

## **THE URGENCY OF THE FAMILY'S ROLE IN FORMING CHILDREN'S CHARACTER IN DAILY LIFE**

**Putu Satya Narayanti \*<sup>1</sup>**

STAH Dharma Sentana Sulawesi Tengah, Indonesia  
Email : satya03nara@gmail.com

**Gamar Abdullah**

Universitas Negeri Gorontalo, Indonesia  
Email : gamar@ung.ac.id

**Indah Suciati**

Universitas Alkhairaat, Indonesia  
Email : ndahmath@gmail.com

**Dewi Sri Wahyuni**

Universitas Alkhairaat, Indonesia  
Email : dewi031104016@gmail.com

**Hajerina**

Universitas Alkhairaat, Indonesia  
Email : hajrinahamid@gmail.com

### **Abstract**

The family is the smallest social unit that has an important role in forming national character. Family will shape a person's character and influence his environment because family is the first and main environment for character formation. The important role and quality of the family that colors character formation is the educational model given by parents to their children. The important role and quality of the family that colors character formation is the educational model given by parents to their children. Strengthening character for children is very important because the essence of a person's religion will be manifested in their morals. Positive characters that are instilled as early as possible, such as devotion to worship, good behavior, respect for parents, sincerity, humility and others, will slowly be internalized in children so that they ultimately have a positive impact on their mental and spiritual life. Informal education processes, especially families, both education regarding the character and morals of a child, the family plays the most important and first role. So that the formation of a child's character must be accompanied by the formation of good morals, especially from a religious perspective.

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<sup>1</sup> Correspondence author

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## **INTRODUCTION**

Parents are an important key in the child's development process, also supported by the environmental school. Wise parents will educate their children with love so that they inherit good traits or personalities (Bozhkova, G., et al, 2020). Therefore, parents are required to raise, educate and care for their children so that they can become 'jewels' for those around them. Many people think that the responsibility for educating a child is dominated by the mother. In fact, the father's role is equally important in building children's wisdom, discipline and responsibility.

The role of parents in shaping children's character is carried out from early childhood. Childhood is the right time to develop the basics of character education according to development. Arrogance can be avoided if parents help instill positive character in their children. Fathers and mothers can set good examples for each other so that children act humble. To achieve this, maximum effort is required from parents as educators in the family (Tabroni, I., & Khair, M, 2022).

Family is the people in the household which at least consists of husband, wife and children. The family is also the smallest social group characterized by shared residence, economic cooperation and reproduction (Suharta, R. B., et al, 2020). A family is a social group united by socially approved ties of kinship, marriage or adoption, who generally jointly occupy a residence and interact with each other in accordance with well-defined social roles. Family is the first and main place of education for a person. There are three environments that are responsible for educating children. The three environments are family, school and community (Putri, W, 2021). These three environments cannot be separated from one another. However, of the three, the family environment has the main and first responsibility in education.

In the National Education System, the family includes informal education channels or out-of-school education channels. According to Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, article 13 paragraph 1, educational pathways consist of formal, informal and non-formal education which can complement and enrich each other. Formal education is a school education route. Informal education is a family education route. And non-formal education is an environmental or community education path. Education in the family plays a very important role in developing a person's character, character and personality. The family is the smallest social unit that

has an important role in forming national character. Family will shape a person's character and influence their environment because family is the first and main environment for formation (Bozhkova, G., et al, 2020).

A family without violence is one of the effective solutions to make a child feel comfortable, peaceful, at home, but what has happened recently is that parents tend to educate their children with high emotions, lack attention and even abandon them (Dini, J. P. A. U, 2022). Many parents spend their time on various matters outside the home, office routines, appointments with relatives or business partners, organizational activities and other things that seem to justify ignoring the family, so that the child feels neglected. There are also parents who feel that they give enough attention to their children by fulfilling all their wishes by fulfilling their material needs, but education, especially noble morals and love, tends to come second. The result is that children will have unpleasant characteristics.

Good education in the family will form a good child's personality, the development of the child's personality can be controlled and shaped with guidance and assistance, especially the family because the family is the first place of education for children. So we should not blame congenital factors or bad environments that cause someone's personality to be bad. There are very clear differences in the character or personality of children who are raised in *sakinah* families and children who are raised with violence. This greatly influences the child's achievement and success. Therefore, parents should be aware of this and know how to educate children and create a *sakinah* family which will really support the child's success (Ariyati, T., & Dimiyati, D, 2018).

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The study in this research is qualitative with literature. The literature study research method is a research approach that involves the analysis and synthesis of information from various literature sources that are relevant to a particular research topic. Documents taken from literature research are journals, books and references related to the discussion you want to research (Earley, M.A. 2014; Caruth, G.D. 2013).

## **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

### **Family Concepts in Character Formation**

Building a *sakinah* household life is every human's dream, but of course achieving it is not an easy matter, it requires preparation in many ways, especially in terms of religious knowledge. Something that a wife must have,

especially the husband as head of the family. Everyone definitely dreams of a happy and prosperous family. A family that is full of a sense of security, calm, joy and mutual love among family members. A happy family can be likened to heaven on earth (Witro, D., et al, 2020).

The first environment a child comes into contact with is his parents. It is through this environment that children learn about the world around them and the social patterns that apply every day. It is through this family environment that children experience the initial socialization process. Parents usually devote their attention to educating their children, so that the children obtain the basics of correct and good social life, through instilling discipline and freedom and harmony. Habits, customs and institutional controls that regulate the judiciary, marriage, personal and public roles of husband and wife are a broad lesson in the family (Gunawan, R). Motivation and success in studies are influenced by the family environment, whether parents place too much emphasis on discipline or give freedom rather than discipline, it turns out that harmony or balance between the two is very necessary.

The aim of character education is to avoid negative behavior and form moral individuals. Character education is always related to the family environment because the family environment is the first environment in forming a person's character. The family is one of the pillars in the tri-centre of education because the family environment can shape the good and bad in human development, through family education the child's character can be formed both within the family and in society. The family environment prepares and provides education for children so that they become an educated next generation. The family environment influences the success of children's achievements because the family environment is used as a source of children's knowledge (Hasanah, U., & Deiniatur, M, 2020). The role of the family is important in determining the child's educational process so that it can form good behavioral and personal patterns in the school environment.

Children are the best imitators of their parents. For this reason, it is necessary to give examples of good actions and words by parents to their children. Show positive behavior in the child's growth and development phase, show respect, be honest, like to help and do other positive actions. So that children will immediately experience, see these positive actions in the hope that they will imitate them. The key to the success or failure of a character education program lies in whether or not parents are able to carry out the role and function of character education for their children on an ongoing basis. The role of the family, in this case, must also participate with

the school in increasing children's intelligence, both IQ (Intelligence Quotient), EQ (Emotional Quotient), SQ (Spiritual Quotient), AQ (Adversity Quotient).

At the level of thinking of the father of Indonesian education, Ki Hajar Dewantara, the position of the family is an environment that plays a very important role in forming a child's personality (Fransisca, V, 2023). In his presentation, he stated that the tri-centre of education is a precise concept that the family has a role that cannot be taken lightly apart from education in the school environment and education in the youth/community environment. The important role of the family in the educational process is because the family is the first social environment and most interactions are carried out in this environment. Ki Hajar Dewantar even said that education in the family environment is the first and most important. Family is a fairly dominant factor in shaping the character of students, both religiously and socially.

### **Character building**

#### **A. Understanding Character Education**

According to Samani, M., & Hariyanto, M. S. (2011) 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. Furthermore, character education according to Salahudin and Alkrienciechie (2013) can be interpreted as moral or character education to develop a person's ability to behave well in their daily life. Furthermore, according to Muhamimin Azzet (2014), character education is a system for instilling good character values in all school members so that they have knowledge and actions that are in accordance with good values.

Meanwhile, character education according to Zubaedi, M. A (2015) is all business planning carried out by teachers that can influence the formation of students' character, understanding, forming and cultivating ethical values as a whole. Furthermore, according to Wibowo, A (2017), character education is an education that is used to instill and develop character in students, so that once they have noble character, they can apply it in their daily lives, such as at home, at school and in society.

From the explanation of various expert opinions regarding the meaning of character education, it can be concluded that character education is a system of moral or character education that is used to instill and develop good character values in someone, so that they have noble

knowledge and actions after If you have it, you can apply it in your daily life at home, at school or in the community.

#### B. Character Education Function

Character education has three main functions, this is stated by Zubaedi (2015) whose explanation is as follows:

1. Function for the formation and development of potential

Character education functions so that students are able to develop their potential to think well, have a good heart and behave well.

2. Function for strengthening and repair

Character education is to improve and strengthen the role of families, educational units, communities and government to take responsibility and participate in developing the potential of their citizens.

3. Filter function

Character education can be used so that people can sort out their own national culture and can filter out the culture of other nations which is not in accordance with the character and cultural values of their own nation.

Character education has a very beneficial function for a person, as explained by Salahudin and Alkrienciehie (2013), the function of character education is as follows:

1. Develop basic potential for good behavior.

2. Reinforce good behavior and can improve behavior which is not good. Helps to filter out foreign cultures that are less suitable with Pancasila values.

Based on the explanation of various expert opinions above, it can be concluded that the function of character education is to form and develop a person's basic potential for good behavior, then that potential is strengthened and improved, then in order to maintain good character values, there must be a filter for deviant behavior. of noble character values.

#### **Family Challenges and Expectations in the Process of Forming Children's Character**

Facing increasingly advanced developments, of course we have to prepare a reliable generation, which has the ability to think creatively, innovatively, critically, communication skills and collaboration skills. The moral degradation that arises as a result of this rapid development requires a more relevant concept in the world of education, especially in children's character

education (Clark, R. M, 2015). The challenges faced by parents are certainly getting bigger with the 5.0 era. The era of society 5.0 is a concept of society whose central point is human (human centered) and based on technology (technology based) developed by Japan. This concept was born as a form of development of the industrial revolution 4.0 (Simion, A. G., & Stan, C, 2020).

Thus, Indonesian human resources must be equipped with basic digital technology skills and have a creative mindset because 21st century competencies focus on problem solving, collaboration, critical thinking and creative abilities (Kacane, I, 2020). Therefore, in the process of forming a child's religious character, there are two factors that influence the formation of a child's character, namely internal factors and external factors. Internal factors include heredity, while external factors include education from the family environment, school environment and peer groups.

From the description above we can classify that the inhibiting factors in the formation of children's character include: (Davis-Kean, P. E, 2005)

a. Parent

1. The busyness of parents is one of the inhibiting factors in the process of forming children's character, many parents are busy with their careers, trying to meet their needs, so they do not give enough attention and affection to their children and often neglect to provide them with religious education and instilling religious values. religious values at home.
2. There is a lack of role models from parents at home, so it will be difficult for children to have good character if at home the parents cannot be role models, for example: parents who do not pray five times a day will also find it difficult to discipline their children so they can pray five times a day.

b. Limited study time at school

Limited learning time in schools with a very dense curriculum content, all of which must reach the cognitive, affective and psychomotor aspects of children, means that educators focus more on the cognitive and psychomotor aspects, thus often neglecting the affective aspects of students.

c. Environment

In the process of a child's growth and development, the environment has a big influence. Children will socialize with their peers, the child's home environment and social environment which are far from Islamic values will of course have an influence on the child's behavior, this

will undermine the values that have been instilled in them from the family or school.

d. Social media

Advances in Science and Technology have created major changes in our lives. If we do not provide sufficient provisions for children to interact with social media, this will have a negative impact on children's development, for example: children who have been introduced to social media from a young age and parents do not set time limits or provide supervision in their use will tend to be addicted and find it difficult to get away from gadgets, playing online games and so on.

### **The Role of the Family in Forming Children's Character and Its Stages**

In the description above of the informal education process, especially the family, both education regarding the character and morals of a child, the family plays the most important and first role. So, the formation of a child's character must be accompanied by the formation of good morals, especially from a religious perspective (Handayani, R., et al, 2021). There are several methods for instilling good character and morals in children that families, especially parents, can do, including:

1. Teaching

Teaching is an important part of education. In the context of character and moral education in the family, teaching can be interpreted as an effort made by parents to provide knowledge to children about good character and moral values, guiding and encouraging them to apply them in everyday life.

2. Motivation

Motivation is divided into two types, namely (1) internal motivation, namely motivation that comes from within a person. This internal motivation is caused by factors that arise from a person's personality, especially related to the awareness and benefits that he will obtain after carrying out an action; (2) external motivation, namely motivation that comes from outside a person. This external motivation is caused by factors that arise from outside a person's personality. Motivation can be interpreted as the process of encouraging and moving someone to want to carry out certain actions in accordance with the expected goals.

3. Exemplary

A child's self-concept and perception are influenced by elements from outside themselves. This happens because children from an early age

see, hear, know and learn things that are outside themselves. They have seen and followed what adults and their parents did and taught them about something. In everyday life, the behavior that children do is basically obtained by imitation. Thus, children's imitative nature is a positive and potential asset in educating children's character and morals. In order for a child to imitate something positive from their parents, it is imperative that parents make themselves good role models (*uswatun hasanah*) by presenting themselves as a source of norms, noble thoughts and noble behavior.

#### 4. Habituation

Children are born in a pure and clean condition, in this condition the child will easily accept good or bad, because basically children have the potential to receive good or bad. This is explained by Allah in His words: "And for the sake of the soul and its perfection (His creation). So Allah inspired to that soul (the path) of wickedness and piety. Indeed, fortunate is the one who purifies the soul, And truly the loss is the one who pollutes it." (QS. Ash-Syamsy {91}:7-10). This verse indicates that humans have the same opportunity to form their morals and character, whether with good or bad habits. Habits play a very important role in a child's life. From these habits we can see what a child's life might be like in the future.

#### 5. Rule Enforcement

Another form of business that can be implemented is rule enforcement. The essence of enforcing rules is to provide firm and clear boundaries about what children must and must not do, and what children can and cannot do. Enforcing rules can encourage children to do good and prevent them from making mistakes. The goal of enforcing rules in the family is actually to instill awareness in children about the importance of goodness.

The first step to realizing the enforcement of rules in the family is to create rules that are mutually agreed upon and can be binding on all parties in the house, including parents. Rules are made to be obeyed, not to be broken. Family rules function to regulate the smooth and comfortable life of a household while also helping to shape children's character and morals (Hasanah, A., et al, 2022).

## CONCLUSION

It is important for parents as the closest people in the family environment to their children to know and understand their children's souls in depth so that they can educate, guide and direct their morals towards the right path and be blessed by Allah SWT. As the first and main educators, parents have an important role in instilling good character and moral values based on religious teachings. Strengthening character for children is very important because the essence of a person's religion will be manifested in their morals. Positive characters that are instilled as early as possible, such as obedience to worship, good behavior, respect for parents, having a sincere nature, tawadhu and others, will slowly be internalized in the child so that ultimately it will have a positive impact on his mental and spiritual life so that a child will be formed who has noble character and will provide positive strength for the child. children in the process of life.

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