CHARACTER EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS (LITERATURE REVIEW STUDY)

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ABSTRACT

Character education is an effort to form good attitudes, behavior and actions in individuals so that they can create people with character. The character education curriculum has become mandatory at all levels of education in Indonesia, including basic education. These character learning efforts are carried out in an integrated manner and are carried out through familiarization with teaching and learning activities and other activities. An understanding of character education in elementary schools is seen as having good character in forming students' morals which ultimately supports the creation of a better society. This article aims to deepen the concept of character education, the learning methods used, and the impact of character education on elementary school students.

Keywords: Character education, elementary school, students, curriculum.

INTRODUCTION

Character education has become an important focus in the world of education today. Character education aims to form positive values in individuals so that they can create people with character. Not only at the upper secondary and tertiary education levels, but character education is also emphasized at the basic education level. Character education at the basic education level is carried out in an effort to build good character from an early age. Moreover, with the challenges of today's modern era, there are so many incidents that show a moral crisis occurring among children, teenagers and the elderly. Therefore, strengthening character education must be implemented from an early age, starting from the family, school and wider community, both in formal and non-formal environments, and in this case the synergy of all parties really determines the success of character education so that the direction and goals can be measured. The phenomenon that is currently developing, especially in the school environment, is that education still tends to be oriented towards cognitive abilities, as stated by Suparno (2012: 8) that education still places too much emphasis on the cognitive aspect. And this is limited to looking for numbers, not students' critical analytical skills regarding events they encounter in everyday life. In line with what was stated by Sugirin (2010: 267) that the benchmark for educational success always refers to student achievement related to the cognitive and psychomotor domains. Character education should be more directed at ways of thinking and behaving that are characteristic of individuals for living and working together, both within the family, community, nation and state. Character can also

be called a collection of values that underlie thoughts and attitudes in the behavior carried out. An individual with character is an individual who can make decisions and is ready to take responsibility for any consequences of the decisions he makes. (Subhur, 2015; Fatchul Muin, 2016).

In 2013, the government through the Ministry of Education and Culture implemented a character education curriculum as a complement to the national curriculum at all levels of education in Indonesia. Since then, character education in elementary schools has been increasingly emphasized and continues to be developed. Character education in elementary schools focuses on introducing moral values and character, as well as forming good attitudes and behavior in students.

In this literature review, the concepts, methods and impacts of character education in elementary schools will be discussed. The method used is to collect data from various references and article sources about character education in elementary schools. It is hoped that this will provide a deeper understanding and insight into character education for elementary school students.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION
Concept of Character Education

Character education refers to efforts to form positive character values in individuals. The concept of character education highlights the importance of moral values such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, cooperation and caring attitudes towards others. Character education aims to form good character in students so that they become well-behaved children and ultimately support the creation of a better society. Character education must have a basic framework that becomes the basis for developing values. In Law Number 20 of 2023 concerning the National Education System, it is stated that National Education is based on Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution of the Republic of Indonesia (Article 2), whose function is to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to educate the life of the nation, aiming to developing the potential of students to become human beings who believe and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, knowledgeable, capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens (Article 3). Furthermore, in the Regulation of the Minister of Education National Number 23 of 2006 concerning Graduate Competency Standards states that Basic Education aims to lay the foundation of intelligence, knowledge, personality, noble character, as well as skills to live independently and participate in further education. Then it is explained that the Competency Standards for Elementary School Graduates are: 1) Carrying out the teachings the religion adopted is appropriate to the child's developmental stage; 2) Get to know your own strengths and weaknesses; 3) Comply with the social rules that apply in the environment; 4) Respect the diversity of religions, cultures, ethnicities, races and socio-economic groups in the surrounding environment; 5) Use information about the surrounding environment logically, critically and creatively; 6) Demonstrate the ability to think logically, critically and creatively; with teacher/educator guidance; 7) Shows high curiosity

and realizes its potential; 8) Demonstrate the ability to solve simple problems in everyday life; 9) Demonstrate the ability to recognize natural and social phenomena in the surrounding environment; 10) Show love and concern for the environment; 11) Show love and pride for the Indonesian nation, state and homeland; 12) Demonstrate the ability to carry out local arts and cultural activities; 13) Demonstrate clean, healthy, fit, safe living habits and utilize free time; 14) Communicate clearly and politely; 15) Work together in groups, help each other, and take care of yourself in a family and peer environment; 16) Show a love of reading and writing; and 17) Demonstrate listening, speaking, reading, writing and arithmetic skills. Pay attention to national education goals, basic education goals and competency standards for elementary school graduates, all of which are full of character values.

Table 1. Values and Description of Character Education Values),

No	Mark	Description
1	Religious	Attitudes and behavior that are obedient in carrying out the teachings of the religion they adhere to, tolerant towards the practice of worship of other religions, and living in harmony with adherents of other religions
2	Honest	Behavior that is based on efforts to make oneself a person who can always be trusted in words, actions and work
3	Tolerance	Attitudes and actions that respect differences in religion, ethnicity, ethnicity, opinions, attitudes and actions of other people who are different from themselves.
4	Discipline	Actions that demonstrate orderly behavior and compliance with various rules and regulations.
5	Hard work	Behavior that shows serious effort in overcoming various obstacles to learning and assignments, as well as completing assignments as well as possible
6	Creative	Thinking and doing something to produce a new way or result from something you already have.
7	Independent	Attitudes and behavior that do not easily depend on others to complete tasks
8	Democratic	A way of thinking, behaving and acting that equally assesses the rights and obligations of oneself and others.
9	Curiosity	Attitudes and actions that always strive to know more deeply and broadly about something they learn, see and hear
10	Spirit of nationality	A way of thinking, acting and insight that places the interests of the nation and state above the

		interests of oneself and one's group.
11	Love of the Motherland	A way of thinking, behaving and acting that shows loyalty, care and high appreciation for the language, physical, social, cultural, economic and political environment of the nation
12	Rewarding Achievement	hood and actions that encourage him to produce something useful for society, and recognize and respect the success of others.
13	Friendly/Communicative	Actions that show a sense of enjoyment in talking, socializing, and collaborating with other people
14	Love peace	Attitudes, words and actions that cause other people to feel happy and safe in their presence
15	Like to read	The habit of making time to read various literature that brings goodness to him
16	Environmental care	Attitudes and actions that always strive to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment, and develop efforts to repair natural damage that has occurred
17	Social care	Attitudes and actions that always want to provide assistance to other people and communities in need
18	Responsibility	A person's attitude and behavior to carry out his duties and obligations, which he should do, towards himself, society, the environment (natural, social and cultural), the country and God Almighty.

Character Education Method

The character education method is carried out through familiarization with teaching and learning activities and other activities. Character learning is carried out in an integrated manner and is implemented in all subjects. Character education must refer to the framework of thought established by the school as a reference in implementing character education at school. In addition, obstacles to its implementation can be identified so that they can be overcome immediately. The following is a framework for thinking about implementing character education in elementary school.

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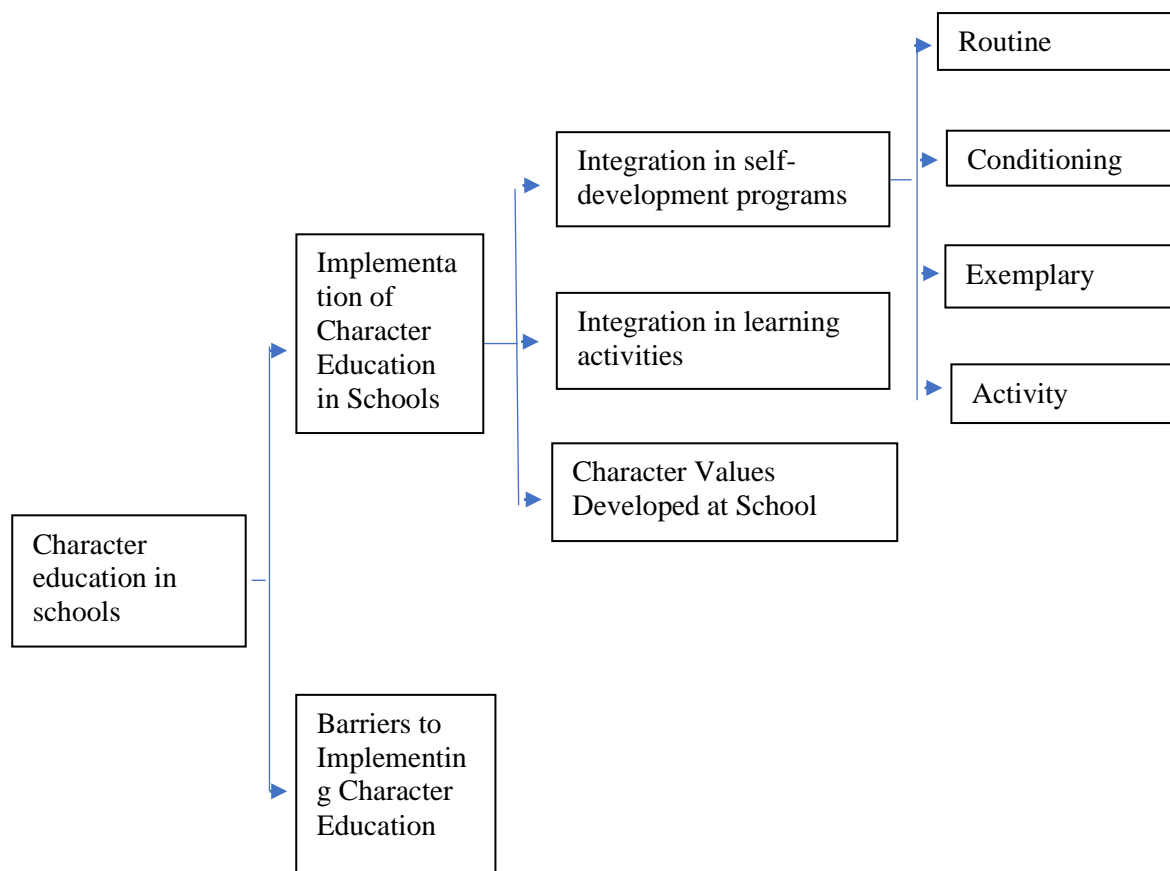Volume 11 Number 3 December 2023

Figure 1. Framework for Thinking about Implementing Character
Education in Elementary School

Method used must suitable with environment and age level from student. There are some usual method _ used in education character such as: method example or model (with show positive behavior) , learning cooperative (using cooperation between student as well as influence student in something team), and learning play (in form training game _ character positive student). Following This is example of one indicator of success School in Implementation of Character Education.

Table 2. Indicators of School and Class Success in Implementing Character
Education

Mark	Description	School Indicators	Class Indicator
Religious	Attitudes and behavior that are obedient in implementing the teachings of the religion they adhere	1. Celebrate religious holidays. 2. Have facilities that can be used for worship.	1. Pray before and after class. 2. Provide opportunities for all

to, tolerant towards the implementation of worship of other religions, and living in harmony with followers of other religions.	3. Provide opportunities for all students to carry out worship	students to carry out worship

Apart from character values through the religious values above, teachers can apply learning starting with songs that can awaken values and character through songs that strengthen character education (PPK) because teachers have control in the classroom, in creating a pleasant learning atmosphere, eliminating boredom, teaching knowledge. also teaches good character (Refiana, Baedhowi, & Widyaningrum, 2021). Character education is not only carried out in schools but there needs to be the role and collaboration of all parties, especially the role of the family, and the community as school partners in efforts to implement character education as follows:

a. The Role of the Family in Character Education

Parents can be involved in cultural activities and character development through several activities. Parents can actively monitor the development of their child's behavior through student activity books that have been prepared by the school. Parents actively participate in routine or rotating activities carried out by the school in meetings between parents, homeroom teachers and class teachers. In the current digital era, elementary school age children cannot be separated from gadgets, they have even become a necessity. In such conditions, parents need to introduce their children to educational sites when using gadgets, such as Islamic and educational songs, educational games that hone cognitive abilities, videos on how to pray, clean your own room, and others, which are important to remember. . Parents also play a role in supervising and limiting children's use of cellphones, setting times when they have to do their schoolwork, socialize with friends, socialize with family, and use cellphones or gadgets.

b. The Role of Community in Character Education

The school together with the school committee and the community jointly organize an activity that can support the realization of culture and the cultivation of good character for all school members. Activities that can be carried out include, working together to clean public places such as mosques, rivers, etc.. Society also plays an equally important role as an example or model that can encourage students' success in implementing normative values and good character habits. Figures such as traditional leaders and ustads can be brought to schools to hold sharing activities about their lives and successes.

The involvement of committees and the wider community in the character education environment will give a very different feel when it is only carried out in

the school environment, students will feel direct involvement in socializing with the wider community so that it is very helpful in the character education process.

Impact of Character Education

Character education helps students increase positive values within themselves and encourages them to improve good behavior. Besides that, character education is a prerequisite for forming a leader whose leadership values must be built from an early age through character education (Arsyad et al., 2021) . Students who have good character usually adapt more easily to their surroundings and are able to develop self-confidence. Character education also helps students build positive relationships with others. In concrete terms, in school learning, art is taught in addition to other character values, which also need to be developed as part of the character that must be developed. The aim of art education in public schools is not only to provide skills, but also provides useful experience for balancing emotional and intellectual intelligence (Sutisna, Novianti, & Akbar, 2017). So, that students can feel happiness and comfort when in a social environment. The long-term impact of character education can bring positive changes in the community environment, such as creating a better society through student involvement in various social activities.

That is an overview of the concept, methods and impact of character education. Character education is an important thing that must be implemented in the educational environment in order to form a generation that has good character and can have a positive impact on society.

CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion that has been carried out, it can be concluded that character education is an effort to form good attitudes, behavior, and actions in individuals in order to create people with character. Character education is implemented through the habituation method in teaching and learning activities and other activities with an integrated approach in all subjects. Character education at the basic education level is an important first step for the formation of individual character, so that it can help students increase positive values within themselves and encourage them to improve good behavior. Character education can have a good long-term impact on society, such as creating a better society through student involvement in various social activities. Therefore, good character education must continue to be implemented in the educational environment in order to form a generation that has good character and has a positive impact on society.

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