

Educational Environment in the Implementation of Character Education

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ABSTRACT

Character education has become a major focus in modern education, with the recognition that the formation of strong character is an important aspect in the formation of quality individuals. The educational environment, which includes schools, parents, communities and technology, plays a crucial role in the implementation of character education. In this abstract, we explore the role of each element of the educational environment in shaping individual character. Schools provide the structure and curriculum that support character learning, while teachers serve as the main agents in providing role models and guidance. Parents play a central role as the primary models for children, while interactions within the community provide important social experiences. Technological developments, while providing wide access to information, also pose new challenges in character building, emphasizing the importance of integrating character values in the use of technology. Collaboration between all these elements of the educational environment is key in creating individuals who have strong, quality character and are able to contribute positively to society. Through holistic understanding and cooperation, it is hoped that positive character building can become a solid foundation for future generations.

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INTRODUCTION

The educational environment is one of the most influential factors in the process of individual character building. This is because the educational environment does not only include classrooms at school, but also includes interactions between students, teachers, parents, and the surrounding community. The implementation of character education in the educational environment is an important thing to do in order to form a generation with strong character and quality. In this context, character education is essential because it is the foundation that influences an individual's behavior, attitudes and values. Therefore, it is important to understand more deeply how the educational environment can influence the implementation of character education.

One of the main aspects of the educational environment is the school. Schools are not only a place to acquire academic knowledge, but also a place where values, attitudes

and character are nurtured and strengthened. The role of teachers in the school environment is very important in shaping student character. Teachers are not only teachers, but also good examples for students. By providing good examples and integrating character values in every aspect of learning, teachers can help students understand and internalize these values.

In addition, the role of parents is also very significant in shaping children's character. The family environment is the first environment where children gain their early experiences and learning. Parents have the responsibility to provide character education to children from an early age. Through daily interactions, parents can set a good example and teach values such as honesty, responsibility, hard work and empathy to their children. Thus, parents play a very important role in shaping children's character from an early age.

Not only at school and at home, the community environment also has a significant impact on individual character building. Social interactions that occur in the community can influence a person's attitude and behavior. Therefore, it is important to create a community environment that supports good character building. Through social, cultural and community activities, individuals can learn to appreciate diversity, work together and practice other positive values.

In addition to these three environments, technological developments also have a significant impact on individual character formation. Technology gives individuals access to information quickly and easily. However, technology can also be a threat if not used wisely. Therefore, it is important to integrate character education in the use of technology, so that individuals can use technology positively and responsibly.

Thus, the educational environment that includes school, family, community and technology has a very important role in the implementation of character education. Through collaboration between all relevant parties, individual character building can be carried out in a holistic and integrated manner. Thus, it is expected that future generations can become individuals who have strong character, quality, and are able to contribute positively to society and the nation.

The researcher took the title "Educational Environment in the Implementation of Character Education" because of the important role of the educational environment in the formation of a holistic and quality individual character. The purpose of this study is to understand and explore how elements of the educational environment, including school, family, community and technology, contribute to the formation of student character. Based on the formulation of the problem, this study aims to identify best practices and challenges faced in the implementation of character education, as well as develop strategic recommendations that can be implemented by educators, parents and other stakeholders to create an environment conducive to the development of strong and positive characters.

RESEARCH METHODS

This type of research is library research, which is a series of studies related to library data collection methods, or research whose research objects are explored through various library information (books, encyclopedias, scientific journals, newspapers,

magazines, and documents). Literature research is research that examines or critically reviews the knowledge, ideas, or findings contained in the body of academic-oriented literature, and formulates its theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic. The focus of literature research is to find various theories, laws, postulates, principles, or ideas that are used to analyze and solve the formulated research questions. The nature of this research is descriptive analysis, which is a regular description of the data that has been obtained, then given an understanding and explanation so that it can be understood properly by the reader.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A. The School's Role in the Implementation of Student Character Education

The role of schools in the implementation of student character education is vital and multifaceted. As formal educational institutions, schools are not only responsible for the transfer of academic knowledge, but also play an important role in the formation of student character. Schools provide a structured environment where moral and ethical values can be systematically instilled through a specially designed curriculum. Character education programs integrated in the curriculum allow students to learn about values such as honesty, responsibility, hard work, and empathy. For example, subjects such as Civic Education can be used as a vehicle to instill the values of nationality, tolerance and social awareness.

Teachers play a very important role in implementing character education in schools. They not only act as knowledge conveyors, but also as role models for students. Through their daily attitudes and behaviors, teachers can provide real examples of how character values are applied in real life. For example, a teacher who always shows a fair attitude and respects the opinions of all students can teach the importance of justice and tolerance. In addition, teachers can use teaching methods that emphasize collaborative learning, where students are invited to work together in groups, develop communication skills, and solve problems collectively, so that values such as cooperation, mutual respect, and social responsibility can be developed.

Extracurricular activities also play an important role in student character building. Schools can provide various activities such as sports, arts, scouts, and social activities that allow students to develop different aspects of their character. For example, through sports activities, students can learn about discipline, hard work, and sportsmanship. Art activities such as drama or music can help students express themselves and develop empathy and collaboration skills. Social activities such as community service or volunteer work allow students to experience firsthand the importance of contributing to society and develop a sense of empathy and social responsibility.

Schools can also hold special programs that focus on character development. These programs can be seminars, workshops or trainings that teach life skills and moral values. For example, training on self-management, leadership, or conflict resolution can provide students with the practical skills needed to face life's challenges with integrity and

responsibility. In addition, mentoring programs where older students or school alumni mentor younger students can also be an effective tool for character learning.

Equally important are school policies that support character education. A fair and consistent discipline policy can help students understand the importance of rules and the consequences of their actions. Schools can also implement a system of rewards and recognition for good behavior, which can motivate students to continue developing positive character traits. For example, awards for honesty, hard work or moral courage can provide positive reinforcement to students and show that these values are valued and respected.

Parental participation is also very important in supporting character education in schools. Schools can establish strong partnerships with parents through effective communication and involvement in various school activities. For example, through regular meetings, parenting seminars or joint activities between schools and parents, both parties can work together in educating children's character. Parents can support the values taught at school by implementing them at home, so there is continuity between character education at school and at home.

In addition, the physical environment and school culture also influence students' character building. A clean, safe and friendly school can create an atmosphere conducive to learning and character development. An inclusive school culture, where every student feels valued and accepted, is also important for shaping positive student character. For example, schools can adopt anti-bullying policies and promote values such as mutual respect and tolerance through various activities and campaigns.

Technology can also be utilized to support character education in schools. The use of technology in learning can expand students' access to quality educational resources and enable them to learn about various values and life skills through digital platforms. For example, schools can use videos, educational games or apps specifically designed to teach character values. However, the use of technology should also be balanced with teaching about digital ethics, so that students can use technology responsibly and wisely.

Evaluation and monitoring are also important aspects in the implementation of character education in schools. Schools need to have a mechanism to assess students' character development and ensure that the programs implemented are effective. For example, character assessment can be done through observation, self-report, or peer assessment. The results of these evaluations can be used to identify areas for improvement and develop more effective strategies for student character building.

Finally, the role of school leadership is also very important in supporting character education. Principals and other educational leaders must demonstrate a strong commitment to character education and provide the necessary support for teachers and school staff. With visionary and inspiring leadership, schools can create an environment that truly supports students' character development.

B. Contribution of Community Environment in Individual Character Building

The contribution of the community environment in the formation of individual character is very important and complex, involving various elements that collectively shape a person's values, attitudes and behavior. Society is a social environment where individuals interact with various groups and experience diverse life situations. These interactions include relationships with neighbors, peers, community leaders, as well as participation in social, cultural and religious activities. Through these interactions, individuals learn to appreciate diversity, work together and practice positive values that become the foundation of their character. For example, in communities that support cooperation and *gotong royong*, individuals tend to develop caring and responsible attitudes towards others. Social activities such as community service, fundraising for disasters, or participation in youth organizations provide opportunities for individuals to hone social skills and internalize values of togetherness and solidarity.

The role of community leaders, religious leaders and social institutions is also crucial in shaping individual character. Community leaders, such as village heads, religious leaders and leaders of social organizations, are often role models for other community members. Through lectures, religious activities, or speeches, they can spread moral and ethical messages that shape individual views and behaviors. For example, religious leaders who teach the importance of honesty, humility and compassion can influence how individuals live their daily lives. In addition, social institutions such as NGOs and community groups play an important role in educating and advocating for certain values. They often hold training programs, seminars and campaigns that focus on moral, environmental and social issues, aiming to raise awareness and shape people's character.

Cultural and artistic activities organized in the community also contribute significantly to individual character building. Through participation in arts activities, such as theater, music, dance and painting, individuals can express themselves, develop their creativity and learn to work together with others. Art is often a medium to convey profound moral and social messages. For example, a theater performance on social or environmental justice can inspire the audience to reflect on these values and integrate them into their lives. In addition, cultural festivals that celebrate ethnic diversity and local traditions can promote mutual respect and tolerance among community members.

Society also plays a role in shaping character through social norms and customs. These norms serve as guidelines for behavior that is accepted and valued within the community. For example, in societies that uphold the values of mutual cooperation, individuals are taught from an early age to help each other and work together towards a common goal. Local customs and traditions also play a role in instilling certain values. Traditional ceremonies, religious celebrations and community rituals often contain deep symbolic meaning and teach values such as togetherness, respect and responsibility.

Participation in these traditions helps individuals understand and appreciate their cultural heritage and internalize its values.

In addition, the community environment also includes physical factors such as public facilities and green spaces that can influence character formation. For example, the presence of playgrounds, sports fields and community centers provide places for individuals to interact, play and participate in group activities. Such interactions are important for developing social skills, a sense of responsibility and teamwork. Well-maintained and safe public facilities also reflect the values of caring and shared responsibility within the community. These public spaces become arenas where social values are taught and practiced in real contexts.

The role of local media cannot be overlooked in shaping individual character. Local media, such as newspapers, radio stations and community television channels, are often sources of information that influence people's views and attitudes. Through news, discussion programs and public campaigns, local media can spread positive values and educate people on important issues. For example, campaigns on the importance of protecting the environment, fighting corruption or improving literacy can raise awareness and inspire positive action in communities. Local media can also provide a platform for inspiring stories and moral role models that can motivate individuals to emulate good behavior.

Interaction with peer groups also plays an important role in individual character formation, especially among adolescents. Peer groups are often the place where individuals learn about friendship, trust and cooperation. Experiences in peer groups can help individuals develop a sense of identity and self-esteem. Peer groups can also be a source of emotional and moral support, as well as a place to practice values such as honesty, empathy and responsibility. However, peer group influence can also be negative if the group encourages destructive or unethical behavior. Therefore, it is important for society to provide a positive and supportive environment for peer group interactions.

The role of non-formal education institutions, such as training centers, libraries and places of worship, is also important in shaping individual character. Training centers and libraries offer various programs that can develop life skills and moral values. For example, life skills courses that teach time management, leadership or conflict resolution can help individuals develop the necessary skills to become productive and responsible members of society. Places of worship, such as mosques, churches or temples, are not only places for worship but also for moral and social learning. Religious activities and teaching conducted in places of worship often emphasize values such as honesty, compassion, and community service.

In conclusion, the contribution of the community environment in the formation of individual character is extensive and covers various aspects of social life. Through social interactions, norms, cultural activities, public facilities, local media, peer groups and non-

formal educational institutions, the community collectively shapes and directs individual character development. Cooperation between various elements in society is needed to create an environment that supports and strengthens character education. Thus, society can play an effective role in shaping individuals who have strong, quality characters and are able to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world.

C. The Impact of Technological Development on Individual Character Building

The impact of technological development on individual character formation is complex and multidimensional, encompassing both positive and negative aspects that significantly affect personal and social development. Technology, especially the internet and social media, has changed the way individuals interact, learn and develop themselves. On the one hand, the wide access to information and knowledge allows individuals to learn about different values, cultures and perspectives, which can enrich their horizons and encourage tolerance and curiosity. For example, online education platforms provide materials that teach moral values, ethics and life skills essential for character building. In addition, technology allows individuals to engage in global communities, expand their social networks, and participate in discussions that can reinforce values such as solidarity, cooperation, and social responsibility.

However, on the other hand, technological development also brings challenges that can have a negative impact on individual character building. One of the main negative impacts is the emergence of addictive behavior towards gadgets and social media, which can disrupt life balance and mental health. Overuse of social media is often associated with decreased self-confidence and increased social anxiety, as individuals tend to compare themselves to others based on often unrealistic images. In addition, anonymity in cyberspace can lead to negative behaviors such as cyberbullying, hate speech and other unethical behaviors, which can undermine moral and ethical values. For example, there are many cases where children and teenagers are victims or perpetrators of online bullying, which not only damages their character but also their mental health and social relationships.

Technology also affects the way individuals process information and make decisions, which can impact character building. Easy access to information can lead to information overload and the spread of fake news, which can blur the line between fact and opinion. This can reduce individuals' critical and analytical skills, as well as encourage impulsive behavior and lack of responsibility in sharing information. In addition, social media algorithms designed to maintain users' attention often reinforce confirmation bias, where individuals are only exposed to information that aligns with their own views, reducing their ability to accept dissent and develop tolerance.

However, technology also offers tools that can be used to support positive character development if used wisely. Apps and platforms specifically designed for character

education, such as educational games, online mentoring programs and life skills courses, can help individuals develop important values and skills. For example, educational games that teach teamwork, conflict resolution and empathy can provide practical experiences that help individuals understand and internalize these values. Online mentoring programs that connect individuals with experienced mentors can provide guidance and support in character development and life skills.

In addition, technology enables the rapid spread of social campaigns and movements that can shape individual character through active engagement in social issues. Online campaigns for social justice, environmental protection and human rights can inspire individuals to participate in social action and develop a sense of social responsibility. For example, global campaigns such as #MeToo and Black Lives Matter have mobilized millions of people to stand up against injustice and discrimination, teaching the values of courage, justice and solidarity.

In the field of education, technology has also enabled more innovative and effective implementation of character learning. Teachers can use digital tools to create more interactive and personalized learning experiences, which can help students understand and internalize character values. For example, digital simulations and virtual reality (VR) can be used to teach empathy by allowing students to experience situations from another person's perspective. E-learning platforms can provide learning modules on ethics, leadership and life skills, which can be accessed anytime and anywhere, supporting lifelong learning and continuous character development.

However, for the positive impact of technology to be optimized and the negative impact minimized, it is important for educators, parents and other stakeholders to teach and promote digital literacy and ethical use of technology. Digital literacy includes the ability to critically navigate and assess online information, manage screen time wisely, and understand the social and ethical implications of online actions. Digital ethics education teaches values such as responsibility, respect and empathy in the use of technology. For example, teaching children about the importance of privacy, how to interact politely on social media, and how to identify and fight cyberbullying can help them develop a strong and responsible character in the digital world.

The role of the community is also important in supporting healthy and positive technology use. Community initiatives that promote wise use of technology, such as digital literacy workshops, support groups for parents, and awareness campaigns on the risks and benefits of technology, can help shape social norms that support positive character building. In addition, public policies that support fair and safe access to technology, as well as protection against the misuse and exploitation of technology, are also important for creating an environment conducive to individual character building.

The impact of technological development on individual character building depends largely on how it is used and managed. Technology has great potential to support positive

character building through access to information, interactive learning and social engagement. However, challenges such as digital addiction, the spread of false information, and negative online behavior need to be addressed through digital literacy education, ethical use of technology, and community support. With a wise and integrated approach, technology can be a powerful tool to support the development of strong, quality and responsible characters in the digital age.

CONCLUSIONS

The educational environment is the main foundation in the formation of individual character. Through the role of schools as formal institutions, parents as the first agents in children's learning, society as the influencing social environment, and technology as the inevitable modern medium, all these components interact with each other to shape individual character. Schools provide structures and curricula that incorporate character values, teachers provide examples and guidance, while parents serve as primary models and communities provide diverse social experiences. Technological developments, while providing unlimited access to information, also pose new challenges in shaping character, making the integration of character values in the use of technology crucial. Collaboration between all these elements of the educational environment is key to creating individuals who have strong, quality character and are able to contribute positively to society and the nation as a whole. Thus, it is important for all parties involved to understand their role in shaping an educational environment that supports and strengthens character education, as only then can we ensure the formation of a quality generation capable of facing the challenges of the future.

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