

## DEVELOPING STUDENT CHARACTER THROUGH PARENTING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

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### **ABSTRACT**

*Early infancy is ideal for children's physical, cognitive, social-emotional, and character development. The central pillar of early childhood education is parents, who shape early childhood character. Young children have spontaneous attitudes that cannot distinguish between good and bad behavior. Therefore, good stimulus can build good character, and poor stimulus can build lousy character. Environment, which includes family, school, and community, can shape early childhood character. This study uses descriptive qualitative research. Structured observation, semi-structured interviews using a scheduled questionnaire, and interview guides were employed to obtain data from research sources.*

*Keywords: Student Character Development, Parenting, Environment*

#### **A. Introduction**

Early childhood education is part of implementing lifelong education (long-life education), the leading portal in life. Early childhood itself is a "golden age period," meaning that, in this case, it is a golden period for all aspects of human development: physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and so on. One aspect of development that is important for early childhood is social emotionality (Novitasari, Asbari, & Purwanto, 2021). In practice, early childhood development influences the environment and environmental factors that influence the development of a child's character. The environment consists of three: the

family, the school, and the community (Abidin & Gaffar, 2020).

Early childhood education has several influences related to its development, including the impact of the environment. It is supported by the role of parents in developing the child's personality or character (Yıldız, 2024). Providing early childhood education requires a quality environment because it is a significant infrastructure facility. In the regulation of the Minister of National Education of the Republic of Indonesia Number 58 of 2009 concerning Early Childhood Education standards, it is stated that Early Childhood Education facilities and infrastructure must include several principles, including 1) safe,

comfortable, bright, and meet health criteria for children; 2) according to the child's level of development; and 3) utilize the potential and resources in the surrounding environment, including waste or used goods that are suitable for use, in a pleasant environment so they will be able to develop well according to their growth and development at their age (Rachmad, Agnesiana, Sukmawati, Ramli, & Zebua, 2023).

Parental parenting patterns in early childhood will shape the character of a child. Therefore, people should provide sufficient stimulation for early childhood (Zaqiah & Hasanah, 2017). If more is needed, it will delay socialization, language, and fine and gross motor skills. Therefore, a supportive environment will support growth and development in early childhood; a child's growth and development process is very rapid and can impact later life. Genetic and environmental factors usually influence children during their formation periods that form their character (Kamaruddin et al., 2023).

There are many problems with the critical role of parenting patterns in the continuity of early childhood development; apart from the busyness

of parents, there are also parents who do not understand how significant parental involvement is in raising children, which ultimately results in several problems for children's development in various aspects (Top, Liew, & Luo, 2017). In previous research conducted by Uswatun Hasanah with the research titled Parenting Patterns in Helping Children's Character, which states that a person's character develops based on the potential they carry from birth, but as a person grows, especially early childhood, child development also involves the role of from parents which is needed in shaping the development of a child's character, that parenting patterns from parents can influence and shape a child's personality significantly (Hardiansyah, Armadi, Ar, & Wardi, 2024), this is also proven. Based on the author's experience teaching at an early childhood education institution, the critical role and parenting patterns of parents in early childhood character development greatly influence the development of early childhood aspects. In reality, parents' concern for their child's level of development is still minimal, which is caused by several factors, including those coming from

parents, the school environment, society, and several other factors (Hardiansyah & Zainuddin, 2022).

In this case, parents' critical role in forming children's character needs to be considered because parenting has a close relationship with a child's educational success. However, on the other hand, it also has a close relationship with juvenile delinquency (Hardiansyah, 2022). A child is born into this world bringing many hopes for parents, one of which is that the child himself is an investment for both parents to have good character by what the parents want, therefore in the growth and development of a child needs a lot involves the role of the environment and parenting patterns of parents. Based on the explanation above, this paper aims to examine the influence of the environment and parenting patterns on the character development of young children (Asbari, Nurhayati, & Purwanto, 2019).

## **B. Method**

This type of research uses descriptive qualitative research so that the target subjects are children in elementary school educational institutions located in the Sumenep

city area whose daily activities are primarily at school. The data sources used in this research are class teachers, school principals, and guardians of students. There are several data collection techniques that researchers carried out in this research, including structured observation and semi-structured interviews using a scheduled questionnaire or interview guide, which was used in conducting interviews with research sources (Hardiansyah, Zainuddin, Sukitman, & Astutik, 2023), as well as in analyzing data using model from Miles and Huberman. This analysis has several stages: data collection, data reduction, and drawing conclusions (Hardiansyah & AR, 2022).

## **C.Result and Discussion**

Development in early childhood can also be interpreted as a process of transmission of a hereditary psycho-physical constitution, stimulated by favorable environmental factors, in the realization of a continuous active process of becoming (Asbari, Purwanto, Santoso, Wijayanti, & Hyun, 2021), as a form of collective behavior of a child with behavior collaboration with other

people. In the development process of early childhood, the environment becomes a significant factor after heredity or hereditary factors because, without support from environmental factors, the development process of realizing the potential of heredity or hereditary abilities will not occur.

In the sense that the environment refers to the conditions that surround us, in education itself, the meaning of the environment itself is comprehensive, where the conditions of something are outside the self of early childhood. Several environmental factors also influence early childhood development. The family environment is the central pillar in early childhood development, shaping the good and bad of the human person so that they develop well in ethics and morals. The role of the family in shaping a child's attitude patterns determines the education process that the child receives, not only in school but also in all factors that can be used as a source of education for children (Hardiansyah & Mas'odi, 2022). Factors that make the family's role very important in the child's development process are as follows: a. Family is a small group whose members interact face to face

in a closed manner, b. Parents are strongly motivated to educate children because children are the fruit of the loving relationship between husband and wife; c because social relations in the family are closed.

The socialization function shows the role of the family in shaping a child's personality. Through social interaction within the family, children learn patterns of attitudes, behavior, beliefs, ideals, and values in society in the context of developing their personality. The family environment must be able to prepare and provide education for their children to become good future generations. Education creates individual potential, cultural inheritance, and interaction between individual potential, groups, and the wider community environment (Hardiansyah & Wahdian, 2023). So, children who develop well will reflect the conditions of the factors that influence development from the family environment. The success or failure of a child's education can be related to the development of the attitudes and personality of his parents as well as the communication relationship between parenting styles in the family. The family environment can play a full

role in developing a comprehensive and sustainable education system.

Children, as a gift from Allah subhanahu wataala, which is also a trust, must be appreciated with deep gratitude, implemented in the form of sincerity to care for and guide them to become rigid, have high social sensitivity, and so that their development develops well. Formation of behavior, attitudes, habits, instilling values, and similar behaviors in the family environment can dominate children's growth and development, especially in early childhood, where they are still considered sacred.

The aim of the role of the family environment in shaping development in early childhood is for parents to teach their children about self-mastery. Society demands the self-mastery of each of its members. Teaching children to control themselves arises when parents train children to maintain personal hygiene, b. Values: Basic values within a person are formed at age six, along with self-mastery training and social roles. After the child develops self-awareness that differentiates him from others, he begins to learn social roles that match his image of himself. The

educational tools used by families are love and authority. Parental love plays a role in protecting children when they are helpless. Children will feel protected and safe based on love, allowing them to grow and develop well.

Early childhood education is the level of education before entering the next level of education, which is a coaching effort aimed at children from birth to the age of six years. It provides educational stimulation to help growth and development. This education focuses on laying the foundation for growth and six developments: religion and morals, physical motor, cognitive, language, social, emotional, and artistic. The development of each child is not the same because each individual has a different development. Nutritious and balanced food and stimulating stimulation are needed for early childhood growth and development. Children who are given good stimulation can carry out their duties well.

In general, if a child follows educational psychology, it is not only education and knowledge of the lessons that will increase. However, all aspects of oneself will generally change for the better (Hardiansyah,

AR, & Hidayatillah, 2022). In implementing PAUD, the environment should be directed to be an environment that is by the principles of continuity of education for early childhood because this has been stated in the Regulation of the Minister of National Education of the Republic of Indonesia Number 58 of 2009 concerning Early Childhood Education Standards, it has been noted that the infrastructure in Early Childhood Education should fulfill the following principles: 1) safe, comfortable, bright, and meet health criteria for children; 2) according to the child's level of development; and 3) utilize the potential and resources that exist in the surrounding environment, including waste or used goods suitable for use.

Society is a part of life that cannot be separated; in practice, we need each other, and many things are involved especially communication; in this case, society also plays an active role in the continued development of early childhood. Society is a group of relatively independent people who live together for a long time, inhabit a particular area, have the same culture, and carry out most of their activities within that group (Hardiansyah &

Mulyadi, 2022). Society is a place for children to develop and socialize with other children or peers and adults; however, several factors influence early childhood development. In this way, when forming the character of an early childhood child, care needs to be taken so that there is no mistake in his parenting pattern. Because what is happening currently is that many parents are indifferent to their child's development, they are more involved in school as a means of character-building in early childhood. An essential role in a child's development involves good parenting and an excellent environment to support their growth and development.

Character formation in early childhood experiences many changes, one of which is the role of parental parenting and the influence of the environment. Several things need to be realized, such as that young children first get their lessons from the family. This role of a family member can bring out the child's character attitude. In carrying out friendship relationships, there are positive and negative things; it all depends on a child's experience through the critical role of parenting patterns from parents (Ahmed, 2019); parenting itself can be

interpreted as a way of caring for and educating children, in the family the role of mothers is one of the best dominants (Shiddiq, 2022). Another thing that influences the success of character development in early childhood is the influence of the family, school, and community environment. To support character achievement in children, the school environment also plays a vital role in student learning. It provides adequate facilities and infrastructure for the continuity of each learning process (Levy, Briede, & Frost-Camilleri, 2021). The environment is one of the efforts in forming a child's character. Therefore, the influence of this environment is also a challenge for today's parents because if it is even a little wrong, it will also affect their development. To get maximum results in cultivating character in early childhood, school institutions should collaborate with parents by implementing appropriate parenting styles for early childhood (Severinsen, Kennedy, & Mohamud, 2018). Parenting patterns and the environment are essential in forming parenting patterns for a child. With this, parents are expected to be able to provide a selective attitude in implementing appropriate parenting

patterns for the continued development of character in children. However, parents need to be more knowledgeable of the movements of the times to ensure the development of a child's character.

Early childhood children have unique characteristics, whether psychologically, socially, morally, etc. Childhood is the most critical period of all life because this period is the process of forming a basic foundation that will continue to be carried into adulthood (Hardy, 2018).

#### **D. Conclusion**

Early childhood is part of the implementation of lifelong education (long-life education). Early childhood itself is also referred to as the golden age period, during which children's development develops in all aspects, including physical, cognitive, social, emotional, and so on. Therefore, to help the development of early childhood children, parents need an essential role in parenting. Several factors, including environmental factors also influence the character development of early childhood.

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