

The Role of The Teacher as a Model in Forming Character Education in Primary School Students

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Abstract

Character education for elementary school students is an important aspect in forming a strong personality and good morality. The teacher's role as a model has a significant impact in forming children's character. In this research, an analysis was carried out of the role of teachers as models in character education for elementary school students, as well as the challenges faced in carrying out this role. Through literature study, important findings were discovered. The role models and examples set by teachers, teaching character values, consistency in behavior, a supportive learning environment, and constructive feedback are important aspects in the teacher's role as a model. However, teachers also face challenges such as personal consistency, environmental pressures, and the need for continuous learning. Efforts such as training and support for teachers, strengthening school culture, and collaboration with parents can be taken to overcome these challenges. In conclusion, the role of teachers as models has a significant impact in shaping the character of elementary school students, and efforts to overcome the challenges teachers face can help increase their effectiveness in shaping student character.

Keywords: character formation; students; the role of teachers

INTRODUCTION

Character education is becoming an increasingly important issue in the world of modern education. Globalization, technological developments and social changes have raised concerns about the decline in children's morality and character. Character education is an important thing to be given to today's young generation because character education is needed to provide provisions so that they can compete in the global market while still upholding high

morals and being able to control themselves from the negative impacts of current technological developments (Izzati, et al. , 2019).

On the other hand, elementary school is the initial stage where children's character begins to form strongly. Therefore, the role of teachers in forming character education for elementary school students is very crucial. Character education is part of the revolutionary zone among students, therefore character education is a very important part to be immediately developed in the minds of students because students are the next generation of the nation and state. Character learning that is oriented towards nationalist values can overcome various social problems. Building the character of the current generation is one of the goals of national education (Pradana, et al., 2020).

It is important to instill an understanding of character education in students, because if students' lack of understanding of character education can have an impact on the fading of the customs, morals and culture of the nation's future. Such as acts and attitudes of radicalism, brawls between students, drug abuse, drinking alcohol, bullying, and other attitudes that do not reflect being a child of the nation (Sapdi, 2023). Even though character education is an important focus in the education curriculum, there are still challenges in its implementation. Some of the main challenges include limited time, divided attention, and high academic pressure. Apart from that, the complexity of the social environment can also influence the formation of children's character.

Teachers are educators who play an important role in the life of the nation and state. At educational levels starting from formal education, basic education, and secondary education, teachers have an influence on the students who are taught in a learning method or in terms of behavior. Javanese philosophy says that teacher is an acronym for "Digugu and Imitated", therefore the role of teachers is very large in shaping the mindset and character of students (Wulandari, et al., 2020).

The teacher's role as a model in character formation has a significant impact. Teachers not only convey knowledge, but also provide direct examples of how these values are applied in everyday life. However, there is still a need for a deeper understanding of how teachers can effectively model for their students. By understanding this background, this article will describe in more detail the role of teachers as models in the formation of character education in elementary school students. Apart from that, this article will also highlight the challenges teachers face in carrying out this role and the efforts that can be made to overcome these challenges. Thus, it is hoped that this article can provide better insight into the importance of the role of teachers in forming children's character at the basic education level.

METHOD

Research design

This research uses a qualitative approach with literature study as the main methodology. Literature studies are used to collect and analyze information from various sources relevant to the research topic, including scientific journals, books and official documents related to character education.

Data collection

Data for this research was obtained through searching and analyzing literature related to the role of teachers as models in the formation of character education in elementary school students. Literature searches were conducted through academic databases such as Google Scholar, PubMed, and ProQuest. Keywords used include "teacher role in character education", "primary school students", and "character education challenges".

The literature selected for analysis is articles, books and documents published within the last 10 years, with an emphasis on the latest research and is relevant to the research topic. Relevant literature is then filtered based on inclusion criteria, such as relevance to the topic, accuracy of information, and adequacy of data.

Data analysis

Data collected from the literature was analyzed thematically. Relevant information about the role of teachers as models in the formation of character education in elementary school students is identified and analyzed. These findings were then used to develop a framework for analysis and discussion in this research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Teachers have complex duties and responsibilities towards achieving educational goals, teachers are not only required to master the knowledge to be taught, have knowledge and teaching skills, teachers are also required to have morals, character and personality that can serve as role models for students (Arsini, Yoana, and Prastami, 2023). The role of teachers as models in the formation of character education in elementary school students has significant implications in the formation of children's character. In this research, several important aspects have been identified regarding the role of teachers as models. First, the teacher functions as the main role model for students. The attitudes, behavior, and values demonstrated by teachers directly influence how students imitate and internalize those values. Salsabilah, Dewi, and furnamasari (2021) explain that teachers are figures who are role models, both in terms of knowledge and personality for their students. The Javanese term explains that teachers are people who can be emulated and can be imitated. For example, when teachers demonstrate honesty, discipline, and empathy, students tend to imitate these behaviors in daily interactions.

Second, direct teaching about character values is important. Through direct teaching, teachers help students understand the importance of values such as honesty, responsibility, and cooperation in their lives. The use of fairy tales with animal characters and songs can be used as an important approach to teach character education about right and wrong behavior to children (Birhan, et al., 2021).

Furthermore, consistency in teacher behavior also has a major impact on the formation of student character. Teachers who consistently apply character values create a stable and predictable learning environment, helping students understand what is expected of them. In an environment like this, students feel comfortable to express themselves and learn from experience. Apart from that, a supportive learning environment is also key in shaping student character. Teachers need to create an environment that is safe, open, and respectful of differences to strengthen students' character values. the process of strengthening character

education through habituation programs both at school and in the family environment, at school teachers prepare learning models that are able to strengthen students' character, while in extracurricular activities students are accustomed to carrying out all the norms and rules that have become a mutual agreement (Sinta, Malaikosa, & Supriyanto, 2022). So the influencing factors are teacher integrity and parent response (Shobibah, and Walidah, 2021).

Furthermore, teachers also act as guides who provide constructive feedback on student behavior. Through appropriate feedback, teachers can guide students to understand the consequences of their behavior and direct them towards better behavior in accordance with the desired character values.

Teachers have three important roles in shaping the character of students, namely, 1) the teacher's role as an educator must be able to link the subject matter being taught with the values of character education; 2) the role of the teacher as a teacher, namely that the teacher must choose a learning model that is appropriate to the material being taught so that through this learning model the teacher can shape and assess student character; and 3) the role of the teacher as a trainer, namely the teacher as a trainer must be able to provide direct examples in interacting with students about how to have good character, in accordance with applicable values and norms (Wally, 2022).

Teachers have complex duties and responsibilities towards achieving educational goals, because teachers are a source of inspiration and motivation both in education and character for students (Salsabilah, Dewi, and Furnamasari, 2021). In shaping the character of students, there are several teacher roles, namely four: teacher as model and role model, mentor, director, and evaluator. Character education forms intelligent individuals with strong character (Alkhasanah, Darsinah, and Ernawati, 2023). In line with Nisa (2019), research results show that the five roles of teachers in character education are the role of teachers as role models, inspirers, motivators, dynamists and evaluators. The teacher's role in character education is not only visible during the learning process in class, but outside of learning process hours the teacher also always carries out his role in the character education of students. The character values embedded in the teacher's role are religious, honest, tolerant, disciplined, hard work, creative and responsible.

The role of teachers who have authority is not merely to treat students as they please, but to create rules so that students become accustomed to obeying rules that are values in that environment. Teachers also need to understand what strategies and approaches will be used in instilling morals in students, whether through a transmission approach or a construction approach, depending on the situation and conditions of the values that the teacher or school wants to develop. This approach is expected to make it easier for teachers to internalize moral values so that they can effectively shape students' character within the scope of education (Faiz and Purwati, 2022).

Although teachers' role as models is very important, they also face several challenges. Personal consistency, environmental pressure, and the need for continuous learning are some of the main challenges teachers face. The teacher's role in building student character education must be to keep up with current developments so that various problems that occur can be resolved by building student character education through preventive, curative and repressive measures (Sapdi, 2023).

However, efforts can be made to overcome this challenge. Training and support for teachers in developing skills and knowledge about character education, strengthening school culture that supports character values, and collaborating with parents can be effective strategies. Thus, the role of teachers as models in forming students' character at the elementary school level is key in forming a generation that is responsible, honest and has integrity. Growing the character of global diversity is very important in this era of globalization. For this reason, schools, especially teachers, are the key to overcoming this problem, teachers must be committed to helping students achieve the expected educational goals. Not only the role of teachers, all school components must also be maximized (Sabanil, Sarifah, and Imaningtyas, 2022).

In line with Birhan et al., (2021) there are challenges in providing character and moral education as a separate subject in schools as well as the failure of parents and teachers to be good role models for children. This implies that the Ministry of Education should plan for character and moral education to be offered as a separate subject for preschool and primary school children, and parents and teachers need to work together to teach character and moral education to children.

There is a need for changes in school autonomy from government extension, thereby leading to the creation of a conducive climate for the emergence of various approaches to improving character education. Character education begins with differences in school ideology and the diversity of Indonesian culture. The education system should move away from text orientation towards being more suited to dynamic cultural contexts as a source of character learning (Abdullah, et al., 2019).

CONCLUSION

Character education in elementary school students is an important part in forming a strong personality and good morality. In this context, the teacher's role as a model has a significant impact. Teachers not only convey knowledge, but also provide direct examples of how character values are applied in everyday life. Through example, teaching character values, consistency in behavior, establishing a supportive learning environment, and providing constructive feedback, teachers help students become individuals who are responsible, honest, and have integrity. Although there are challenges in carrying out this role, such as personal consistency, environmental pressures, and the need for continuous learning, efforts such as training and support for teachers, strengthening school culture, and collaboration with parents can be made to overcome these challenges. Thus, the role of teachers as models in forming children's character at the basic education level is very important in forming a generation that has strong and good character.

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