



## Educators' Strategies in Developing Students' Character at SMA IT Al Hijrah 2 Deli Serdang

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### ABSTRACT

This research aims to determine teacher strategies in forming environmentally caring character for students at SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang. This research is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. Data collection uses observation, interview and documentation techniques. The data source was obtained from the teacher. Data analysis techniques use data reduction, data presentation, and observation verification, increasing persistence and triangulation. The following are some of the findings from this research: (1) Teachers in SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang has used a very good strategy in building character for students. The teacher strategies in question include: consistency, routine activities, spontaneous activities, reprimands, integration into programmed activities, and transformation of school culture with habituation through extracurricular activities. (2) Teachers at SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang are faced with the challenges of globalization and need to be role models by getting used to midday and dhuha prayers to train students' discipline. The habit of reading the Koran is also integrated into learning activities to achieve the goal of character education with good morals. (3) Collaboration with the community is carried out in various activities, with the school and teachers involved in developing each activity. Regular meetings, both formal and informal, are held at least twice to communicate the school's vision, build a sense of mutual need, and gather community support.

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## INTRODUCTION

On August 17 1945, Indonesia declared independence. The country's founders had a vision at the time, and they believed that the younger generation would eventually have to prepare for some very big obstacles in order for the country to progress. Building an autonomous nation free from the threat of invasion was the initial goal. Second, building a socially just country. Third, develop moral qualities. Because they

are outlined in the concepts of citizenship and the full growth of human character, these three goals represent the commitment of the Indonesian people. Compared to establishing the state relatively quickly, efforts to build the nation and character were implemented significantly later. In fact, Ir. Soekarno emphasized the value of developing character. Ir. Soekarno said that Indonesia developed into a large, developing country and maintained its dignity during its founding by placing high value on character development. Be prepared that among other countries, Indonesians will become slaves if character development is destroyed. (Ansori, 2021).

Schools have an obligation to take an interest in promoting character development in the classroom. For this reason, schools must teach students how to develop their character in the classroom setting. Throughout the learning process, children face various challenges in the classroom, including developing environmental awareness. In this case, teachers should use ways to support students in developing environmentally conscious traits to overcome problems with students' development of these traits. (Sapriadi & Hajaroh, 2019)

Teachers play an important role in preparing students for the present and the future by teaching them to have good character, or "al-akhlak al-karimah." They are the main figures in educating and cultivating students in the school environment and serve as examples for all students in developing their potential. In particular, moral educators must have strong and appropriate teaching plans to help students develop attitudes of positivity, equality, honesty, caring, and responsibility. They should also always be optimistic that students will be able to handle life's challenges and changing circumstances, improve as better life managers, and solve all their problems. According to the above statement, a teacher is a professional educator whose primary responsibility is to educate, teach, guide, direct, train, assess, and evaluate students as they progress through formal education. This main task will be successful if teachers have a certain level of professionalism, which is demonstrated by their abilities, skills and competencies that comply with ethical norms or quality standards. This explanation explains that the teacher's position is very important in helping students develop moral character, which makes the school-based learning process an opportunity for students to grow as individuals. (Idhar, 2022)

According to the findings from the author's observations, students generally show sincere, polite, and obedient behavior towards their teachers and other students. Every day on active school days, students participate in community fardhu prayers as one of the regular activities that helps shape their character. Here, it is clear that this situation is undoubtedly influenced by the tactics that teachers use to help students build moral character, because the student's moral character will serve as a light of hope for the school's continued existence. Therefore, the character education process must be led by the instructor. This not only combines many teaching abilities, but also the expectation

of taking on many roles that help shape a student's character. It is then necessary to let go of formalistic teaching positions and instead focus on leading by example. Additionally, he extended an invitation to school staff to provide a learning environment that represents the principles of character development. (Samrin, 2021).

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

This research was conducted qualitatively with a descriptive approach), so that the data produced was descriptive of the social situation observed. Data collection was carried out through observation, interviews and documentation of teacher activities, student activities and the environment of SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang. Interviews were conducted in a structured manner using interview guidelines. Document study is carried out by reading various relevant school information such as: vision, mission, goals and school programs. Data analysis was carried out in stages, namely: data collection, data reduction, data presentation, and verification. The validity of the data is tested through a process of triangulation, extending observations, and increasing persistence. (Sugiyono, 2011).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Teacher strategies in developing student character**

Schools have a big role in educating students' morals when many students receive little moral education from their family environment. Of course, the teacher's function is very important and necessary in helping students learn moral principles. Teachers function as the main force behind moral and character education in schools. One way that instructors can contribute moral guidance to their students' education is through encouraging connected engagement. If the Indonesian state is to survive and maintain the identity of its people, it is vital that moral ideals are instilled in today's youth. One thing that is considered to provide moral principles is the field of education. Education has developed into one of the cornerstones that supports the formation of global civilization. To do this, various tactical approaches must be understood to cultivate and build moral ideals that will lead to the desired character. (Faiz & Purwati, 2022).

Strategy is a set of choices and activities used to achieve goals. The art and science of implementing classroom teaching in a way that allows objectives to be met effectively and efficiently is known as strategy in the educational context. The process of figuring out senior leaders' intentions or ways to achieve long-term goals are two definitions of strategy. (Jannah, 2019) There are three ways to describe strategy: in relation to curriculum, using numerical models, and with methodology. Integrating character education into teaching materials is a frequently used method related to the curriculum. In other words, it does not develop its own curriculum for character education. The idea behind the numerical model, which is often used in industrialized countries, is that all

members of the educational staff should be able to serve as positive role models (Princess, 2020).

Teachers have very strategic duties, responsibilities, and positions as professional educators, as mentioned previously. To satisfy everyone's equal right to receive high-quality education, teachers, as professionals, assume learning must be organized in accordance with professional standards. In character education, the teacher's responsibilities also include evaluation, dynamizer, inspirer, motivator, and inspirer.

Therefore, to shape and develop the character of students can be done using various integration strategies. The strategy carried out is integration in daily activities, and integration in programmed activities. Several strategies implemented at SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang in developing students' character include: (1) Integration into daily activities by carrying out the following methods; (a) Example or example. Students' attitudes and behavior arise because they imitate the behavior and attitudes of teachers as educators at school, and even imitate the behavior of all other adult school members, including canteen staff, school security guards, school guards, etc. In this case, students can illustrate, for example, the teacher's clothes are neat, the principal's clothes are neat, the habits of school members must be disciplined, not smoking, methodical, orderly, never late for school, caring and affectionate, being polite, honest, and accustomed to work. loud. (b) Spontaneous activity. Spontaneous or on the spot. In some cases, such as collecting aid for victims of natural disasters or aid for Palestinians, visiting friends who are sick or affected by disaster. (c) Reprimand. Teachers need to reprimand students who engage in bad behavior and remind them not to repeat it again and to practice good values so that teachers can help change their behavior. (c) Environmental conditioning. Creating conditions that support the implementation of character education, such as providing clean work desks for teachers and school principals, clean toilets, sufficient trash cans, and schools without cigarette butts. (d) Routine activities. This is an activity that students continue to do all the time. For example, the flag raising ceremony every Monday, greetings at the school gate, class picket, praying before and after class ends, lining up when entering class, reading the Koran before studying, memorizing deposits, memorizing muroja'ah, fardhu and dhuha prayers in congregation, etc. (d) Integration in programmed activities, such as book reports given to students regarding activities at home such as 5 daily prayers and other activities, sunnah fasting programs, collective dhikr, etc.

Apart from that, the strategy for developing character education that will be implemented at SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang includes transformation of school culture as explained previously and habituation through extracurricular activities, such as scouts, paskibra, tahsin, video graphics, etc. These strategies are implemented after first planning the values that will be integrated in certain activities and need support from the school community in realizing the noble character of students.

### **The Impact of Globalization on the Character of Students**

Globalization brings various changes in human life. This shift occurs in all fields, including technology, economics, culture, social and education. Apart from that, the changes brought by globalization also have positive and negative impacts. There are many positive impacts influenced by globalization, namely the development of information technology which has resulted in there being no distance or time limitations in communicating as well as the existence of technology-based learning media which makes it easier for students to receive the material provided by the teacher. Apart from the positive impacts it provides, globalization also has negative impacts that greatly affect a person's life. One of them is the decline in students' morals and character caused by very rapid technological advances due to the influence of globalization. Currently, the decline in students' morals and morals is often found and is no longer a new thing with the discovery of students who do not have polite attitudes towards other people, even their own parents and teachers. There are still many problems that occur in the world of education regarding the decline in morals experienced by students, including the lack of discipline of students in dressing, appearance and time. Not only that, there are still quite a lot of students who do not have politeness towards teachers or older people, fight between students, are reluctant to keep the school environment clean, and other things. (Maisyanah et al., 2020)

Teachers play an important role in developing students, teachers not only give lessons but also develop character for students in the era of globalization. In the era of globalization, it is a challenge for a teacher to provide professional and quality education. In the current era of globalization, it is very important for teachers to be more skilled in digital technology because young children in the current era of globalization are able to master the digital world, so teachers and parents must be more aware of children's activities in using technology, such as playing with gadgets, which can influence learning process in children. (Fauzi & Islami, 2020)

Apart from that, teachers must have good ethics, morals so they can set a good example to students and be able to create quality human resources. As a teacher, I want to provide good learning to students, especially in the era of globalization which requires teachers to be more active and work hard in providing knowledge to their students. In the current era, it is emphasized that teachers must be able to face challenges in the era of globalization, namely by providing educational orientation not only in the form of theories but also through practice to increase capacity and ability in learning, so that students are also able to develop their talents. In the teaching and learning process teachers must create a lesson that will form an independent character in students as a provision for later life. Apart from that, teachers must really master the subject matter that will be delivered to students. (Fauzi & Islami, 2020)

Globalization has changed the life structure of students. Teachers must be able to provide solutions so that students are not affected by the negative impacts of the era of globalization. Not only that, globalization also has a positive impact that students can use to increase their insight into the development of science and technology. Teachers must be able to prepare students to become superior human beings in accordance with the noble culture and values that have been passed down to all Indonesian society. (Amini et al., 2020)

Therefore, teachers at SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang and teachers in Indonesia must have the right strategy to overcome this by being an example first, one of which is by getting used to midday and dhuha prayers on time to train discipline. students, and get used to reading the Koran, starting with learning activities. This strategy is carried out in order to be able to achieve educational goals that produce students with moral character. Because the era of globalization is very influential in the world of education, teachers are highly demanded to be able to provide good education to students in a professional manner. In fact, it is not only teachers who play a role in education in the era of globalization, but parents and society also play a role in a child's education.

#### **Community Involvement in Developing Student Character**

In providing education, community participation is very important, as one of the supporting elements for the realization of community-based education, so that the benefits of education are truly felt by the community. One form of community participation is to empower the community by expanding community participation in education, which includes the participation of individuals, groups, families, professional organizations and community organizations in administering and controlling the quality of educational services. The community can act as a source, implementer and user of educational results. (Ahmad Sulhan, 2017)

Community involvement in education to contribute to the support of existing resources. This shows that this support is broad because it does not only take the form of funding. Schools really hope for community participation in education, namely supervising/guiding children's study habits at home, guiding and supporting children's academic activities, providing encouragement for research, discussing ideas or actual events and directing children's academic aspirations and hopes. Good collaboration between teachers and parents is an important factor in children's learning success and strengthening children's character. (Aras et al., 2020)

The development of character education through collaboration with the community is carried out by the SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang school in several activities such as coaching each activity which has been shared and handled by each teacher and several parties from outside the school such as community leaders who are involved in improving the formulation school programs exist. Pay attention to student behavior outside of school. Apart from that, the school also holds at least two meetings

at any time, either formal or informal. At this meeting, the school principal communicates his vision, fosters a sense of mutual need and interest, and is creative in inspiring parents to support the vision and mission of a school of excellence and character. In addition, the school principal conveys the problems faced and gathers community support for the school's needs. Apart from this, the school principal also creates joint programs with parents and the community, etc.

## **CONCLUSION**

At SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang, student character development is carried out through integration in daily activities and programmed activities. Teachers and school members set an example in behavior such as discipline, politeness and caring. Students are involved in spontaneous activities, such as collecting aid for disaster victims. Reprimands are given to support changes in good behavior. The school environment is maintained to support character education. Routine activities, such as flag ceremonies, are also an important part in forming students' character. Apart from that, integration is carried out in programmed activities, including through book reports regarding activities at home. SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang also implements school culture transformation and habituation through extracurricular activities. All of these strategies are carefully planned and require full support from the school community. Apart from that, teachers at SMA IT Al Hijrah Deli Serdang are faced with the challenges of globalization and need to be role models by getting used to midday and dhuha prayers to train students' discipline. The habit of reading the Koran is also integrated into learning activities to achieve the goal of character education with good morals. Parents and society also have an important role in educating children in this era of globalization. Collaboration with the community is carried out in various activities, with the school and teachers involved in developing each activity. Regular meetings, both formal and informal, are held at least twice to communicate the school's vision, build a sense of mutual need, and gather community support. The school principal is active in designing programs together with the participation of parents and the community to achieve the desired character education goals.

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