

THE ESSENTIAL ROLE OF PARENTS IN FORMING CHILDREN'S CHARACTER IN SB KEPONG MALAYSIA

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ABSTRACT

Parents are the first and main place of education for a child because parents have an essential role in shaping a child's character. Nowadays, the impact of technology and an unhealthy environment has the potential to significantly affect a child's behavior or actions. This will certainly have a significant impact on the condition of the child's character and should be our serious concern together in improving the character of the nation's children. The method used in this study is the socialization and discussion method. The implementation of the socialization of the formation of children's character took place for 1 day, precisely at the old guidance studio located in the Pelangi Magna Kepong Malaysia block, attended by 30 participants, namely parents of students, teachers, studio managers and students. The activity was in the form of socialization of the essential role of parents in shaping the character of independent and responsible children which of course had a very positive impact on the parents of students. Based on these activities, the results obtained were increased knowledge, especially parents, regarding the importance of the role of parents in shaping children's character in order to face technological developments, as well as increased parental skills in implementing parenting patterns to educate children so that they can shape superior children's characters in the future.

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INTRODUCTION

Basically, every parent certainly hopes for a child who is intelligent and well-behaved in their daily lives, so that they will be able to become superior and resilient children in facing various challenges that will come in the future. It must be realized that this kind of superior generation will not grow by itself. They (children) really need a good environment, which is created to allow children's potential to grow optimally so that they become healthy, intelligent and well-behaved children. In this case, of course, parents have a very important role in shaping behavior or character for children [1].

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Parents are the first and main place of education for a child because parents have an essential role in the formation of a child's character [3]. The pattern and quality of child care and education in the family environment is very much determined by the quality and readiness of the family (husband and wife) themselves to carry out their duties, especially through the role of education [4].

The role of parental education is special because parents are the first to provide basic education and early treatment to children. When a child is born, parents welcome them happily and provide the best service to their children because most of the child's time is spent with their parents [5].

Independence between the relationship between parents and their children is certainly different from the relationship between children's independence with teachers and friends. Because the interaction of parent and child life at home is natural [6]. The family can play a role as a basic foundation to start character building steps through the habit of behaving and behaving according to the expected character. Habits that are

accompanied by examples and reinforced by the instillation of values [7].

The role of parents as the first place of education greatly influences the formation of children's character today [8]. Many parents are not aware of the actions and actions they take every day at home that their actions can affect their children's character. Inhibiting factors in forming children's character are lack of attention, support and affection from parents to their children, parental figures who are unable to provide role models for children, parents are unable to provide a sense of security to children, parental demands that are too high, parents who cannot give trust to children, parents who cannot foster initiative and creativity in children [9]. In addition to factors from parents, the social environment and natural environment can also influence the formation of character for children.

In addition, nowadays, the impact of technology and unhealthy environment also has significant potential to affect children's behavior. The advancement of information technology makes humans no longer limited by time and place in interacting with other parties [10]. Without being limited by space and time, people can easily use technological devices to establish relationships with anyone, establish relationships, and obtain and share information without any limitations [11].

In today's digital era, acts of violence are increasingly common among teenagers in particular, ranging from verbal behavior to physical behavior. Violent behavior can be in the form of slander, threats, exclusion, oppression, even to the point of offending, hitting or doing other physical acts such as hitting, kicking, pushing and others, this can certainly cause conflict and even end in frustration to suicide [12].

This will certainly greatly affect the condition of the child's character and it is a must for us to be able to give serious attention in improving the character of the nation's children today. Therefore, parents need to choose a good parenting pattern for their children such as a parenting pattern in maintaining, caring for , caring for, raising,

and educating their children with a full sense of responsibility so that they grow into children who have good morals and ethics [13].

There are four ways to develop children's character that need to be implemented by parents, including the first, democratic parenting. Democratic parenting is a parenting pattern in forming a child's personality by prioritizing the child's interests first. This can certainly be used as a tool in order to educate better children [14]. Second, parents can develop children's character through their families first, namely being able to create families with good character personalities. Third, instilling good parental character values in their children which include honesty, caring, discipline, religion, responsibility and having a high tolerance for others. Fourth, parents can use appropriate strategies by using supervision methods for their children[15].

Kepong Guidance Studio is a non-formal education school founded under the auspices of the Indonesian Embassy (KBRI). This studio was founded by the Leadership of the Special Branch of Muhammadiyah (PCIM) Malaysia and was inaugurated by the Education and Culture Attaché (Atdikbud) of the Indonesian Embassy (KBRI) in Kuala Lumpur on March 19, 2022. This school is one of the places for student community service activities in the Malaysian International Partnership Community Service (KKN) program. KKN International Partnership (KKN-Dik) Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka PTMA is an educational program established by the Association of Educational Institutions and Education Personnel (ALPTK) of Muhammadiyah/Aisiyah Higher Education (PTMA) in collaboration with the Indonesian Education and Culture Attaché in Malaysia, which aims to provide and organize equitable education. for all citizens both domestically and abroad. In the Real Work Lecture Program (KKN) of the Malaysian International Partnership, several Muhammadiyah universities participated, including STKIP Muhammadiyah Kuningan, Muhammadiyah University of Malang, Muhammadiyah

University of Lamongan, Ahmad Dahlan University and ITB AD Lamongan[16].

Based on observations and interviews with the managers of the Kepong guidance studio, the results obtained are that the role of parents in educating and paying attention to their children is very minimal. Parents do not monitor their children's development enough and let their children be without paying attention to what and how the obstacles they face. Because parents have handed them over to the guidance studio to learn. Then parents feel indifferent to their children, even when their parents leave for work, the child is given a cellphone until the parents come home from work. One aspect of the cause of the problem of a child's character crisis is because parents are unable to educate their children properly, resulting in behavioral deviations in children such as children doing whatever they want because of the habits given by their parents. With the socialization of the essential role of parents in shaping the character of independent and responsible children, it is hoped that parents can realize the importance of the role of parents in shaping the character of children so that they can create a superior and characterful generation of the nation.

IMPLEMENTATION METHOD

The method used in this study is the socialization and discussion method. This method was chosen in delivering the socialization material because it is easy to understand by the participants. Through the socialization method by displaying interesting materials and displays, it gets the full attention of the students' parents so that they are active in the discussion process. Socialization is a learning process experienced by someone to gain knowledge, skills, values and norms so that they can participate as members of a community group [17].

Activity is in the form of a socialization held on December 2, 2023 at the Kepong Malaysia Guidance Studio. In the socialization activity of the essential role of parents in shaping children's character, it was attended by

parents of students, guidance studio managers, teachers and students. This socialization activity was greatly appreciated by the principal of the Kepong Guidance Studio, because in this socialization it was about the role of parents in shaping children's character which of course is related to parenting patterns.

In this community service activity, it is carried out using methods that include:

1. Socialization (lecture) and discussion, namely presentation and discussion of comprehensive explanations regarding the theme of the activity, namely the Role of Parents in Building Children's Characters Who Have Responsibility and Independence".
2. Students provide education (guidance) to parents of students in the form of special guidance regarding the importance of the role of parents in building children's character.
3. Evaluation and reflection activities regarding the important role of parents in children's character.

The final activity was a friendly gathering with the students' parents while also fostering friendship.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The implementation of the socialization of children's character formation took place for 1 day, precisely at the old guidance studio located in the Pelangi Magna Kepong Malaysia block, attended by 30 participants, namely parents of students, teachers, studio managers and students. Participants were very enthusiastic in participating in the socialization activities related to the role of parents in forming children's characters. A series of community service activities in the form of socialization to the community, especially parents, began with a welcoming speech and opening the event by the Kepong guidance studio manager, a preface from the head of KKN KI regarding the purpose of holding the socialization of children's character formation, delivery of material by KKN KI female

students, and a discussion session with parents of students.



Figure 1. Opening activity of community service in the form of socialization of children's character formation

The initial stage before the activity begins is a welcoming speech and opening of the community service event from the manager of the Kepong guidance studio, Mr. Khusnul Akil. In his speech, he expressed his full appreciation for the implementation of this socialization activity. As much as possible, build a good relationship or friendship with the parents of students so that the connection is connected to find out the actual conditions of the Kepong guidance studio students. And try to design it as interesting as possible in this discussion, because this moment is a moment that parents of students are waiting for, especially in evaluating our children.



Figure 2. Activity of delivering the foreword from the head of KKN KI Malaysia

Furthermore, the head of KKN KI Malaysia conveyed the purpose of holding the service in the form of socialization of children's character formation. In his presentation, this socialization activity was held with the hope that parents could have new knowledge about the importance of the role of parents in character formation for children. Especially being involved intensively in instilling character education in children at home and paying attention to children's growth and development under parental supervision. So that in the era of increasingly advanced technology, children do not become victims of the negative impacts of technology.



Figure 3. Activities for delivering socialization on character formation for children

Next, the socialization delivered by the speaker to parents in delivering material on

shaping children's character. In this case, the material was delivered by a KKN KI Malaysia student, Novita Febriyani, who said that in shaping the character of children who are independent and responsible, the role of parents is certainly needed. So as good parents, they must understand their role as the first place of education for their children. The development of a child's character is influenced by the family's treatment of them. A person's character is formed from an early age, in this case the role of the family is certainly very influential.

Family is the smallest social group in society. For each family member (husband, wife, and children) has a socialization process to be able to understand, appreciate the culture that applies in their society [18]. The family has a primary role in raising their children according to the norms and ethics that apply in the community where they live. Culture can also be passed on through parents to their children which is adjusted to the conditions and situations of community development [19].

The success of a family in instilling character values in children certainly depends on the parenting pattern applied by parents in educating their children [20]. Parenting is a pattern of interaction carried out by parents towards children including the fulfillment of physical and non-physical needs in order to form a good child character that is not easily eroded by the development of the times [21].

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that parents have a very important role in educating children to have good character. The success of forming a child's character is seen from how successful the parents are in raising and educating. If parents fail to educate, it will have an impact on the formation of the child's character. Therefore, parents must be fully aware that their essential role has a great impact on their child's character both at home and in the community. The success of parents in shaping their child's character can be felt, the child will grow into a person with character, and be able to protect

himself from the association that occurs in his environment.



Figure 4. Discussion activities with students' parents

In the next stage, parents of students together with female students of KKN KI Malaysia discussed the problems faced by parents in educating children in the era of increasingly rapid technology. With various new ideas and concepts from the discussion, solutions were produced to the problems faced by parents. Of course, the solution is to return to how the parenting pattern is given to their children. However, the problems faced by children (character) are seen from how the parenting pattern is applied to their children.

After discussing with the parents of students, KKN KI Malaysia students conducted an evaluation in order to reflect on the role of parents that have been given to their children. In this case, it aims to make parents of students aware of the great responsibility they have for their children. Especially how the parenting pattern is applied to their children so that children have good character and are responsible for themselves, their religion, and their nation.



Figure 5. Evaluation and reflection activities regarding the role of parents



Figure 6. Closing activities of socialization



Figure 7. Friendly activities with students' parents

The last activity is a friendly gathering with the parents of students by enjoying the dishes that have been provided in the socialization activity. Not only that, this activity also strengthens friendship because we get to know each other from various regions of origin.

Conclusion

The community service activities carried out at Sanggar Guidance Kepong Malaysia have had a very positive impact on the students' parents. This activity is in the form of socializing the essential role of parents in forming children's independent and responsible character. Based on these activities, the results obtained are increased knowledge, especially parents regarding the importance of the role of parents in shaping children's character to face technological developments, as well as increasing parents' ability to implement parenting patterns to educate children so that they can form superior children's character in the future. will come.

THANK-YOU NOTE

The author would like to express his gratitude to the parties who have helped this community service activity so that it can be carried out properly. We would like to express our gratitude to the leadership of the Muhammadiyah University of Kuningan, the Head of the Research and Community Service Institute of UM Kuningan, ALPTK of the Diktilitbang Council of the Muhammadiyah Central Leadership, the Education and Culture Attaché of the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Indonesian School of Kuala Lumpur, and the Kepong Guidance Studio in Malaysia for their moral and material support so that this research can be carried out properly.

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