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## CHARACTER EDUCATION AS THE MAIN PILLAR OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

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### Abstract

This article applies the meta analysis method. This research is a type of qualitative research. The research is intended to see how the role of character education is the main pillar for improving the quality of education. The rapid progress of the times has resulted in a decline in moral or social value for the current generation caused by the negative impact of the technology used. Thus, character education is crucial for developing a sense of responsibility when utilizing today's technology. Character education is also expected to be able to develop children in terms of cognitive, spiritual, socio-emotional, and creative power to the maximum. Character education has the goal of being able to develop an attitude of obedience to God Almighty, not breaking the law. Character learning through quality improvement activities that are on the agenda and design in the syllabus, both short and long term, character building through quality improvement activities with the goal of more appreciation of children for good values and emerging based on real events. and character improvement emerges from activities exemplary and example so that children are able to imitate something good. The expected goals are not only based on knowledge, but also include understanding, understanding, living and doing.

**Keywords :** Character Education, Primary, Improvement, Quality

### Introduction

Currently, character education is a crucial discussion considering this has its own problems that must be a priority. Because character is one of the most important aspects of life as a nation and state. Character is an important manifestation of the implementation of the educational process at each level of education. Education, as defined in article 1, paragraph 1 of Law no. 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System states "Education is a conscious and planned effort in creating learning conditions and learning processes so that students are more active in developing their potential so that they have strength in matters of religion, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble behavior, and competence. needed for oneself, society, nation and state" (Depdiknas, 2003). The basis for implementing character education in schools is also ISSN : 2620-6692 Volume 05 No. 02 July-December 2022 Murabbi : Scientific Journal in the Field of Education STIT Al-Hikmah Tebing Tinggi 51 implicitly included in the National Long-Term Development Plan (RPJPN) in 2005-2025, in which the government considers character to be prioritized in national development plans . Character education is the foundation of the national development vision, for example creating a noble, moral, ethical, civilized and cultured attitude that is relevant to Pancasila (Kemendiknas, 2010). Thus, character becomes an urgency to build community behavior. Character education is a system for instilling various character values in students at school which includes cognitive, desires, and behavior in realizing these various values. knowledge, awareness or willingness, and actions to implement these values. Thus, the process of character education in schools needs to pay attention to all components, namely curriculum, learning process and assessment, quality of relationships, subject management, school management, implementation of co-curricular activities, empowering infrastructure, financing, and the work ethic of all residents at school. Thus, it is very important to develop character education because this will be a tool that is able to make society have values that are in line with the principles of this nation and it is hoped that character education will be able to improve the nation's character for the better.

## Research Methodology

This research applying a qualitative method, where all sources are processed in depth in order to see how the urgency of character education is. Peresearch is carried out by making summaries, making reviews, and analyzing the results of the research, namely by looking for references related to the title being studied. Hthe results obtained are very interesting, where if analyzed more deeply character education becomes the basis of the scope of education, which has a major influence on building educational goals, namely character. studied in depth that this character education is the most basic thing in the related references obtained fromGoogle Schoolar uses the keywords Character Education, Primary, Improvement, Quality.

## Result & Discussion

According to Suryanto (2009) character attitudes are ways of thinking to act and are the unique characteristics of every human being in life and work well together in the family or community environment. A person with good character is a child who is able to make decisions to be responsible for what he has decided. Furthermore, according to Pritchard (1988) character is a matter relating to the living habits of a person who is sedentary and tends to be positive. In character education (Lickhona: 1992) determines the urgency of good character components (components or good character) moral knowing or knowledge about morals, moral feeling or feelings about morals. Character learning through quality improvement activities that are on the agenda and design in the syllabus, both short and long term, character building through quality improvement activities with the goal of more appreciation of children for good values and emerging based on real events. and character improvement emerges from activities exemplary and example so that children are able to imitate something good.

### *Child Enhancement character education*

The term education comes from the word paedagogi, in Greek which means child and ego means I am a guide. Literally education means guiding children so that they become adults. Briefly, Driyarkarta cited by Istiqomah (2003) emphasized that character education means a planned effort by providing teaching and training to increase character values.

### *Basic Concepts of Character Education*

The terms nation and character building have become vocabularies throughout Indonesia's modern history, especially since the 1928 Youth Pledge. These terms have become a central issue again starting in 2010 when character education became a national movement at the peak of the National Education Day event on 20 May 2010 which was proclaimed by the President of the Republic of Indonesia, the existence of character education is due to the decline of the nation's character so that this becomes an effort to build an Indonesian society with noble character. The term character literally comes from the Latin "character", which means: character, character, character, or personality. Meanwhile in terms of terms, the characters are meaningful as ISSN: 2620-6692 Volume 05 No. 02 July-December 2022 Murabbi: Scientific Journal in the Field of Education STIT Al-Hikmah Tebing Tinggi 54 humans generally have a variety of characteristics that are determined by various factors in their lives. Character is the psychological nature, morals and manners that characterize individuals and groups of people. Meaning of "The stamp of individually or group impressed by nature education or habit". Character is the various values of human behavior related to God Almighty, himself, fellow human beings, the environment, and nationality both from thoughts, behaviors, feelings. Character is defined as the way of thinking and acting of each individual. He will be said to have character when he is able to make decisions and is able to take responsibility for all the impacts that will occur from the decisions he makes. Character means various values of human behavior related to God Almighty, oneself, fellow human beings, the environment, and nationality both from thoughts, attitudes, and feelings that are based on applicable norms. Character becomes the pillar of relationship building. Character education becomes a process for forming character that has an impact on the emotional, religious, and behavioral aspects of a person. Thus, character education becomes a crucial aspect of developing national identity so it is very important to become a central issue that needs attention from the whole community. Character education is the process of forming one's behavior so that one can become a better person. Then, through a student-centered learning process will make students superior both cognitively and also in terms of solving problems that exist in their lives. In order to strengthen the moral quality of the nation's children, character education is needed from an early age both from the family, school and the surrounding environment.

### *Principles of Character Education*

Generally education is a process of interacting between the various factors that are in it so that it can achieve the goals that have been determined. The interaction is created from learning activities, while students receive

information on the process. The expected goals are not only based on knowledge, but also include understanding, understanding, living and doing. The end is expected to be able to develop students' personalities thoroughly through changes in student behavior in a better and constructive direction. In addition, students are also expected to be able to maintain the good character that is in them. The success of character education can be seen from the level of achievement indicators by students as contained in the graduate standards in each school which include: (1) The practice of religious teachings that are appropriate to the stage of human development (2) Understand his weaknesses and strengths (3) Have a confident attitude (4) Obey the various social rules in the environment widely (5) Appreciate the diversity of religions, cultures, ethnicities, races, and socio-economic groups.

#### *Character Education Model*

The purpose of character education is to form a complete human character where development is carried out optimally in terms of emotional, physical, social, creative, spiritual, and cognitive. To carry out this formation, it is necessary to go through the following stages: (1) Implement learning methods that involve students actively, namely methods that are able to motivate students because all human dimensions are actively involved by providing subject matter in a concrete, meaningful, and appropriate to the context of life (2) Creating a conducive learning environment so that students are able to study well and feel safe and more enthusiastic (3) Carrying out explicit, systematic, and sustainable character education; And (5) Teaching methods by focusing on the unique characteristics of students by implementing all aspects of intelligence.

#### *Character Education Pillars*

In the formation of the character of education, it has a fairly large role. Because in the world of education, in fact, it can provide evidence that some countries have strong characters and are able to show the whole world the improvement and progress of the character of the nation and state, but countries with weak characters will be seen. not progress. And a phenomenon that cannot be denied also occurs in today's modern society, which also has a tendency to be helpless in seeing what is in the individual interest and which is in the public interest, so that it drags a society that has selfish traits, and has a bad personality, and is able to show negative effects such as corruption. In solving character critiques in the current era, the role of education is needed to be optimized again. Even though it has been recognized that it will show the failure of an education system to develop the character of a nation, it is not too late to make improvements to build the character of students. William Kilpatrick revealed that bad behavior can be caused because he is not used to behaving like that, even though he knows that this behavior is very good to implement. Thus, the success of implementing character education depends on teachers educating the pillars of education in the form of: First, Moral Knowing. At this stage it is carried out in order to provide knowledge to students about educational values. Moral knowing, namely forming character from an intellectual point of view, which in this case its application relates to how individuals are able to take lessons from each incident as a form of valuable experience in improving the quality of life. Second, Moral feeling. This section is known as the process of strengthening the affective aspects of students so that they will become individuals who have good character. In line with that, Hernowon emphasized that attitude is a courageous attitude in making conscious decisions. Furthermore, there is the possibility of follow-up that maintains this choice through the ideas he believes in. Attitude itself cannot be explored through theoretical.

#### *Purpose and Function of Character Education*

Character education aims to develop values that can shape the nation's character, namely the following Pancasila: (1) Develop the potential of students to become good human beings in terms of thoughts and attitudes (2) Building nations so that they have good character that is relevant to Pancasila (3) Trying to increase the potential of its citizens so that they feel confident, feel proud of the country and love one another. Kesuma. (2011:9) confirms the purpose of character education includes: (1) Improving and developing the values of life so as to create a person who is qualified and relevant to the basic values that have been taught (2) There are various corrections so that students are able to improve and develop the values that have been channeled (3) Realizing good communication within the family and community when playing a responsibility for character education together. The character education functions of the guidebook (2011) include: (1) Building the life of a multicultural nation (2) Development of the adab of a nation so that it is intelligent, has a noble culture and is able to contribute to the development of the lives of fellow human beings (3) Development of various basic potentials so that they are kind, think well and behave well as well as have good role models (4) Development of each citizen's peaceful attitude.

## Conclusion

Education is the process of students in instilling and developing a process that is carried out to students in order to grow and develop themselves to the fullest. In order to reach a level of maturity, discourse on education is always linked to character building efforts. On the other hand, character can be formed from various factors, such as principles, strategies and models that are influenced by the environment. Learning is generally a process of interacting between individuals and their environment. The environment provides a stimulus to the individual and the individual provides environmental feedback, in this process individual changes can be created in the form of changes in behavior. Individuals cause changes in the environment, either positive or negative. This means that the function of the environment is an important factor in the learning process. The development of socialization skills and the integration of character education is an urgency in order to gain students' academic success. Character education efforts will be maximized when implementation is carried out strictly and has a scientific basis. Schools are required to prioritize character learning in the regular curriculum. As already implemented in various countries. Character education is proven to be able to develop the quality of education by increasing the quality of human resources. Thus, various problems in a country will be resolved if its human resources are of good quality.

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