Efforts to Improve Children's Literacy Culture and Character Education During Children's Learning Period at Home

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Abstract: The pandemic period is a tremendous challenge for educators, namely teachers and parents to present a maximum and fun learning atmosphere at home, not only that, how educators and teachers are able to make various efforts to improve literacy culture and character education in children. House.

We understand that in this pandemic period, children are encouraged to stay at home more and reading activities are one of the activities that can improve literacy culture in children, not only that teaching a variety of religious activities is also part of improving children's character education during the pandemic as long as children study at home .

Educators, namely teachers and parents, must synergize so that literacy culture and children's character education during the pandemic and children studying at home can be maximized. So that we do not see any degradation of literacy culture and character education as long as children study at home, child still able to receive learning materials well and we can improve the culture of literacy and character education in a fun way at home. The use of fun methods will be a means that can improve the literacy culture and character education of children while studying at home.

Reading at home is one of the most beneficial activities for students in addition to improving children's literacy culture by reading will open children's horizons and knowledge, not only that reading can increase immunity because reading the brain will receive a lot of good information so it is very good for mental health , various types of motivational, religious, or educational books can be read by children according to the child's school age level. So picture books are also a trigger for children's enthusiasm to read so that literacy culture can increase as long as children study at home. Not only that, teachers and schools can hold virtual events that improve literacy culture and character education in children, for example with virtual performances that are carried out by schools that include motivation and love for literacy and are able to improve the character of students. Not only that, character education can be instilled by parents while studying at home by teaching children to be independent and responsible for any given task as well as increasing children to get closer to God through worship activities with parents at home, reciting together, sharing with those in need. through alms also invites children to maintain health protocols obediently wearing masks, washing hands and not crowding the Character education section that can be instilled in children during the current pandemic. Thus this will be able to become a medium to improve children's character education during the pandemic, with health protocols that is maintained it will make the virus does not develop, this is what needs to be instilled in children at this time. So now we need a variety of ways with creative learning media that can be taught to children with educational game media that can improve literacy culture and children's character education while children study at home.

Continuous and relentless efforts are needed so that teachers and parents are able to improve the literacy culture and character education of children while children are studying at home. In this case the

researcher uses a descriptive survey method as a reference for researchers to collect the results of the research "Efforts to Improve Children's Literacy Culture and Character Education While Children Study At Home". In this case, the researcher will take a survey sample from teachers and parents to examine efforts to improve literacy culture and children's character education while studying at home.

Researchers hope that the results of this study will become a source of information for the community that can be used, especially in improving children's literacy culture and children's character education while children are studying at home during the current pandemic.

Keywords: literacy culture, character education

1. INTRODUCTION

The covid pandemic that has hit Indonesia since March 2020 has been running for 1 year and 4 months, since the first case of the covid pandemic in Depok, until nownumber of positive casescorona virus recorded in Indonesia on Wednesday (28/7/2021) increased by 47,791 cases (Tribunenews, 29/7/2021).

This is a tremendous impact from the COVID-19 pandemic in various aspects in Indonesia, not only in the health sector which was shaken, but also in the economic aspect as well as in children's education. So the COVID-19 pandemic forces children to stay at home a lot and formal and non-formal education for children also runs online.

So in this case, literacy culture and character education are important references that need to be intensively instilled by parents and teachers even though children study at home. With a literacy culture, it will make children more able to interpret learning at home, with a lot of knowledge gained, even though the child is in a pandemic period and learning is at home, then parents should not make this literacy culture not maximally instill in children, because with culture of literacy as long as children study at home, children will be able to gain such extensive knowledge and parents are able to teach children with a variety of fun methods, with games, with educational games that make children able to love reading without being forced.

So that in instilling the cultural value of children's literacy, they are not forced, but gladly accept it because teachers and parents choose fun methods as an effort to increase children's literacy culture while children study at home [1].

Not only that for writers, parents and teachers in teaching children's character education while children study at home also need to be improved with a variety of fun methods because character education is very important to be taught both through a fun religious approach for children without forced children but children happily heart do it [10]. Approaches with fun methods will be able to make character education as long as children study at home well and this can be achieved if teachers and parents are able to synergize well then"Efforts to Improve Children's Literacy Culture and Character Education While Children Study At Home" will be achieved well with all existing challenges. Because of two things, namely literacy culture and children's character education, according to the author, they will be able to become the foundation for strengthening children as long as children are in the current difficult Covid situation. And choosing a fun method will be the best medium in conveying messages to children well.

2. METHOD

Based on the research objectives, this study uses a quantitative approach. This research was conducted in elementary schools in Malang Regency, East Java, Indonesia. The research sample was 145 school principals. To measure the performance of school principals, the instrument used was a questionnaire. Principal performance is measured by indicators: (1) professional; (2) partnership; (3) nursing; (5) independent; (6) democratic; (7) open; (8) flexible; (9) participatory; (10) accountable; (11) responsibel; (12) systemic; and (13) sustainable [3].

There are 24 statement items used to measure the performance of school principals. Data analysis using descriptive analysis, by calculating: mean; standard deviation; maximum score; minimum score; range; and intervals. Furthermore, to find out the achievements of each item, each item mean is compared to the total mean [9]. If the mean of the item < total mean, it is included in the low category (R). If the mean of the item > the total mean, it is included in the high category (H) [12]. The results of the descriptive analysis calculations are presented in the form of a frequency distribution table. To determine the principal's performance using the mean score reference.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. Literacy Culture

Literacy culture in IndonesiaReferring to the survey results of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2011, the index of the reading level of the Indonesian people is only 0.001 percent. That is, there is only one person out of 1000 residents who still 'want' to read books seriously (high). This condition places Indonesia in position 124 out of 187 countries in the assessment of the Human Development Index (HDI).

So this literacy culture is very important to be taught from an early age to Indonesian children, because with the high literacy culture of Indonesian children, it will become an atmosphere for the bright and leading generation of Indonesia. So it becomes a challenge for parents and teachers to work together to make efforts to improve the literacy culture of children in Indonesia. Real movements both at school and at home to implement a cultural pattern of literacy in children are important because the progress of a

nation starts from its generation who love science by reading and the high literacy culture[4].

So it is a challenge now that we are faced with a pandemic era which makes it a big challenge to increase the love of reading and literacy culture among children while children are studying at home. It's not easy, because children also experience boredom with current conditions that limit children's movement, due to the covid 19 pandemic.

So the author offers efforts to improve literacy culture, with synergistic parents and teachers by using fun methods through educational games and various fun activities in learning at home so that this is able to improve children's literacy skills as an effort to increase a high literacy culture.

Not only that, to build a Literacy Culture in children, according to the author is to build a habit with love of literacy with a program for every family to have a home library (family library).

The family home library program has many benefits in the Digital Age which can be a medium to increase the reading spirit in each family. Because each family will eventually be able to schedule time to read together, even if it's only 30 minutes. However, the impact is so great in building the generation and quality of Indonesian human resources [6].

According to the author, the home library program can be part of a mandatory government program as an effort to improve the quality and quality of human resources. The government is able to more broadly educate all citizens to start building the habit of reading in the family. One of them is by scheduling one family one home library as an effort to increase the love of literacy culture in children, including in pandemic conditions.

Not only that according to the authorLiteracy ability is the ability to think, process information and read situations that are applied according to scientific disciplines. Not just reading and spelling, but reading which is defined as being able to analyze, activate reasoning and solve complex problems. This requires habituation of literacy activities to create a complete literacy culture.

Literacy is a potential that can be developed optimally from an early age and is not innate. So it is necessary to take steps to support a culture of literacy from an early age. First, habituation of literacy activities within the family, as parents must be an example for their children to love literacy activities.

Families are expected to provide facilities that support the development of children's literacy, for example providing story books and storytelling before the child goes to sleep. In addition, parents are advised to communicate effectively, involve and invite discussions with children, which will optimize the literacy development process[7].

Second, increasing literacy potential through the school and community environment. Schools as educational institutions must fully support and facilitate literacy activities. Educators and literacy activists play an important role in supporting the literacy movement [11].

The thing that needs to be done is to familiarize the child before starting the learning process to get the opportunity to read the book, observe and then draw the book on paper.

This is one way for children to gain experience, so that what children observe can increase creativity and develop children's imagination. Thus these literacy activities can give birth to ideas or ideas that can be poured by children in solving problems encountered at that time.

Within the community, holding literacy activities that are supported by all levels of society and the village government as well as literacy activists. Furthermore, the central government urges to hold activities that support the literacy movement in each region, this is intended so that the community performs synergy [8].

Third, policy makers in the government firmly issue policies to make the National Literacy Movement (GLN) program a success [2]. In addition, the government needs to provide infrastructure facilities that support the development of the literacy potential of Indonesian children to remote areas of the country. These steps are expected to foster literacy skills in children as well as become a milestone in literacy awareness for the community.

Instilling literacy from an early age means the first step to advance the Indonesian generation. Because, it is impossible for people's literacy awareness to be better without starting from the early childhood generation. Like the current conditions during a pandemic that carries out learning at home, the first step starting from the family can be applied at this time to foster a culture of literacy.

As a parent, it is very necessary to play a role in getting children to love literacy activities, such as reading story books, providing opportunities for children to express their opinions and inviting children to discuss events or phenomena that are happening now.

This will make the child more confident and have a high curiosity, from here the child will explore more information and parental duties to always direct, motivate, stimulate and facilitate. It is time, from small groups such as families to fully support the potential of children's literacy development as a provision to face the challenges of life in the future.

B. Character building

Education Character is a conscious and structured effort to instill good values and positive character in children. It is intended that the child has a good personality and is tough in life. Not only that, instilling religious values as well as a good national philosophy is part of the form of character education in children. So making efforts to improve character education for children with fun learning methods will be an important effort that needs to be done by parents and teachers as well as the school.

Because with the implementation of a fun method of inculcating character values in children, the child will be able to make the transfer of these character values a thing that is easily accepted by children.

Lots ways with fun learning that children can accept in reflecting character values, for example by telling stories, dialogues, or with fun learning media. Without realizing it, the child will participate in the transfer of character values and the child is able to implement it in daily life well.

And During this pandemic, this can be done because then children will be able to understand well the current conditions with patience and sincerity and also make religion the best support for dealing with current conditions [5].

Not only that, with efforts to improve children's character education with fun methods, children will still be able to be optimistic about facing current conditions and continue to be enthusiastic about learning while at home while still working with different conditions in the current pandemic era.The challenges of the times are so great, it is necessary for parents and teachers to apply strong character Education to children. With this, children will be able to face the current of globalization as well as a bad culture of hedonism in children's character, cases of crime are so rampant, then the morals of the nation's children are a task home for teachers, parents as well as the state in instilling good character values in children by making religious values the main support and the positive values of the Indonesian nation and state as a reference as the Pancasila philosophy which contains noble values of goodness [10]. Therefore, by instilling positive character values through efforts to improve character education through fun learning methods, it will be able toDevelop basic human potential in order to become individuals with good heart, mind, and behavior. Build and strengthen community behavior, in this case the multicultural Indonesian people, Build and improve the nation's civilization.

4. CONCLUSION

Literacy culture is very important to be taught from an early age to Indonesian children, because with the high literacy culture of Indonesian children, it will become an atmosphere for the bright and leading generation of Indonesia. So it becomes a challenge for parents and teachers to work together to make efforts to improve the literacy culture of children in Indonesia. Real movements both at school and at home to implement a cultural pattern of literacy in children are important because the progress of a nation starts from its generation who love science by reading and the high literacy culture.

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