Edutainment Storytelling Method: Can the Folding Puppet Stage Improve Children's Social Emotional Development?

Sharina Munggaraning Westhisi[1], Siti Nur Hasanah[2]

and Ansori[3]

[1,3] Institute of Education and Teacher Training of Siliwangi, Cimahi, Indonesia
[2] RA Ar-Rahmi, Cimahi, Indonesia
`sharina@ikipsiliwangi.ac.id`

Abstract. This study aims to unpack the using of folding puppet stage in enhancing children's social emotional development through edutainment storytelling method. It uses the qualitative method which engaged seven children (aged 4-5 years old) and two teachers. The data were obtained through observations on children's and teachers' teaching and learning activities of one of Raudhatul Athfal (RA) institutions in Cimahi City and also interviews with two teachers. The data were analysed by thematic analysis with two themes which consists of edutainment learning model for children and children's social-emotional development aspect. The results show that utilizing the folding puppet stage is able to increase enthusiasm of children in enhancing social emotional development. Then, the teachers could accommodate children's needs and interests through edutainment storytelling method in learning instructions. The folding puppet stage is practical and efficient for teachers, since it can be used indoor or outdoor learning activities. Through those activities, children are stimulated to express their feelings and to deliver the ideas independently and confidently in high spirit ways. Besides, it is necessary to invite the parents to do the collaboration through edutainment storytelling method at home. It is recommended that teachers collaborate with children to create their own folding puppet stage in order to give more opportunities to improve their social emotional development by constructing positive interaction with peers and teachers.

Keywords: Children, Edutainment Storytelling Method, Social-Emotional Development.

1 Introduction

Raudhatul Athfal (RA) is one of the educational institutions that assists early childhood in reaching out the formal education path. The existence of RA educational institutions is one way to prepare early childhood in developing their potential through a religious approach [1]. Every child is created with their own uniqueness and potential; therefore a good learning process is learning that suits the needs of each individual by paying

attention to their shortcomings and strengths [2]. Developing children's potential can be realized through interesting and creative learning activities in the social, emotional, cognitive, linguistic, and physical training fields [3]. In line with the results of research conducted that the application of learning strategies in early childhood education starts from careful planning, expected learning objectives, preparing a pleasant learning environment and supported by learning media and determining indicators of child development [4]. Professional management of RA institutions will bring various achievements as expected by parents and the community. Teacher creativity in adopting various learning methods will encourage the growth of children in perfecting their potential such as language, social, emotional, motor, spiritual and intellectual abilities will be more guarded [5].

Early childhood is a group of children who experience different growth and development processes, which are characterized by growth patterns (fine and gross motor coordination), intelligence (thinking ability, creativity, spiritual intelligence), and social-emotional intelligence (attitude and behavior). and religion). Language and unique interactions tailored to the child's developmental level [6]. Social-emotional development is one of the many ways children mature. Despite the idea that social and emotional have different definitions, these social-emotional qualities are intricately intertwined [7]. The goal of socio-emotional development is to develop confidence in social skills and the ability to regulate their emotions [8].

The social-emotional skills of children in this RA have not yet developed optimally due to several factors, including less energetic and enthusiastic learners, certain children who do not show polite behavior, and children who rarely listen to others. As evidenced by the significant impact teachers have in the classroom, some schools emphasis teaching and learning activity on teacher-centered model. Most of teachers assign tasks without giving children the options to choose their own activities. In addition, the lack of media and resources is also one of the reasons for applying teacher-centered model.

Teacher is not the only individual using the narrative approach. Previously, children were bored with the boring explanation and lecture learning process, and the social-emotional development process was ineffective. Over time, the teacher tried to implement learning through the narrative approach by using characters who exemplify excellent behavior, so that students are more enthusiastic in learning. Children love to listen to storytellers. In our civilization, many stories have been passed down from generation to generation. As a lullaby, parents share stories with their children to strengthen their bond. Folklore is a collection of stories that have been passed down from generation to generation. Storytelling strategy is one of the most effective early childhood learning experiences as it consists of stories that children relate to verbally [9]. Stories must attract and maintain children's interest, and cannot be separated from the goals of early childhood education.

Children's social-emotional development is the development of behavior in children where children are asked to adjust to the rules that apply in the community environment. In other words, social development is the process of learning children in adjusting to the norms, morals and traditions in a group. Many factors influence the social emotional development of children [10]. Developing social emotional aspect is important to

nurture emotions from an early age to understand that children are future heirs, creators, assessors and investors who need to be optimally prepared for emotional development and social skills [11]. Because children are in the phase of golden age for their social development, which is determined by their level of development [12]. Therefore, children must be able to develop social emotional aspect from an early age, besides, emotional intelligence is described as the ability to recognize, control, and manage emotions and feelings, both their own and others through interesting media and amused learning model, such as folding puppet stage and edutainment storytelling method.

Children should get the knowledge by doing observation surroundings, in fact they do not realize that what they do will give them benefits or not in the future [13]. Furthermore, collaboration between teachers and parents are necessary, since the family is the primary environment that has considerable influence on children's development [14]. Improving social emotional aspect of children can be done by teachers and parents or they do it collaboratively through story telling activities. According to the statement above, the study aims to uncover the usage of folding puppet stage is able to improve the social emotional aspect of children through edutainment storytelling method.

2   Method

This study is a qualitative descriptive study which can depict in-depth information regarding social emotional of children in a natural way. It means that, the phenomenon of using a folding puppet stage to increase children's social emotional development is inherent. It engages seven children (aged 4-5 years old) and two teachers of RA as participants. The data are obtained by conducting observations on children's activities and teachers' learning instructions, aim to discover the responses of both and to analyse the children's social emotional development during learning sessions. The data are taken once a week for three months. Meanwhile, the interviews with the teachers to find out the data related to implementation of the folding puppet stage in learning activities. Additionally, thematic analysis is used which involved reading through a data set from in depth interviews and observations, then identifying pattern in meaning the data to originate themes. There are two themes which consists of the usage of a folding puppet stage through edutainment storytelling method for children and children's social emotional development.

3   Result and Discussion

According to interviews conducted with two teachers, they believed that learning practices at school which apply edutainment storytelling method for children need some aspects. They are preparation, implementation and evaluation. Firstly, preparation. Teacher should have well-prepared activity for children to have an amused learning ambience. Teachers have a meeting once a week to prepare the lesson plan for each meeting. Then, they work together to design the lesson plan which consists of mapping learning objectives, selecting of evaluation tools, and arranging learning activities (opening, main, and closing activity). It is in line with the research conducted which

showed that not only the planning but also how the teacher selects the learning media and chooses the method properly for children [4]. Secondly, implementation. Teachers confirmed that they are more confident to deliver the materials to students since they have well-prepared teaching by following the stages from the lesson plan. In addition, they could engage students to the learning activities through edutainment storytelling method. The children gave positive responses to the activity. Based on the observation, it can be shown that children were excited and enthusiastic while listening to the story delivered by the teacher. Lastly, evaluation. The teachers said that the evaluation is essential to measure the children's ability, particularly social emotional development aspect. They used checklist sheet through observation on that day. It concludes that the data gathered by interviews and observations are able to counter the aim of this study which is improving the social emotional development aspect by providing enjoyable learning activities.

Edutainment storytelling method is utilized to assist the teacher in enhancing children's social emotional development aspect. Teacher decided to choose it since this method can present a fun and interesting learning activity for children. However, this method needs a proper medium, which is a puppet stage. According to the interview and observation to the teachers, they said that they were exhausted and uninterested in doing storytelling method used a big book or only puppets and the children felt the same too. Therefore, teachers innovate to make a folding puppet show which is more efficient and more practical due to its design, thus teachers are able to invite children to join the activity of indoor or outdoor activities. Learning media are used by the teacher to deliver the materials and to present an entertaining learning activity [15]. In conclusion, a folding puppet stage is one of the innovative learning media which is able to help teachers in achieving the learning objectives through the edutainment way. Furthermore, the teacher could combine this method and the digital storytelling media in order to provide fascinating ambiences for children currently [16].

Fig. 1. The folding puppet stages.

Fig. 2. A child presents a story using the folding puppet stage.

The implementation of the folding puppet stage is simple. Through the observation, the teacher unfolded the puppet stage and put it on the desk. According to the interview, the teachers said that making the folding puppet stage was a little bit challenging. The stage made by the used of television box, the decoration can be made by the used materials and should be connected to children's interests, so they can be more connected to the learning process. In addition, teachers added that creativity of teachers are needed to design the folding puppet show [17]. The children were excited to listen to the story delivered by the teachers. During the activity, the teacher asked some questions regarding the story (customized to the theme for each day), the children responded actively. Besides, the teacher gave an opportunity to children who wanted to make their own story using the puppets. The learning ambience built by the teacher is the way to involve the children obtain the knowledge actively as a process of knowledge construction [18].

Evaluation is an essential aspect in teaching and learning process. Teachers should provide assessment properly to measure the children's development aspect. Based on the interview, the teachers stated that observation sheet through checklist is used to discover the children's development which consists of 4 criteria: 1) Not yet developed; 2) Starting to develop; 3) Developed as expected; 4) Developed very well. Teachers assessed each indicator for children's development aspect everyday which aimed to accomplish the learning objectives. There are some indicators related to social emotional development of children: 1) Intend to share with friends; 2) Be patient when waiting for the turn; 3) Say "thank you" when given something; 4) Do the task until finished by her/himself; 5) Be happy to help; 6) Be proud of your own work.

Utilizing numerous media and methods for learning activities in the classroom gives benefits to children and teachers, for instance to improve social emotional development through edutainment storytelling method. According to observation sheets during the data obtained, children's social emotional development is increased significantly. It is proven by five children were not yet developed level at the beginning and were developed as expected level. It means that media and method should be connected and relevant. Folding puppet stage is an innovation which should be supported by an edutainment storytelling method. Moreover, teacher's skills to develop the media, activities, and method are very important to assist the children to fulfill their learning objectives well.

4   Conclusion

Folding puppet stage is one of the innovative learning media which can be used by the teachers or parents to assist children in improving their social emotional development through a story telling activity, since it is practical and efficient, which can be carried for indoor or outdoor activities. Also, it is able to increase enthusiasm of children, so their learning activities are full of joy. Besides, teachers could unite this activity based on children's needs and interests through edutainment storytelling method. Through those activities, children are stimulated to express their feelings and to deliver the ideas independently and confidently by teachers or parents. It is recommended that teachers or parents do collaboration with children to create their own folding puppet stage in

order to give more opportunities to improve their social emotional development by constructing positive interaction with peers, teachers, and parents.

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