

# The Role of Character Education in the Family

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**Abstract—** Family is one of an environment nearby the children. Family as the first and important environment for developing children personality and character. On this literature study, it would explained about the roles of parenting in conducting the family education based on children character in the family. In accordance with the fact that how many times the children spends their time in their home. Children education as a basic education an conduct the children development for the next step. Understanding about the children behaviour, it would direct the children to develop their character. In correlation with that, on the developing children character, specifcly on early childhood. Parent must be a modal behaviour for their children in the family. Parent needs many activities that could be a part behaviour education for their children in the family of many aspects in a life. In other hand, the family needs a role as a basic of children behaviour. And the last, hopefully the children character that based on moral values and nationalities values that had early started through the family education.

**Keywords—** Parenting Program, Early Childhood, Non Formal Childhood Education

## I. INTRODUCTION

Many developments and changes experienced by the Indonesian nation at this time, Its shows the shifting of values that were formerly considered noble or good, becoming something that is difficult to do, while something practical and easy to implement is considered something that is common although not necessarily in accordance with the character and personality of Indonesian society. In relation to the issues, character education and learning is a very urgent issue and needed by the nation of Indonesia today, this is because of things have happened in the community indicate that there has been a serious moral and mental crisis that can threaten the identity as well integrity of the Indonesian nation.

The importance of character education and development, seen from the expression of a great Greek philosopher, Heraclitus which states that the character is the destiny or fate of a person. Character gives shape to the fate that will be undertaken by the individual, and the character also determines the fate of a society in the character of a society unfolds prosperity of a nation [1][2].

The expression of Heraclitus, it can be seen that the character possessed by individuals in society is very important, because the development of a nation is determined by the character of its citizens. Thus, it is understandable that the reason for character education and learning becomes a priority for the Indonesian nation in the future. Legally Formal, in article 3 of Law No. 20 of 2003, on the National Education System has been affirmed that:

“National Education function to develop the ability and form the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the nation's life, aims for the development of potentials and students in order to become human beings who believe and piety to God Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become a democratic citizen and responsible”

From the experts opinion above, it can be concluded that the national education is essentially to form a young generation of Indonesia in accordance with the quality of dignity as well as make the Indonesian human character that is in accordance with expected by the development and future of the nation. In this case can be done through three educational systems, family education (informal education), schooling (formal education) and community education (non formal education).

The family is one of the major media responsible for determining the character formation of the nation. The family position in this process is very important because basically the community is family. The norms or all cultures contained within the community actually originate from family culture as the smallest group in society. Internalization of value, socialization and enculturation of the value originated from the family. The family is instrumental in shaping the foundation of the pupil in a character education, including in understanding the cultural values within himself. Families who have a concern for cultural values and always make the cultural value as a living guide will succeed in passing the value to his family. On the contrary, for families whose lifestyles are far from cultural values, it will further alienate their families from the inheritance of cultural values.

Family education is crucial to the development of children. Education in the family coloring and determine the success of children after they are involved in the community environment, especially to adolescents. The results showed that about 50% of adult intelligence variability has occurred when the child was four years old. The next 30% increase occurs at the age of eight, and the remaining 20% in the middle or end of the second decade [3].

The development of intelligence is accompanied by the development of other personality mental until adolescence. After adulthood, intelligence and personality behaviors have been relatively stable, therefore if you want to shape the intelligence and character of children, the most appropriate time is at the time of age until the teenager. In line with the findings of this study, the results of the research by Peterson and Park, concluded that the strength of character is positively correlated with behavioral and emotional problems in adolescents such as depression, violence and so on. From both the results of this study concluded that the role of the family on the formation of abilities and character of children is very important [4].

In practice, family education has not been fully implemented by parents, especially with regard to adolescent character formation. This is seen from the rampant occurrence of violations of moral values in adolescents, such as news on the mass media, such as ditching, cheating, driving fast on the highway and so forth. In addition to individual impacts, there are also wide-ranging impacts on society, such as increased family violence, divorce, harassment, brawl, free sex behavior, and narcotics consumption.

Many factors are the reason that the concept of education in the family given by parents so far has not been optimally practiced in everyday life in the character education of children at home. Especially to teenagers. According to the author's thinking the cause of the problem are:

- 1) Lack of knowledge and understanding of the parent about the role and role of functions and responsibilities and ways of implementation of education, especially against adolescents at home.
- 2) The weak role of socio-cultural society in building awareness of the importance of family education.
- 3) The strong urge and pull of economic struggles of the parents in meeting the demands and needs of the family, thus ignoring the roles as functions and duties of parents and some even unwittingly, due to demands of their economic needs (father and mother) forget his responsibility as first and foremost educator.

- 4) The widespread advancement of information technology also influences the way parents think and act. For example, instant behavior by giving media facilities that do not educate, letting access to various information not educate, either through television media and control (protection) was not controlled, due to the ignorance of the parents.

Based on the background of the problem, the researcher is interested to make a writing in an article entitled: *The Role of the Family in Shaping the Character of Early Childhood*. [5]

## II. DISCUSSION

### A. Character Education

According to Mulyasa, the word "character" comes from the Greek its means "to mark" and focuses on how to apply good values in real action or everyday behavior [6]. Character education is an evolving discipline with a deliberate effort to optimize students behaving ethically [7].

According to the Ministry of National Education character education interpreted as an education that develops and character of the nation in the learners themselves so that they have the value and character as a character of himself, applying these values in his life, as members of society, and citizens are religious, nationalist, productive and creative [8].

According to Megawangi, the aims of character education is to form a holistic human character, which is to develop the physical, emotional, social, creativity, spiritual and intellectual aspects of students optimally. It also forms the human lifelong learners (true learners) [9]. Character education is very useful for teenagers, it is because to in still the values of education that starts from an early age so that adults can apply the knowledge that can start from an early age. Furthermore, according to Megawangi there are nine basic characters developed and character education in Indonesia that should be taught to children since early, namely: (1) love god and all its contents; (2) responsibility, discipline and independence; (3) wise; (4) respect and courtesy; (5) love, caring and cooperation; (6) confident, creative and never give up; (7) justice and leadership; (8) good and humble; (9) tolerance, love of peace and unity [9].

### B. Family Education

The family as the first educational environment is very important role in forming the character of the child, because in the family, children first get acquainted with the values and norms. In addition, the influence of socialization of parents in children occurs early, given the time children with family far longer than any other social environment. Children's education should be provided early by parents. To

prepare for a good generation is not easy. Parents as educators in the family environment should have knowledge about moral education and child development, in addition must also know the obligation in educating children. Lickona explained that "... the family is foundation of both intellectual and moral development, helping parents to be good parents is the single most important things a school can do to help students develop strong character and succeed academically" [10]. From Lickona's opinion, it can be explained that the moral and intellectual development of children is the family.

From some understanding above, it can be concluded that the family is basically a container forming the character of each member, especially children who are still in the guidance and responsibilities of their parents. How a family treats their children will have an impact on the development of their children's behavior, as Dimerman puts it that "The family is the first school of virtue. It is where we learn about love. It is where we learn about commitment, sacrifice, and faith in something larger than ourselves. The family lays down the moral foundation of which all other social institutions build" [11]. From the statement it can be concluded that the family is the first school, in this family we learn everything and family is the foundation of moral education.

### C. Equations

Positive habits like this will slowly become part of the character formation of children. The first function of the parent in the context of developing the child's character is as a role model. Parents play an important role in the cultivation of various values of life acceptable and embraced by the child. Children more imitate and imitate parents, such as how to speak, how to dress, how to act, and others. Parents remain the guidelines for the formation of values in behavior patterns recognized by the child in the early days of his life [12]. The same is also explained by Syarbini as an educational and religious institution, the family

is the first and main educational institution for the character formation of children. The family is the child's first educational environment before he goes to other educational institutions. In the family a child is formed character, character and personality. To that end, character education can't be separated from the participation of parents even though the child has entered the education level. Because, the child is more time together with parents or family [13].

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