

The Establishment of Early Children Characters in the Waste Picker Family

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Abstract: Family is an essential factor in building children's character because it is the first place for children to learn and know the environment and gain knowledge from parents' messages and advice. Not all family environments have the same characteristics. This environment is influenced by the level of parents' education and conditions in the home environment. One of them is a waste picker family included in a less prosperous family because of their economic condition. This article's research and writing aim to describe the strategy for character building for children in waste picker families, which departs from parents' perceptions of its parenting application. The research method used in this study is a qualitative method with a case study approach in Kampung Sumur Jakarta. Data obtained through researchers' direct involvement in the field by using in-depth interview techniques, participatory observation, and documentation study. The data obtained were then reduced and analyzed using the triangulation technique. The results of this study are (1) parents' perceptions of education, (2) parents' perceptions of parenting, (3) parents' perceptions of character building for children, and (4) forms of parenting strategies carried out by parents.

Keywords: parenting strategies, character building, early childhood, waste picker families

1. INTRODUCTION

Character is an important part of establishing the cultivation of noble values and human morals following the national personality. Basically, character education aims to build a human being who is noble, tolerant, and works together. These characters are described as forming values of honesty, tolerance, discipline, hard work, creativity, independence, democratic attitude, curiosity, nationalism, responsibility, and religiosity. Character building needs to involve the family's role as part of the informal education process, not just formal educational institutions [1], [2]. Family is a learning environment for children for the first time where they are born, knowing the environment around them. The formation of character education also starts with family education, which is implemented by parents.

Through family education, character values are internalized by parents to children from an early age through the habituation process. Through a process of interaction built by parents, children can recognize how to behave, speak, behave, and adapt to the environment around them [3]–[5]. The accumulation of the interaction process between parents and children is an important factor in building children's character from an early age to adulthood. Informal character formation in the family environment through habituation is also influenced by the factor of parents' understanding of the importance of education, and the form of parenting carried out to

children, the economic conditions of the family, and the environment in which they live also have an impact on the implementation of character education in children.

The role of internalizing character values is not only obtained from the educational process informal or non-formal educational institutions but also involves the role of the family as part of the informal education obtained by children. Therefore, the family has a key role in instilling character values in children. Even though the economic condition and educational background of some families are classified into several categories. Starting from a prosperous family, pre-prosperous, and not yet prosperous. Regardless of the economic conditions, the responsibility for educating children remains the duty of the family in helping children adapt to their surroundings before they pursue an education in formal and non-formal educational institutions.

This condition is then classified into several groups: prosperous, pre-prosperous, and not yet prosperous families, each of which has different conditions, such as the level of parents' education and completeness of learning facilities and infrastructure in the family environment. Of course, if we examine more, the family's condition will not be prosperous; the conditions will be faced with limitations.

How to educate parents is inseparable from the parenting styles given to children. However, the success of children in adapting to the environment around them

cannot be separated from the parenting patterns that are applied. Therefore, parents need to understand about proper parenting methods so that children's character that is following the values and norms of society can be well-formed. There are several ways of parenting that parents can do in instilling character values. Although the trend of parenting that is applied is from the legacy of previous parents which is then continued from generation to generation in educating children. Because of the belief that the previous parenting style was the ideal parenting style in educating children.

From an economic point of view, their income is certainly not as high as a prosperous family. Then, from the side of the family environment is not yet prosperous, one of which is the waste picker family, which is the object of this research. More often found in urban environments that are on the outskirts of cities and seem slum. It is what needs to be studied more in-depth about the strategy for building children's character from an early age in the waste picker family environment because the purpose of education itself is to empower humans to be better than their previous conditions. [6]–[9].

Based on this problem, an in-depth study of how the family's role within the waste picker family is needed in implementing parenting for their children. It is also an effort to build the character of their children following the community's expectations and the values and norms that apply in social life in their environment. Even though they are amid their limitations, there are hopes that the waste picker families still care so that their children can be in a better condition than them. One of them is formal education and informal education through the parenting styles that they apply to their children who inherit the parenting methods or traditions applied by their previous parents. [6], [9]–[11]

The scavenger village was chosen because it has unique socio-economic conditions which are located in the suburban area and are identical to the slum area. It is considered as an area of marginal groups that ignore the importance of education and child care patterns. There is an assumption that children who live in these areas tend to have funding in terms of care and do not need to take the highest education possible because later they will be like their parents who work as scavengers. However, if it is examined more deeply, of course, in any condition, of course, there are still parenting patterns that are applied in the family environment. Of course, there are hopes about improving their condition in the future where the children of scavenger families are expected to be in good condition in the future. Therefore, research on how to apply parenting in instilling character values from an early age in the scavenger family environment is interesting to be researched and studied in depth. In order to obtain a sufficient understanding of the form of parenting that is carried out in instilling character values in children from an early age.

2. METHOD

Research on strategies for building children's character from an early age in waste picker families used qualitative research methods. The chosen approach is a case study in which the researcher chooses a particular location as a place of research to see and analyze the unique problems in the research location to study the problems under study in depth. Data collection activities were carried out by in-depth interviews with scavenger families as sources to obtain sufficient information related to the problem under study. Then the researchers conducted direct observations of waste picker families' daily lives and the form of character planting in the children of waste picker families from an early age. Furthermore, the researcher conducted a documentation study in the form of data on the environmental conditions of Kampung Sumur Jakarta and other supporting data [12].

Researchers try to look at the researched problems objectively by observing in-depth the parenting styles carried out by parents in the waste picker family environment in instilling character education in their children. Furthermore, the researcher documents the encountered activities while the researcher was in the field as supporting data. Later, it will be analyzed further to find facts from the studied problem.

Then, the data obtained were recorded in the form of field notes and interview transcripts. Furthermore, the data obtained is reduced according to the focus of the study. The reduced data were then analyzed through triangulation techniques [13]. Triangulation includes the triangulation of informants or resource persons, techniques, and supporting documents obtained in the field [13][14]. The triangulation used in this research is source triangulation, technique triangulation, and time triangulation. Then, the data that has been obtained was analyzed and presented in the form of scientific articles.

3. RESULTS

The results of research on parenting strategies in waste picker families are a form of cooperation between wives and husbands in parenting children. It is obtained based on information from interviews, observations, and review of documentation with sources in the field. From the information obtained, children in the waste picker village, the form of parenting strategy used in instilling character values, is habituation. In one family, they cooperate or help each other. For example, the older children set an example for their younger siblings to study hard. The hope is that with this kind of parenting, younger children can be motivated to study diligently and excel like older children.

Both husband and wife avoid conflict in front of their children to avoid psychological pressure on them. The principles of honesty, discipline, and perseverance are the keys to the success of their children's lives in the

future. They emphasized that education is vital as a provision for their children in the future in limited conditions. They do not want the fate of their children to be like those who drop out of school. The waste picker family thinks that knowledge is important rather than assets that can run out quickly.

Meanwhile, character values' instillation is emphasized through habituation, such as cleaning the house when conditions are dirty and washing dishes. Building character values through habituation is a way for these families to educate their children to have sensitivity. Children are also trained to help each other when their siblings are doing something ordered by their parents. Meanwhile, for the instillation of religious and spiritual values, the waste picker family applies habituation to their children to read holy books and watch spiritual broadcasts on television.

The waste picker family also does not prohibit their children from working as they collect used goods. Parents still emphasize the responsibility of their children to keep learning even though they are working. The parenting strategy applied by waste picker families through planting character values is emphasized on the habituations carried out with the intention of through these habituations. Their children will be accustomed to behaving following the ethics and norms prevailing in society, and this character will stick until they are adults. There are parenting styles that are applied in the scavenger family environment in instilling character values in their children from an early age. The form of care given is habituation to positive values which are expected to become good habits for children when they grow up. These values are expected to stick until they are adults and wherever they are.

3.1 Parents' Perceptions About Education

Based on the research results submitted, parents in the waste picker family give their perception about education. Education is important for their children through character internalization that is conveyed to them. Following the concept of parenting and also the inculcation of character values in students, education is a means to instill these character values. One form of education that parents can carry out is education through habituation of good behavior following ethics and norms while in the family environment.

Therefore, despite the economic condition, it can be said that the family is in the pre-prosperous category. However, education is still the main thing that must be provided by parents in fulfilling children's rights. In the family, the position of the parents is the first education for their children[6], [10], [15]. To get to know their child's character, parents need to be involved in their children's daily activities. Because of the parents, children are able to gain experience, socialization, and knowledge before

they participate in learning activities at educational institutions.

Parents' perceptions of education will affect their children's awareness of learning. Therefore, parents have an important role to take in providing understanding to their children that education is important. It is not interpreted materially, but emphasizing life skills and their awareness as noble beings who can think and behave following society's values. Because after all, they will live in a community environment and education becomes a guide for them to live in a good society[9], [10], [16].

Parents need to have an awareness that the potential for children's development cannot be separated from parental guidance or, in this case, parenting. In addition, children can get experience in educational institutions and also in the community. However, every child has unique characteristics and has different interests and talents. That will then become one of the life skills they have when they grow up[17]. Therefore, children's educational process should be given proportionally and cannot depend on just one. It depends on the educational institution where children get education from other people called teachers or facilitators. Still, there is a role for parents to support the child's learning process through the habituation of positive behavior that they teach their children.[17], [18]. Because part of the child's time is spent in the family environment and the neighborhood, it needs parents' awareness that they also have the responsibility to educate their children when they are at home.

To introduce children's potential, parents also have an important role in introducing them to areas their children might be interested in. Parents have a role in setting an example for their children because they don't realize that the parents' behavior will be recorded in the child's memory, and it can stick. So when they grow up, the behavior they will show is the result of the way their parents educated them as children[3], [5], [17], [19]. As important as education is a right that must be given to children. Whatever the economic conditions of the parents, they must be able to provide educational services to children. Whether it is formal or non-formal education, it is clear that children must have the right to obtain educational services as a form of an effort to humanize humans to become empowered individuals and be independent economically and socially.

The general perception about children's education is the limitations of children's interactions with the outside world, especially with their peers, so that in social development, the child will experience differences with children of his age. There is an assumption that the social maturity of children who do not get educational services at formal educational institutions will be lower than those who attend formal education institutions. Schools are places for children to get adequate educational services, especially for the development of their character[2], [5], [17]. It is also in school that children get intellectual and

social formation that will impact their intelligence because it requires awareness from parents about the importance of education for their children. Suppose their children cannot attend formal education institutions because the conditions are far from prosperous. So the parents serve as child facilitators and receive informal education from the family.

There are parenting styles that are applied in the scavenger family environment in instilling character values in their children from an early age. The form of care given is habituation to positive values which are expected to become good habits for children when they grow up. These values are expected to stick until they are adults and wherever they are [16], [19], [20].

Parents need to realize the importance of education for their children because, through education, their children can become whole human beings. As for life skills or skills, parents have an important role in introducing life skills closely related to the environment in which they live. Even though they live in a waste picker village, the parents do not want their children to be in the same profession. Of course, they have hope that their children will be in a better condition in the future. However, it is undeniable that living in a waste picker village area will indirectly shape the personalities of independent children and work hard like their parents [7], [11], [15]. However, it needs to be balanced with parents' awareness of the importance of education for their children.

3.2 Parents' Perceptions of Parenting

Parenting is an interaction that should occur between children and parents in the family. This parenting activity is related to how parents treat their children in educating, protecting, and supervising their children's growth and development to be following the norms, ethics, rules, and expectations of society in general. Parenting is a process to enhance and support a child's emotional, physical, social, financial, and intellectual development from birth to adulthood. Where the family has a strategic role in introducing children to the surrounding environment through the adopted parenting style [9], [10], [15], [21]. Given that family is the first social environment children encounter since they are born. Children know their first environment, namely the family consisting of father, mother, and child. A strong inner bond between parents and children then there are interactions that unconsciously are the initial process of how parents educate their children in order to adapt to their environment [16], [22], [23].

Every parent naturally wishes the best for their children. It is the desire or hope that then encourages parents to apply parenting styles that instill good and noble values in their children. Where parenting is, in principle, an effort of parental control, namely how parents apply control, guidance, and assist their children

in growing towards the adult process. However, there are a number of things that are sometimes done by parents who feel they are not right in caring for their children. Some of these mistakes include (1) giving too many choices to the child, (2) being too spoiled, (3) making the child too busy which can make the child feel tired and can have an impact on the child's psychological condition, (4) taking too much importance intelligence so that children are constantly pressured to have cognitive intelligence and are too proud of academic achievement which can make children arrogant, (5) always avoid discussing sex because they are considered sensitive to be known by children even though children need to get an understanding of the boundaries of sex, (6)) parents too often criticize whatever is done by the child, (7) give too much freedom to children in watching TV or playing gadgets, (8) are too protective of children [7], [8].

Meanwhile, there are several things that parents do in parenting their children, namely (1) giving praise for the efforts that have been made by the child as an effort to build children's self-confidence in adapting to their surroundings, (2) avoiding behaviors that are can make children traumatized physically and psychologically, parents need to control their emotions towards children, indeed parents need to reprimand children when they make mistakes but do not need to overdo it, which in the end can traumatize children, (3) provide sufficient affection, parents It is necessary to give full support to children through adequate affection through family warmth, this attitude will enable children to develop their intelligence, (4) avoid comparing children with other children, (5) not being authoritarian parents, (6) providing nutrition sufficient for children, (7) training children's responsibilities, (8) actively communicating with children, and (9) create a positive family environment that is able to be a place for children to develop their creativity [10], [24].

Several factors underlie parents' parenting styles to their children, namely (1) the background of previous parenting patterns and parents' parenting patterns to instill character values into their children. It is inseparable from the parenting experience they got when they were children. This inherent parenting style is carried over until they become parents and re-applied to their children. (2) Parents' education level cannot be denied if parental education level affects how they care for their children. The level of education will affect the way parents think about the importance of education and how they apply appropriate parenting according to their children's growth and development, (3) the economic status and occupation of parents when parents tend to be busy with work, they sometimes forget about the obligation to care for their children so that the children do not get the proper care as a right which they receive from the parents [16], [20], [21].

There are three types of parenting in the family environment. The first type is permissive parenting. Parenting gives children the freedom to do whatever they

want without questioning the activities carried out by the child. This parenting style is quite loose, even in practice, there are weaknesses, although it provides space for children to get to know their environment as widely as possible. However, there is weak guidance from parents, and there is no control over children's behavior. The children felt complete freedom and were given the complete trust to decide what they wanted.

The second type is authoritarian parenting, a form of parenting for children who apply rules or limitations that they must obey. This parenting style does not provide many opportunities for children to argue that there will be a threat of punishment if they violate these rules. From authoritarian parenting applied in the family environment, it will eliminate children's freedom and make children lose their initiatives and activities, impacting the child's lack of confidence in their abilities. Next, the third type of parenting is democratic parenting. This parenting type emphasizes children's discipline and their respect for the importance of children's freedom even though it is not absolute and feels the need to provide guidance and understanding to children. Parents will try to guide by providing rational and objective explanations if there are differences in the desires of parents and children [22], [23]. In this democratic parenting style, children can grow up with a sense of responsibility. In the end, children can behave following the values and norms applied in society.

Therefore, parents need to understand the parenting styles that are applied to their children. Even though the condition can be said to be in a pre-prosperous family condition, it does not reduce parents' obligation in the waste picker family environment to not provide proper parenting for their children. Because returning to the role of the family as the first educational institution for children to know their environment and what their identity is the duty of parents to guide and care for children so that they become individuals with a character who can adapt to the community environment and where they live, children can adapt with the environment [7], [8].

3.3 Parents' Perception of Child Character Building

Character is essentially a moral possessed by each individual formed because of habituation carried out from an early age and carried over until the individual grows up. When talking about the concept of the character itself, several values must be understood by children. They are honesty, integrity, discipline, courtesy, responsibility, loyalty, tolerance, religion, cooperation, nationalism, etc. These values become an identification for society to assess the ideal character forms that children must-have.

Fostering children's character following the values and norms that apply in the community is the duty of parents as a form of provision for the life they provide to children. Children need supplies before they enter the age of compulsory education in formal educational institutions. By instilling character given by parents,

children will learn, play, and interact with the surrounding environment, including their peers [18], [24]–[27]. There is an assumption that children's problems in adapting to their social environment can affect the child's character. So, parental understanding is needed about the importance of supervising the activities carried out by children both at home and at school because the character of good parents will indirectly provide an example for children how they grow into intelligent and character human beings.

These characters are not only taught through learning activities at schools or other educational institutions, but parental participation is also needed as the first educational environment for children to provide exemplary examples of the application of these values in the family environment. Parents' role is crucial for developing children and building their character, especially for early childhood. Parents have a role in helping their children find their potential in (1) forming the basis of the child's personality, (2) thinking skills, (3) intelligence, and (4) socializing skills with their environment [18], [28], [29].

When children are at an early age, the role of parents is needed in providing character education to children. The role of parents will become facilitators for children in instilling moral, moral, religious, and noble values that exist in society. Character education indeed needs to be instilled from an early age because, at an early age, children can easily receive and absorb various information quickly so that what is conveyed by parents will be quickly absorbed by children and will always be applied throughout their life. If character education is not given to children from an early age, there will be differences between children who have been given character education properly or not at all [5], [32], [33].

Therefore, parents should take advantage of the golden period of their children to provide a good character education pattern for their children. So that in the future children can achieve success and success in their lives. But unfortunately, not all parents are aware of the attitude they show to their children who are not aware of it, which tends to knock the child mentally, such as hitting and yelling at the child when the child makes a mistake [5]. Where if it is done excessively it can have a bad effect on children such as children becoming insecure, timid, not brave enough to take risks, lack of self-confidence which can be carried over until they grow up. Conversely, if the child has a positive character, the child will dare to take a risk in facing challenges to achieve success. There is a tendency if a child's success is not only determined by academic achievement but also the child's success in building emotional relationships with himself, others, and the environment as a supporting power in achieving success [5], [15], [33].

Seeing the challenges of the future with technological sophistication that is getting faster and information can be received anytime and anywhere,

without a more in-depth study of the information received, it will be a challenge for the application of character education itself in maintaining the noble values that are believed to not fade with the changing times [29], [30]. Problems such as the loss of courtesy of children towards their parents, speaking harshly and disrespectfully, and criminal problems committed by teenagers will be increasingly common if character education does not go well and there is no role of parents as cadres of character education for their child [27], [31].

Parents need to provide full provisions for their children from an early age. Because until they grow up, children will always remember more sharply and longer about the parenting style applied by their parents from an early age. The next parenting style will be applied to the next generation and hereditary [32], [33]. In the family sphere, parents play a crucial role in building children's character through parenting patterns. Meanwhile, the existence of educational institutions where their children demand knowledge, their role will be much less when compared to the role of the family in shaping character. Thus, a collaboration between parents and educational institutions is needed to instill character values in children.

Therefore, parents and all family members at home have an important role in shaping children's character from an early age. Family is the first place for children to get to know their environment and adapt to the conditions around them. Because the characters built in the family will be carried over to the community and educational institutions where they study, their attitudes and daily behavior in the family environment can influence the child's character wherever he is [6], [8], [11]. So no matter what conditions are faced by the family, parents still need to pay attention to the needs of their children. In this case, the child's needs, which are also the child's right, to get the direct love and education that they get from their parents while at home.

3.4 Parenting Strategies Formed by Parents.

It cannot be denied and discussed in the previous discussion that the family is the first environment for children, from birth to adulthood. Parenting is a form or way of parents educating their children by providing good food according to their nutritional needs (nourishing), giving instructions to every activity carried out by the child, whether it is right or wrong (guiding), and how parents in protecting the children while they were growing and developing (protecting). From the child's family, they know how to behave following the values and norms that apply in society. On this basis, parents have an important task in educating their children to behave following the prevailing values and norms [9], [10], [16], [23]. The way of educating, which is commonly known as parenting, will play a strategic role in building individual personalities. Children will develop themselves in

understanding social values in society, such as ethics, morals, and tolerance, all of which start from the parenting that parents apply in the family environment.

Applying parenting strategies to children, communication that is built in the family is so important. Where parenting activities are face to face or interpersonal, children and parents can take the role of communicators or communicants. The definition of interpersonal communication is the interaction of two or more people face-to-face where the sender can directly convey the message. At the same time, the recipient can also respond to the message directly. At the family environment level, interpersonal communication is considered the most effective way of educating children because children and parents understand each other's desires through built-in interpersonal communication [20], [21].

Several factors make interpersonal communication more effective in applying parenting to children. The first factor is openness. Openness is the key for parents to understand and recognize the character of their children. Parents need to be open to children and give children the freedom to express their opinions and express their wishes, which then parents' role is to direct. Openness refers to the willingness to be a good listener and respond to others honestly and frankly according to facts.

The second factor is empathy. A sense of empathy needs to be built from an early age in children to implement their position roles like other people. It means that they care more about other people who are facing problems or are in bad condition. Empathy can be difficult for parents to teach their children regarding empathizing with other people's experiences. Empathy makes individuals not judge others but instead try to find out others' feelings, likes, values, attitudes, and behavior. The third factor is the sportsmanship behavior. Interpersonal communication built in the family will be effective if, in the individual, sportsmanship is dealing with a problem not only is defensive but also dares to face the problem by thinking calmly and finding a solution [34].

The family communication pattern itself consists of two types: communication patterns oriented to the concept and socially oriented communication patterns. Family communication patterns that emphasize the concept will be determined by the success of the family in conveying ideas, ideas, and the involvement of children in the family environment itself so that from there, the children will have a critical thinking pattern in solving a problem [6], [35]–[37]. Meanwhile, social-oriented communication patterns can be identified in the family environment's attitudes in maintaining and managing what their family needs are and how children build harmonious relationships with their parents.

There are other forms of strategies that are considered to be effective parenting strategies in the family: (1) creating a safe, comfortable, and pleasant

home atmosphere, (2) creating a positive atmosphere that supports the learning process, (3) carrying out the learning process at home with positive discipline, (4) give a realistic expression when the child learns, (5) parents remain calm and relaxed, (6) parents prepare various other activities besides those taught by the teacher who should refer to life skills, (7) Involve children in activities at home, (8) invite children to play with educational games, and (9) parents can read books or tell stories[10].

Therefore, parents need to implement appropriate parenting strategies to help their children get to know their environment. Proper parenting will also build the child's personality according to parents' wishes and society following values and norms. This strategy is not limited only to certain families but can also be carried out by families in pre-prosperous conditions such as scavenger families. Parents play a key role in building their children's character through proper parenting [8]–[10].

4. CONCLUSION

The conclusions of this study are (1) the community or family who lives in waste picker villages have an awareness

of the importance of education in instilling character values in their children, and the form of upbringing they do for their children is good behavior habits which is carried out from an early age whose hopes stick to their adulthood, (2) the perception of families in the waste picker villages towards childcare patterns, no matter how busy they work, children still need to get attention and assistance in an effort to educate them to become good personalities, one of which is by provide adequate education and mutual cooperation in the family, (3) in an effort to instill character values in waste picker families that are applied is good behavior habits that are in accordance with the values and norms prevailing in society such as honesty, discipline, religion, responsibility, have a sense of sympathy and empathy, and others, (4) strate gi parenting which is done to instill character values is by giving examples for children and also being open and having active communication with their children. The right parenting strategy is the key to the success of instilling character values in children, which is carried out from an early age in scavenger villages. Parents can choose many alternative strategies in trying to instill character values. Such as choosing a permissive, authoritarian, or democratic parenting model according to their family environment and parenting styles previously applied by their parents..

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