

The parents role in independent character development of elementary school children during the covid-19 pandemic

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Abstract: This article aims to provide knowledge about parents role in developing the independent character of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic. The method used in this study was a qualitative research method using literature studies. Literature studies are carried out by searching for literature that is appropriate with research from various written sources, both print and non-print, such as books, scientific papers contained in national and international journals and seminar proceedings. The parent's role in independent character cultivation of elementary school students during the COVID-19 pandemic is a must, considering the current state of learning at home so that parents become the spearhead in the education process, one of which is in terms of developing the independent character of elementary school children. Independent character is necessary to be developed in elementary school children during the current COVID-19 pandemic, due to this pandemic, people including elementary school children, must be able to carry out protocols independently, such as maintaining hand hygiene, avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth, applying coughing or sneezing ethics, wearing a mask, keeping a safe distance. Therefore, for elementary school children to be able to carry out these protocols independently, the parents' role in developing the independent character of elementary school children during the current Covid-19 pandemic is considered important. The importance of developing independent character is because at the age of elementary school children are still not used to maintaining personal hygiene, especially personal hygiene when outside home.

Keywords: The parent's role, independent character, Covid-19.

PRELIMINARY

At the beginning of December 2019, there was a new virus that shocked the world, the beginning of the spread of this virus was in China, precisely in Wuhan. This virus is commonly called the Corona virus / Covid-19. The spread of Covid-19 is so fast from person to person, even in a matter of minutes this virus can be transmitted to many people who have direct contact with people carrying the virus. Covid-19 is a virus that attacks the system such as flu, Middle-East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS).

Indonesia is one of the countries that has started to face the problem of Covid-19. Many people have started contracting Covid-19 because of several people traveling to countries that have contracted the virus. The transmission of Covid-19 in Indonesia began to spread in various regions/areas. The Indonesian government is trying so hard to prevent the transmission of Covid-19, one of which is making it mandatory to study and work from home. In addition, every Indonesian citizen must maintain personal hygiene, such as keeping hands clean, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, applying cough or sneezing ethics, wearing a mask, keeping a safe distance. The habit of maintaining personal hygiene must be continued so that everyone is not contracted Covid-19 easily. Therefore the Indonesian government issued a policy contained in the latest circular letter of the Director General of P2P Number: HK.02.02/II/753/2020 concerning the 3rd revision of the guidelines for preparedness for Corona virus Disease 2019 infection (Covid-19), so that people must be able to carry out independent protocols, such as maintaining hand hygiene, avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth, applying to cough or sneezing ethics, wearing a mask, and keeping a safe distance.

Personal hygiene must be done by everyone, from children to adults. But on one side, sometimes it is difficult for children to do this, especially at the elementary school level, because they are still not used to maintaining personal hygiene, especially when they are outside home. Therefore, to make elementary school children be able to carry out these protocols independently, the role of parents is needed in developing the independent character of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The role of parents in developing independent character of elementary school students during the Covid-19 pandemic is a must, considering the current conditions of learning at home, so that parents become the spearhead in education process, one of which in terms of developing the independent character of elementary school children. Based on this background, the research objective of this study is to provide knowledge about the parents' role in developing the independent character of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

METHOD

The method used in this study is a qualitative research method using literature studies. Literature study is carried out by searching for literature that is appropriate with

research from various written sources, both print and non-print, such as books, scientific papers contained in national and international journals and seminar proceedings. (Nazir, 1998). Based on this understanding, the study of literature in this research was carried out by searching for literature from various sources of scientific work in the form of scientific work books contained in national and international journals and seminar proceedings that are appropriate to the role of parents in developing the independent character of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic.

RESULTS

The results of a literature review related to the importance of developing the independent character of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic, it can be said that the formation of independent character is a form of effort that is carried out with a balance in the environment around the child, especially the parents' role. According to KH. Dewantara (Marwah, SS, Syafe'i, M., & Sumarna, 2018) Education is all efforts made by parents with the aim of providing support for their children for the progress of their lives. In line with this opinion, (Marwah, SS, Syafe'i, M., & Sumarna, 2018) argued that education is the effort of parents towards their children in providing the efforts made by parents to their children by providing useful life guidance, so that the child can get perfect life happiness by using the guidance that has been given. Based on this opinion it is clearly said that children's education is the full responsibility of parents. Along the way, the responsibility of parents towards their children's education becomes narrower. This is because most parents think that school is the main place to get a better education for their children.

School is the main means of meeting the educational needs of the community, so schools must be accessible and evenly distributed in every region so that education can be reached by every society (Diani, R., Saregar, A., & Ifana, 2016). School is an institution that manages and organizes education and teaching to students to achieve the expected goals and is a powerful place to build the intelligence, attitudes, and skills of students in dealing with the realities of life (Munadlir, 2016). The main duty of the school is to educate or teach students to be better. Therefore, parents always trust their children's education to teachers at school.

Teachers are professionals in education who have duties of educating and imparting knowledge to students (Darmadi, 2016). Society regards the teacher, as someone who carries out education both at school and outside of school, such as places of worship. According to Law No. 14 of 2005 concerning Teachers and Lecturers, is stated that Teachers are professional educators with the main duties of educating, teaching, guiding, directing, training, assessing, and evaluating students in early childhood education through formal education, basic education, and secondary education. In the learning process, the teacher is the second educator after the parents who greatly influence the child's personality (Hasyim, 2014).

The teacher has the main task of educating, teaching, guiding, directing, and training children. In teaching and learning process, the teacher has an important role (Hazmi, 2019), but during the current Covid-19 pandemic, apart from teachers, parents also have a very important role in learning. The current Covid-19 pandemic has made the learning process at school only a few hours. Students spend more time with their parents. Therefore, in addition to teachers, parents have a very important role in the success of their children's educational process, especially in terms of developing character education.

DISCUSSION

Character education is all efforts made to influence children's character (Sudrajat, 2010). Character education is an education system that aims to instill noble values in students, which includes components of knowledge, awareness or desire, and actions to carry out these values (Suyitno, 2012). Character education is value education, character education, moral education, and personality education which aims to develop students' abilities in terms of making decisions whether good or bad behavior in daily life (Ismadi, 2014). Character education is all efforts made in the form of an education system with the aim of forming student character based on the nation's cultural values. Character education is considered very important to be instilled at the age of elementary school children because the purpose of character education is to form student character based on the nation's cultural values (Pratiwi, 2019).

The formation of a child's character usually starts with parents or people around them. Family is the first place in the formation of children's character because parents

act as role models for children (Kusdi, 2018). This process can be carried out in the form of habituation, exemplary, and education in forming children's character (Shoimah, L., Sulthoni, S., & Soepriyanto, 2018). Family is the first and foremost educator for children and is an important basis in the formation of children's character (Hyoscyamina, 2011), especially in forming the character of independent children during the Covid-19 Pandemi that occurred in early December 2019.

Independence is the attitude and behavior of someone who is not easily dependent on other people in carrying out their duties (Kurniawan, 2015). Independent character is an effort that is carried out consciously in carrying out something, without involving someone's interference (Herawan, KD, & Sudarsana, 2017). Independent character is one of 16 character values of Indonesian national cultural character (Supranoto, 2015). Independent character development during the current Covid-19 pandemic is very appropriate to be developed in elementary school children, considering that at elementary school age they still do not have the awareness to maintain personal hygiene independently both at and outside the home, therefore, independent character development in the covid-19 pandemic is considered very important. Independent character development can run optimally if done repeatedly.

The Parent's Role in Developing the Independent Character of Elementary School Students in the Covid-19 Pandemic Period, Parents are a component of the family based on legal marriage, consisting of father and mother (Martsiswati, E., & Suryono, 2014). Parents are people who are considered old based on age. In the view of society, parents are people who give birth to children, who are called father and mother (Wahib, 2014). In developing children's character, parents have a very big role, compared to developing children's character at school, considering that children spend more time at home with their families than at school (Widianto, 2015).

During the current Covid-19 pandemic, parents have a very important role, because the process of education and learning is mostly carried out at home, rather than at school. Therefore, the role of parents in educating their children, one of which is educating them in developing independent character during the Covid-19 pandemic, is very big. The role of parents in developing the independent character of elementary school students during the Covid-19 pandemic is a must, considering the current conditions of learning from home, so that parents become the spearhead in the education

process, one of which in terms of developing the independent character of elementary school children.

In developing the independent character of elementary school children, parents must consistently accustom their children to always maintain personal hygiene, such as keeping their hands clean, avoiding touching their eyes, nose and mouth when they are outside or after leaving home. In addition, parents must tell their children to apply good and correct ethics or methods when coughing or sneezing, wear a mask, and keep a safe distance from other people when outside home. Therefore, so that elementary school children are able to carry out the protocol independently, then the parents' role is needed in developing the independent character of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic, so the right strategy is needed in the form of activities that attract children's interest to develop the independent character of elementary school children.

There are some activities that must be carried out by parents so that children can carry out health protocols independently, including;

- 1) Provide a place for washing hands with pictures that interest children in front of the house next to the door.



Figure 1. An example of an invitation to wash hands
Source: Google images
Keywords: corona hand washing cartoon

- 2) Make and put up posters or banners that attract children's interest with an appeal to the habit of clean living and eating nutritious foods.



Figure 2. An example of an invitation to live a clean and healthy life
Source: Google images
Keywords: corona hand washing cartoon

- 3) Invite children to exercise that interests children.



Figure 3. An example of an invitation to exercise
Source: Google images
Keywords: corona hand washing cartoon

- 4) Encourage children to always carry out government appeals regarding the Covid-19 protocol when outside home repeatedly with positive sentences.



Figure 4. An example of an invitation to wear a mask
Source: Google images
Keywords: corona hand washing cartoon

CONCLUSIONS

1. Conclusion

Based on the discussion about the parent's role in developing the independent character of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic, it can be concluded as follows:

- 1) The habit of maintaining personal hygiene must be continued so that everyone is not easily infected with Covid-19. Personal hygiene must be done by everyone, from children to adults. But on one side, sometimes it is difficult for children to do this, especially at the elementary school level, because they are still not used to maintaining personal hygiene, especially when they are outside home. Therefore, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the development of the independent character of elementary school children was felt to be very important.
- 2) The role of parents in instilling the independent character of elementary school students during the Covid-19 pandemic is a must, considering the current conditions of learning at home, so that parents become the spearhead in the education process, one of which in terms of developing the independent character of elementary school children. The activities that can be carried out by

parents so that the child's character can develop properly so that they can carry out health protocols independently include the following:

- a. Provide a place for washing hands with pictures that interest children in front of the house next to the door.
- b. Make and put up posters or banners that attract children's interest with an appeal to the habit of clean living and eating nutritious foods.
- c. Invite children to exercise that interests children.
- d. Encourage children to always carry out government appeals regarding the Covid-19 protocol when outside the home repeatedly with positive sentences.

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