International Journal of
Students Education

BERPUSI PUBLISHING

CHARACTER EDUCATION IS VERY IMPORTANT IN THE DIGITAL ERA IN PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Ayu Anggraini Lubis[1], Tri Inggi Pratiwi[2]

[1,2]Elementary School Teacher Eduaction, Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara
Email: [1] aayu89100@gmail.com , [2] inggipratiwi048@gmail.com

Abstract

Character education is a process of applying moral and religious values to students through the sciences, applying these values to oneself, family, fellow friends, educators and the surrounding environment as well as God Almighty. The social development of elementary school age children has increased, from initially only socializing with their family at home, then gradually getting to know the people around them. Children at this age are also familiar with the digital lifestyle, whether from home, friends, school. and the surrounding environment. The digital era not only has a positive impact, but also a negative impact, this is our role as parents, educators and adults in the community to guide and supervise children to live it well, appropriately, and have positive benefits for the children themselves. This research is to find out the importance of character education in elementary school in today's digital era.

Keywords : Character education, elementary school, digital era

Introduction

Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential. Education includes various stages, from education, elementary school, middle school, to college or university. The aim of education is to create a person of quality and character, so that he has a broad outlook to achieve his goals and is able to adapt in various environments. Education can also last a lifetime, starting from birth to adulthood, and can be carried out in various environments, such as family, school and community.(Rahman et al., 2022). Character education is an educational system that aims to develop and develop certain character values in students. Character is a person's characteristic that contains values, abilities, moral capacity, and resilience in facing difficulties and challenges. Character education is important for the advancement of moral education in Indonesia, and is a conscious and planned human effort to educate and empower students' potential in order to build their personal character so that they can become individuals who are beneficial to themselves and their environment.(Villela, 2013). According to Isman inLestari & Handayani, 2023)In this era of globalization, humans can easily use existing technology, not only can it be accessed and used by adults, but children can also use and access various information. Technology is currently used in the world of education because it really helps the learning process and scientific development. So, it can be said that technology has an important role because it can make an activity or learning activity more effective. Online learning is the use of the internet network in the learning process.

Research Methodology

MethodThe research that can be used is descriptive research methods. This method can be used to describe and analyze the phenomenon of educational character in elementary school children in the digital era, as well as provide an overview of how educational character can be applied to children in the digital era. Apart from that, a character education approach which involves applying religious, moral and ethical values to participants who are raised through science, assisted by parents, teachers and society can also be used in this research. According toPurna etalData collection techniques that can be used include observation, interviews and documentation. The data obtained can be analyzed using qualitative descriptive analysis techniques.

Result & Discussion

Character building

The term character is taken from the Greek "Charassian" which means "to mark" or mark and focus on how to apply good values in the form of actions or behavior, so that people who are dishonest, cruel, greedy and other bad behavior are said to have bad character. People whose behavior is in accordance with moral rules are called noble characters. The definition of character according to the Language Center of the Ministry of National Education is "innate, heart, soul, personality, manners, behavior, personality, character, character, temperament, character". behavior, character and character. Meanwhile, Lickona's (1992) definition of character education states "character education is the deliberate effort to help people understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values", this means that character education is a deliberate effort to help people understand, care, and act based on core ethical values. Character Education is education that supports students' social, emotional and ethical development. According to Samani and Hariyanto (2013:45) in their book, they explain that character education is the process of providing guidance to students to become complete human beings with character in the dimensions of heart, mind, body as well as feelings and intentions. Meanwhile, according to(Munawaroh, 2017), character education is a system of instilling character values in school members which includes components of knowledge, awareness or will, and actions to implement these values, both towards God Almighty (YME), oneself, others, the environment, and nationality so that we become human beings. Character education has become a movement that supports students' social, emotional and ethical development. Student character education is a proactive effort by schools and government to help students develop a set of ethical and performance values, as well as caring and honest attitudes, diligence and fortitude.

Objectives of character education

The aim of character education in the digital era is primarily to shape children into technically skilled and ethical individuals, so that they can make a positive contribution to education and the world. Character education is very important in the digital era because technological advances have brought changes to the way we learn and interact. In this era, the moral and ethical values taught through character education provide an important basis for students to be able to build good relationships and become better individuals.(Purna et al., 2023). The aim of character education is to form individuals who have good character and personality, and are able to face challenges and negative impacts from the environment, including the digital era. Currently, the government is introducing a government program called Strengthening Character Education (PPK). PPK is an effort to cultivate character education in schools. The PPK program will be implemented in stages and according to needs. The PPK program aims to encourage quality and moral education that is evenly distributed throughout the nation. Issuance of Presidential Regulation number 87 article 2 of 2017 concerning Strengthening Character Education (PPK), PPK has the following objectives: (1) Building a nation with noble character, morals, toughness, tolerance and mutual cooperation (2) Forming human resources who have noble, competent and moral character (3) Improving the mutual administration and quality of educational outcomes (4) Producing individuals who respect and appreciate other people and are able to live in a heterogeneous society. Thus, the character of education is expected to be able to produce a generation of quality, able to face challenges, and have good character in interacting with the environment, including the digital era. Character education aims to ensure that students as the nation's successors have good character and morals, to create a just, safe and prosperous national life. The aims of education in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System which states that "National education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to make the life of the nation

intelligent, aims to develop the potential of students to become human beings who believe and are devoted to God. Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent and a democratic and responsible citizen(Princess, 2018).

Basic concepts of character education

The basic concept of character education is contained in Minister of Education and Culture Regulation No. 23 concerning the Development of Character Education in 2015. The aim of Building Character Education (PBP) is to: (1) Making the school a fun learning park for students, teachers and education staff (2) Develop good habits as a form of character education in the family, as well as in society (3) Making education a movement that involves the government, regional government, community and family (4) Develop a harmonious learning environment and culture between families, schools and society. Character is formed from activities that are carried out repeatedly and become habits. These habits are what stick and become a person's character. The cultivation and development of character in the school environment is a shared responsibility, not only of teachers but also of the cooperation of students and parents. However, character development at school is only a "supplement" for students. Where the family has a big responsibility in educating a child at home.

Principles of character education

According to the principles recommended by the Ministry of National Education, Dasyim Budiansyah, as quoted by Heri Gunawan, believes that character education programs in schools need to be developed based on the following principles: (a) Character education in schools must be carried out continuously (continuity), meaning that the process of developing character values is a long process starting from the moment students enter school until they graduate from school in an educational unit (b) Character education must be integrated through self-development and the culture of the educational unit, meaning character education is carried out by integrating all subjects (c) In fact, character values are taught through a process, knowledge (knowing), doing (doing) and finally getting used to it (habit) (d) The educational process is carried out actively and fun. Teachers must apply the principle of "tut wuri handayani" in every behavior shown. From the explanation of the principles of character education, according to the author, the most fundamental principles are the principles of continuity and integration because these two principles underlie the other two principles.(Julaiha, 2014).

Character Development and Formation of Students

The dynamics of understanding character education proceeds through three moments: historical moments, reflective moments, and practical moments. A historical moment, namely an effort to reflect the experience of humanity as it struggles to live up to the concepts and practices of education, especially in the ups and downs of developing character education for students according to the context of the times. Reflective moment, a moment in which through intellectual understanding humans try to define their experiences, try to see methodological, philosophical and principle issues that apply to character education. The practical moment, namely with the provision of conceptual theoretical understanding, humans try to find ways to effectively implement character education projects in the field. Character education is the process of forming personality, ways of thinking and human behavior that become habitual so that they become the basis of morality in living their lives. For this reason, the goals of education at every level are closely related to the formation of students' character. The goal of national education is a formulation of the qualities of Indonesian people that must be developed by each educational unit. Therefore, the formulation of national education goals is the basis for developing character education. A person's character in the process of development and formation is influenced by two factors, namely environmental factors (nurture) and congenital factors (nature). Theoretical review of psychologically characterized behavior is a manifestation of a person's potential Intelligence Quotient (IQ), Emotional Quentient (EQ), Spiritual Quotient (SQ) and Adverse Quotient (AQ). Meanwhile, a person whose character according to religious views contains potentials, namely: Siddiq, Amanah, Tablig and Fathonah. Character according to educational theory is if a person has cognitive, affective and psychomotor potential that is actualized in his life. According to social theory, a person with character has logic and sense in establishing intra-personal relationships and interpersonal relationships in social life Teachers as exemplary models for their students must have personalities and behavioral attitudes that can be used as role models/idols. Paradigms in the world of education, teacher personality includes (1) the ability to develop personality, (2) the ability to interact and communicate wisely, and (3) the ability to carry out guidance and

counseling. Teacher personality competency is closely related to appearance as an individual who must have discipline, look good, be responsible, have commitment, and be a role model. The teacher's behavior towards students/students becomes a measure for members of their community. Local cultural wisdom and teacher behavior are the benchmarks for reflecting students. Forming the character of students is a joint task of parents, the school, the community and the government(Arsini et al., 2023).

Character education in the digital era

Character education is very important in the digital era for elementary school children. The digital era has positive and negative impacts on children's character development. Therefore, character education in the digital era needs to be a focus, so that children are able to face the challenges and negative impacts of digital technology. According to(Tsoraya et al., 2023)The era of digitalization is an era where everything is digital. We can do everything with the help of advanced technology and internet access that can be used anywhere and anytime. The progress of civilization can be seen directly and clearly through technological advances. This technological era makes teenagers look very passive and rarely socialize in the family or even society. In the digital era, character education for elementary school children is very important. In this digital age, children easily use digital media, which not only has positive impacts, but also negative impacts. Therefore, the role of family, teachers and the surrounding community is very important in improving the character of the nation's future successors. Character education involves applying religious, moral and ethical values to students through science, assisted by parents, teachers and the community. Several things that need to be considered in discussing character education in the digital era include:

1. Development of a National Education Platform: Character education needs to be the main soul in the implementation of education for students with the support of public involvement carried out through formal, non-formal and informal education channels by taking into account the diversity of Indonesian culture
2. The Role of Parents, Teachers and Society: In the digital era, the role of parents, educators and adults is very important in guiding and supervising children so that they can use digital technology well and avoid its negative impacts
3. Utilization of Digital Technology: Digital technology can also be used as a means to increase knowledge and help/teach children to have good character, provided that the technology is used correctly
4. Implementation of Character Education in Schools: School is an important place in cultivating educational character. Teachers can be inspirations and role models who can change the character of their students into humans who recognize their potential and character as God's and social creatures

By paying attention to these things, character education in the digital era is expected to be able to form a generation of quality, able to face challenges, and have good character in interacting with digital technology.

Conclusion

It can be concluded that character education plays an important role in facing the challenges of the digital era for elementary school children. The role of parents, educators and the community is crucial in guiding and supervising children so that they can utilize technology positively while developing good character. Revitalizing the roles of families, teachers and society is needed to improve character education in the digital era. Character education in schools can be applied to all subjects and applies moral and religious values to participants who are raised through science.

Refrences

Arsini, Y., Yoana, L., & Prastami, Y. (2023). The Role of the Teacher as a Model in Forming Student Character. Mudabbir Journal Research and Education Studies, 3(2), 27–35. https://doi.org/10.56832/mudabbir.v3i2.368

Julaiha, S. (2014). Implementation of Character Education in Learning. Dynamics of Science, 14(2), 226–239. https://doi.org/10.21093/di.v14i2.15

Lestari, I., & Handayani, N. (2023). The Importance of Character Education for School Children, Especially High School/Vocational Schools in the Digital Age. Universal Enlightening Teacher, 1(2), 101–109. https://doi.org/10.56983/gps.v1i2.606

Munawaroh, AI Al. (2017). Implementation of Character Education Through Religious Activities at MTS

Muhammadiyah Purwokerto. UMP Repository, 8–34.

Purna, TH, Viamita, C., & Dewi, SR (2023). The Importance of Character for Learning in Improving the Quality of Education in the Digital Era. POPULAR: Journal of Student Research, 2(1), 192–202. file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/POPULER+vol+2+no+1+March+2023+hal+192-202.pdf

Putri, DP (2018). Character Education for Elementary School Children in the Digital Era. AR-RIAYAH: Journal of Basic Education, 2(1), 37. https://doi.org/10.29240/jpd.v2i1.439

Rahman, A., Munandar, SA, Fitriani, A., Karlina, Y., & Yumriani. (2022). Understanding Education, Educational Sciences and Elements of Education. Al Urwatul Wutsqa: Islamic Education Studies, 2(1), 1–8.

Toni Nasution, S.Pd.I, MP (2013). Basic Concepts of Citizenship Education in Building Student Character. Ijtimaiyah Journal of Social and Cultural Sciences, 53(9), 1689–1699.

Tsoraya, ND, Khasanah, IA, Asbari, M., & Purwanto, A. (2023). The Importance of Character Education on Student Morality in the Digital Era Society. Literacy: Journal of Educational Management, 1(01), 7–12.

Villela, lucia maria aversa. (2013). "Understanding Character." Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling, 53(9), 1689–1699.