunity to develop an understanding of moral values, ethics, and social norms that are important in their lives. They are taught the importance of respecting and respecting others, understanding diversity, and acting with integrity

With the availability of quality early childhood education, children are given a solid foundation for their development. They have better skills in various aspects, including intellectual intelligence, social skills, emotional abilities, and moral awareness, which will support them in facing life's challenges in the future. Thus, they are ready to navigate the journey of a better life with high confidence and readiness.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study implements the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) technique, a structured, explicit and accountable method for recognizing, assessing and combining research results and conceptions related to certain objectives. The specific aim is to explore the importance of pre-school education and the function of learning communities in forming a strong initial foundation.

The research process began by formulating a clear research question: "How important is early childhood education and what is the role of learning communities in forming a strong early foundation?"

Furthermore, the research focus is aimed at journals that focus on the importance of early childhood education, using relevant keywords such as empowerment, learning community, early childhood, early foundations, collaboration, and child development. The literature study search was carried out via Google Scholar by limiting the time period from 2012 to 2024.

After collecting suitable articles, a careful selection process was carried out. From the 80 articles collected, 10 articles were selected that were most relevant to the research topic. These articles were then studied in depth, and from there, 6 articles that best suited the material for early childhood education were selected to be included in the analysis. The remaining 70 articles did not meet the inclusion criteria or were not relevant to the research objectives.

Through the flow diagram of the article inclusion and exclusion process, it can be seen that the selection process is carried out systematically and transparently, so that ensuring the selected articles are the most relevant and in accordance with the research objectives is a priority. This helps ensure that the research results have a solid basis and can be relied upon in answering the research questions asked.

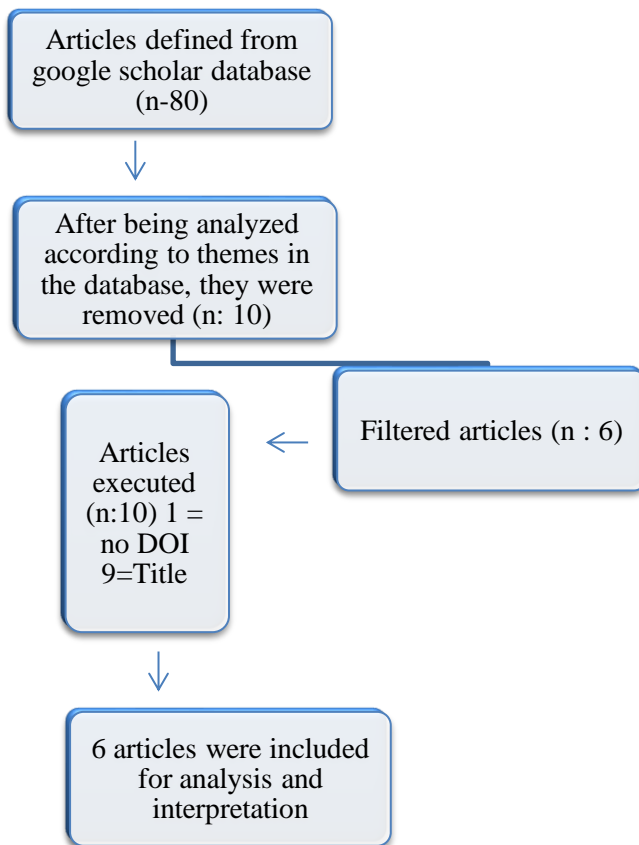


Figure 1. Flow diagram related to the Systematic Literature Review Steps

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Children's early education is an important foundation for their all-round development. At this time, children are experiencing a very sensitive period regarding their physical, motoric, intellectual and social growth. As a result, early childhood education (PAUD) plays a very important role in providing the direction and support needed to optimize children's development and growth in this important period.

Early Childhood Education (PAUD) can be started either in the family environment or in official educational institutions. The importance of character building in children from an early age cannot be overlooked, considering that in this phase children are very vulnerable to absorbing values and habits. An effective method for educating character in PAUD is through the habituation method, where positive values are instilled consistently in children's daily lives.

The research results from 6 journal articles that met the inclusion criteria showed that character education in PAUD has a very significant impact. This impact is reflected in various aspects of children's development, such as social skills, independence, and readiness to face future challenges. Therefore, parents and educators need to have in-depth application in shaping the character of early childhood. This action aims to build a solid foundation for their future development.

Table I. 1 Research Results on Early childhood education builds a strong initial foundation.

NO.	Researcher and researcher year	Journal	Research result
1.	Ariyanti, T. (2016)	Dynamics of the Scientific Journal of Basic Education, 8(1). The importance of early childhood education for child development .	Research findings show that the age from birth to 6 years is a crucial period for a child's development. During this time, children become sensitive and able to respond to various stimuli from their environment. Apart from that, children are also ready to interact with various activities that help them understand and control their surrounding environment. This period is known as the time when the child's physical and psychological functions mature and are ready to face anticipated developmental challenges. Another study found that only about 5% of the brain's potential is utilized during childhood, this is due to a lack of stimulation from the environment. This

			emphasizes the importance of environmental stimulation in optimizing brain function and children's abilities. It is known that environmental stimulation plays an important role in brain development. Research also states that early childhood education is very vital. Previous research has shown that at birth, the human brain already has around 100-200 billion cells that can develop through stimulation from the surrounding environment. Therefore, childhood is the right moment to provide stimuli that can optimize the child's brain potential and development.
2.	Sudaryanti, S. (2012)	Journal of Children's Education 1(1). The importance of character education for early childhood	This article discusses the urgency of character education in early childhood. The results of research conducted by researchers highlight the definition and concept of character education, as well as strategies that can be used to shape character in young children. The results of this research show that character education goes beyond simple concepts of morality, because it does not only focus on understanding the difference between right and wrong, but also on integrating positive values into children's daily lives. The

			<p>research also found that children's character formation should starting from the family environment, and character education needs to be implemented from an early age. Overall, this research confirms the importance of character education as the main foundation in building national character, which should be started early through various approaches and concrete actions. It is hoped that the research results can provide a valuable contribution in efforts to shape the character of young children in the future, by illustrating the importance of introducing positive values and constructive practices for their development.</p>
3.	<p>Aini, NQ Faturhman, N, & Darmawan, D.. (2023)</p>	<p>JECIE (<i>Journal of Early Childhood and Inclusive Education</i>). Implementation of Strengthening Character Education through Habituation Methods to Form Early Childhood Independence at KB Azzahroh Serang.</p>	<p>This research explores how habituation methods can be used to improve the character education and independence of early childhood at KB Azzahroh Serang. . The application of the habituation method has been carried out well, following theoretical principles and appropriate steps. The habituation method consists of three main components: routine activities, spontaneous activities, and example. Actions performed regularly include</p>

			<p>placing slippers or shoes on the shelf and arranging toys back in their place. Meanwhile, spontaneous actions include greeting the teacher and throwing rubbish in its place. Meanwhile, exemplary behavior is carried out through the example of dressing neatly and reading diligently. From the research results, it is proven that applying the habituation method has succeeded in increasing the level of independence of young children. Of the total of 12 students observed, 2 of them achieved an excellent assessment in their development, 8 others showed development as expected, while 2 other students began to show progress. Apart from that, singing, playing and moving activities accompanied by unique songs and chants also succeeded in increasing students' interest in learning. Signs of this improvement can be seen from developments in six aspects of interest in learning, including liking tendencies, expression of desire to learn, level of interest, and intrinsic willingness to learn. active participation, and giving attention. Based on observations, 82% of children were able to follow songs and movements in a fun style, while 18% still had difficulty. Thus, it can be concluded that The FUN play model has been proven to</p>
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			<p>be effective in increasing young children's interest in learning. Using the singing method in the FUN model makes the learning process fun and helps increase children's interest in learning. The teacher's role is also considered very important in creating active and creative learning by utilizing various media to prevent children from getting bored.</p>
4.	<p>Astuti, NP, & Watini, S. (2022)</p>	<p>Literacy: Journal of Educational Sciences Informal, 8(3),2141- 2150 . Increasing Interest in Learning Using Fun Play Models in Early Childhood.</p>	<p>This research aims to increase early childhood interest in learning through the implementation of the FUN play model in the Al Hikmah Islamic Kindergarten, Bekasi City. The FUN play model has been recognized as a patented learning innovation. The research involved 23 students from the B1 Sumayyah group aged 5-6 years. The method used is Classroom Action Research which includes four stages: planning, implementation, observation and reflection. The research results show that the use of the FUN play model, which involves singing, playing and moving activities accompanied by songs and unique chants , has succeeded in increasing students' interest in learning. This increase can be seen from improvements in 6 indicators of learning interest, including liking, expression of interest, learning awareness, active</p>

			<p>participation, and concentration. From the results of observations, 82% of children were able to follow songs and movements in a fun model, while 18% still needed further assistance. Thus, it is concluded that the FUN play model is effective in increasing young children's interest in learning. The use of the singing method in this model makes the learning process fun and helps increase children's interest in learning. The teacher's role is also recognized as very important in creating an active and creative learning environment, as well as using various media so that children do not feel bored. .</p>
5.	Muhammad, et al (2023)	<p>Positive Activities: Journal of Community Service Results, 1(3), 54–66. Early Age Community Empowerment Through the Child-Friendly Home Program in Aenganyar Village, Giligenting Island, Sumenep.</p>	<p>Initial observations show that the local community's response to this program is very positive. Initial evaluation shows that this program was well received by the local community. The children who took part in this program seemed very enthusiastic in participating in the activities held. In terms of education, program participants experienced increased learning achievement, especially in mathematics and English, based on initial observation results. Social abilities and dancing skills as well as pencak silat martial arts also experience significant development. Initial surveys conducted with parents of program participants</p>

			<p>showed a high level of satisfaction with the benefits their children received. Parents feel that children are more motivated to learn and appear more enthusiastic. The relationship between children and program officers also looks harmonious and positive. Overall, the initial evaluation results show that the Child Friendly Home program is running effectively and has had a positive impact on children's development. However, further evaluation is needed to measure the long-term benefits of this program.</p>
6.	Muntoharoh, K., & Sugiarto, E. (2020).	Eduarts: Journal of Arts Education, 9(2), 50-59. Creative expressions of children's painting at the Sobat Kecil learning park community in Semarang.	<p>The research results show that children's creative process in creating painting works involves four main stages, namely preparation, incubation, illumination and verification. In the preparation stage, children choose the media they will use in their work. The incubation stage involves making initial sketches as the first step in creating the work. The illumination stage involves the process of painting the entire object that the child wants to reveal. Finally, the verification stage involves assessing and reflecting on the completed work. In this process, children's creative expressions emerge when they find ideas and choose appropriate media. Analysis of the work shows that it is unique in accordance with the children's age, where</p>

			they are able to express themselves through the objects they create. The important role of the community is also seen in helping children choose freely and shape their creativity. Based on the results of this research, it is recommended that communities can develop more innovative activities for children. This can involve introducing new media and techniques, as well as giving children the opportunity to experiment and explore their creativity more widely. Thus, this process provides greater opportunities for children to hone their creative potential and express themselves through works of art that are not only unique but also original.
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Discussion

Based on research that has been conducted related to early childhood education, emphasis is placed on how important the early development phase is in forming a solid foundation for the child's overall growth and development. The period starting from birth to 6 years is considered a crucial phase, where children are very sensitive to stimuli from their environment. In this phase, environmental stimulation plays a very important role in optimizing brain function and children's abilities. Research shows that a small portion of the brain's potential is utilized in childhood, largely due to a lack of environmental stimulation. Therefore, the importance of early childhood education, both from the family environment and formal educational institutions, is crucial to ensure that children receive the necessary stimulation to optimize their development.

Apart from physical and intellectual aspects, early childhood education also has a crucial role in shaping children's character and morality. Character education starting from an early age is an important step to prepare children to face various situations and challenges in the future. Studies show that character

education is not only about teaching the concepts of right and wrong, but also helping children feel and apply positive values in their daily lives. The family environment is the first place where character formation must begin, but the role of schools and communities is also very important in this process.

The habituation method has been proven to be an effective way to form independence and character in young children. Through a series of routine, spontaneous activities and positive examples, children can directly experience the application of positive values in their daily lives. Studies also show that interesting and fun learning approaches, such as the FUN play model, can increase young children's interest in learning. By combining singing, playing and moving activities into the learning process, children become more enthusiastic and involved in learning activities.

In addition, initiatives that focus on early childhood community empowerment, such as the Child Friendly Home program, have also been proven to have a positive impact on children's development. Such programs not only improve academic performance, but also contribute to the development of social skills and overall well-being of children. Through interaction with the environment and surrounding community, children can broaden their experiences and optimize their potential. This kind of program emphasizes the importance of a safe and supportive learning environment, where children can grow and develop in a positive and supportive atmosphere. They are taught to respect other people and the environment around them, while being given opportunities to develop their personal skills and interests.

Additionally, these types of programs also play a role in strengthening bonds between children and adult community members around them. Through established relationships, children feel supported and motivated to learn and develop. This research also confirms the need for creative and innovative approaches in early childhood education. Interesting and fun learning methods, such as the FUN play model, have been proven effective in increasing children's interest in learning. By implementing this method, the learning process becomes more interesting and enjoyable for children, which in turn can increase their involvement in learning and help them understand and remember information better.

Overall, this research reinforces the importance of early childhood education in forming a solid foundation for children's holistic development, including physical, mental, social and moral aspects. This shows how crucial quality education is in the early stages of life in helping to form well-rounded individuals. balanced, happy and successful. Therefore, investment in early childhood education can be seen as an investment in the future of our society and nation.

CONCLUSION

The conclusions from the discussion above reflect several important points about the importance of early childhood education and the role of learning communities in forming children's character. Below are some key aspects that can be concluded from the discussion.

1. The Importance of a Strong Initial Foundation in Early Childhood Education (PAUD). Early childhood education has a very important role in forming the initial foundation for holistic child development. In this phase, children are very sensitive to stimuli from their environment, so proper education is needed to ensure optimal development.
2. Starting Character Formation Early: Children's character formation should start from an early age, because during this period children tend to more easily absorb values and habits. Character education in PAUD can be carried out through various methods, including habituation, which has been proven to be effective in forming children's independence.
3. The Significant Role of Learning Communities: Learning communities, such as families, schools, or programs such as Child Friendly Homes, have a very important role in shaping the character of young children. Good collaboration between various parties allows children to develop skills, understand social values, and build good relationships with adults.
4. Creative Approach to Learning, Creative and fun learning methods, such as the FUN play model or painting art activities in the Sobat Kecil Semarang learning park community, show that a fun approach can be the key to success in the early childhood learning process. This approach not only enriches children's learning experiences, but also strengthens their engagement in learning.
5. The Importance of Awareness of PAUD. Efforts to increase awareness of the importance of early childhood education and the role of learning communities are very important in building a strong foundation for future generations. Collaboration between various parties in providing quality education for early childhood is an important investment in building a better future for society and the nation as a whole.

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