

# International Journal of Students Education

Page 139-143

ISSN 2988-1765

Vol 3 No 3 2025

Copyright © Author International Journal of Students Education

This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License



## THE ROLE OF TEACHERS IN INSTITUTING THE VALUE OF TOLERANCE

**Anggun Deswita<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Medan

Email: <sup>1</sup>[adeswita34@gmail.com](mailto:adeswita34@gmail.com)

### Abstract

Teachers play a crucial role in shaping students' character, including instilling the value of tolerance, which is the foundation for harmonious living in a multicultural society. This study examines the strategic role of teachers in the learning process, both through direct approaches and integration into the curriculum, to teach the value of tolerance to students. Teachers function not only as transmitters of knowledge but also as role models and facilitators who create an inclusive learning environment. In the educational context, the value of tolerance is taught through various methods, such as discussions, case studies, and collaboration in problem-solving. Emphasis on the importance of effective communication, recognition of diversity, and constructive conflict management are part of the teacher's role. This study concludes that strengthening the value of tolerance in the younger generation requires the active involvement of teachers who are committed to providing role models and creating positive interactions within the school community. Thus, education on the value of tolerance is an effective way to build a peaceful and respectful society. The conclusion of this study is the high potential for social conflict due to a lack of understanding and appreciation of differences, whether in terms of religion, culture, or other social values. Formal education, particularly through the role of teachers, is considered a strategic means of instilling the value of tolerance from an early age. The research used a descriptive qualitative method. Data were obtained through observation, in-depth interviews with teachers in multicultural schools, and the study of relevant documents. Data analysis was conducted using thematic analysis techniques to identify strategies and challenges faced by teachers in integrating the value of tolerance into the learning process. This study shows that teachers play a crucial role in fostering an understanding of tolerance through inclusive learning approaches, integrating tolerance values into subjects, and modeling daily behavior. However, some challenges include teachers' limited understanding of tolerance-based learning approaches and a lack of support from outside the school environment. This study emphasizes the importance of ongoing training for teachers to enhance their understanding of how to effectively teach tolerance values. It also recommends collaboration between schools, families, and communities to create an environment conducive to the implementation of tolerance values.

**Keywords :** Teachers, Tolerance Values, Character Education, Diversity, Social Harmony

### Introduction

In an increasingly global and multicultural modern society, tolerance is an essential value for fostering social harmony. Amidst cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity, individuals require a deep understanding to respect differences and coexist peacefully. In this context, education plays a central role in shaping the character of the younger generation, with teachers playing a key role in instilling moral and ethical values, including tolerance. As agents of change, teachers are not only tasked with delivering subject matter but also with serving as facilitators, mediators, and role models for students in understanding the importance of tolerance. This value-instilling process can be carried out through various strategies, such as creating an inclusive learning environment, integrating values of tolerance into learning materials, and developing collaborative activities involving students from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, a dialogic approach to learning also enables students to learn to respect others' perspectives and resolve conflicts constructively. (Banks, JA2008). Tolerance is not only about accepting diversity,

but also about building a deep sense of mutual respect. Therefore, teachers' ability to develop empathy, effective communication, and a pedagogical approach based on inclusive values are key factors in the success of this educational process. By instilling the value of tolerance, teachers not only help students develop into individuals of character but also contribute to building a peaceful, just, and harmonious society. Tilman, T. 2018).

### *Understanding Tolerance*

Tolerance is one of the character values that must be instilled since early childhood education. One of the existing tolerances is religious tolerance. Religious tolerance can be realized with the 5k strategy according to Fidesnirur (Faiqoh, 2015), including: consensus, namely a joint agreement between teachers and parents regarding the character to be built; commitment, namely there is obedience and shared responsibility by teachers and parents in implementing the agreement on implementing attitudes in children; Consistency, namely There is a consistent attitude in implementing attitudes through play activities, both in elementary school and in the family; continuously carried out continuously every day, throughout the year until the behavior becomes a habit and is then imprinted in the child's soul and mind so that it forms an attitude; consequent: there are consequences that are applied.

### *Factors that influence tolerance*

The first factors that influence tolerance are religion and social norms. The influence of social norms and religion can be significant. If social norms and religion can be developed positively, they will play a greater role in building ethnic tolerance. The next factor is the upbringing of parents and teachers. The determining factor for the value of tolerance to grow in children is education through the care of parents and teachers. Another factor that influences tolerance is education. Based on the results of the study, it was found that there is a positive and significant influence of educational practices on students' attitudes in the value of tolerance. The principle of harmony that is firmly held, the principle of respect and high solidarity between people are also driving factors for tolerance. Based on the results of the study, several factors were found to cause intolerance, one of which is in religious freedom, including differences of opinion about beliefs, disagreements with other ethnicities by bringing up their respective religions, disagreements due to personal problems by bringing up religion, feeling disturbed by religious activities held around residential areas.

### *The Role of Teachers in Instilling Tolerance in Children*

Education serves to develop cultural values into national values that are relevant to life. Early tolerance education is crucial, both explicitly and implicitly, and should be implemented in Early Childhood Education. For Maria Harris, an implicit curriculum refers to something unwritten but crucial. The curriculum implemented at Siaro Elementary School, for example, remains implicit. However, researchers recommend establishing an explicit tolerance curriculum for early childhood so that children can learn and apply the values of tolerance (Ati, 2015).

## **Research Methodology**

This research uses a literature study method or literature review. This research method has sources from various collections of articles from scientific works or previous research that are used to answer the research questions in this article (Ati, 2015). This study uses a literature study method because it aims to collect research results related to the role of teachers in instilling tolerance values in elementary schools in Indonesia. Therefore, this study contains research results regarding the instillation of tolerance values from several regions in Indonesia. The sample in this study is the results of previous research on the instillation of tolerance values in elementary school students. Data collection is carried out by presenting the results of these previous studies. The following is a literature study, among others.

approach. This approach was chosen because it provides in-depth insight into teachers' experiences, perspectives, and strategies (Creswell, JW 2013). The following is a detailed explanation of the methods that can be used:

### *Research Approach*

The case study method is often used because it allows researchers to delve deeply into the role of teachers in specific contexts, such as culturally diverse schools. Another alternative is the phenomenological approach, which aims to understand teachers' subjective experiences in teaching the value of tolerance to students.

### *Data Collection Techniques*

1. In-depth Interviews: Interviews were conducted with teachers, students, and parents to gain a comprehensive picture of tolerance teaching practices

2. **Participatory Observation:** Researchers can directly observe how teachers integrate tolerance values into classroom learning activities. This observation helps understand teacher behavior and their interactions with students
3. **Documentation Analysis:** Documents such as lesson plans (RPP), syllabi, and teaching materials are analyzed to see the extent to which tolerance values are integrated into the curriculum.

#### *Data Analysis*

Data was analyzed using a thematic approach. This process involves several stages, namely:

1. **Data Reduction:** Sorting and selecting relevant data from interviews, observations, and documentation.
2. **Data Presentation:** Arranging data in the form of tables, diagrams, or organized narratives.
3. **Conclusion Drawing:** Identifying the main themes or patterns that describe the role of teachers in instilling the value of tolerance.

#### *Data Validity and Reliability*

Data validity was achieved through triangulation, which involves comparing data obtained from various sources, such as interviews, observations, and documentation. This approach ensures the accuracy and credibility of the findings.

#### *Research Location*

This research would ideally be conducted in a school with cultural, religious, and ethnic diversity. This would allow researchers to understand the challenges teachers face in teaching the value of tolerance in a multicultural environment.

### **Result & Discussion**

#### *Teacher Strategies in Instilling Tolerance Values*

Teachers play a strategic role in instilling the value of tolerance through various approaches designed to help students understand and appreciate diversity. Banks, JA2008). Some of the strategies found in the research include:

1. **Values-Based Learning:** Teachers actively integrate the value of tolerance into subjects such as Civics, History, and Religion. Topics such as cultural diversity, respect for human rights, and the importance of mutual respect are taught
2. **Group Discussions and Debates:** Teachers encourage students to discuss issues related to diversity and tolerance. Students are given space to express their views and listen to the perspectives of others.
3. **Role-Play:** Teachers use role-play to simulate conflicts that may arise from differences, so that students can learn how to resolve problems constructively and peacefully
4. **Collaborative Projects:** Students from diverse backgrounds are invited to work together on group projects to build a sense of community and eliminate prejudice.

#### *Inclusive Learning Environment*

Teachers strive to create an inclusive learning environment where every student feels valued and accepted. This is done by establishing classroom rules that encourage respect, facilitating the participation of students from all backgrounds, and providing a safe space to share personal experiences. An inclusive environment helps students develop empathy and appreciation for diversity. UNESCO.2017).

#### *The Role of Teachers as Role Models*

Teachers serve as role models for students by demonstrating tolerance in their daily lives. This includes speaking respectfully, treating all students fairly without discrimination, and providing concrete examples of how to coexist in diversity. A teacher's consistent attitude inspires students to follow suit. Lickona, T. 1991).

#### *Positive Impact on Students*

Research shows that instilling the value of tolerance by teachers has a positive impact, according to (Lickona, T.1991), including:

1. **Collaboration Skills:** Students become better able to work together with peers from different cultural or religious backgrounds
2. **Increased Empathy:** Students demonstrate a better understanding of others' feelings and needs.

3. **Constructive Conflict Management:** Students learn to resolve conflicts through dialogue and mutual respect, avoiding aggressive or discriminatory behavior.

#### *Challenges Faced by Teachers*

Teachers face various challenges in this process, including:

1. **Time Constraints:** A busy curriculum often makes it difficult for teachers to provide time for additional activities that support the value of tolerance.
2. **Lack of Support from Parents:** Not all parents support the implementation of tolerance values, especially if it goes against their personal beliefs
3. **Less Supportive Socio-Cultural Context:** A societal environment that does not support diversity often makes it difficult for teachers to instill the value of tolerance effectively.

#### *Recommendations for Strengthening the Role of Teachers*

Based on these findings, several recommendations were given by Gay, G.(2010):

1. **Teacher Training:** Teachers need to attend training to improve their ability to educate students about tolerance through a multicultural approach
2. **Collaboration with Stakeholders:** Involving parents, communities, and schools in supporting the learning of tolerance values
3. **Use of Technology:** Teachers can utilize digital media to enrich learning materials related to tolerance, such as videos, virtual simulations, or interactive modules.

#### *Teachers as Role Models*

The role of teachers in instilling the value of tolerance is closely related to their ability to serve as role models for students. Teachers who consistently demonstrate mutual respect, treat all students fairly, and avoid discriminatory language will provide students with concrete examples of the importance of tolerance. This teacher attitude can help students understand how diversity should be accepted and respected in everyday life. Lickona, T.1991).

#### *Integration of Tolerance Values into the Curriculum*

Teachers can teach the value of tolerance through integration into various subjects, such as Civics, Religion, and History. Concrete examples include discussing the stories of figures who promoted diversity or having students analyze historical events that teach the importance of tolerance. In this way, students can understand the meaning of tolerance in a cultural and social context. Banks, J. A 2008).

#### *Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment*

A classroom environment that respects differences provides opportunities for students to practice tolerance directly. Teachers create an inclusive environment by establishing rules that support respect for diversity, providing a safe space for dialogue, and ensuring that all students feel accepted regardless of their background. UNESCO.2017).

#### *Active and Interactive Learning Methods*

Teachers use learning methods that support students' understanding of tolerance. For example:

1. **Group Discussion:** Discussing issues surrounding diversity
2. **Role-Play:** Practicing peaceful conflict resolution
3. **Collaborative Projects:** Encourage students to work together with friends from different backgrounds, so they can learn to accept differences in a positive way. ( Gay, G.2010).

#### *Character Education as the Basis for Tolerance*

Teachers also play a crucial role in students' character education. Instilling values such as empathy, respect for others, and solidarity supports the strengthening of tolerance. This character education helps students understand the concept of tolerance not only cognitively but also in their daily actions. Lickona, T.2010).

#### *Challenges Faced*

While important, instilling the value of tolerance is not without challenges. Teachers are often faced with:

1. **Lack of Parental Support:** Some parents have different views on diversity.

2. Unsupportive Cultural or Social Context: An environment that does not value diversity can impact students.
3. Time Constraints: The busy curriculum often makes it difficult for teachers to pay special attention to the value of tolerance.

### *Long-Term Impact*

The results of teachers instilling the value of tolerance have created a generation that not only understands the importance of diversity but is also able to practice tolerance in their lives. Students who have learned these values tend to be more empathetic, respectful of differences, and able to resolve conflicts peacefully. UNESCO.2017).

### **Conclusion**

Teachers play a crucial role in instilling the value of tolerance in schools, which is a key foundation for building a harmonious and respectful society amidst diversity. As educators, teachers serve not only as instructors of knowledge but also as role models, facilitators, and agents of character formation in students. This role is realized through various strategies, such as integrating the value of tolerance into the curriculum, creating an inclusive learning environment, and implementing interactive learning methods such as group discussions, role-playing, and collaborative projects. Furthermore, teachers also serve as role models, demonstrating tolerance through fair daily behavior, respect for differences, and avoiding discrimination. The impact of tolerance education provided by teachers is not only seen in students' more empathetic behavior and ability to manage conflict constructively, but also in the formation of a generation that values diversity and can contribute positively to society. However, in carrying out this role, teachers often face challenges, such as lack of parental support, time constraints due to a busy curriculum, and socio-cultural constraints in the surrounding environment. Therefore, collaborative efforts from all parties, including parents, schools, and communities, are needed to support teachers' role in instilling the value of tolerance. With a consistent and comprehensive approach, teachers can be the main driving force in creating a generation that is tolerant, inclusive, and committed to humanitarian values.

### **References**

- Ati, S. (2015). Analysis of Information Literacy of Community Reading Park Users.
- Banks, J. A. (2008). An Introduction to Multicultural Education . Pearson.
- Characters of Honesty, Tolerance, and Peace in Early Childhood.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches . Sage Publications.
- Faiqoh, N. (2015). Implementation of Multicultural-Based Education as an Effort to Value
- Gay, G. "Culturally Responsive Teaching: Theory, Research, and Practice." Teachers College Press . (2010).
- Lickona, T. "Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility.
- Lickona, T. (1991). Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility . Bantam Books.
- Mahfud, C. (2009). Multicultural Education . Student Library.
- Moleong, LJ (2018). Qualitative Research Methodology . Rosdakarya Youth.
- Nasir, M. (2013). "Character Education in Multicultural Schools: A Case Study of Tolerance Values." Journal of Multicultural Education , 5(2), 123–134.
- Nieto, S. (2010). Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education .
- Tilaar, HAR (2004). Multiculturalism: Future Global Challenges in the Transformation of National Education . Grasindo.
- Tilman, T. "Creating Inclusive Classroom Environments: A Guide for Educators." Journal of Educational Strategies . (2018).
- UNESCO (2017). Tolerance: The Threshold of Peace .
- Yin, R. K. (2014). Case Study Research: Design and Methods . Sage Publications.