

CHARACTER EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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ABSTRACT

Character education is important in education, especially for children, so character education is taught in schools so that children have good, commendable character and are useful for society. Character education is practiced in every environment where children are. The family environment is the first environment that children come into contact with. Parents have a responsibility to instill good attitudes in their children. Parents should not completely entrust their children's character education to teachers. Parents and teachers are role models that children should emulate, both in words and actions. Character formation in children can be done through advice, habituation, strengthening and example. This research aims to examine research literature related to the topic of character education in elementary schools. This research method applies the SLR (systematic literature review) method. Data collection was carried out by recording relevant articles on similar research. The articles collected and used in this search were eight national journal articles which could be taken from the Google Scholar database. According to research, in the era of globalization, a person's high moral character is also one of the keys to success in establishing connections in the social world.

Keyword: character, children

INTRODUCTION

Education in Indonesia is now filled with science and the demands of modern globalization which put aside moral values and character in shaping students' personalities, resulting in students who are intelligent but lack ethics. Therefore, this situation makes it difficult for the world of education to become a forum for creating national offspring. (Devianti, Sari & Bangsawan 2020).

Education is a conscious and planned effort to create an atmosphere and learning process for students to actively develop their potential so that they have religious spiritual strength, self-control, character, intelligence, noble ethics and the skills needed by themselves, society, the country and nation. (Evinna Cinda Hendriana, Arnold Jacobus 2016).

Education is also a form of concrete manifestation of human efforts to become civilized creatures. John S. Brubacher emphasized "that education is a process in which human potentials, abilities, capacities that are easily influenced by habits, are perfected with good habits, with tools (media) that are arranged in such a way, and used by humans to help others or themselves in achieving stated goals." (Maryono, Hendra, Resty 2018).

Character is the unique way of thinking and behaving of each individual to live and work together in the family, community, nation and state. Character can also be referred to as a set of values that underlie thoughts and attitudes in behavior. Individuals with character are individuals who have the ability to make decisions and are willing to take responsibility for the consequences of the decisions they take. (Nurratri, Linda 2019).

Moral degradation often occurs in elementary schools. Elementary school teachers often encounter students who lie, behave rudely towards teachers and upperclassmen when talking, and appear excessively on social media like adults. The moral degradation of elementary school students is the most worrying thing, where 68% of school students actively access pornography. In solving the problem of moral degradation, character education is the answer to the role of education in schools. In simple terms, character education is an effort deliberately designed to improve a student's character. In general, character education is applied to shape or guide people to have good attitudes and morals. Ethics or morality can be understood as a person's ability to find truth and error in life. (Agung Prihatmojo 2020).

To form a mature individual personality requires a continuous and continuous process throughout life. This process starts from an early age because the child's developmental stage is the right time to instill character values. Elementary school age children are the right age to instill personality values. Failure to develop a person's character will cause personality problems in their future adulthood. To avoid this, Karus schools are committed to building the character of the nation's children. Personality formation faces many challenges in the context of technological and information developments due to globalization. As a result of globalization, negative foreign culture is easily absorbed without a strong filter. Modern lifestyles facilitate attitudes and behavior that deviate from the noble values of Indonesian society. Schools fail to produce people with character because they only prioritize students' cognitive or academic abilities. The implementation of character education in elementary schools has not been implemented consistently. (Anung Siwi prabandari 2020).

The process and strategy to prevent children from dropping out of school has been carried out systematically in Indonesia. However, when it comes to the strategy for children returning to school still have difficulties, as well as several obstacles and dilemmas to requites the right strategy. The purpose of this study is to examined the strategies of eradicating out-of-school children and the best practices of alternative schools to provide inclusive and free education Qualitative methods were chosen in the research process, primary data collection was carried out through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions (FGD) with 28 informants, includes policy makers, principals, teachers and students. The data was analyzed using thematic analysis (Rosmilawati, 2024).

Transformative learning is learning that can change students' perspectives in meaning life experience. This transformative learning lead students to have critical awareness in seeing, understanding, or make sense of life experiences or realities what is seen or felt. Transformative learning or transformative learning developed during this time focusing on efforts to resolve internal conflicts within oneself individual to achieve harmony, because the self is a central and integral part of totality of personality (Mustaqin, 2023).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is a literature search using the Systematic Review (SR) method or commonly known as Systematic Literature Review (SLR), which is a technique for collecting, evaluating and analyzing information regarding the problem or research topic you want to study. The search begins by looking for articles related to the research topic and then conducting a search. A systematic review is a method for examining a particular problem by identifying, evaluating, and selecting certain problems and asking questions that are answered clearly based on previously established criteria. This research is a continuation of previous studies, is of good quality and in accordance with the research questions.

This research uses a systematic literature review, which is a systematic, explicit, and reproducible method for identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing published work and research and practice-led research ideas with the aim of recording, testing, and evaluating. Whatever research, this research includes many stages, including:

First, the question is what is the nature of education in elementary schools?

Second, this research data focuses on character education in schools to shape character in elementary school education. The research literature search began using existing data in Google Scholar by limiting articles to the years 2010 to 2024.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

No.	Researchers and years of researcher	Journal	Research Results
1	Wuri Wuryandani, Bunyamin Maftuh, Sapriya, and Dasim Budimansyah (2014)	Discipline character education in elementary schools	Based on research conducted at SD Muhammadiyah Sapen Yogyakarta, it can be concluded that to support the successful internalization of disciplinary values in this school, nine school policies were created, especially the Character Education Program, establishing school rules and regulations in the classroom. .carrying out Dhuha and Dhu-hur prayers in congregation, monitoring students' disciplinary behavior at home through daily activity books, spreading touching messages to various corners of the school, attracting parental involvement, involvement of the school committee.
2	Machful Indra Kurniawan (2015)	TRI EDUCATION CENTER AS A MEANS OF CHARACTER EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN	The role of the three education centers as a means of character education for elementary school students is very important, because to shape the character of elementary school students there needs to be coordination between the home environment, the school environment and the community environment. Working together in an integrated manner in educating personality values in the family, school and community environment. With this consistency, the desired character can be embedded and form a good character. for example: Children will be honest if their family, school and community environments instill/teach the value of honesty.
3	Nadhifa Qurrotu Aini, Nandang Faturohman, Dadan Darmawan. (2023)	Penerapan Penguatan Pendidikan Karakter Melalui Metode Pembiasaan Guna Pembentukan Kemandirian Anak Usia Dini di KB AZZAHROH SERANG	Based on the results of the research and discussion regarding the implementation of strengthening character education through training methods for establishing preschool children's independence at KB Azzahroh Serang, the conclusions that researchers can draw are as follows: Application of habit formation methods in forming preschool children's independence at KB Azzahroh Serang. The role of educators in forming independence preschool children through this method. The habituation training method at KB Azzahroh Serang is in accordance with stage theory or the stage method. Its use and implementation have been carried out well. The application of the Habit Training Method to Cultivate the Independence of Preschool Children carried out at KB

		<p>Azzahroh Serang includes 3 stages, namely routine or habitual activities carried out according to a schedule, spontaneous activities or routine activities that are not planned within a certain period of time and patterns or habits in the form of daily behavior. Educators always remind participants if students have deviant attitudes and behavior and appreciate it if students show good behavior and attitudes. By providing examples, teachers provide direct illustrations for students to better understand the practice of independence. His role model is to dress neatly and read diligently. Through the habituation method which includes daily activities, spontaneous activities and examples carried out at KB Azzahroh Serang, educators always try to ensure that the habituation method is successful in accordance with the goals that have been set.</p>
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From the results of these three studies, character education is an important thing and is really needed. If there is no character education in elementary school, the child's future will be bleak.

Character education needs to be done as early as possible. Childhood provides the initial foundation for a person's future growth and development. Changing a person's personality is not easy, because it requires time, habituation of attitudes and behavior, and a fairly long process, however, with the right process and starting as early as possible, it does not rule out the possibility of instilling good morals in a person. (Nadhifa Qurrotu Aini, Nandang Faturohman, Dadan Darmawan 2023).

CONCLUSION

Based on the research above, character education in elementary school is something that is really needed by a child because if there is no character education at school, a child will have a less than exemplary personality, but if there is character education at school, it is hoped that the child will have a good, generous, and generous personality. and pious. To overcome obstacles to implementing character education, teachers must familiarize themselves with students' characters and take part in in-depth character education exercises.

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