PARENTS' PARENTING CONTRIBUTION IN CHARACTER EDUCATION

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Abstract

Building positive character can be developed through value habituation, either in social or religion which internalized through social interaction. Character that has been formed is expected to be firmly entrenched and become life principal in children's life. In this context, parents become the main persons in charge of the process of building the character of children. Parents should be able to be a good role model because most of children's time is spent in the family. Good model and habituation become a fundamental step in character education. A shift in social values is started to frequently happen. Matters which were taboo, now becomes a normal thing. Corruptions, teenagers' mini dress phenomenon, exaggerating dating style, married by accident, until teacher which had been killed by his/her students, and student imprisons his teacher.

Nowadays, split of personality is happening, where individuals have not yet able to unite between words and deeds. Shyness culture seems to be eroded. Therefore, parents' parenting is hoped to be able to shape children's character, so that they have strong mental which always consider values as their guidance and life principal, not only knows but also able to implement it in daily life. Thus, those are democratic parenting style, not permissive parenting style or even authoritarian parenting style. Various aspects, such as family, school, society, and government are necessary to be synergized in order to success the character education.

Keywords: *character education, family, parenting style*

I. Introduction

In children's life, family plays an important role. As parents, it is commonly known that people have to do their best to their children in order to make them become helpful and well-qualified persons. Parents' struggle can be manifested by giving stimulation for optimal development, giving good nutrition intake, choosing good quality education, giving motivation, facilitating children's interest and talent through activities, either inside or outside of the school, and facilitating them by giving supporting items, such as books, computer, laptop, internet, and many more (Wright, 2009).

Those struggles have a tendency to focus on cognitive aspect and include parents' effort in giving physical food to children. School activity is also focused on cognitive aspect. Moreover, it is emphasized in process and results. Teacher gives a lot of time-consuming homework and sometimes abandons another aspect such as affective (manner). Students are forced to be filled with cognitive material, but poor in value and application.

One of the things getting abandoned is spiritual food. What does the spiritual food look like for children? Religious education, value, moral, and attitude education are spiritual food for children. If they have a good attitude, it is hoped that children will also have good attitude.

II. Discussion

How important is character education for children?

Character education is education of attitude which involves cognitive, feeling, and action. This character education is essential in order to avoid split of personality i.e. has not yet able to join words with deeds, there is a gap between theory and practice.

Some people have known and understood knowledge or values, but still lack in practice. Mahatma Gandhi was also warned about one of the seven fatal sins, that is "education without character". Moreover, Dr. Martin Luther King also once said: "intelligence plus character ... that is the goal of true education" meaning intelligence plus character is the final goal of the real education. Theodore Roosevelt also said: "to educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society" which means brain cleverness and not moral aspect is a dangerous threat.

Character Phenomenon in Life

Recently, there has been a shift in some social values about the meaning of "taboo" and "appropriate". Shyness culture seems to be eroded. Matters were previously considered as taboo such as mini dress, mini shirts, exaggerated date, married by accident, and now some other taboo things are considered as normal. Some part of the society is getting to be permissive with the actions. Therefore, parents' role is really crucial to give the understanding to children, so that they are able to differentiate which one is okay and which one is not.

Some parents have tried to warn their children to be more characterized, but they did not listen. So, parents have to look for another strategy and children are more understand the suggestion from parents which basically for their own goods. Some parents are careless due to their business. Parents consider their children's attitude was not wrong because it has already become habit in society. This kind of

consideration can shift polite culture and etiquette which have been existed and this becomes a poison that threatening character education. Character education was also violated by cheating actions in national exam. Educational institution should actively succeed the program of shaping the character by being forced to succeed the exam result of their children by ignoring the regular process. Teachers are being forced to be blind and deaf, letting children to do an activity which damage honesty and discipline character. Even ironic, if a mother who disagree with the cheating actions, they get insulted and evicted. Besides that, corruption case has also spread in our country. Honesty should be highly appreciated right? Honest people should be awarded right? Is it true that the meaning of jargon honesty is broken, or honesty is lucky? Where is my Indonesia which previously had a good character? Where are you now?

What constitutes character education?

According to Megawangi (2003), character quality covers nine pillars, that is: (1) God's love and all His creations; (2) responsibility, discipline, and independent; (3) honesty and wise; (4) respect and polite; (5) generous, helpful, mutual cooperation; (6) confidence, creative and hard-work; (7) leadership and fair; (8) kind and humble; (9) tolerant, love peace, and unity. Children should learn to understand the rule in society relationship, so that they are able to apply "the rule" itself in daily lives. Parents need to habituate their children with positive habit, even though small thing such as the habit of placing God in their hearts, love cleanliness, speak gently, having the sensitivity of conscience, do not harm others, care to other people, help the people who need help, willing to work together, highly support honesty, do not rely on result and deny process, do not cheat while in examination, maintaining politeness, independent, the habit of waste disposal in a proper place, preserving cleanliness wherever they belong, eager to stand in line, do not cross the street and park carelessly, and any other activities which indicate a good understanding toward social rule.

Based on Megawangi (2003), children are more likely to grow to be a person which has a character if they live in a characterized environment, so that the natural tendency of children which is born sinless can be grown optimally. Considering the environment of the children is not only family, which has micro nature, but school,

society, mass media, or other communities also take their role in developing children's character. Develop the next nation generation that has good character is the responsibility for all Indonesians.

Parents' Parenting Style

Most of children time is spent at home. In family, children do not commonly develop their own nature by themselves, but adults or parents have their role in directing them. According to resolution (Pamilu, 2007), General Assembly of United Nation (Megawangi, 2003), the main function of a family is "as the place to educate, care, and socialize children, develop their abilities in order to be able to function well in society, also give satisfaction and healthy environment for the sake of prosperous family". Parenting style is fundamental thing in shaping the character. The example of parents' attitude is really necessary for the development of children because they do modelling and imitating their nearest environment. The openness between parents and children become the important part in order to avoid children from negative influence which comes from outside of the family environment.

Parents need to help their children in discipline themselves (Sochib, 2000). Besides, filling the leisure time of children by conducting positive activities to actualize themselves is necessary to be done. Filling the leisure time is one of the vessels of catharsis emotion. On the other side, parents should have the similar treatment and consistent in establishing the rule. If father and mother apply different treatment and inconsistent, children will be confused and difficult to be discipline.

The instant and rich modern era makes several negative effects towards young generation i.e. "getting lazy and not really tough". The ability of teenagers to write is still low, even they have a tendency to copy and paste, to finish their school or campus tasks. Learning material is copied, so that the habit of noting is disappearing. A lot of heavy and complicated tasks make them complaints. The article "the need of difficult life school" seems really ticklish the mind. Young generation is get used to the all instant facilities could be complacent and make them highly dependent and not ready to live difficult, harnessing something in difficult situation. Parents need to form children's character so that adversity quotient is tested and not always comfort them. Thus they will have a tough mental.

Parents' parenting style can be differentiated to three types: (1) authoritarian parenting; (2) democratic parenting; and (3) permissive parenting. Authoritarian parenting has a characteristic in which parents make all the decisions, and children must obey without asking. Democratic parenting has a characteristic where parents support children to talk about what he/she wants. While permissive parenting has a characteristic that parents give full freedom to children to do anything. Parents are responsible to be role model, warn, teach, habituate, act, involve, and give authority and responsibility to children.

Some parents hope too much with their children so that it looks like an authoritarian act which affects the increasing number of children who becomes their parents' ambitions. Indeed, this makes children depressed psychologically and hampered their development. We all admit that each parent has their own good intention towards their children, but the methods are necessary to be evaluated. Parents' permissive attitude is not justifiable. Giving unlimited freedom will make children misdirected. Parents are still necessary to guide and direct their children.

Family Role

The effort in shaping children's character needs fundamental perquisites in order to shape a good character. According to Megawangi (2003), there are three basic necessities of children that have to be fulfilled, i.e. maternal bonding, safety feeling, and physical and mental stimulation. Maternal bonding is essential basic in shaping character of the children because this aspect has a role in shaping trust in children to other people. This makes children felt save, so that it grows trust feeling. Besides, children need safety feeling, i.e. stable and safe environment. Fluctuated environment condition will be dangerous toward emotional development of the children. Children also need physical and mental stimulation in shaping the character so that they can be more confident.

Parents' Parenting Style in Relevance to Character Education

Research that is done by Fagan (Badingah, 1993) showed that there is relevance between family factor and family's naughty level. Broken home family showed the lack of togetherness and interaction among family members. Meanwhile, too authoritarian parenting style tends to create problematical teenagers. Permissive parenting which has a tendency to give full freedom towards their children to do anything is not really conducive for the children's character forming. By giving excessive freedom, which looks careless, will make children confused and potentially misguided.

According to Arkoff (Badingah, 1993), children that is educated democratically are commonly tend to reveal their aggressive behaviour by constructive actions or in temporary hatred. On the other side, children which are educated by authoritarian have a tendency to express their aggressive in bad activities. Meanwhile, permissive educated children tend to develop their aggressive behaviour openly or publicly.

The result of Rohner's research also showed that parents' parenting style that makes children feel to be loved, protected, valued, and supported by their parents. This parenting style is really conducive in supporting pro-social personality, confident, and independent but really care with their environment. Meanwhile, parenting style which rejected can possibly make children feel unaccepted, unloved, diminished, and even hated by their parents. Children that experience rejection from their parents will be dependent, or they seem independent but careless to others. Besides, this child will quickly offend and think negatively toward others and his or her life, being very aggressive to other people, or feel themselves inferior and less valuable.

III. Conclusion

Children are the future infestation for parents. All parents want the goodness for their children, either in the world or the hereafter. Children are the main responsibility of parents. For children, family is the first place to educate the character of them. Parents have important role in giving role and placing fundamental needs through habituation. Related to character building, so that parents need to implement a proper parenting style, so that children will have

positive character, tough personality, and give those characters strongly rooted and be everlasting principal for the children to reach the glory of life.

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