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# THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN CHARACTER EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN

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### A B S T R A C T

Family is not only a place where father, mother and children gather. A real family is more than that. Family is the most comfortable place for children. A happy family is like heaven on earth, as the words of the Prophet Muhammad SAW, that "My Home is My Heaven". Character formation cannot be carried out optimally by schools without cooperation from families. Family is the main and first education to shape the good and bad of the human person. The family plays a role in shaping the child's attitude and personality patterns. Children are likened to a blank sheet of white paper that must be filled in, in this case the role of parents is the one who is very dominant in educating children from an early age, with great tenderness and affection to build positive habits, capable of being an example, which is good and feeds halal & toyyib. A religious atmosphere at home and at school will make it easier to form Emotional Intelligence (EQ) and Spiritual Intelligence (SQ) for children. And instilling character education from an early age is the most expensive price that parents need to pay for their children. Character is the main basis for other character education.

## INTRODUCTION

National character is an important aspect of the quality of human resources because the quality of national character determines the progress of a nation. Quality character needs to be formed from an early age, early age is a critical period for the formation of a person's character. 1 Character is the absolute answer to creating a better life in society. Character is the values of human behavior related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow humans, the environment and nationality which are manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words and actions based on religious norms, law, manners, culture, , and customs. Doni Koesoema added that the term character comes from Greek (karasso) which means basic format. He sees two meanings of character, namely, 1) a collection of conditions that simply

exist. This character is seen as something that already exists. 2) the level of individual strength capable of mastering this condition. This character is called the desired process. 2 Character is the values of human behavior related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow humans, the environment and nationality which are manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words and actions based on religious norms. , laws, etiquette, culture and customs.3

As for who has responsibility for children's education and character education, according to Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System article 13 paragraph 1, that educational pathways consist of formal, informal and non-formal education which can complement each other and enriching.4 In the national education system, the family includes informal education channels or out-of-school education channels. According to Zakiah Daradjat, there are three environments that are responsible for educating children. The three environments are family, school and community. These three environments cannot be separated from each other.5

Of the three educational center environments above, the family is the first and main environment for children's education. The family is a social institution that is formed after a marriage. Then the family has the autonomy to carry out education. So in this case, whether parents like it or not, whether skilled or unskilled, are naturally obliged to provide education for their children, as suggested by Thomas Lickona, the family should be the basic foundation for starting the formation of children's character/morals in the future. Education that occurs in the family environment takes place naturally and naturally, so it is called informal education that a person obtains from daily experience, consciously or unconsciously, where educational activities are carried out without a strict organization and without a time program.

Parents as the first and main educators have a direct interest in maintaining and fostering children's development from phase to phase, especially when children are in the early years of their development and growth. Apart from that, parents also have the obligation to raise their children on the basis of understanding and the basics of education in the faith and teachings of Islam since their infancy, so that children will be bound by Islamic teachings, both faith and worship, in addition to applying methods and regulations. After this guidance and education, he will only know Islam as his religion, the Koran as his faith, and the Messenger of Allah. as a leader and role model.

In the Islamic view, children are God's trust for both parents. For this reason, parents are obliged to look after and educate their children so that they are safe in this world and the hereafter. Even the safety of family life is also the responsibility of parents.

As Allah says in Surah At-Tahrim, verse: 6: Meaning: "O you who believe, protect yourselves and your families from the fire of hell." The scholars interpreted the verse above as "Take care of yourselves, namely by staying away from what Allah has forbidden. Ali bin Abi Talib said, "teach yourself and your family kindness." (HR. Hakim in al Mustadrak). Al Muqatil interpreted this verse as a command from Allah to every parent to educate themselves and their families to goodness and forbid them from evil.

Education today is not only seen as the number of students increasing in quantity, but the quality must also increase in dealing with several problems when facing challenges and conditions in society which are currently increasingly worrying. Nowadays schools have proven that schools are able to make a change in developing character. However, is that the school's full responsibility? Doesn't the family have a role in this? The family is the first and main educational forum in the history of a child's life, children spend more time with the family than their teachers, and at school the teachers will change every year, but outside of school children will be guided and raised by the same parents for years -year. From the explanation above, it can be said that the family provides an important basis in forming a child's character.

Education has a role for humans in facing the challenges and demands of the future. One of the goals of education is to develop one's potential to become an independent human being. Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have strengths. religious spirituality, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed by oneself, society, nation and state.

The form and method of education in the family will influence human growth and character formation. In the family context, the goal of character education is positive character or commendable morals in children. Through this character education, children are expected to be able to understand positive/praiseworthy values and internalize them in their daily behavior. The education received in the family will be used by children as a basis for socializing in society. The family plays its role as a social system that can shape a child's character and morals. Family is not only a place where father, mother and children gather. A real family is more than that. Family is the most comfortable place for children. Starting from the family everything develops. The ability to socialize, self-actualize, express opinions, and even deviant behavior. Family is the umbrella of life for a child. Family is the most comfortable place for a child. Several functions of the family apart from being a place of refuge include: first, preparing children to behave in accordance with the values and norms

of the rules in the society where the family is located (socialization). Second, ensuring the fulfillment of household economic needs (economy) so that the family is often called a production unit. Third, protect family members who are no longer producing (decrepit). Fourth, passing on offspring (reproduction). Based on what was stated above, it is known that the role of parents in forming character is very important and has quite a big influence on character education in children. Parents in this role apparently also face obstacles. Researchers are interested in studying further: first, what is the role of parents in character education for children? Second, ensuring the fulfillment of household economic needs (economy) so that the family is often called a production unit. Third, protect family members who are no longer producing (decrepit). Fourth, passing on offspring (reproduction). 8 Based on what was stated above, it is known that the role of parents in forming character is very important and has quite a big influence on character education in children. Parents in this role apparently also face obstacles. Researchers are interested in studying further: first, what is the role of parents in character education for children? Second, what are the obstacles to the role of parents in character education for children?

## **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This type of research is a study or literature study with the definition called library research or often also called library study, which is a series of activities related to methods of collecting library data, reading and taking notes and processing research materials. Meanwhile, according to Mahmud in his book *Educational Research Methods* explains that library research is a type of research carried out by reading books or magazines and other data sources to collect data from various literature, both in libraries and in other places. The form of approach chosen is descriptive qualitative, which is aimed at describing a situation or phenomena as they are. According to Sukmadinata, descriptive research examines forms of activity, characteristics, changes, relationships, similarities and differences with other phenomena. This research produces descriptive data in the form of writing or expressions obtained directly from the field or research area. In other words, data is in the form of research results and information related to the research.

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **The Role of Parents in Character Education in Children**

Etymologically, the word character comes from the Latin *karakter* or the Greek *kharassein*, which means to mark, or the French *carakter*, which means to make sharp or deep. In English, character means: disposition, character, nature and role. In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, character is defined as character, disposition, mental qualities, morals, or manners that distinguish a person from others. Based on the definition above, it

can be understood that character is identical with morals, so that character is the values of human behavior which include all human activities, whether in relation to God, to himself, to fellow humans, and to the environment, which are manifested in thoughts, feelings, words, attitudes and actions based on religious norms, karma, law, culture and customs.

The determining factor for a child's development, both physical and mental, is the role of parents, especially the role of a mother, because the mother is the first and main educator for children who are born until they reach adulthood. In the process of forming knowledge, through various parenting patterns conveyed by a mother as the first educator is very important. Education in the family plays a very important role in developing character, personality, cultural values, religious and moral values, as well as simple skills. 13 In this context the process of socialization and enculturation occurs continuously. This aims to guide children to become human beings who are faithful, devout, have noble character, tough, independent, innovative, creative, have a work ethic, are loyal to friends, care about the environment, and so on which are useful for the children themselves, society and the nation. In line with the explanation above, Thomas Lickona said that in general people 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 terms of emotions, which cause children to feel loved and appreciated or vice versa.

So the conditions and atmosphere in the family also influence the character education of a child, a family atmosphere without violence is a very effective solution to make a child feel comfortable, peaceful and at ease when he is at home, ultimately the child has stable emotions so that he has good character. will be formed. From time to time we cannot deny the various styles of educating children used by parents today. Many parents spend their time with matters outside the home, office routines, organizational activities and so on, so that children are raised with high emotions or children are neglected by being given a sophisticated gadget to accompany them.

The family has an important role in improving the quality of human resources. Moral education in the family needs to be instilled from an early age in every individual. However, apart from the level of education, individual morals are also a measure of the success or failure of development. The development of science and technology plays an important role and greatly influences the development of the attitudes and intellect of the younger generation as the nation's successors. The family again takes an important role in improving the quality of human resources. Various aspects of development of a nation cannot be separated from various aspects that support each other, one of which is human resources. It can be seen in the outlines of state policy that population is a potential and productive human resource for national development. This cannot be separated from the

role of the family as a shaper of individual character and morals so that they become quality human resources.

Samsul Nizar, quoted by Helmawati, stated that in empowering family education it is very relevant to discuss several family functions. Furthermore, he divided the family function into eight functions, namely: (1) religious function, (2) love function, (3) reproductive function, (4) economic function, (5) civilizing function, (6) protection function, (7) educational and social functions, and (8) environmental preservation functions.<sup>18</sup>

The family is the first institution for children to receive education from their parents. So the family has an important role in forming children's morals, therefore the family must provide education or teach children about noble or good morals. The teachings that can be given to children include truth, honesty, sincerity, patience, compassion, love, kindness, generosity, courage and so on. There are several family obligations in teaching their children about good morals, including: first, giving children an example of having noble morals. Because parents who cannot control themselves will certainly not be able to convince their children to adhere to the morals they teach. So as a parent you must first teach yourself about good morals so that you can set an example for your children. Second, provide opportunities for children to practice noble morals. In any case, as a parent it is easy for your children to imitate you. Third, give responsibilities according to the child's development. In the beginning, parents must provide understanding first, after that they are given confidence in the child himself. Fourth, supervise and direct children to be selective in their interactions. So parents continue to pay attention to their children, wherever and whenever parents always supervise and direct them, protecting them from friends who deviate or deviate from good deeds.

Some of the main responsibilities of parents in character education in children include: (1) Setting boundaries and collaborating with children; Parents must understand and respond to their children's needs for control and independence, while setting appropriate boundaries and collaborating with children, (2) Be open and communicative, (3) Be a positive role model; Parents should set an example and show positive character in their behavior, because children often imitate their parents' actions. (4) Provide guidance and support: Parents should provide guidance and support to their children in developing good character, such as empathy, honesty and responsibility, (5) Instilling values and morals, (6) Encouraging self-respect and self-respect; Parents must cultivate their children's self-esteem and self-respect, as a healthy self-awareness is essential to developing good character, (7) Monitoring and managing external influences; Parents must be aware of external influences that can impact their child's character development, such as peers,

media and technology, and take steps to monitor and manage these influences, (8) Providing a loving and supportive environment; Parents must create a loving and supportive environment where their children feel safe, valued, and encouraged to grow and develop their character. Overall, parents play an important role in shaping their child's character and must be actively involved in character education to help their children become responsible, compassionate, and ethical individuals.

### **Barriers to the Role of Parents in Character Education for Children**

Understanding a child's character is sometimes so difficult that we are often unable to do it. Most of us are even confused by our children so that they feel reluctant to share many things, for example stories at school, their problems, and even ordinary stories with us as parents. When a child starts to feel uncomfortable talking to us, perhaps it means that we have not been able to gain trust and understand the child's character. In understanding children's character, we encounter various kinds of obstacles, for example: first, they are difficult to manage and work with. The most visible thing is that the child will be disobedient, will do whatever he wants, will start to arrange what he doesn't want and doesn't want to do that. In this phase, children really want to be in control. There began to be a "rebellion" from within him. What we can do is understand it and we should respond with a calm emotional state.

There are obstacles for parents in the character education process for children, for example internal obstacles. This obstacle can be a lack of intensity of communication within the family. Limited time to meet with children because they are faced with work routines from morning to evening. Even though there are nights, sometimes you are tired so you need time to rest. Apart from that, children also have different or separate events from their parents which cannot be disturbed at all, thus hampering communication between parents and children. Meanwhile, other external obstacles such as environmental factors. The influence of the social environment in society is an obstacle to the formation of character in children. The environment has a huge influence in shaping and determining changes in attitudes and behavior in children. Always reprimand children when playing with naughty friends, because it is not impossible that children will follow the friends they are afraid of. Apart from that, people often lose track of time and neglect more important work. Based on the above, the obstacles faced by parents in the process of forming children's character are environmental factors. Another thing that needs to be considered is the external obstacles that currently dominate almost all lines, namely the influence of information and communication technology. The influence of information and communication technology really influences the formation of character education in

children, especially as technology becomes increasingly advanced. Like television, video games, cellphones, children don't know time and are often lazy.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that several obstacles that parents may face in fulfilling their role in character education include:

1. Lack of time: Busy schedules and work commitments can limit the amount of time parents have to dedicate to character education and may hinder their ability to engage in meaningful interactions with their children.

2. Limited knowledge or understanding: Some parents may lack knowledge or understanding of effective character education strategies, making it difficult for them to teach and strengthen positive characters effectively.

3. External influences: External influences such as peers, media and technology can have a significant impact on a child's character development. Parents may find it difficult to manage and combat these influences, especially in an increasingly digital and connected world.

4. Conflicting values: Parents may have different values or beliefs regarding character education, which can lead to differences of opinion and inconsistencies in their approaches. This can confuse the child and make it difficult for him to internalize consistent characteristics.

5. Lack of support or resources: Some parents may not have access to resources or support systems that can help them navigate character education effectively. This may include limited access to educational materials, parenting programs, or community support.

6. Parental stress or fatigue: Stress, fatigue, or other personal challenges experienced by parents can impact the parent's ability to consistently engage in character education. These factors can affect their emotional availability and energy levels, making it difficult to prioritize character development.

7. Resistance from children: Children may resist or resist their parents' efforts at character education, especially during adolescence when they seek independence and autonomy. This can make it difficult for parents to educate and strengthen positive characters effectively.

It is important for parents to be aware of these barriers and seek support, resources, and strategies to overcome them in order to effectively fulfill their role in character education for their children. Meanwhile, obstacles and other external factors such as environmental factors. The influence of the social environment in society is an obstacle to developing character in children. The environment has a huge influence in shaping and determining changes in attitudes and behavior in children

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the role of parents in character education for children is to set an example for children, provide opportunities for children to practice, give responsibility according to the child's development, supervise and direct children to be selective in socializing. Barriers to the role of parents in character education for children are internal and external barriers. Internal obstacles include a lack of intensity of communication within the family due to busy working parents. Meanwhile, external obstacles are in the form of the influence of society's social environment and the influence of information and communication technology. This journal article highlights the importance of family in character education for children. He emphasized that the family is not just a place where parents and children gather, but also a space where children develop various skills and behaviors. The article discusses the role of parents in providing role models, training opportunities, responsibility, supervision and guidance for children's character development. It also addresses challenges that parents may face in fulfilling their role in character education. The article concludes that the family plays an important role in shaping a child's character and recommends that character education start from an early age.

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