

CHARACTER EDUCATION AS THE PLACE FOR SHAPING THE MORALITY OF CHILDREN OF THE NATION

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Abstract

Character education in various schools in Indonesia has received attention, and even becomes priority. However, how far can the character education be designed as integrated part in formal education? This paper discusses about the importance of learning character building as a part of character education in formal education system. Character education has been well-arranged to build a good individual character. Nevertheless, in the implementation, design, and application of the program has not really covered all the children yet, either at home or at school.

In this case, we need to pay attention and analyse how important character education in curriculum as one of the main subjects. It has been done by book expert; however, there is still something deviated from children's behaviour either in school or in the society even though teacher has revealed his or her maximum teaching skill with hope that it can develop well.

Nowadays, education problem is not only a planned and conscious effort to establish learning condition and learning process inside the room. Education is not only a mere interaction through electronic media so that children actively develop their potential to have a power in moral, self-control, and even creativity inside themselves, society, and nation. Thus, it brings significant influence to the development of the students in order to develop a good character, dignified and enrich the life of a nation. It is necessary to be re-examined through team as one of the efforts to do continuous improvements.

Keywords: *character education, personality*

I. INTRODUCTION

We see a lot of problems, either from television or directly by our own eyes. There is one question in our deepest heart as a human... 'What is happening to our country?' The same question appears when we know some immoral acts that badly damage children's personality starting from teenagers to adults is really ironic. As parents, it is not enough to only see and not act well. The eradication of corruption, collusion, nepotism, brawl, narcotics, and many others are existed either in government area, BUMN, or private companies. What we listen and see refers to one thing i.e. character.

Another serious matter is deceit in education world started from cheating in examination to unfairness in students' enrolment needs to be reviewed. In order to not familiarize students with deceit even though it is temporary, but that action has already damaged children's character. Thus, it did not wrong if that action will be

difficult to be deleted until become grandparents. It is because it has already become a habit and usual matters. Therefore, something negative can be something positive.

Various facts above show that character education for children in Indonesia become very essential. Although we are quite late in implementing this character education, it is still better than nothing. We still have our hope towards our nation's future generation that is currently studying to not only be an intellectual person, but also have a good character. The alteration that can be happened randomly is really necessary to have real effort towards the development of human resources, especially in the field of quality development to fulfil the qualification and self-character-improvement.

Education word is hope to be a motor, run with great spirit of knowledge and technology development, especially in information and technology which always serve various new learning resources through online media. The level of development for each school, either private or state triggers to serve the best competence with hope that it can improve the education quality that is taught, in other words every educational institution struggles to support character education in order to support a better education system.

The constitution number 20 in 2003 about national education system in verse 3 mentioned that national education has a function to develop ability and shape the character and national civilization which is dignified in order to educate the life of the nation. This can be realized by developing complex competition. There are three domains that have to be mastered by children i.e. cognitive domain, affective domain, and psychomotor domain. Cognitive is orientated on knowledge and technology, affective domain related to morality, spirit, and character, whereas psychomotor domain related to creativity.

Therefore, the importance of character education building is hoped to exert positive impact in facing various situation that can trigger stress. Someone feels depressed in various conditions either in family or even in social environment. Thus, character education is hoped to exert an influence to improve, fix, change the way, creativity, and attitude of someone in shaping the personality for himself.

According to the described background, the objectives related to the title of the research can be identified as follows: (1) through education that is built through

a good curriculum system, children can understand more about how importance the character education development in influencing attitude and shaping the personality of someone. (2) Children are hoped to have self-consciousness competence which orientated on the comprehension of judging themselves, have high confidence, able to recognize how their feelings influence them and their performances (Goleman, 1999). (3) The ability to judge themselves, understand the weakness or even strength, self-control, open, self-adaption, initiative, flexible in facing challenges, able to adapt with rapid alteration, self-repair, and also able to hold a good relationship among humans.

Freud stressed the importance of mental and moral of the early children. It is because failure in giving such plantation and education about good personality in early age will shape a problematic personality later when they are adult. Thus, the success in guiding children on solving personal conflict really determines their success in social adult life in the future. This is what becomes the important and strategic from both cooperation between parents, school, and society as trinity of education.

Therefore, education has a role not only in transferring knowledge, but also as more broaden civilizing which indeed becomes the most important thing in shaping character and trait in which always really crucial in nation building which leads to nation reconstruction that is developed and useful.

This writing is hoped to result an analysis related to the importance of character education in shaping children's personality through teaching system in class or even outside the class. It is because this writing can give suggestion to related parties in their efforts to improve the personality of themselves or even other people in order to improve human resources in developing character education. This writing is also hoped to be a reference for other writers who want to develop the study of human resources, particularly in character education. Besides, this article will be useful as a form of students' development in order to reach a high commitment, which students have huge variations according to interest, motivation, and potential. This condition should be realized and needed in progress development context and maturation of students or even other people.

Based on Ryan and Bohlin (1999), character is a behaviour pattern of a person. A person who has a good character has an understanding about kindness, love kindness, and do those good things. A person who has an appropriate deed morally is called noble character person.

Character education is equal to moral education, i.e. a chain of basic moral principles and the main attitude and trait which has to be owned and make it as a habit since young until becomes an adult. Imam Ghozali stated that moral is a trait which is planted inside the human soul that can be measured good or bad, by using knowledge and the norm of religion.

The definition of character according to National Education Department Language Centre (2008) is that “nature, heart, soul, personality, attitude, behaviour, personality, trait, moral, and character”. Meanwhile, character is a personality, behaviour, trait, and moral.

David Elkind and Sweet (2004) stated that character education is the effort to help students understand, care, and behave according to an appropriate etiquette. Moreover, it is explained that character education is everything that is done by teacher, which is able to influence students’ character. Teacher helps to shape students’ character. This covers the role model of how teacher behave, including how teacher talk or deliver material, how teacher tolerate, and other related matters.

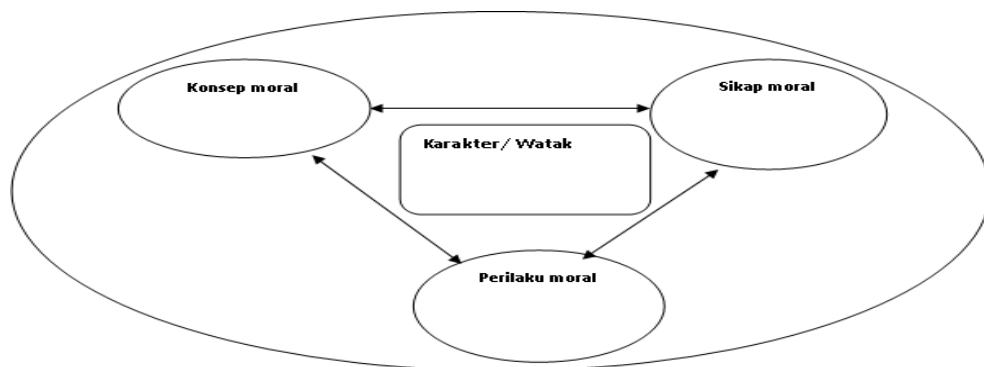
Character according Kirschenbaum (1995) is as follows: respect, responsible, care, discipline, loyal, brave, and tolerant. Someone who has noble character has a knowledge about their self-potential, which indicated by some values such as confidence, rational, logic, critical, analytical, creative, and innovative, independent, live healthy, willing to sacrifice, brave, can be trusted, honest, fair, cheerful, eutectic, sportive, and mettlesome. Individual also has consciousness to do their best or superior, and act appropriately according to their potential and consciousness. Individual who has a good character is the one who tries to do his or her best towards the Almighty God, him or herself, fellow, environment, race and nation including international world in general by maximizing potential with consciousness, emotion, and motivation.

Based on Ramli (2001), character education has essence and meaning which equal to moral education. The purpose is that to shape the children’s personality in

order to be a good human, good resident and good citizen. Moreover, its criteria is certain social values which largely influenced by culture in the society and the nation. Therefore, the nature from character education in Indonesian context is value education i.e. education which has high value that is sourced from Indonesian culture itself, in order to build young generation's personality.

II. DISCUSSION

Picture 1



To strengthen the moral education or character education, in relevant context nowadays, it is to overcome moral crisis that is surging our country. Those, crisis is in the form of free sex, children and teenagers' violence, stealing, cheating, drug abuse, pornography, and vandalism that already become social problems in which never eradicated completely, thus it shows the importance of character education. Before going to the definition of character education, first, the definition of education needs to explain further.

Education is a conscious effort and planned to embody learning atmosphere and learning process so that students will actively develop their potential to have spiritual strength, self-control, personality, cleverness, noble moral, also the necessary skill for themselves, society, nation and country. Education is the most responsible process in creating Indonesian citizen who have strong character as a capital in developing high and superior age. A strong nation character is a product from good education and developed character. A good education is inseparable from a teacher. Therefore, it is necessary to have professionalism in teaching.

An Indonesian Army General, Moeldoko, is also stated his argument related to the definition of education. He said education is a weapon that can be used to

change the world because education is a door to the future, and the future belongs to those who prepare themselves since their early stages.

According to Bukhori as cited Trianto in his book of Innovative learning models orientated to constructivist, a good education is an education that is not only prepare the students for a profession or position, but also to solve problems that they face in their daily life.

Education world has an important role and very essential responsibility to bring changes in students, society, and social environment. In line with the development of knowledge, the changing that is happening in the society will give a clear impact toward each human's personality. Alteration happens in attitude towards the existed values, so that a shift in scoring system brings changes in the interactive relation between human and their society.

Character education has been known to be an important learning in every school. In the development, it often appears many questions related to character education, about the reason why character education is needed mainly in shaping someone's personality, character, and how to build character and measure the success of character education. Those questions have been re-strengthened by the policy that makes character as a "programme" of national education in Indonesia mainly in the ministry of national education of Indonesia. Character education is surely needs to be improved by various methods of learning with implementing scientific and academic conditions such as content, approach, and learning methods. The importance of character education in shaping personality is hoped to be able to show that a whole personality of a person can be identified through his or her behaviour, attitude, and mentality

Picture 2

Nilai-nilai karakter berlandaskan budaya bangsa	
1. Religius	10. Semangat kebangsaan
2. Jujur	11. Cinta tanah air
3. Toleransi	12. Menghargai prestasi
4. Disiplin	13. Bersahabat/komunikatif
5. Kerja keras	14. Cinta damai
6. Kreatif	15. Gemar membaca
7. Mandiri	16. Peduli lingkungan
8. Demokratis	17. Peduli sosial
9. Rasa ingin tahu	18. Tanggung jawab

Pusat Kurikulum Balitbang Kemendiknas

The word “character” has a lot of definition from experts. According to Poerwadarminta, the word character means moral, trait, or attitude which differentiates someone to someone else. Moreover, an American psychologist named Alford, defined character as the

determiner if someone’s personal is evaluated. Meanwhile, Ahmad Tafsir considers that character is a human spontaneity in behave, or the deeds that have been united in human’s body, so that if it appears, it doesn’t need to be worried anymore. A person who has character means a person who has personality, behaviour, trait, or moral. By this, it means that character is identical to personality or moral. Personality is a characteristic of a person which sourced from the activities that he or she got from environment, particularly in family when he or she was a little, and inborn.

1. Integrasi dalam mata pelajaran yang ada	Mengembangkan silabus dan RPP pada kompetensi yang telah ada sesuai dengan nilai yang akan diterapkan
2. Mata pelajaran dalam Mulok	• Ditetapkan oleh sekolah/daerah • Kompetensi dikembangkan oleh sekolah/daerah
3. Kegiatan Pengembangan Diri	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pembudayaan & Pembiasaan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Pengkondisian > Kegiatan rutin > Kegiatan spontanitas > Keteladanan > Kegiatan terprogram • Ekstrakurikuler Pramuka; PMR; Kantin kejujuran UKS; KIR; Olah raga, Seni; OSIS • Bimbingan Konseling Pemberian layanan bagi anak yang mengalami masalah

Picture 3

The importance of education is also can be seen in President SBY’s speech on May 11th 2010 in national education day, entitled “character education to build the nation civilization”.

President said that people who had strong character and good, individuals, society, or even nation, are they who have a good moral, attitude, and character. Therefore, the importance of character education in shaping students’ personality can be developed as the integral part of curriculum, and integrate it to all subjects in active learning process. Based on that view, it is interesting to review about character education’s implication especially for students who have the same tasks and responsibility in developing them. Considering that the importance of character education has a purpose to develop

the available self-potential from each student so that they will be aware about the social issue that is happening in the society and have positive mental for themselves, nation, and country. Another thing that is needed to be understood is that education in higher education is not merely guided education to reach a high score or only able to master knowledge and technology, but also have to be balanced with the comprehension to do some values, attitude, and good behaviour. West Lombok regent, Dr. Zainy Arrony mentioned that “it is useless to have a clever intelligence quotient but not in line with emotional quotient and spiritual quotient, so that the children will use their brain for negative things” (Radar Lombok, 2 May 2011).

III. CONCLUSION

Based on several arguments that have been mentioned above, it can be concluded that character is a firm, stable, special trait that is stuck in someone’s personality which makes him or her act or behave spontaneously, cannot be influence by condition without thinking first.

From the concept of education and character, it is clear that there is a term “character education” which commonly discussed by various groups of people. In Indonesia, character education is started to be introduced.

Allah said in Surah Al-Mujadila (The Pleading Woman) verse 11

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا إِذَا قِيلَ لَكُمْ تَفَسَّحُوا فِي الْمَجْلِسِ فَافْسَحُوا يَفْسَحِ اللَّهُ لَكُمْ وَإِذَا قِيلَ انشُرُوا فَانشُرُوا يَرْفَعِ اللَّهُ الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا مِنكُمْ وَالَّذِينَ أُوتُوا الْعِلْمَ دَرَجَاتٍ ۗ وَاللَّهُ بِمَا تَعْمَلُونَ خَبِيرٌ

Meaning: O you who have believed, when you are told, "Space yourselves" in assemblies, then make space; Allah will make space for you. And when you are told, "Arise," then arise; Allah will raise those who have believed among you and those who were given knowledge, by degrees. And Allah is Acquainted with what you do.

Meanwhile, the purpose of character education itself is basically to encourage the born of good children. Growth and development of a good character will encourage students grow with the capacity and commitment to do the best thing and do everything properly and has a life goal. Society should also act to shape children’s character through parents and their environments.

In Qur'an, it is stated about the order to do a good virtue which existed in Surah An-Nahl verse 90 which sounds: take lesson. (Q.S. An Nahl: 90) which means: "Indeed, Allah orders justice and good conduct and giving to relatives and forbids immorality and bad conduct and oppression. He admonishes you that perhaps you will be reminded".

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