Building A Golden Generation Through Character Education

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Abstract:

Education plays a crucial role in enhancing individuals' abilities in terms of socially acceptable attitudes and behaviors. The focus of education goes beyond academic spects and includes character development, philosophical and scientific thinking, as well as spiritual growth. Education plays a strategic role in shaping a dignified generation, creating a high-quality nation, and enhancing the intelligence of the nation's life. Character education is one of the goals of education regulated by the Education Law. The importance of character education in shaping a strong golden generation is expected to bring significant progress to the nation and the country. The role of teachers in the education process is vital, especially in a multicultural and multifaceted environment. Teachers have the responsibility to provide support, guidance, and necessary tools for student success. Character education also plays a role in shaping an inclusive and just society and in improving overall quality of life. Al Biruni Elementary School in East Bandung is an example of a school that implements character education in daily activities by emphasizing student potential development and nation building. The research method used in this journal is qualitative research with a descriptive method, employing data collection techniques through literature review, observation, interviews, and documentation study. Through this method, researchers can understand the phenomenon of character education in a profound and comprehensive manner

Keywords: *character education, golden generation, teachers, moral education, culture, exemplification*

INTRODUCTION

Education is a process that aims to improve social skills and attitudes that are acceptable in society. This process occurs through social interaction, especially at school, to develop personality and social skills. The goals of education are not only limited to academic aspects, but also to developing philosophical, scientific thinking abilities and spiritual growth. The importance of education in forming a quality generation and increasing the nation's intelligence cannot be ignored. Apart from that, education also plays a role in developing individuals as a whole by paying attention to their interests, talents and needs, so that they can grow into individuals who are compassionate and have strong character. Education is not only about providing information, but also about personal development, positive attitudes and constructive behavior (Fitriani et al., 2022).

Forming character is one of the main goals of education as regulated in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning Education. Education is directed at creating a dynamic learning process and learning environment, with a focus on developing students' personal potential so that they have spiritual, moral, intelligence, personality and skills that are relevant for individuals, society, nation and state. Therefore, character education is very important and must be instilled from an early age both through formal and non-formal educational institutions. In this effort, the role of teachers is very strategic, because other factors cannot replace their role, especially in a multicultural and complex cultural context, where technology has limitations in carrying out the responsibilities of an educator. Educational success depends greatly on teacher competence and dedication. Graduates produced by quality teachers are expected to have high standards. Therefore, it is important to pay serious attention to teacher professionalism in implementing the curriculum in the classroom. As educators, teachers' responsibilities include providing support, guidance, and providing the resources necessary for student development. Apart from that, teachers are also responsible for monitoring and evaluating the entire learning process to support student progress (Manullang, 2013)

The golden generation refers to the group of individuals who are expected to become future leaders of the nation and state. Therefore, it is important to continue to encourage them to have high morality and be productive. This concept is in line with Ki Hajar Dewantara's view of education as a process of forming children's character and intelligence. Character education is an important part of increasing the nation's competitiveness, and with the presence of a strong golden generation, it is hoped that better progress can be achieved by the nation and state. Education is considered a process that aims to develop an individual's ability to form attitudes and behavior that are in accordance with social norms. This process occurs when individuals are influenced by a controlled environment, especially in a school setting, with the aim of developing personality and acquiring social skills. More than just focusing on academic aspects, education aims to create individuals who are able to think philosophically, scientifically and grow spiritually. The presence of education in human life has great significance and should not be ignored. Through education, a new generation is formed, the integrity of the nation is maintained, and the quality of people's lives improves. This approach to education also helps explore students' potential by paying attention to their individual interests, talents and needs. Thus, education does not just focus on acquiring knowledge, but also on self-development, positive attitudes and good behavior (Fitriani et al., 2022). One of

the goals of education, as regulated in Law Number 20 of 2003, is to build strong character. Education seeks to create a dynamic learning environment to develop spiritual strength, high morality, intelligence, personality, self-control and skills needed by students, society, nation and state. Therefore, character education needs to be instilled from an early age and continue to be developed through both formal and non-formal educational institutions (Yulianti, 2021).

The importance of education is reflected in its role in forming an inclusive and just society. Education can be a means of reducing social, economic and cultural disparities between individuals. With quality education, every individual has the same opportunity to develop their potential, regardless of social or economic background. In an inclusive educational environment, diversity is valued and considered a source of richness in the learning experience, which helps create a more harmonious and respectful society. Education also plays an important role in improving the overall quality of life. Through good education, individuals are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to face everyday challenges. They can develop critical, analytical, problem-solving and creativity skills. Thus, education provides an effective tool for individuals to achieve personal and professional advancement.

Apart from that, education also helps form individuals who are aware of their rights and responsibilities as citizens, as well as promoting environmental awareness. Al Biruni Science Elementary School is a private elementary school located in the East Bandung area. Since it was founded in early 2000, this school has always emphasized the importance of character in every daily learning activity. This is reflected in their motto, "educate, develop, love", which is manifested in the school's vision to create a center for development and appreciation for various human potentials to become leaders who are obedient, noble, superior and care about the environment. In the learning process at this school, students are taught to start their activities by praying, reading the Qur'an, and performing the Duha prayer. Apart from that, infaq and alms activities are also routinely carried out by students and teaching staff. The role of teachers at Al Biruni Science Elementary School is very important and strategic in developing student potential and shaping national character. Even though technology continues to develop, teachers still have the main responsibility in producing quality graduates. A teacher's job includes supporting, guiding, and providing the tools necessary for student success. They are also responsible for monitoring students' progress in class to help their growth (Manullang, 2013).

The golden generation refers to the group of people who are expected to become future leaders of the nation and state. Therefore, it is important for them to be encouraged to have high moral character and be productive. Ki Hajar Dewantara's theory emphasizes that education is a process to develop children's character and intelligence (Yusuf, 2016). Character education is an important component in increasing the nation's competitiveness. With a strong golden generation, it is hoped that the nation and state can progress significantly towards a better direction

METHODOLOGY

This research uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods. Data collection techniques include literature study, observation, interviews, and documentation study. Qualitative methods aim to understand phenomena in depth and comprehensively, with a focus

on descriptive and interpretive analysis to reveal the meaning, perceptions and experiences of the individuals or groups studied. Qualitative research is often used in the social sciences, humanities, and other fields that study aspects of humans and social interactions.

The descriptive method is a research approach that aims to provide an objective description of certain characteristics or phenomena without interpreting or explaining the underlying causes and effects. This method is used to answer the questions "what", "who", "how", or "how much" regarding the phenomenon being studied (Murdianto, 2020). In collecting data in qualitative research, there are several techniques that are commonly used, including:

1. Literature study: Involves research and analysis of literature, articles, books, and other sources relevant to the research topic. Literature studies help researchers gain a better understanding of the concepts related to the research being conducted.
2. Observation: Involves direct observation of the phenomenon under study, both participatory and non-participatory.
3. Interview: Involves direct interaction between the researcher and the respondent to obtain verbal responses related to the research topic.
4. Documentation study: Involves collecting data from written documents relevant to the research, such as notes, reports, letters, archives, or other documents related to the phenomenon under study.

This combination of data collection techniques provides rich and in-depth information for analysis in qualitative research, allowing researchers to gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomena under study as well as describe characteristics, patterns, or relationships that emerge from the data collected.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The relationship between education and human life is inseparable because education has a major impact on human dignity and worth. Efforts to increase educational success are the main focus for a nation and state to ensure the creation of quality human beings. Character education is seen as an important factor in achieving this goal because it is able to form individuals who have an awareness of moral and cultural values.

Character plays an important role in every aspect of decision making and behavior, and determines the moral quality of the younger generation. Character education is a means of developing human qualities as well as responding to the moral challenges faced. Therefore, the character that is built must be based on strong principles so that it can be the main driver in building character that is integrated in everyday life, so that Indonesia can give birth to a superior generation.

Character is a person's way of expressing their understanding and knowledge of the noble values in life, which originate from culture, religion and national identity, such as morals, ethics, law, virtue, and religious and cultural values. These values are reflected in an individual's daily attitudes, behavior, and personality, distinguishing him or her from others. Character is considered a fundamental aspect that must be realized in action, not just understood, recognized, or taught. Thus, it is hoped that the character possessed by each individual will contribute to the development of regional and national character in accordance

with the noble ideals of national education. According to Gunarto (2004:22), character can also be defined as the values of human behavior related to the relationship with God Almighty, oneself, fellow humans, the environment and nationality, which are reflected in thoughts, attitudes, feelings, words. words and actions, in accordance with religious norms, culture and national values, which become part of everyday life and become habits.

There are two approaches to teaching character, namely the essential approach and the practical method. The practical method focuses on teaching desired behavior from students, while the essential approach aims to build a solid personality. The Ministry of Education has compiled a list of qualities that students must have as part of character education. This list includes eighteen characteristics, including religious, honest, tolerant, disciplined, hard working, creative, independent, democratic, curious, national spirit, love of the country, respect for achievements, friendly/communicative, love of peace, likes to read, caring environment, social care, and responsibility. Educators can use these characteristics as a guide as they seek to build student character (Mardiah Baginda & Pdi, 20220).

In a comprehensive educational approach, character learning must be carried out systematically by applying the "knowing the good, feeling the good, acting the good" technique. Knowledge about goodness (knowing the good) can be easily conveyed because it is cognitive. After understanding the concept of goodness, it is important to cultivate feelings of pleasure or love for that goodness (feeling the good). Furthermore, it is hoped that these feelings will become an encouragement to carry out good actions (acting the good). Through this approach, it is hoped that individuals will get used to consistent good behavior, forming positive habits in everyday life (Mardiah Baginda & Pdi, 2022).

However, in instilling character education, the most influential model is example. Parents are role models for their children, educators are role models for their students, and community leaders are very important role models. The main focus of character education in the educational environment is on attitudes, mindset, commitment and competence which are rooted in intelligence. Character development is influenced by planned extracurricular and curricular activities as well as the overall institutional atmosphere. This suggests that every individual who interacts with children, teachers, staff, and administrators has a responsibility to play a role in forming character.

The government has launched the Character Education Strengthening Program (PPK) as an effort to promote character in schools, with the aim of building moral and quality education throughout Indonesia. The issuance of Presidential Regulation Number 87 Article 2 of 2017 concerning Strengthening Character Education (PPK) has several objectives, including: 1. Building strong character education in students as preparation for facing future challenges and creating Indonesia's golden generation in 2045. 2 .Direct the implementation of education that prioritizes character with support from various sectors, including formal, informal and non-formal education, taking into account Indonesia's cultural diversity. 3. Increasing the potential and competence of students, educators, education staff, families and communities in implementing the Character Education Strengthening Program (Yulianti, 2021).

Al-Biruni Science Elementary School in Panyileukan, Bandung City has implemented character education through the Bandung Masagi character program. The forms of activity are daily ubudiyah habits, Islamic adab habits, and example. The influence can be seen from the development of students' characters who show better attitudes. The character education concept

developed is moral education towards Allah SWT, moral education towards others, and moral education towards the environment. The implementation of character education is implemented using the manifested behavior method, in the form of habitual worship activities, habituation to Islamic etiquette, spontaneous activities, and example. Supporting factors are good infrastructure, longer school hours, and good moral examples from teachers. The inhibiting factors are that the moral education process in the classroom has not been integrated with in-action programs and the role of parents has not been optimal (Wildan, 2020).

Supporting factors in implementing character education at Al-Biruni Science Elementary School are the existence of good infrastructure, a longer school schedule, and exemplary morals shown by the teachers. Adequate infrastructure facilitates the implementation of character education activities, while a longer school schedule provides sufficient time to integrate character education into students' daily routines. Apart from that, exemplary good morals from teachers also play an important role in shaping students' character.

However, there are inhibiting factors that need to be overcome in implementing character education in these schools. One of the inhibiting factors is that the moral education process in the classroom has not been integrated with the "in-action" program, which requires character cultivation not only to be carried out in the school environment, but also applied in students' daily lives outside of school. Apart from that, the role of parents in supporting students' character education is also not optimal and needs to be improved. Based on the theory of a comprehensive educational approach, character education must be taught methodically using the "knowing the good, feeling the good, acting the good" technique. Knowledge about goodness (knowing the good) must be conveyed cognitively to students. After understanding goodness, feelings of joy or love for goodness (feeling the good) need to be awakened. Furthermore, it is hoped that this feeling of joy will be a motivation for students to voluntarily do good deeds (acting the good).

With a comprehensive approach and the application of appropriate techniques, character education at Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can continue to be improved to achieve better results in building student character. In a comprehensive character education approach, it is important for Al-Biruni Science Elementary School to continue their efforts in integrating the "knowing the good, feeling the good, acting the good" technique in their character education program. In the "knowing the good" phase, schools need to continue to provide students with deeper knowledge about moral and ethical values. This can be done through learning that focuses on understanding moral concepts, ethics and desired behavior. Next, in the "feeling the good" phase, Al-Biruni Science Elementary School needs to develop methods and strategies that evoke feelings of joy, love and empathy for goodness. This can be achieved through the use of a more emotional approach, such as involving students in discussions, reflections and practical activities that allow them to feel and directly experience the values that are to be instilled.

At the "acting the good" stage, schools need to provide real opportunities for students to apply character values in their daily lives. Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can involve students in social activities, collaborative projects, or community service programs that require them to play an active role in practicing the moral and ethical values they have learned. Apart from that, the role of parents also needs to be increased so that character education can be successful. Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can involve parents in activities that support

the formation of student character, such as holding meetings with parents to discuss the values instilled in the school and providing support to parents in providing role models and moral guidance to their children in House. In implementing character education, regular evaluation is also important to measure the effectiveness of the program carried out. By conducting evaluations, Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can find out the extent to which character education has succeeded in achieving its goals and identify areas that need to be improved or improved.

Through a comprehensive approach, appropriate methods, collaboration with parents, and ongoing evaluation, Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can continue to develop effective and holistic character education. In this way, schools can make a significant contribution in shaping students into individuals who have strong character, integrity, and are able to play a positive role in society. Apart from that, it is important for Al-Biruni Science Elementary School to create an environment that consistently supports character education. The school environment must encourage and facilitate positive practices, such as clear behavioral norms, extracurricular activities that prioritize character development, and student involvement in decision making that involves moral values. Apart from integrating character education into the formal curriculum, Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can also take advantage of everyday moments to teach character values to students. For example, through celebrating religious holidays, flag ceremonies, or social activities within the school environment, students can be invited to practice and practice values such as tolerance, honesty, and social care. Furthermore, character education also needs to involve collaboration between teachers, students and parents. Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can involve parents in activities such as workshops or discussions regarding character education. Parents also need to be given sufficient understanding of the importance of character education and how they can support the formation of their children's character at home. Apart from that, Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can utilize technology as a means to support character education. For example, they can use digital platforms or mobile applications that provide interactive character education content, learning materials, or activities that engage students in their character development.

In conclusion, the character education carried out at Al-Biruni Science Elementary School in Bandung involves the Bandung Masagi character program with activities to get used to worship, Islamic etiquette and example. A comprehensive character education approach using the "knowing the good, feeling the good, acting the good" method needs to continue to be improved. Collaboration with parents, creating a supportive environment, and the use of technology are also important factors in the success of character education. By continuing these efforts, Al-Biruni Science Elementary School can continue to develop students who have strong character, morals, and are able to contribute positively to society.

CONCLUSION

Education plays a crucial role in forming character and behavior that is acceptable in society. The educational process does not only prioritize the academic side, but also seeks to develop individuals holistically, including philosophical, scientific and spiritual aspects. Character education is a key goal in creating a superior generation who has high morality and

is productive. It is recognized that the importance of character education must be instilled from an early age through both formal and non-formal education. Teachers play a strategic role in shaping students' character and influencing the character of the nation as a whole. Teacher professionalism is vital in implementing the curriculum and providing the support, guidance and tools necessary for student success. The golden generation is expected to become a leadership milestone for the nation's future, and character education has a central role in increasing the nation's competitiveness and encouraging better progress. Education also has a significant role in forming an inclusive society, reducing social disparities, and improving the overall quality of life.

This research uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Data collection techniques include literature study, observation, interviews, and documentation study. This method helps understand the phenomenon of character education in depth and comprehensively.

Al Biruni Science Elementary School, as a private elementary school in Bandung, focuses on character education in daily learning activities. Teachers at this school have an important role in developing students' potential and shaping national character. This school has a vision to produce people who become devout, noble, superior and environmentally friendly leaders. Thus, character education has a crucial role in forming a golden generation that has strong moral character. Through good character education, it is hoped that the Indonesian nation can achieve better progress towards a brighter future

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