



The formation of student character education during distance learning

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ABSTRACT

Background: The COVID-19 pandemic is very bad for all areas of life in the world, both in the fields of economy, agriculture, education and so on. One of the impacts is on the field of education, the ministry of education issued a policy in the form of a circular on the learning process carried out by distance learning from home online, as well as the role of parents as the main supervisor during the learning process.

Purpose: Thus the purpose of this writing is to find out how to establish the character education of learners during distance learning, because during this pandemic, children spend more time at home in order to be disconnected from the spread of the coronavirus.

Design and methods: This research uses qualitative method with the type of literature study, as well as the reflection of researchers in the form of knowledge, insight and experience of researchers from the current situation.

Results: In this study discussed that the formation of character education of learners can be formed by both parents as mentors during distance learning by habituating good behavior in order to become good human beings in adulthood under any circumstances.

Keywords: PJJ, Character, and Student

Introduction

A disaster that shocked the whole world that started in late December 2019 originated from the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China. In a short time the outbreak of a disease caused by a virus that we cannot take lightly, a virus known as COVID-19 or *coronavirus diseases-19*. The COVID-19 outbreak entered Indonesia in 2020, at first it occurred because of two Indonesian citizens who contracted the coronavirus after attending a dance party where the participants were not only Indonesian citizens but multinational. Then the government's response to the coronavirus with alacrity is trying as much as possible to reduce the number of transmissions, with various policies implemented so that transmission can be cut off to all Indonesian citizens.

By giving instructions to officials under the president to other communities by working together or moving together to prevent the spread of COVID-19. As well as emphasizing in their fields that are in accordance with their fields by maintaining what should be defended, for example, the ministry of agriculture and the ministry of trade must be able to prepare basic necessities for people who experience problems with their foodstuffs because of the large number of family heads who experience layoffs or temporary layoffs which result in financial problems.

The government policy during the pandemic period in the education sector trusted everything in the ministry of education and culture (kemendikbud). The ministry of education swiftly made a policy (SE number 4 of 2020) regarding education during the COVID-19 pandemic, which stated that a learning process from home or distance learning (PJJ) would

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be implemented to prevent the spread of COVID-19 transmission. This policy is mandatory for all levels in education from preschool, elementary school (SD), junior high, high school to tertiary level learning distance learning from home. However, in fact, the distance learning process did not run smoothly, many obstacles were faced, such as the number of teachers, parents still lacking in technological knowledge. The main obstacles that are felt by students are internet quota, lack of connection quality, limited laptops, and cellphones, and students do not understand the applications used (Simanjuntak & Kismartini, 2020). Therefore, in the PJJ process or online learning, there must be cooperation between the government which must provide or provide a budget or subsidy in the form of a free quota to all students and educators because online learning cannot be separated from electronic media that requires an adequate internet network every day. During the teaching and learning process.

The school policy is to provide training to parents of students in using technology and various applications that will be used during learning according to shared policies. Furthermore, there is cooperation with parents during this pandemic, inevitably the parents of students as the main educators while studying at home, which helps educators in the learning process in order to achieve the expected goals of their children or students. And an educator must continue to evaluate himself in order to become a professional teacher in any circumstances, so as not to overload students with the assignments given to study at home, where the teacher must create a pleasant learning atmosphere even though it is hindered by distance. Because distance learning students are required to prioritize their independence (Diana, Wirawati, & Rosalia, 2020). If the teacher is creative during the distance learning process, students are happy to accept learning as well as face to face. But in fact, during online PJJ, there are some students who experience boredom, boredom, laziness when learning takes place and without realizing the loss of character values that have been formed during face to face at school.

Therefore, when online distance learning takes place from home, a classroom teacher should not forget to instill character values or character education in students. Character is a character that is actually owned by every human being. A Character can also distinguish humans from animals if humans do not have the same character as animals (Zubaedi, Character Education Design: Conception and Application in Educational Institutions, 2011). Character education is an effort made to form the individual abilities of students repeatedly in order to obtain the expected character values. Therefore, the author seeks to provide an understanding of the importance of character education during the COVID-19 pandemic by distance learning. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to find out how the formation of character education for students during distance learning, because during this pandemic period, children spend more time at home so that the spread of the coronavirus can be cut off.

Methods

In this study, the authors used qualitative research methods with the type of literature study. Qualitative research is in the form of presenting various facts and events related to the character education of students during distance learning. This type of literature study uses literature, both journals and books in the field of character education as a source. Then, this study uses the researcher's self-reflection method, in the form of the researchers' insights, knowledge, and experiences which are an important source of the results of reviewing this research (Munawaroh, 2019).

Findings & Discussion

Distance learning from home requires students to learn with internet-accessible media that has been determined by the school, however, there are learning media that have been prepared by the government and the ministry of education and culture in collaboration with a well-known television station, namely TVRI. Which broadcasts learning events that can be accessed or used for students who experience network disruptions or outside the network where the internet is not facilitated. This policy resulted in people who manage in the world of education issuing a decision for the time being that there is no activity at school or on campus to replace it with distance learning from home, both online and TVRI television media for those who have limited internet access (both due to economic factors and geographical) in accordance with the direction of the Minister of Education and Culture (Prodjo, 2020). So it is impossible for students not to learn during the COVID-19 pandemic. Based on RI Law no. 20 of 2003, states that education is a conscious activity that is planned in order to realize a state of learning and the learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious-spiritual strength, noble morals, self-control, intelligence, personality, and social skills both in society, nation and the country. During the coronavirus pandemic, education is still very important to educate the nation's children, to make good future students of the nation and state, and to have the expected character values.

Character-based education is one of the ways implemented to develop students into human characters so those bad or unexpected negative things can be anticipated, minimized, and eliminated (Lanny Isabela, 2015). Character education, namely value education, moral education, regulatory education, and disposition education which aims to develop students' abilities in terms of deciding, managing, and making goodness (Kasmawati and Zainudin, 2014). Character education is an effort to encourage students to grow and develop with thinking competencies and to stick to moral principles in their lives and to have the courage to do the right thing even though they are faced with various obstacles and obstacles (Zubaedi, Character Education Design: Conception and Its Application in Educational Institutions, 2011). Therefore, a character must be formed from an early age, because a strong character will make students have a strong personality too.

In the implementation of character education, it can be done through 3 stages, namely integrated with learning, integrated with self-development through extracurricular activities, and integrated with school management (Agus Wibowo, 2016). But in fact, in the field of character education, this is still not optimal, because some children are only formed and educated at school, even though the government hopes that education also involves the family environment and their environment. During the COVID-19 pandemic, character education must start from the family environment, because before the pandemic period children also spent more time at home, teaching and learning activities that had been face-to-face at school were transferred to distance learning from home, which for the time being This is the time spent by all students in the family environment, this is to stop the transmission of the coronavirus. This rule has been regulated in the Minister of Education and Culture Circular No. 4 of 2020 concerning Implementation of Education Policies in an Emergency Period of the Spread of *Coronavirus disease* (Covid-2019). Furthermore, the circular explains that the learning process from home is carried out with various provisions, namely: implemented to provide a meaningful learning experience for students, without being burdened with demands to complete all curriculum achievements for class promotion and graduation. Then it will be more focused on education for life skills, including what happened during the COVID-19 pandemic. As well as activities and learning tasks of students can be carried out varying between students, according to their respective interests and circumstances, including considering gaps in access or learning facilities at home (Winaya, 2020).

President Ir. H. Joko Widodo has issued Presidential Decree Number 87 of 2017 concerning Strengthening Character Education or abbreviated as PPK, with the aim of forming a cultured national personality through strengthening character values extracted from the culture of the Indonesian nation itself. This is pursued by the government under the education unit to strengthen the character of students through harmony with heart, mind, sports, and feelings, as well as involving schools, families, and communities. Permendikbud No. 20/2018 concerning Strengthening Character Education (PPK), has formulated 18 character values that will be planted or developed for students and the young generation of the Indonesian nation. In order to strengthen the design of character education that comes from religion, Pancasila, culture, and the goals of national education, namely as follows:

Religious, which is an attitude based on religious values by strengthening faith or belief. An example in daily behavior is carrying out the obligation to pray 5 daily prayers for Muslims, and other forms of worship for followers of other religions, by not disturbing the practice of other religions, maintaining peace among religious followers, and so on. Research and Development Agency, Center for Curriculum of the Ministry of National Education (2010) explained that being religious is obedient behavior and attitude in implementing the teachings of the religion they adhere to, being tolerant of the practice of other religions, and living in harmony with adherents of other religions.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, parents always invite and guide their children to participate in praying, as an effort to always ask God Almighty for guidance, health, and avoid various dangerous disasters. In addition, to familiarize and provide good examples to be imitated to children about religious values in everyday life, such as: praying, being grateful, not lying, and tolerance (Purandina & Winaya, 2020). So, in any situation, religious values must be carried out according to the religion they profess, because this religious value is a basic character formed from their families with the help of the school environment and the surrounding community so that they become human beings who are obedient to their religion and can tolerate other religions.

Honest, which is an attitude based on trying to make himself a person who can always be trusted in words and deeds. An example in everyday life is when someone is given an assignment, he always maintains his attitude by not lying by cheating or plagiarizing other people's tasks, not spreading hoaxes, and so on.

The character of honesty is the behavior of openness and transparency of conformity between what is thought and what is felt, what is said, and what is done (Rianawati, 2014). The treatment of distance learning does not allow students to not have the character value of honesty, because the value of honesty is very important that every human being must have in his life. But in fact, in the field of education, the learning process at school is face-to-face and online learning from home, there are still some students who are not embedded in honesty, this may be because educators only care about the results compared to the student process so the loss of honesty in doing tests is done by cheating in order to get good grades. Therefore, it is necessary to straighten out the assessment of the results of the tests which are the burden of students in learning.

Tolerance, which is an attitude and action that respects differences in religion, ethnicity, ethnicity, opinions, etc. between other people who are different from themselves. Examples in daily behavior are not imposing their own opinions on group interests, allowing followers of other religions to worship calmly and safely, and so on. With an attitude of tolerance, it is hoped that it will instill a sense of brotherhood, build an attitude of nationalism, facilitate the deliberation process, and so on so that life in the family, school, and community can run peacefully and peacefully, and with the installation of tolerance, students can socialize well with their friends.

Discipline, which is an act that shows orderly behavior and obeys various rules and regulations. An example in daily behavior is obeying the rules of how to dress modestly in certain formal places such as offices, universities, always arriving on time at work, college or school, and so on.

A nation that has a high civilization and culture has a high level of discipline (Kurniawan, 2013). Discipline is formed through a process of behavior that shows the value of obedience, order, obedience, regularity, and loyalty. During this pandemic, the character of discipline must be formed and implemented so that students can have behavior that obeys the current regulations. The development of disciplinary attitudes in children during this pandemic is by following health protocols, such as: (1) always using a mask. When outside the home or interacting with other people it is something that must be used, and it has become a habit to wear a mask. (2) Getting used to always washing hands with soap in running water or using a hand sanitizer when touching the face or after handling something. In an effort to cultivate handwashing, children are taught first how to wash their hands properly, then the teacher gives assignments to students to make a video on how to wash hands properly. (3) Maintain a distance of 1 to 1.5 meters, this is useful for avoiding large crowds. (4) Always maintain body immunity by eating nutritionally balanced foods, getting adequate rest, and exercising regularly (Purandina & Winaya, 2020). In the field of education, if the character of discipline has been formed in the child, then under any circumstances and any problem can continue to run it without coercion, for example, every time online distance learning takes place from home with the discipline of the child, the students can be on time absent and collect assignments. According to the time and place that has been determined and previously mutually agree.

Hard work, namely behavior that shows serious efforts in overcoming various obstacles to learning and assignments and completing tasks as well as possible. An example in daily behavior is always trying your best in doing something such as doing school work, or trying to achieve the desired goals, and so on. The character of hard work is an intention, motivation, and strong determination, not forgetting the serious and hard effort in carrying out or carrying out the wishes, duties, or responsibilities to achieve the expected goals (Rianawati, 2014).

During online and offline distance learning from home, whether students or parents, educators or schools and the government in times like these are all tested for their level of hard work in such a way as for students who are offline with a very real effort to seek signals in learning so as not to be left behind in the subject, for those who experience problems regarding the cost of the quota needed during learning so that parents of students work hard to earn a living so that their children's wishes are fulfilled in accessing lessons, so all stakeholders during the Covid 19 pandemic must work hard so that education continues as expected.

Creative, namely the creation of someone who has the ability to think and do something that results in new ways or results based on what they already have (Listyarti, 2013). Cultivating the value of creative character in children from an early age can make them a resilient person.

During distance learning, the educator or teacher should be creative in the learning process so that they can be emulated by their students. However, in fact, students are more creative than their teachers, for example when students are given assignments by their teachers to describe how to prevent the coronavirus with a variety of student creativity, this results in that students have a creative character that already exists in them, and is assisted by teacher motivation, parents and surroundings.

Independent, namely attitudes and behaviors that are able to carry out tasks independently if they can be done independently, not always relying on others to complete them.

This independent character greatly affects when the learning process takes place because not all parents can continuously guide their children during PJJ at home, especially the upper levels of elementary school grades 4-6, in fact, there are also parents who work and take care of other household chores. Previously, parents could get their children used to doing something simple independently first (Purandina & Winaya, 2020). Therefore, an independent character will be formed by itself, for example, children can do any task by themselves, without the help of others.

Democratic, namely a way of thinking, behaving, and acting that values the rights and obligations of oneself and others (Narwanti, 2011). For example in carrying out education during distance learning where all students have the right to education in any condition, this is the responsibility of the government and schools so that the learning process can continue to be carried out, so students will follow what they feel like feeling the same treatment as Indonesian citizens.

Curiosity, namely attitudes and actions that always try to know more deeply and broadly from what they have learned, seen, and heard (Narwanti, 2011). Therefore, the character of curiosity must already exist in students, so that during PJJ children actively ask what they do not understand. That way students will get broad insight and knowledge so that they can become the nation's successor to a developed country because it gives birth to humans who have a high curiosity. Examples in daily behavior are looking for Indonesian vocabulary that students cannot understand the meaning of, and finding out the truth and examples during the COVID-19 pandemic they find out about the impact of Covid on human life.

The spirit of nationality, which is an effort to think, act and have an insight that places the interests of the nation and the state above the interests of themselves and their groups (Narwanti, 2011). The national spirit must have been formed at an early age, this character aims to give birth to students until they become adults who maintain the integrity of the nation and state and serve and are willing to sacrifice for the sake of the nation and state of Indonesia with their expertise. For example, in making the Indonesian nation proud by volunteering or doing well in the international or international arena.

Love for the motherland, which is a way of thinking, behaving, and acting that shows loyalty, concern, and high respect for the language, physical, social, cultural, economic, and political environment of the nation (Narwanti, 2011). For example, students can practice the values of Pancasila and the 1945 Constitution in their daily life, because it is the life guide for the Indonesian people and can also love the products of the nation's children by using their work to advance the economy of the nation and country.

Respect for achievements, namely attitudes and actions that encourage us to produce something useful for the surrounding community and society at large, and recognize and respect the success of others. For example, giving praise and giving congratulations to friends when they get achievements, and so on. This also applies to educators as teachers during PJJ and parents as the main guides while studying at home so that they always give appreciation for the results that have been achieved by their children or students, even if what they do is the smallest, that way the child will feel a sense of pride and enthusiasm in run distance learning from home without feeling the burden and psychological disruption of the child during the learning process and the child will unconsciously respond and follow what we do to it and practice it with younger siblings and peers.

Friendly or Communicative, which is an act that shows a sense of pleasure in socializing, talking, and cooperating with other people. For example in daily behavior is showing a friendly and polite attitude to parents, friends, and neighbors, etc. This can be done before the emergence of a disaster that stirs up the entire community in the world. But in fact, we can still form a friendly or communicative character with the sophistication of technology,

the problem of friendly or communicative character can be overcome because of the many applications that can facilitate communication to friends and relatives via video calls which can grow or strengthen friendly characters by asking for news and always reminds him of his care to maintain his own health.

Peaceful love, which is behavior, words, and actions that can give others a feeling of pleasure and security in their presence. For example in daily behavior is spreading an atmosphere of kindness and not making hate speech to others, and an example for this pandemic period, not spreading hoaxes that don't know the truth so that a peaceful love character is formed in the family and other communities.

Enjoys reading, which is an attitude with the habit of preparing time to read various readings that give good deeds to him. For example in daily behavior is reading important news, and can separate the correct reading according to reality or what is just a hoax. If children have a character who likes reading in any situation and in any situation, they still provide free time to read, both regarding health developments that occurred during the COVID-19 period, and during the learning process, this can increase their knowledge.

Social care, namely behavior, and actions that always want to extend assistance to other people or communities who need help. For example in daily behavior, in an area that experiences natural disasters, it always helps victims of natural disasters by raising funds during Car Free Days (CFD) or at concerts before the COVID-19 pandemic. During COVID-19, a caring attitude social is very important to form and instill in students, this is intended so that students care about fellow living beings, a lot of people during the current pandemic need help and assistance both from food, health, education, and others by providing partial financial assistance owned while reminding each other to run 3M to those around us, this is part of the character of social care, which character must be formed from an early age so that in the future the participants are educated to care about the living creatures around them.

Caring for the environment, namely behavior and actions that always try to prevent damage to the natural environment around it, and try to repair the damage to nature that has already occurred. For example in daily behavior, namely by disposing of garbage in its place, maintaining facilities provided by the government, participating in voluntary work to clean the surrounding environment, and so on. Another example that is still hot is related to the demonstration on the Job Creation Law where many students took to the field to represent the people so that it was canceled but in fact many individuals who do not care about the environment for government facilities that have been made actually damage the facilities and the environment around them. If from an early age, the character of caring for the environment will not do something like that which will be detrimental to both. Because the goal of the character of caring for the environment is beneficial for ourselves, society, and other living things.

Responsibility, namely the attitude and behavior of a person to carry out his duties and obligations, which he should do for himself, society, the environment (natural, social, and cultural), the country, and God Almighty (Said Hamid Hasan, 2010). Responsibility for what is done and what is done both collective and individual decisions.

For example, in daily attitude, it is carrying out the mandate given as well as possible, having the courage to be responsible if you make a mistake, and so on. During the pandemic, there should be a responsible attitude towards students, with the help of parents as direct guides while at home, children are taught that what they do must be held accountable. Because the character of responsibility will be useful for students when they grow up in the world of work and any conditions.

Of the eighteen character values according to Presidential Decree Number 87 of 2017 concerning Strengthening Character Education. These 18 characters are emphasized in several aspects, namely religiosity, nationalism, independence, mutual cooperation, and integrity (Ibda, 2017). During distance learning, character education is not formed like face-to-face learning in schools, because until now there are some teachers or educators who are still confused about applying the value of character education during PJJ because many educators only give assignments without explaining the material beforehand, so without realizing the character of students who had been formed in school temporarily stopped during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There are also results from the observations and experiences of researchers on the formation of character education for distance learning from home, most of the low-level elementary school students or students grades 1-3 are still fully guided by their parents during the learning process. So the character education of students can be formed by their parents with the abilities they have so that their children's character can be as expected together because the initial character formation comes from the family. During this pandemic, children spend a lot of their time with their parents, so that parents play an important role in shaping their children's character to become human beings with good character. Furthermore, at the high-level elementary school grades 4-6, only some of them are fully guided by their parents during PJJ because at this high-grade age you can say they can learn independently, so an independent character has been formed from an early age, but one example, In fact, there are some children who lose the character of honesty because they think that if the test results they do get good grades, teachers and parents are happy, and there are also difficulties in telling the truth about what has not been understood during learning. Therefore, there is a need for support from the roles of family, school, and society, this must be optimized in character education. So that the creation of moral values both at school, at home, and in society. Because character-building requires a long period of time and a very long process that must be done patiently, and character education is continuous and sustainable from early childhood education to college so that it runs as expected in children.

Through these character values, and run them as expected. That way, the values and attitudes developed in Indonesian character education can be realized, this is to instill and familiarize the values in human life with quality character, towards a virtuous or civilized life as creatures of Allah SWT and to make real Indonesian citizens, although under any circumstances that are experienced either to himself or the individual, his environment, his nation, and country or throughout the world.

Conclusion

Based on the discussion above, it can be concluded that distance learning during the COVID-19 pandemic is a policy of the Ministry of Education and Culture to cut off the spread of the coronavirus, but this policy has an impact on students, for example, students are easily bored, lazy and others. This incident resulted in the waning of character in students, therefore the need for the formation of character education during distance learning. Character education during distance learning from home can be carried out like face-to-face learning at school although it is not very effective, and in doing so it requires something extra, so the character building of children depends very much on the character of the parents because before the pandemic and during the COVID-19 duties of parents are as guides during the learning process while at home and also children spend a lot of time at home. Therefore, the role of parents is also very important in shaping children's character by getting used to good things in daily activities, which are useful for the child's future. By working together between families, teachers and the surrounding community is also very important in carrying out and

developing children's character values (Purandina & Winaya, 2020). In character building, while at home, motivation and support should be given by educators or the school and the community to communicate with each other in creating character education that is expected together and the achievement of students to become human beings with good character.

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