

Character Formation of Children Through Counseling At The Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation

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ABSTRACT

Objective: The objective of this study is to explore the role of family care in children's character building in Gantiang Village, Padang City, focusing on addressing parenting issues and the development of children's character. **Method:** This research is a community service project using an extension method (workshop), conducted over two days on September 16-17, 2023. It involved 45 parents and students from TPQ Rumah Gadang through lectures, discussions, brainstorming, and presentations. **Results:** The results showed that children were enthusiastic about the activities and understood the importance of proper knowledge and parental care. The workshop also revealed challenges faced by children, such as gadget addiction, refusal to heed advice, and neglect of duties. This led to the successful design of the Child Family Care program, scheduled for November 2023. **Novelty:** The novelty of this study lies in its approach to involving both parents and children in a community-driven initiative aimed at improving family care practices. The Child Family Care program serves as a model for increasing parental knowledge and skills to support children's growth and character development, particularly for ages 7-12 years. The implementation of these findings is expected to influence other communities in fostering children's character through family coaching.

INTRODUCTION

Those children are an asset, that makes the country survive and determines its quality and success. It is necessary to educate children so that they can grow and develop properly in order to become the next generation with good character and personality. The family is a child's initial milieu. That is because the family is often referred to as a primary group, in other words, the smallest institution in society that affects the formation of its members especially children. This is the group that produces people of different personalities in society. Thus, the function of a family is beyond just giving birth [1].

An individual whom grows into this family can eventually generate the qualms of Self-Awareness and self-actualization. Psychological needs provided by parents include security, love, self-confidence, self-esteem and self-motivation. Family is the earliest and one of the most important school for a child to learn that lays down the foundation on moral values.

Research conducted by Andayani entitled "A Focus on Child Abuse in Six Selected Provinces in Indonesia" shows that the impact of child maltreatment that occurs in public and domestic spheres is mainly done by their parents [2]. According to Andayani, in this case maltreatment is any act or treatment of children that endangers the well-being of

children's growth and development both physically, socially, psychologically, mentally and spiritually so that they do not form a strong character of self as for him an inner fortress. A negative family climate characterized by marital discontent and broader family conflict permeates a home environment that makes things between family members become uncomfortable, leading children to experience stress or insecurity and discomfort [3].

How a family treats their child shapes the child's character. A person's character is developed in the early years and then brought through childhood into adulthood. A Child Character Building Program through Guidance is urgently needed referring to the assessment of needs obtained from interviews conducted with the Head of the Rumah Gadang TPQ and Lecturer in Department of Broadcasting Islamic Communication on April 3, 2023, Gantiang village, District Gantiang Parak Gadang East Padang City. Easing the impact of any bad behavior on kids and families is the best hope this program has.

One of the effective solutions to keep a child at home comfortable, peaceful and secure is a family free from violence. But recently, parents now bring up their kids with excessive emotions and no attention, sometimes even ignoring them altogether. Most of the time, parents are used to running with great matters outside home, a daily routine between work & appointments, whether with relations or business partners, organizational activities and other things as if to justify neglecting family for that the child is going neglected. There are also parents who believe that by satisfying all the desires of their children, they have given them enough attention through fulfilling their material needs, while education (especially morals and affection) is commonly neglected. Consequently, kids will have terrible personalities.

A child will have personality after a good family education. A child develops their personality from the guidance and support of family, which is a child's first institute. Children raised in a peaceful family and children brought up with violence have a very clear difference in terms of character or personality. This has a huge effect on how successful the child becomes. This child just a little more needs to be further nurtured, cultivate and grow in the days ahead for future forming on quality character life. Hence he should know how to want to educate their children, establishing a harmonious family all day it is essential.

Through interviews with the Head of the Rumah Gadang TPQ in Gantiang Village, a needs assessment was carried out, and three problems were identified related to fostering children's character formation. First, children have not fully understood the role of the family as an educational institution. Second is inappropriate parenting that influence creates bad character in children. Third, social patterns of childhood that are outside the coerced control of parents. Upper classes always face a peculiar problem of bringing up children with high emotion, lack of attention and even neglecting them as they are busy outside the house. As a result, children find it hard to listen do what their parents tell them like doing the homework and get lost in performing various tasks using gadgets due to lack of proper supervision.

This research is very urgent due to the fact that family educational institutions for children are first and foremost education institution. When the parent of a family fails, it can have deadly effects on character development for children as they grow. According to Andayani's research [4], child abuse that endangers children's physical, social, psychological, mental and spiritual well-being mostly comes from parents themselves. And a strong personal character is the ultimate defense against the evils of society. Thus, a guidance program that can maintain the behavior of children and families from negative influences to create a violence-free family is one effective solution for children to feel comfortable, peaceful and secure at home.

This community service is preparation for implementing a character-building program through coaching children at the Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation. In particular, in this study wants to make improvements in the coaching of child care and the development of children's character, as well as prepare children or a generation who is comprehensive with knowledge of Islamic teachings according to the situation, condition and existing potential at research site.

RESEARCH METHOD

The Community Service (PPM) program is a training or workshop in which most implementations have participated involvement by parents and children at the Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation. The two-day program will be held on September 16–17, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or a total of 12 effective hours in Gantiang Village, Gantiang Parak Gadang Subdistrict, Padang Timur District (Kecamatan), Padang City. The target audience of this PPM program is community parents who have children aged 6 to 12 years and around 45 students from Rumah Gadang TPQ (Reading the Quran) in Gantiang Village.

The implementation of this activity was done in cooperation between the Islamic Broadcasting Communication Study Program of STAI Al-Hikmah Pariangan, KPI STAI Al-Hikmah lecturers were the person in charge, speakers and trainers, as well as organizing committee members consisting of 3 students Islamic Broadcasting Communication Study Program of STAI Al-Hikmah Pariangan who served as supporting committees. This activity uses a problem-solving framework based on the theory that character development is accomplished by imparting basic ethical values or core ethical values to serve as a foundation for good character. As Yus explained, it is characterized that the character must be defined comprehensively, which in its development touches on cognitive and effective lines as well as behavioral [5]. Correspondingly, according to Lickona good character comprised by three parts or dimension; knowledge about goodness (moral knowing), desire for goodness (moral feeling), and acting good deeds (moral behavior) [6].

The activities were conducted in the form of advice, lectures, discussions, brainstorming and presentation methods on the first implementation day. In a lecture also provide better understanding for parents about character education in elementary

school children, raise awareness for parents its when set no less important role in the development of children with more character, and improve synergy cooperation between fathers and mothers to succeed appropriately on roles to be implemented in children's character development. The brainstorming method by the participants was focused on digging out the issues parents faced in how they brought up their children characterwise so that best solutions could be presented in the problems they faced. Good topics in the first day including understanding of child development period from infancy until a human being becomes adult, types of development that consists of physical, intellectual, emotional and socio moral development, basic needs for child growth and development (care/love/nurturing), basic needs according to psychological perspective, internal & external factor affects to children's character building and childhood developmental task also various danger surround the children whether personal/academic/social. Materi yang kedua menekankan tentang implementasi dan langkah-langkah dalam membangun karakter anak, orang tua harus mengetahui apa-apa saja kebutuhan anak seperti kebutuhan untuk bisa percaya, menerima toleransi, komunikasi dua arah dengan orang tua, serta mendapatkan pengakuan dan didengar kemudian gambaran umum permasalahan dewasa ini yaitu tawuran, bullying, narkoba, seks bebas (free sex), serta gambaran umum program perkembangan keluarga anak mencakup delapan fungsi keluarga menurut BKKBN.

During the second day of activities, children or generations were prepared for understanding Islam as a whole based on adapted teachings according to the conditions and situations of children and resources in research location. The participants presented a family development program from Gantiang Village and discussed the framework of developing good character in children. They then created a framework on cardboard and markers to work in groups to identify all the problems faced by children in Gantiang Village, planned solutions that could be implemented, as well as writing what program they will implement and feel will be the most effective for children in their neighborhoods. This series of activity starts with an opening which contained a prayer, remarks from the organizing committee and the Head of Rumah Gadang TPQ and ends with a closing.

After conducting PPM partners, evaluate activities. The qualitative evaluation of the activity was carried out by observing the enthusiasm of participants and statements of participants that this activity can improve understanding about the importance of correct knowledge and parent care in education with children in their environment. Therefore, this comprehensive and participative implementation approach is expected to utilize the goals of community service which are to improve children's character development through coaching in the Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

This is based on the results of an interview conducted by PKM team with the Head of Rumah Gadang TPQ in Gantiang Village, namely Mrs. Santi Ferlin, A.Md on October 11th 2023 at 17:00 WIB that as a whole the problems of children in this village area are very complex. The issues conveyed are about children's character, namely one of which relates to the responsibility in matters that children can do. Children nowadays have difficulty listening to what their parents say hence children ignore the things that need to be done and experience addiction to using gadgets. In general, parents always obey their children's style because parents tend to trust and do not want to add problems and do not think whether this is good or bad for children. Parents in the village do not yet understand new technologies, so they are readily available and trust them for fear of creating new problems. As an example; When a child asks for you to buy a cell phone so they can use it for schoolwork, their limited knowledge in tech and the modern learning process causes them to readily trust and purchase what their child needs. Parents do not wish the process of learning to be bumpy, and therefore require a method to influence their child's character in order for them to acclimatize to technological advancements as well as globalization.

A meeting was conducted on October 11, 2023, at Mrs. Ermiyanti's house between Mrs. Meri and Mrs. Melisa with four postgraduate students from the Islamic Broadcasting Communications Study Program. Agreeing the schedule of Community Service Program (PKM) which will be held on 14th-15th October 2023. The event could only be held as part of the village's busy course of Twin Activities (for example: Toddler Family Development and Elderly Family Development activities).

The first day of PKM activities was held in the form of socializing about the importance of family care for the formation of children's character socialized by Yuli Sabri, S.SosI, MA. The presentation material contains discussion of the scope of human development from infancy to childhood, aspects that stimulate development, children's basic needs for growth and development, children's temel requirements from a psychological perspective, general factors that influence child development, childhood developmental tasks, danger threatening children, solu children need child delinquency Issues today learn about the problems; formation plan Binca Keluarga Child. The Bina Keluarga Anak program is a forum for activities between families who have children aged 7 to 12 years in order to increase the knowledge and skills of parents and other family members in caring for and fostering child growth and development, as well as programs to form quality generations of society from an early age through community environment. Eight family functions according to BKKBN that were introduced are yaitu function of religion, socio- cultural function, love and affection functions, protection function, reproductive function, socialization and education function, economic functions, and environmental functions along with the explanation about cadre Bina Keluarga Anak and how this programs can goes.

According to Burhanuddin the results of his research prove that conformity is the best variable in influencing juvenile delinquency, where conformity is an attitude adjustment and behavior change so that they adjust to what exists in a group or society . This is evident from the 0.727 conformity coefficient. Furthermore, it was also obtained that the Percentage of Conformity and Perception of Parenting Style about Child Delinquency 19.3% significant 0.00 This means that there is an influence between conformity and perceptions of authoritarian parenting patterns by parents on child delinquency which leads to one of the functions in BKKBN, namely socio-cultural function. The causes of this phenomenon is one of them the inability of children to be assertive so that they become weak personality and often fall into negative things [23] as said in the study Sriyanto, Aim, Asmawi And Enok in 2014. The results of the study that if students assertiveness behavior can be increase, it will reduce the tendency of child delinquency which is includes to function of socialization and education from BKKBN.

The Family Planning and Family Welfare Agency's implementation of the Child Family Development Program can be seen from the Child Family Development program process, which includes socialization, formation of administrators, cadre training and activities . This socialization is intended to familiarize the community with the Child Family Development program. Administrators are formed to aid and assist the community in comprehending the Child Family Development program. In addition, cadre training aims at enhancing the quality, quantity and expertise of Child Family Development cadres. inner most comments about on Child Family development activity We in Child Family development activity quality of the mind of children help to elevates and develop better assortments (bad morals) teenage today is increasing. The other aim of this program also is to enhance parental knowledge and skills in children education. The purpose of implementing the Child Family Development program is to improve family members' understanding that child development occurs in continuity, where family relationships are needed given its importance for the child's personality development process and to create a sense of love or affection between parents and children or adolescents (bilateral) in resolving various problems faced by each party so that respect/honor and appreciation grow towards each other. So the PKM team tries to help the village by being a bridge. The problem for children in the village was obtained from the results of discussions with residents of Kampung Ganting. The explanation of the Child Family Development program made residents more understand how to treat children, so that on the next day the team continued the event by holding Needs Assessment for making a Child Family Development program needed by Kampung Ganting village.

The organization of the event was seamless and participation from Ganting Village residents with children was high. After an opening prayer and the group recitation of the Al-Fatihah, the event opened with speeches. The first one from the organizing committee and the second one from the Head of the Rumah Gadang TPQ. Following the opening, this event continued with a presentation of material which can

be understood by students of Rumah Gadang TPQ. It ended with a Q&A from two mothers about their children's issues. The first question was how to restrict children who already have cell phones and access content unwanted. The team replied that parents should not rush to take away their children's cell phones as it may activate their emotions. If they wish to limit their children, they should limit their use for example, children are permitted to access the cellphone at a particular produces of time period like an hour a day but still based on the supervision of parents for them to restrict unwanted content access and tolerable time usage. Now the second question is about how after all this time when two children have a different character parents deal with their first child differently than the second, as before they always differentiate it when one of them did not fill up to expectations, bad words came out from their mouth. And if you have a child with an other character most especially children who are different or not(validation) meet the expectation it is necessary that parents become their child's confidant because when a child confides in you that helps them feel valued and heard. In addition, if problems arise in the lives of children, parents should not compare them in front of their eyes, especially with a stern language as it will have a strong effect on their psychology. After the Q &A session, there was a closing ceremony by the MC and on Day two of making presentations.

The second day of the program started with the committee's setup and preparation of equipment like carpets, projectors, LCDs, snacks and drinks cardboard, markers, pens and hard copy distribution of material. Events began with the MC, then a student reflection or review of material by class about parental roles on character formation in children so that participants remember ahead what will be discussed that day. After sharing snacks, the speaker asked participants to make a mind map with cardboard and markers. Next, the lecturer continued as a guide to create a program together with Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation based on the material presented from the previous day. Participants jointly completed the assignment with students from Islamic Broadcasting Communications Department of Al-Hikmah Pariangan Islamic College. Then the 45 respondents (adult members of the community), representing five neighborhood associations (Rukun Tetangga), held discussions, through group work on issues affecting children in each area where they lived such as socializing with the opposite sex, smoking and drug use and so forth. That is where they would list all programs that are planned by the residents for the benefit of children from each neighborhood association so that children had good characters to make character not only for themselves but those around them too. In the 1st stage, each group representing a neighborhood association refined the discussion into program plans on what activities would be implemented in every neighborhood association for children. The outcome of this Community Service (PPM) event, the children involved were extremely enthusiastic and qualitatively said that this activity increased the participants' understanding of how important sound knowledge is and that parental care in co-education with children

around them was a big impact. Additionally, this PPM also led to a Family Child Care program that being implemented in November 2023.

Discussion

This community service activity discussion focuses on the implementation of children's character development program, which held under the roof of Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation, where family becomes both an integral and pivotal education element. The research results show that some of the problems faced by parents in Gantiang Village are children who find it difficult to accept advice, a tendency to leave tasks undone, and addiction to gadgets without parental supervision. These are in accordance with recent international research conducted by Han et al which indicated there is a very strong relation between parenting styles and the mental and physical development of preschool-aged children, where parental motivation and children's emotional development were the strongest connecting nodes between parenting styles and child developmental processes as a whole [7].

In East Lombok, a study by Hayati, Fahrudin and Astini showed that parents with an holistic and democratic parenting style were more successful in instilling discipline in children than parents who were less holistic and permissive [8]. The situation in Gantiang Village is closely related to this finding, as many parents are permissive; they always follow their children's wishes without assessing whether the wish is good or not [8]. This permissive attitude of parents also adds to their ignorance about new technology so they readily believe how children ask cell phones do school work even though these gadgets are often misused to open unnecessary content.

From the national perspective, research from IPB University by Saputri and Hastuti strengthens this result by eliciting that authoritative parenting has a significant positive relation to improvement of children's disciplinary character better than other parenting style (authoritative), while permissive parenting is negatively related to the slowing down of children's development of disciplinary character. Well-implemented socialization methods were shown to have a direct and significant effect on the character of children's disciplinary [9]. This means, this study also involved 103 mothers who had preschool-aged children. These findings can provide scientific justification for the Child Family Development program that has been designed by the PKM team, which one of its main components is cadre training and regular meetings to improve parents' socialization skills in developing children character.

The development activities carried out in the Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation use comprehensive character education framework, covering cognitive, affective and behavioral. This is praentic with the findings of Ganaprakasam, Muniandy and Azizi (2025) who found that self-esteem, self-efficacy and resilience in elementary school students can be significantly increased through a school-based character development program intergrated with Information-Motion - Behavior's model (10) dan Emotional Intelligent theory. The program in Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation also has the same approach as combining lecture methods to improve cognitive understanding, discussion

and brainstorming for affective development, and presentation of programs to implementation behavior [10].

According to a research conducted by Aulia (2024) in the Salamiayah Al-Aziz Foundation Orphanage, Bandung City, instilling children's religious characters through Islamic religious education must follow an organized pattern with preparation, action and evaluation stages being met by several methods like conventional lectures, habituation as well as constructivist and contextual approaches. The Mutiara Rumah Gadang Foundation adopts a thorough understanding of moral principles in Islam as one of the founts for children's character. In reference to the eight family functions introduced by PKM team: religious, socio-cultural, love and affection, protection, reproduction, socialization and education, economic and environmental functions can be applied in full in supporting paternal parenting role.

A research conducted by Qalbina in PAUD Melati DWP Makassar State University provides quantitative evidence of the significant relationship between parental parenting patterns on disciplined character formation in early-aged children aged 5-6 years with correlation value of 0.704 which is categorized as belonging to strong and positive correlation. This finding reaffirms that the intervention conducted by the PKM team on improving parental understanding of suitable parenting patterns is a strategic step backed by scientific research [11]. "In addition, research conducted by Febrianti, Santosa, Budi Santoso, Umar, Sholeh, Mahardika Nugroho and Singgih regarding the socialization of disciplined character cultivation towards children's habits at an early age confirms that character habituation has advantages to make children more sensitive to the situation and conditions in the surrounding environment as well as making independent children accustomed to be more responsible, assertive and disciplined and caring for their environments and those closest to them [12].

According to Herawati in her research on the development of independent and religious character at the Mandhanisiwi Purbalingga Orphanage, it is necessary to have efforts and hard work from administrators and caregivers because they bear a big responsibility and role in education for foster children so as to obtain the desired goals. Good development activities include building routine activities such as cleaning service, congregational prayer, reading the Koran, memorizing the Qur'an and counseling [13]. The Statement above lead to the creation of Child Family Development program initiate by Gantiang village resident, which each of Rukun Tetangga assign a program for activity plan that will be held periodically with hope it could forming their neighborhood children characters.

This explains the research findings of Inaz at Izzatuna Putri Foundation Palembang regarding social character formation in female students through the Tahfidz Al-Qur'an program that from the three subjects studied, there were strategies in character building, methods in memorizing Al-Qur'an, high motivation, their ability to solve problems to recover from difficulties they faced; they dared to look positive on every event and make religion a part of life that influences and becomes important [14]. Inaz

indicates that this study also identified external and internal forms of support in the subject's environment and attempts to establish social character in foster children. This is in accordance with the PKM team who involved all elements, from parents, children themselves, foundation managers and students in fostering a climate for formation character of children.

It can indeed be deduced from the whole series of activities that character formation in children cannot be established out of a sudden, separately, but through a series of activities for a longer period and introducing 3 main supports: Family- School- Community. Gantiang Village's resident deliberations gave birth to the Child Family Development Program (CFDP) which is a concrete form of collective awareness in recognizing the importance of quality parenting. An understanding of children's problems with appropriate parenting methods and a commitment to make the program happen continuously, it is hoped that children in Gantiang Village have good character so that they can become superior generation with stronger character, faith and piety to Allah SWT. They are ready for facing challenge in technological progress and globalization era by providing solid moral values and religious teachings [15].

CONCLUSION

Fundamental Finding: The Child Family Development Program serves as a medium for families with children aged 7 to 12 years old, enhancing parents' and other family members' knowledge and skills in caring for a child's development. This program is expected to contribute to creating a quality generation within the community.

Implication: The program's success in increasing parents' understanding of the importance of parenting in developing children's characters is evident. The enthusiasm of parents in Gantiang Village highlights the potential for a sustainable childcare program, which can improve the community's overall well-being and children's development.

Limitation: The study primarily focuses on the immediate effects of the community service activity and may not capture long-term impacts on the children or parents. Further studies could explore the program's ongoing effectiveness and scalability.

Future Research: Future research should investigate the long-term outcomes of the Child Family Development Program on children's character development and identify any additional challenges faced by parents in other communities. This could also include examining the scalability of such programs to other villages or regions.

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