

Study of Students` Character in Coastal Communities

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Abstract— Character is the value of human behavior that is related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow human beings, environment, and nationality which is manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words, and actions based on religious norms, law, manners, culture, and customs. This study aims at identifying students` character in purpose to promote the educational quality in the coastal area. A scientific learning approach that can be considered as the character based approach due to the implementation that contains a lot of character values can be inculcated in students. This study employed a qualitative descriptive study. The sample was selected by purposive sampling. Analysis data technique utilized in this research is qualitative analysis data including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion. The results showed that the coastal communities already felt that education for students in the coastal area is important. It can be proven from the data showing most students in Senior High School level in Takisung own the good characters, such as respect to parents and high attitude of independence. This is reflected in the habits that the students do after returning from school; they go to the beach or out to find fish as an economical addition to their family.

Keywords— *Characters, Coastal communities*

I. INTRODUCTION

One important agenda that is being worked on by the Ministry of Education and Culture is character education. Things that are built from reality showing that this nation is experiencing a character crisis [1]. The concern on character education will then be interwoven with honesty and perseverance. This is in accordance with Law No. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System in Article 3 stating that national education functions to develop capabilities and shape dignified national character and civilization to educate the life of the nation. National education aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and fear to God Almighty, have a noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens. Therefore, the character is the value of human behavior that is related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow human beings, environment, and nationality which is manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words, and actions based on religious norms, law, manners, culture, and customs. The character is closely related to how a human being must be able to behave well with others. The ability to interact with others and all constructively become a necessary thing. The most important value of character education implatively is the display of human beings who prioritize togetherness, the spirit of respecting each other besides and other good life practices [2].

Building national character is very important in maintaining the existence of a nation and state. It is not surprising that at the beginning of independence, the first President of the Republic of Indonesia, Soekarno, emphasized the principle of sovereignty in politics, economics, and personality in culture [3]. However, until now, the character of citizens has not shown good character, as can be seen from many behaviors of citizens who deviate from the values, morals, and norms that are already applied.

Ref[4] in his inaugural speech as a Professor of FPIPS, stated that: Historically, socio-cultural nation-building and character building (nation and character building) is a national commitment that has long grown and developed in the lives of people, nations, and countries of Indonesia. As reflected in various historical and constitutional historical documents, at first the Indonesian nation was known as a patient, friendly, and polite. However, it turned into a nation of angry, vile, vengeful, and cruel. If this condition is not immediately anticipated, it will certainly threaten the stability and disintegration of the nation and state.

Regarding various factors that can shape character, formal education institutions are the most important container for that. This is in line with the national education goals as mandated in Law number 20 of 2003 concerning the national education system. Article 1 paragraph 1 stating that: 'Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have spiritual spirit strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and ability that are needed themselves, society, nation, and state.'

In an effort to improve the suitability and quality of character education, the Ministry of Education and Culture developed the grand design of character education for each pathway, level, and type of education unit. The grand design is a conceptual and operational reference for the development, implementation, and assessment of each path and level of education. Character configurations in the context of the totality of psychological and socio-cultural processes are grouped in the heart or spiritual and emotional development, intellectual development, sports, and kinesthetic or physical and kinetic development, feeling, and intention or affective and creativity development.

Based on this notion, the teacher as the main actor in classroom learning should be able to carry out learning innovations, one of them is to examine the character of students in coastal communities. This is in accordance with the 4 (four) superior priority areas of Lambung Mangkurat University,

namely agriculture and wetlands, basic science and health, engineering and technology, and social humanities, which then break down into ten focus areas, and one of them is education and learning innovation. The study of the character of students in coastal communities is one of the innovations in the field of education and learning which is believed to be the golden bridge of development and development of students' attitudes, skills, and knowledge.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study is a qualitative study. The data was collected and analysed through the sentence compilation in a descriptive, narrative, and argumentative way. The reasons for selecting qualitative research method are the collected data including the students' character in the coastal communities, that cannot be got through the numerical accounting. The use of this research affects the determination of the research site and determination of informant. The informants were determined by purposive sampling and two main considerations. The research subjects/informants were senior high school students; and the other informants were the teacher of the school, the principal, and the public figure either according to age or experience in linked with educational field, particularly characters. Analysis data technique utilized in this research was qualitative analysis data by Miles and Huberman. Qualitative research activities carried out interactively and took place continuously, so the data were getting saturated. The activities and the analysis data were including data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Character education in the learning process must also be packaged in such a way that students are able to internalize values and reproduce them in their daily life in class, school, and outside of school. The responsibility and duty of the teacher to design applicative character education is an undeniable necessity. In this context, at least there are important things which must be used as guidelines for educators so that the implementation of character education is then truly carried out. First, the attitude of recognition and acceptance of students must be carried out. This is because such an attitude will build the attitude of students to be themselves as someone who feels recognized existence and gets a place outside himself. Therefore, the character possessed by the students from the results of the study in the coastal communities can be described.

The coastal society has distinctive characteristics. Coastal communities are a group of people who live together to inhabit coastal areas to form and have distinctive cultures associated with their dependence on coastal resource utilization. They are not only fishermen but also fish farmers, fish processors, and even fish traders.

The characteristics of coastal communities differ from the characteristics of agrarian communities or farmers. Regarding income, farmers have income that can be controlled due to the controlled crop patterns so that the food or livestock they have can be determined to achieve the income they want. Unlike farmers, the coastal communities whose livelihoods are

dominated by servants and waiters struggle with the sea to earn income. So, the income they want cannot be controlled.

Based on the analysis of the area of twelve villages in Takisung sub-district area, Takisung is an area with more than 50% of the population working as fishermen, and they depend on the coastal life (Source: results of interviews with Takisung sub-district officials and Takisung village officials, 2018). This means the local people view the coast as a source of livelihood to sustain their lives.

If it is studied in social culture, the Takisung community, which is close to the coastal area, can be called a community that lives and is independent of the sea. The sea as a way of life becomes a space for them to establish themselves as seafarers, a group of people who are alive and independent because of their economic income from fishing.

In the meantime, the total students in each educational level in Takisung society is shown in Table 1.

TABLE I. TOTAL STUDENTS ON SD/MI, SMP/MTS, AND SMA/MA IN REFERENCE WITH GENDER IN EACH VILLAGE IN 2018

| Village | SD/MI | Total | SMP/MTs | Total | SMA/MA | Total |
|-----------------|-------|-------|---------|-------|--------|-------|
| Kuala Tambungan | 1 | 296 | 2 | 183 | 0 | 0 |
| Telaga Langsat | 1 | 130 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Takisung | 2 | 302 | 2 | 514 | 1 | 396 |
| Gunung Makmur | 3 | 533 | 1 | 143 | 0 | 0 |
| Sumber Makmur | 2 | 294 | 1 | 126 | 0 | 0 |
| Benua Tengah | 3 | 387 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 287 |
| Benua Lawas | 2 | 224 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ranggang | 3 | 456 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Batilai | 1 | 113 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Ranggang Dalam | 1 | 184 | 1 | 146 | 0 | 0 |
| Pegatan Besar | 1 | 316 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Tabanio | 3 | 356 | 1 | 193 | 0 | 0 |
| Total | 20 | 3.591 | 8 | 1.305 | 2 | 683 |

^a Sources: Analysis of the Researchers from Several Sources, 2018

In table 1, it is very evident that each village has a number of primary or equal schools to support the development of human resources with a productive population of 3,591 even though actually between villages can consist of two or three schools to accommodate children to enter primary school. If it is associated with the number of schools in one sub-district for the junior high school level of only eight junior high schools, the description of the research data presented by the junior and senior high schools is only 2 schools in this Takisung sub-district. Therefore, this study was conducted in senior high

schools in Takisung sub-district because it is relevant to the characteristics of coastal communities, which are related to the character possessed by their students.

The character is related to a person's behavior in social relations in the community. It is the process of using value in the form of daily behavior so that it is reflected in honest, kind, and friendly behavior as a form of positive characters. It reveals that character is something that focuses on the character of someone that reflects the behavior of someone. Positive character instilling is a continuous process that should be done and habitual process that can repeatedly form a positive character in someone. As it is done repeatedly, it will become stronger and clearer into a habitual pattern. Character is a fulcrum that is repetitively and becomes a habitual pattern in life with fellow human beings both social interaction in the family and community environment in accordance with the prevailing norms and customs.

Students in coastal communities have good characters, namely respect for parents and high attitude of independence. It is reflected in the habits that the students do after returning from school. They go to the beach or out to find fish as a way to help their families' financial. Character education as education of moral values and norms aims to form good character, that is, personal in accordance with the norms, morals, and ethics of the people and nation of Indonesia, namely Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution. By understanding the function and purpose of education nationally as stated above, character education is an integral part of the national education system. In other words, character education is at the core of national education. From the results of this study, in line with the opinion of the Ministry of National Education in 2025, desiring to produce Indonesian people who are intelligent and competitive (Ihsan Kamil/ Insan Paripurna). What is meant by intelligent comprehension as described by reference [5] includes (1) Spiritual Intelligence, namely being able to actualize through heart / heart to strengthen faith, piety, and noble character, including noble mind and character and bronze personality; (2) Emotional intelligence, namely being able to actualize through feeling to improve sensitivity and appreciation of the subtlety and beauty of art and culture, as well as the competence to express it; (3) Social intelligence, which is capable of self-actualization through social interactions that: foster and foster reciprocal, democratic, empathic and sympathetic relationships, uphold human rights, be cheerful and confident, respect the culture of the nation and state, and have nationalism with awareness of the rights and obligations of citizens; (4) Intellectuals intelligence, namely being able to actualize themselves through thinking to obtain competency and independence in knowledge and technology and intellectuals who are critical, creative and imaginative; (5) Kinesthetic intelligence, which is capable of self-actualization through sports to create healthy, fit, resilient people, skilled, and actualization of adiraga people. In addition, what is meant by competitive Indonesian people is namely: (1) Superior personality and passion for excellence; (2) Fighting spirit (3) Independent; (4) Never give up; (5) Network builders; (6) Desire with change; (8) Productive; (9) Quality awareness; (10) Global oriented; (11) Lifelong learning. In line with the opinion of reference [6], the implementation of character

education is a long process in helping young people to develop good qualities, such as caring, fair, honest, responsible, as well as respecting themselves and others. In accordance with the opinions raised, this study can be used as a reference showing that the students in the coastal communities having the character independence.

IV. CONCLUSION

The students in coastal communities have good characters, namely respect for parents and high attitude of independence. It is reflected in the habits that the students do after returning from school. The students go to the beach or out to find fish as an economical addition to their family.

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