

The Importance of Parents as Modeling in The Formation of Children's Character

Dinny Rahmayanty*¹, Nur Hasanah Harahap², Ermida Lestari³, Khairani Khofifah⁴, Nurhadi Saputra⁵

¹²³⁴⁵Department of Guidance and Counselling, Faculty of Education, Univesitas Jambi

*Dinny Rahmayanti

✉ dinnyrahmayanty@unja.ac.id¹

Abstract

Family is the first and main forum that greatly influences the determination of a family's future. Overall, the family environment is a place and container for the growth and development of children (family members), where the family has a big factor in forming a child's soul and character, therefore it is necessary to create a positive environmental atmosphere by instilling the principles of moral values in life. a child in the family environment carried out by every family member, especially parents. Parents have a very important role in shaping a child's character. As the main role models in children's lives, parents can set good or bad examples in their daily behavior and attitudes. Therefore, it is important for parents to understand that they are the main models in forming children's character. In this article we will discuss the importance of parents as models in forming children's character

Keywords: Parents, modelling, children character

INTRODUCTION

A child's character education can be linked to the development of their attitudes and personal qualities, as well as the communication patterns that occur within the family. The family environment plays a significant role in the comprehensive development of a child's education (Latifah, 2020). Good parenting can have a positive impact on character formation (Hardianti & Adawiyah, 2023). Parents can shape a child's character through care, guidance, and early education, while also providing support (Tyas et al., 2022). The warmth, support, and positive emotions displayed by parents when interacting with their child provide learning opportunities for the child to interact with others (Harahap et al., 2020).

This is because children spend a lot of time with family members, especially parents who have an obligation to instill and cultivate noble values in their daily lives, as well as to serve as role models and provide real-life examples for their children (Fikriyah et al., 2022; Saputro & Talan, 2017).

Real-life examples provided by parents will become integrated into the formation of habits and character, as well as how to manage emotions (Iqoh & Alief, 2021). If the father and mother figure is good and morally upright, the impression received by the child will also be positive. Parents who teach values such as honesty, hard work, empathy, and respect for others will help their child develop positively (Pratiwi & Saputra, 2023). However, on the contrary, if the father and mother figure is not good and lacks moral values, the impression received by the child will be less favorable. Nevertheless, many parents find it difficult to control their behavior in front of their children, sometimes displaying undesirable traits (Roini, 2018). Often, parents are unaware that their actions and behaviors can have unintended consequences the impact on a child's mental state can be observed, for example, through physical punishment and negative suggestions made to the child. This can result in the child displaying negative behavior, low self-esteem, timidity, and a reluctance to take risks (Roini, 2018).

RESEARCH METHOD

The method employed in this article is a literature study (library research). This method involves collecting and gathering information from relevant reading sources based on the topic of discussion. The topic addressed and analyzed in this article is the role of parents as role models in shaping a child's character.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The role of parents in educating their children helps the child understand what is right and wrong (Indrianti, 2020). As excellent imitators, children pay close attention to every action and words they hear and see from their parents on a daily basis (Aisyah, 2020; Arif, S. 2018). Therefore, the role of parents as role models is a significant factor in shaping a child's character. Some of the roles of parents in shaping a child's character are as follows (Nur & Malli, 2022):

1. Educating through behavioral examples

Educating by providing examples is usually suitable for children aged 6-12 years. At this age, children are highly inclined to emulate what their parents have taught or displayed in their daily lives. Teaching through examples typically involves honesty, mutual respect, courtesy, kindness, friendliness, and adhering to rules. Therefore, parents should exhibit good behavior (Tyas et al., 2022). For instance, when parents instruct their children to study and not use smartphones, parents should refrain from using smartphones as well, so that children will follow their parents' actions. Similarly, when parents ask their children to pray, parents should pray as well, so that their children will join in. If parents merely issue commands or advice without setting an example, children tend to oppose what their parents say.

2. Implementing early education systems

Parents are the first and foremost educators for children (Amsyari in Dasopang & Montessori, 2018). Parents must make a concerted effort to educate their children from an early age. Starting from a young age, parents should begin teaching their children about honesty, mutual respect, courtesy, kindness, friendliness, and responsibility. Early childhood education significantly influences a child's character, as children will develop good and directed character traits. For example, parents should always teach their children not to cheat, to be honest, and to take responsibility for their mistakes (Sustiarini & Nihwan, 2023).

3. Implementing habituation systems

Shaping a child's good character is highly effective through habituation systems. In this approach, parents instill habits in children to learn about religion and follow rules. Children's characters and personalities are shaped by these habits established by their parents. For instance, parents consistently encourage their children to be devoted in worship, save money if they want something, and adhere to rules such as arriving at school on time and wearing the complete uniform (Fatimah & Nuraninda, 2021).

4. Cultivating a culture of dialogue between parents and children

As parents with higher expectations for their children, it is advisable to engage in more dialogues with them, allowing us to understand what our children are feeling. Through dialogue, we can teach children how to speak politely and gently to others. Consequently, children will develop good manners and a gentle demeanor towards others (Roesli et al., 2018). For example, parents frequently ask, "How was your day at school?" and actively listen to their children's stories, offering solutions to their problems.

5. Applying the principle of fairness in managing available time

Parents should be fair and not show favoritism toward any family member, always dividing their time so that children consistently feel loved and attended to by their parents. Parents should also balance their work and family time (Marlena, S. 2023). For instance, even when parents are busy working, during weekends or holidays, they should allocate time to play with their children, show attention, and inquire about their school experiences. No matter how busy parents are, they should make an effort to spend time with their children so they don't feel neglected (Sustiarini & Nihwan, 2023).

However, the reality in the field shows that many parents are still negligent, forgetful, and unsure of how to educate and shape their children's characters (Darmawant, 2023; Sustiarini, N. 2023; Maifani, F. 2016). Parents' perspectives on consistency in educating their children have a significant influence on the attitudes and behaviors they display. Additionally, changes in a child's mood can be a contributing factor. Children are not solely influenced by their family environment but also by external

influences in their daily behavior (Khairunnisa & Fidesrinur, 2021). Furthermore, parents often react to their children's behavior based on their own mood. When parents are in a good mood, they tend to be more accepting of their children's behavior. However, when parents are in a bad mood, they tend to be more sensitive in evaluating their children's actions (Sunarti, K. 2015). This is because consistency in parenting is influenced by three factors:

1. Parental mood

When parents are in a comfortable, relaxed, or engaging mood, they tend to overlook and ignore their children's behavior, regardless of what it may be. On the contrary, when parents feel tired or chaotic and need rest, they are less accepting of their children's behavior. For example, when siblings quarrel in front of parents who have just returned from work, the parents' response may be unfavorable due to their tired and irritable mood. As a result, the parents scold both children for fighting because they want to rest. Conversely, when parents are in a good mood, they will respond more positively to the same issue, advising their children not to quarrel or letting them handle it on their own.

Parents who can control their emotions can help children develop the ability to regulate their emotions and express themselves appropriately in social situations (Ulfah, M. 2020). Parents' ability to regulate their emotions can influence how they interact with their children and shape their children's character (Luthfia & Cahyanti, 1851).

2. Child characteristics

According to Papalia (2008) and Gordon (2000) (in Sunarty, K. 2015), when parents have more than one child, their attitudes and actions will align with the characteristics (attitudes and behaviors) displayed by the children, making it difficult for parents to be consistent. When a child exhibits behavior that parents consider good, it is accepted. Conversely, when a child displays behavior that parents view as bad and unacceptable, parents reject that behavior. For example, a family with two children who have different characteristics and behaviors. Child A is calm and careful, while Child B is aggressive and defiant. Child B's behavior is unacceptable to both parents because it causes anxiety and contradicts the behavior of their other child, leading to frequent scolding and comparisons.

3. Environment

When a child performs an activity or behaves in a place where events are happening that could affect the way society perceives their parents, the parents' response can be positive or negative. This is related to parents' fear of others' opinions about their child's behavior, which can reflect poorly on the parents. Therefore, social control by parents is necessary and can influence a child's behavior, such as in cases of juvenile delinquency. For example, a child who places their feet on a chair while eating in a restaurant, contrary to the family rule that prohibits it. The parents may accept this behavior if it occurs at home but may

react negatively and scold the child if it happens in a public place, as such behavior is viewed as inappropriate and discourteous by the public, leading to parental embarrassment.

CONCLUSION

Families play a significant role in shaping a child's personality and character since children spend a lot of time with their families. Parents bear a considerable responsibility for shaping their children's character, as they serve as role models. A child's character depends on how parents behave and educate them. Providing behavioral examples, early education, habituation, and time management are efforts that parents can make to develop good character in their children.

Through the education provided by parents, children learn to distinguish between right and wrong, largely based on what they see, hear, and experience, including the words and actions of their parents. Challenges or reasons why parents may not behave appropriately include the emotional and mood swings of children, inconsistencies in the teaching process within the home and play environments, and unmet needs or desires due to financial factors.

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