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THE URGENCE OF CHARACTERISTICS DEVELOPMENT IN EARLY CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

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ABSTRAK

Keeping up with the times, it is certainly not an easy thing for educators to shape the character of akhlakul karimah in early childhood, but there is a very long process of application. Akhlakul karimah will be formed if applied as early as possible, and assisted by the stimulation provided by parents, family, environment and school. Educational institutions have an important role when learning at school to apply akhlakul karimah to early childhood, either in the form of explanations or practice. Because if the character is formed from an early age, it is unlikely that the child will be carried away by the environmental currents. Therefore there is cooperation between parents and teachers.

Keywords: Moral Development, Early Childhood Education

1. INTRODUCTION

Akhlak is one of the characters that are present because of the habits applied by the environment, schools, and parents [1]. Therefore, as a factor that affects the development and formation of character has an important role [2]. Basically, akhlak is a character that is formed in accordance with the habits of children, especially if parents and educational institutions apply akhlak properly and correctly, can explain according to age and development [3].

As a child gets older, in general, a child will experience an increase in moral development in the form of akhlak depending on the encouragement of the surrounding environment and the factors that influence it, even how to communicate with children can be a factor in forming akhlak in children [4]. Among the unfavorable environment, it is unfortunate that many children fall into bad akhlak due to the lack of application and habituation from parents and the environment, therefore, character building should be carried out as early as possible, and involve many parties to cooperate with each other.

Education is a place to help shape character, namely akhlak in children, because through the learning process the principal or teacher can apply and make habituation to children, in collaboration with parents and parties involved [5].

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

In the book "Akhlak Sufism" explains that the word akhlak comes from Arabic which means *khuluq* taken from the plural which means *akhlaq* [6]. According to language, akhlak is character, temperament and religion. In addition, akhlak is closely related to the word *khaliq* which means "Creator" and *makhluq* which means "created". Named *al-khuluq* because ethics is like a character in him [7]. Thus, akhlak is the attitude that a person chooses, whether it is a good deed (akhlak karimah) or a bad deed (akhlak mazmumah).

In the Big Indonesian Dictionary, the word akhlak is defined as character and behavior of a person. The word akhlak has a broader meaning than akhlak or ethics which are often used in Indonesian. Because, akhlak includes the psychology and behavior of a person. There are also those who argue that they are the same because they both discuss the issue of good and bad human behavior. Akhlak can be defined as a trait that is embedded in the soul, which gives rise to various kinds of good or bad actions. Good deeds (akhlak karimah) usually come from instincts and doctrines or habits that are influenced by the environment, as well as wrongdoing (akhlak mazmumah). Therefore, the role of the environment affects the akhlak of children [8].

Akhlak are very important for humans and we as humans are social creatures, so we cannot live alone without the help of others [9]. Therefore, a person's behavior or attitude in the association creates a norm or result that can be beneficial or detrimental. Likewise, in the world of education, akhlak must be applied. Especially for a student. Akhlak education is the main gate in the formation of a whole person. A

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person who has character will underlie the personality of someone who is very liked by many people. In fact, the Prophet Muhammad SAW also said that one's faith will not be perfect if it is not accompanied by noble character. Sometimes higher education does not guarantee that someone will have akhlak [10]. There are many out there who have passed S1, S2, even doctorates who do not have good akhlak. Therefore, akhlak must be applied at an early age. Therefore, the role of parents is needed, especially in moral education for children. Because education is a fundamental problem, so it will involve the future [11].

Learning material in class is not enough for a student. Ethics, akhlak, akhlak must also be owned and applied within oneself [4]. So children who are far from good akhlak will make that mindset tend to be negative. So that it can show bad behavior towards family, friends or the surrounding environment [8]. Therefore, the relationship between akhlak and education is very necessary for today's era.

3. RESEARCH METHOD

In this study, the researcher uses a type of field qualitative research, to reveal an event or habit that exists in the case under study. Through non-statistical language descriptions. While the method used by the researcher is observation to find out more closely the object under study with a focus on the problem of applying akhlak in early childhood education. Then besides that, the researcher used the interview method with the principal and educators to collect data that would be analyzed in the future.

4. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

PAUD terms very popular among the public, both children and adults. PAUD stands for early childhood education. Early childhood education (PAUD) applies fun learning, and can stimulate developmental aspects in children starting from aspects of cognitive development, language, physical motoric, socio-emotional, art, and moral and religious values. Early childhood education (PAUD) has competency standards that teachers need to understand to implement during learning and assessment of child development [12].

In Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System, it is stated that education is one of the planned and conscious efforts to create a pleasant learning atmosphere and learning process so that students can actively develop their potential to have strengths both in terms of spirituality, self-control, personality, noble character, and skills needed by himself, society, nation and state [13]. In essence, PAUD can be interpreted as a conscious and planned effort to create a creative learning atmosphere and learning process for children aged 0-6 years to attract children's interest.

Early childhood education is an effort to stimulate, guide, nurture and become a forum for students to develop themselves, both in terms of cognitive, language, art, physical motor, socio-emotional, and religious and moral values [14]. Therefore, the application of akhlak begins at an early age. Because at an early age (golden age) children have enormous potential for the formation of character, so that they are more easily attached to themselves [15]. In addition, doing habituation and cooperation with parents so that its application is not interrupted when at home.

Educational institutions and education personnel have an important role in shaping the character of children who have good akhlak, can discuss during learning, explain good and bad attitudes, what is meant by good akhlak and bad akhlak then what impact is received when doing it, it will be a process of implementing a carried out to students, and will continue to be remembered by them. In addition, an educator is an example to students both in terms of attitude and speech.

According to Ki Hajar Dewantara Guru is like *ing ngarso sung tulodo*, be a role model for students. Because a teacher needs to reflect on himself to make and apply good akhlak, then starting from himself. Educational institutions also carry out good communication with parents, so that good cooperation can be established, telling all the development processes of students and what things need to be applied at home, one of which is good akhlak. When good cooperation is established between parents and institutions, it is easy for the institution to form character in children by applying good akhlak.

Akhlak is a character that every parent really wants. Usually, children who have formed characters, one of which is good akhlak, will be a positive value for the institution or parents. Educational institutions that are successful in shaping the character of akhlak in children at an early age have guaranteed quality. And can make a strength analysis of the institution.

Akhlak that needs to be applied, among others; Courtesy, smile, greeting, greeting, honest, grateful, admitting mistakes, saying thank you, asking for help and sorry. So that when they grow up, they will carry their habits if they have been formed from an early age. Indeed, if some people think about

forming a akhlak, it is very easy, but in reality it is difficult if there is a lack of communication and cooperation with parents and all parties concerned. Therefore, the parties concerned who influence the development of students play an important role in shaping the character of children.

5. CONCLUSION

Akhlak are one of the characters that are present because of the habits applied by the environment, schools, and parents. Basically, akhlak is a character that is formed in accordance with the habits of children, especially if parents and educational institutions apply akhlak properly and correctly, can explain according to age and development. Early childhood education (PAUD) applies fun learning, and can stimulate developmental aspects in children starting from aspects of cognitive development, language, physical motoric, socio-emotional, art, and moral and religious values.

Educational institutions also carry out good communication with parents, so that good cooperation can be established, telling all the development processes of students and what things need to be applied at home, one of which is akhlak. When good cooperation is established between parents and institutions, it is easy for the institution to form character in children by applying akhlak. Usually, children who have formed characters, one of which is good akhlak, will be a positive value for the institution or parents. Therefore, the parties concerned who influence the development of students play an important role in building the character of children.

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