

## **APPLICATION OF CHARACTER EDUCATION IN REALIZING THE PERSONALITY OF EARLY CHILDREN 4-6 YEARS**

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### **Abstract**

This study aims to find out how the application of character education in realizing the personality of an early childhood aged 4-6 years. The method of this research is literature review or literature study which contains theories that are relevant to problems in research taken by researchers, the results of this study are that the application of character education in realizing the personality of early childhood aged 4-6 years uses various strategies including playing methods, habituation, examples, advice, attention and supervision. The importance of character education from an early age is also explained by Muslich. By quoting Freud's statement, he explained that quality character needs to be formed and nurtured from an early age. Early age is a critical period for the formation of one's character. Failure to cultivate a good personality at an early age will form a problematic personality in adulthood. While the benefits of research are for readers, teachers and parents to pay more attention to their children with the methods described in this scientific paper in realizing a child's personality. , so that children are formed into individuals who have good morals, and success in implementing early childhood character education will also have an impact on their daily lives such as patience, awareness, honesty, sincerity, simplicity, independence, caring, commitment and respect for rights and obligations.. teachers and parents to pay more attention to their children with the methods described in this scientific paper in realizing a child's personality. , so that children are formed into individuals who have good morals, and success in implementing early childhood character education will also have an impact on their daily lives such as patience, awareness, honesty, sincerity, simplicity, independence, caring, commitment and respect for rights and obligations.. teachers and parents to pay more attention to their children with the methods described in this scientific paper in realizing a child's personality. , so that children are formed into individuals who have good morals, and success in implementing early childhood character education will also have an impact on their daily lives such as patience, awareness, honesty, sincerity, simplicity, independence, caring, commitment and respect for rights and obligations..

**Keywords:** *Character Education, Personality, Early Childhood*

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## **Introduction**

Scientifically, that education is an activity that is very important and cannot be separated from one's life. Be it nation or state. We also know that the advancement and decline of a nation and a country can be determined from the progress and decline of education in a nation itself. As in RI Law No. 20 of 2003 Article 1 Paragraph 1 concerning the National Education System explains that education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students can actively develop their abilities to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character , as well as the skills needed by himself, society, nation and state. Therefore,(Laksono, 2017)

Character education should be introduced to children from an early age. Because character education is also an effort that is designed and applied systematically to realize the personality of students who relate to God, themselves, fellow human beings, the environment which is manifested in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words, and actions based on rules, laws, manners and customs. Character education does not only aim to improve the quality of educational outcomes, but is also intended to shape the personality of the nation's children with noble character.

In line with what was said by the famous poet Ahmad Syauqi that a nation can only survive as long as they still have good morals or character, if morals have disappeared from them then they will also disappear. That way, character education for early childhood is intended to instill good values so that they can become habits when the child grows up or at the next level of education. Early childhood is the right time to do education, because at this time the child is experiencing a process of extraordinary growth and development. Where children do not have much influence from their environment. So that parents and educators will find it much easier to guide and direct their children, especially in the application of character education.(Yati, 2016)

Mulyasa said that character education for early childhood has a higher meaning than moral education, not only related to right or wrong, but how to instill habits about various good behaviors in life so that children have awareness and commitment to apply virtues in everyday life. day. Not only that, a child who is introduced to character education from an early age, it is hoped that when he grows up, the characters he acquires will become a habit for him. Therefore, it requires the active role of parents, educators and the community to jointly implement and implement character education at every opportunity, especially for early childhood both in the family and in society.

It's not enough to stop there, early childhood education is also an effort to stimulate the various potentials that children have so that they can develop optimally. Thus the golden age of a child (the golden age), namely the period when the child has a lot of very good potential to be developed. At this time, the time is very appropriate for the application of good character education which is later expected to shape his personality from an early age.

With that, from the description of the background of the problem above, the writer is interested in writing a paper entitled "Application of Character Education in Creating the Personality of Early Childhood Ages 4-6 Years."

### **Method**

The method of this research is literature review or literature study which contains theories that are relevant to the problems in the research taken by the researcher. Literature review or literature study is an activity that is required in a research, especially academic research whose main objective is to develop theoretical as well as practical aspects.

The type of research used by the author is a type of qualitative research. Which is a literature study (library research) that uses journals and other literature as the main object. With qualitative research, it is necessary to carry out descriptive analysis, descriptive analysis method provides clear, objective, systematic, analytical and critical descriptions and explanations. The qualitative approach is based on the initial steps taken by collecting the required data, then classification and description are carried out.

### **Result and Discussion**

#### **Application of Character Education in Realizing the Personality of Early Childhood Ages 4-6 Years**

The application of character education in realizing the personality of early childhood aged 4-6 years is by several strategies or methods that must be carried out including:(Students, 2017):

#### **Playing Method**

The function of playing for children is from the learning process. Through play children can build understanding and knowledge. Through positive play activities, children can practice brain and motor development such as training to use their body muscles and stimulate their senses. Playing makes children able to explore the world around them to recognize where they live, including knowing themselves, thus through this playing activity children can develop their emotional skills, confidence in others, independence, and courage to take initiative. It turns out that playing activities are a means of training skills in realizing a child's personality.

#### **Exemplary Method**

Exemplary in education is the most effective and successful way of preparing children in terms of morals, forming them mentally and socially. This is because educators are role models or idols in the eyes of children as well as parents. Children will imitate their good morals, words, actions and will always be instilled in the child, so this exemplary method is also an important factor in realizing the good and bad personality of the child.

#### **Habituation Method**

Habituation is a relatively settled process of forming attitudes and behaviors through an iterative learning process. Habituation is very effective to apply to early childhood, because children have strong recordings or memories and immature personality conditions so that they are easily trained with the habits they do everyday.

#### **Advice Method**

The method of advice is to give good advice or advice to children so that children can imitate and implement it. The function of this advice method is to show children which are good and which are bad, because not everyone can grasp the value of good and bad, it is necessary to provide advice to early childhood that can make an impression on their hearts so as to form children with noble character.

#### **Methods of Attention and Supervision**

The purpose of attention education is to devote all full attention to and follow the child's development and supervise him in forming his faith, morals, mental, social and also to continue to check his condition in his physical and intellectual education.(Students, 2017)

Based on the results of the research above, it turns out that early childhood education is education given to children under the age of seven. In Indonesia, the category of early childhood is children aged 0 to 6 years. Early childhood is born into the world with all the abilities or potentials in the form of intelligence bestowed by God, but these potentials will not develop and appear optimally in children if they are not stimulated from an early age. Sudaryanti said that early childhood is a golden age which only occurs once in the developmental period of life as well as a critical period for a child's life. Research has been carried out that children from birth have 1000 billion brain cells, where these cells must be stimulated and utilized so that they continue to live and develop.(Khaironi, 2017)

Character education is character education, which involves aspects of knowledge, feelings and actions. Without these three aspects, character education will not be effective. It's not enough to stop there, Ki Hajar Dewantara argues about character education, including: 1) character education for those who cannot be separated in the national education system, which is given from the age of 4-21 years. 2) character education forms a good mentality or attitude and eliminates bad mentality or behavior (honesty, discipline, responsibility, democracy, selflessness, courage, self-sacrifice, not destroying, not hurting others, living healthy and clean, respecting to parents, tolerance, empathy and love for the motherland).(Iswantiningtyas & Wulansari, 2018)

Megawangi also stated that character education has nine pillars, namely: 1) Love of God and all of his creation, 2) Responsibility, 3) Honest, 4) Respect and courtesy, 5) Generous, 6) Confident, creative, and hardworking, 7) leadership and justice, 8) kind and humble, 9) tolerance, love peace and unity.

Therefore in the application of character education it is necessary to have strategies and methods to realize the personality of early childhood aged 4-6 years, as for them are 1) Playing method, for children playing has very important benefits, playing is not only for fun but also a need that must be met. Through play activities, children can learn about themselves, other people and their environment. Children usually experience sensitive periods, where children begin to be sensitive to accept various efforts to develop their full potential. This period is a very good and suitable period to lay the foundation for growth in developing physical motor skills, cognitive, language, social emotional, self-concept, discipline, art, morals, and religious values. Education is not just preparation for a child's life in the future, but education is life itself. The problem of education is a very crucial and urgent problem to always be discussed. Because only through quality education will the civilization of a society and nation continue to progress (progress). Lately the conversation about the importance of character education has strengthened, even the Ministry of National Education emphasized its policy regarding the declaration of education which prioritizes character building.(Andriani, 2011). 2) exemplary method,(Purwanti & Haerudin, 2020)said that exemplary is an act or behavior that is good, then it should be imitated by students from what is done by an educator as his duty, both his words and actions that can be applied in everyday life by his students, both in the school environment and in community environment. In conveying exemplary to students there are two ways of delivering it, firstly directly, educators convey or exemplify to children in the form of attitudes, actions, words that become values as motivation for children's learning, secondly indirectly educators convey stories or stories about someone honest, fair, wise, work hard and never give up and be independent in doing and getting something that will be achieved and parents who have set a good example to their children, should not feel that they have fulfilled all the

responsibilities of their child's education. This means that exemplary is given continuously so that exemplary can shape the character of the child.(Hopefully, 2021). 3) Method of habituation,(ABIDIN, 2019)that the application of character education in realizing the personality of early childhood aged 4-6 years can really be done with the habituation method which is a way that can be done to familiarize children with thinking, behaving, and acting. This method is very practical in fostering and forming children's character in increasing habits in carrying out an activity. The nature of habituation actually focuses on experience. Habituation is something that is practiced. Therefore, the description of habituation is always a series of the need to carry out habituations that are carried out every day. The essence of habituation is repetition. In developing attitudes, the habituation method is very effective because it will train good habits in children. Habituation is the inculcation of skills in doing and saying something, so that the right ways can be liked by children. Habituation essentially has deeper implications than the cultivation of ways of doing and saying. This habituation and modeling is very effective given to early age students whose development in general at this time is that they imitate more what they see and can remember and do when there is habituation from themselves which is assisted by teachers, parents and the environment(Muzaki et al., 2020). 4) Method of advice,(Zubaidah, 2016)if one of the educational methods that are effective in shaping the mental and social morals of children is to educate with advice. This is because advice has a great influence on making children understand something and educating children can also pay attention, namely following the development of children and supervising them in the mental and social formation of children.(Hopefully, 2021)Educational advice can be given through storytelling activities, this story method (stories) is very effective in educating young children, because they have a high level of curiosity, so when they hear something new, they will pay close attention to what the educator is telling, in this is a teacher or parent. At the end of the story an educator can point out the lesson behind the story just told. So that from an early age they have received educational values, methods of advice are also effective in forging children's faith, preparing children's moral, spiritual and social. Because this method is effective in opening children's eyes to the nature of things, and pushing them towards noble situations, and decorating them with noble morals and equipping them with Islamic principles(Ahmad Atabik & Burhanuddin, 2015). 5) The method of attention and supervision, attention to children and control carried out by educators is the main principle of education. If you see something good, respected, then the child is constantly encouraged to do it. If you see something evil, you must prevent it, give a warning and explain the consequences.(Khaironi, 2017)

Some of these methods are efforts that teachers or parents can make in shaping children's character, at an early age it is more appropriate to instill character education. It is hoped that character education from an early age will be firmly embedded in the child. The characters introduced include universal values and nationalism through simple ways that are easy for children to do. Given that early childhood essentially already has basic characters, namely: having the provision of goodness that has been bestowed by God Almighty, likes to imitate, likes to play and has a high curiosity.From some of these methods, the basis has actually made it easier for educators and parents to instill character education.(Susanto, 2018)

So that from these methods character values for early childhood can also be developed, and they will have characters that can be practiced in their lives in families, communities and citizens.

The character values that can be instilled in early childhood include four aspects, namely spiritual, personal or personality aspects, social aspects, and environmental aspects.

Character education is education that involves the cultivation of knowledge, love and cultivation of good behavior which becomes a pattern or habit. Character education cannot be separated from basic values that are considered good. Character values that are considered ideal and very important to be internalized into each of their souls include the following values. 1) Love for God Almighty. 2) Discipline. 3) Be honest. 4) Be responsible. 5) Be confident. 6) Independent. 7) Please help. 8) hard work. 9) Be humble. 10) Love the nation and homeland.

Meanwhile, personality is formed from two factors, namely heredity and environment. 1) Inheritance is everything that has been carried by a child since birth, both psychological and hereditary. Children are inherited from the traits of their parents which are a certain potential. 2) The environment is where individuals grow and interact socially. Individuals around us play a role in shaping a person's character or personality. Everyone also has characteristics, character, personality that can be seen from the way he speaks, how to behave, how to walk, how to think, emotions or other things that tend to have similarities with his genetic siblings. Environmental factors that influence the formation of personality consist of the social environment and the physical environment.(Setiyowati, 2020). The environment plays a very large role in the formation of attitudes, personality and the development of children's abilities optimally. Children who do not get a good environment to stimulate brain growth. For example, rarely touched: rarely invited to play: rarely invited to communicate(Ardiansyah, 2010).

Of the two factors above, both have an influence on the development of the child's personality. And the formation of one's personality takes a long time, gradually. The formation and application of individual personality must be continuously formed, properly and properly developed in order to lead to an ideal personality.

From the description described above, it turns out that in Islam character education is very important. As the words of Rasulullah SAW, which means "Indeed, the chosen one among you is a person who has good morals." Character education by setting a good example with the figure of Rasulullah SAW as a role model is something that is highly recommended and even required in Islam. Therefore, if children from an early age are accustomed to recognizing positive characters according to the example taught by the Prophet Muhammad, when they grow up they will grow into a generation that is strong, confident and has strong character.

Still in the same context, character education in early childhood is the main mission of the Prophet Muhammad. In Islamic teachings is the perfection of noble character. In the current context, teachers actually have a duty to continue the mission of the Prophet (al-*ulama;u warasatul anbiya*) and to maintain the ongoing character education for mankind to achieve salvation both in this world and in the hereafter.

Child development experts around the world recognize that early age is the golden age and the foundation for further growth and development. Thus, because the early age period is proven to be very decisive in the development of children's potential abilities, it is appropriate that character education starts from the family environment, namely the environment in which children grow early.

The importance of character education from an early age is also explained by Muslich. By quoting Freud's statement, he explained that quality character needs to be formed and nurtured from an early age. Early age is a critical period for the formation of one's character. Failure to cultivate a good personality at an early age will form a problematic personality in adulthood.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that the application of character education in realizing the personality of early childhood aged 4-6 years is by carrying out several strategies including playing methods, exemplary, habituation, advice, and attention and supervision. Some of these methods turned out to give clear results in shaping the personality of early childhood, especially children aged 4-6 years. Thus the need for parents and educators also assist in the application of character education. As for the description of the methods and strategies, the benefit is that readers, teachers and parents pay more attention to their children with the methods described in this scientific paper in realizing the child's personality, so that the child is formed into a person with good morals,

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