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Moral Education in Early Childhood in the Era of the Covid-19 Pandemic

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Abstract

Education is a way to develop the potentials possessed by humans. Education that we have known since childhood is moral education. Moral education can be done since the child is in the womb, until he is an adult. But ideally, moral education is more effective when children are 4-5 years old. Moral education can be done by parents and educators at school, it can be done at home or at school. However, at this time, due to the Covid-19 virus, the government has temporarily suspended the face-to-face learning process with the aim of reducing the number of Covid-19 transmissions. Therefore, all levels of education, both higher education and early childhood education, are laid off, with an online learning system. Therefore, more responsibility in educating children's morals currently lies with parents who are at home. Because parents are always with their children, and understand their daily habits. Researchers want to examine whether parents of early childhood students guide their children's behavior well during the covid-19 pandemic, or do not care at all about children's learning and worship activities. The research method used is descriptive qualitative, with data reduction analysis techniques, data presentation and drawing conclusions. The results of the study concluded that parents are very important in moral education during the covid-19 pandemic. Parents should be more concerned with their children, and provide examples of good attitudes so that children can imitate them. By giving direct examples, advising, getting used to and giving punishment (positive punishment) to children, in introducing and telling about good morals. Because basically every parent wants their child to have good character.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a way to develop human potential. The potential possessed by humans through education is the seed of the possibility to make humans who should be able to humanize humans. Because the purpose of human creation by Allah SWT is to make a complete human being both in this world and in the hereafter. Only by developing the potential of humans as optimally as possible through education. (Suryana, 2018) According to Zamroni, education is a conscious effort through direction, guidance or training for students to have good personalities so that they lead to a perfect life and are able to carry out their obligations towards religion and state (Zamroni, 2017).

Education that we have known since childhood is moral education. Moral education is a way to direct and help individuals towards the innate nature of a better civilization. What needs to be applied in moral education is the alignment of intentions, words and actions. Keeping children away from despicable morals and bad temperament is also an understanding of moral education. Rasulullah SAW has given an example to educators about instilling good habits since childhood. Because a child will really need attention to his moral matters (Bafadhol, 2017).

In addition, he is highly respected by the community and his students, because in addition to having extensive knowledge, he also has good ethics and morals (Sari & Yusuf, 2020). Moral education can be started since the child is still in the womb, continued from childhood to adulthood. Moral education cannot be done instantly, but it can be done continuously so that good morals can take root in children. The right time to inculcate good morals is in early childhood (ages 0-6 years) which are included in the golden-age period. Because at this age range, children have a very high absorption or imitation therefore it is easy to instill good morals in children (Mufarohah et al., 2018).

At this time, the world of education is experiencing the same impact as others because of the Covid-19 outbreak. 19 that are happening globally. During this pandemic, the process of early childhood education is directed at learning (playing) activities carried out at home, or what is currently known as learning from home. (Sudarsana et al., 2020) in schools it is impossible to do optimally by educators because of the current situation of school learning being done at home (online). Teaching methods and materials are only limited to videos, short messages, or content on the internet. (Wahyono & Husamah, 2020)

In these conditions, educators will find it very difficult to provide moral education to students, especially in early childhood. However, so that students continue to receive moral education at home, the responsibility for moral cultivation is currently fully owned by parents. Because Islam views that the virtues possessed by these children are very dependent on their parents in educating. (Hasyim, 2015) Moreover, parents are always with children every day, and educators can only monitor through online learning, so they cannot observe and see what the students do every day at home.

Online learning like this is indeed less effective to use, but it must be carried out at this time, because it can suppress the spread of covid-19 at the education level (Indrayana & Sadikin, 2020). The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is felt by educators, parents and students. (Syah, 2020) Such as early childhood education institutions located in the Sekampung sub-district, which is one of the schools affected by the covid-19 pandemic. The online learning process

carried out makes moral education difficult for students to implement. Especially in this area, the priority is for families who have high activities. So what is feared, students at home do not get the moral education by their parents that they should obtain.

Actually, in shaping the character of early childhood, parents can use various strategies and methods so that children can follow what is taught to them. Such as habituation, example, advice and motivation to children. (Khomsiyatin et al., 2017) But in reality, these methods are not applied by some parents, and only give orders to children. This makes researchers feel worried about students who are still classified as early childhood, who still really need guidance on morals from both parents and educators. However, during the COVID-19 pandemic, such moral education cannot be applied in schools, and find out whether parents are given moral education at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHOD

In this study, the researcher used a descriptive qualitative approach. The qualitative descriptive method used in this study aims to explain in depth about moral education in early childhood by parents at home during the COVID-19 pandemic as it is today. Data collection techniques used in this study were interviews, observation and documentation. The data sources used are primary and secondary data sources. Primary data sources are data obtained from direct interviews with informants. What is strengthened by primary data sources are previous studies related to relevant research. The sampling technique used in this study is a purposive sampling technique with a sampling system based on the consideration of the researcher, which is considered to be able to provide the necessary information related to the interests of the study (Nurdiani, 2014). Researchers chose parents of early childhood children aged 4-5 years. (class A). While the analytical techniques used in this study are data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing (Rijali, 2019).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A child is a gift from God that cannot be compared with anything else. Likewise, parents who are given the gift of children by Allah SWT have full rights and responsibilities towards their children. Both the responsibility of educating, caring for, so that children can live independently and remain in the way of Allah SWT. Because in the future the good that children do will affect their parents, and vice versa. The sins and rewards that a child gets is for the parents too. Therefore, parents are obliged to foster and educate their children to always carry out Allah's commands and stay away from His prohibitions. As contained in the word of Allah Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Baqarah: 152-153. Therefore, parents as the first place of education in the

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family, have a great influence in guiding and improving the morals of children. So that parents as much as possible to make efforts to improve the morals of children (Muzakki, 2018).

Akhlak means character or behavior carried out by someone. Morals in the view of Islam have a special position listed in the QS. Al-Ankabut (29): 45. Moreover, this is confirmed by the words of the Prophet Muhammad, which reads:

Indeed I was sent (Muhammad) to accomplish good morals (HR. Baihaqi)

Verily, among those whom I love the most and who will sit closest to me on the Day of Resurrection, those who are the best in character. (HR. Tirmidhi)

From the surah and hadith above, it is explained that morality has an important position in Islamic teachings (Zulaikhah, 2013). In essence, parents are obliged to provide education for their children, most importantly about religious education. If a child is given good and correct guidance, care and education from a young age, then one day he will become a teenager or an adult and become a religious parent, but if he is not introduced to religious knowledge from a young age, especially morals, the child will grow and develop without know what religion is. Therefore, parenting in an Islamic perspective is a mandate from Allah that must be carried out so that the child will later become a pious human being and be blessed by his path. by Allah swt. The concept of moral education in the perspective of the Qur'an, in QS. Ali-Imran :159-160 focuses on the thought of a better life. Which confirms that moral education has an important role in realizing a complete human being, with a well-directed and conceptualized strategy. So that children can follow what is taught, and what is exemplified in the formation of children's morals (Nurhartanto, 2015).

When a child on the age of 4-5 years, he will have a very good imagination power. Sometimes he plays the role of father and mother, they can play this as if they are able to play themselves like adults (Ananda, 2017). This will not appear in children by itself, but is the result of experiences and observations of children in everyday life. -day. Therefore, parents in this case can set a good example and direct their children to live religiously and have noble character. However, if parents are not too concerned with religion in their daily lives, then the behavior and example of carrying out religious orders that should be imitated by children, then there will be no religious behavior that can be imitated by the child. Therefore, the relationship between parents

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and children in a family is very important. If parents want their children to be pious and pious children, then start with yourself. So that parents can create a family that is obedient to religion and quality.

Good moral education is education that is carried out since the child is at an early age, even when he is still in the womb. As for the kinds of morals that need to be understood, which has been described in the QS. Lukman verse 13 which reads:

And [mention, O Muhammad], when Luqman said to his son while he was instructing him, O my son, do not associate [anything] with Allah. Indeed, association [with him] is great injustice.

The verse gives a message that it is forbidden to associate partners with Allah, carry out the good and leave the bad. The aim is that then children should be taught to pray. So that there is always contact that occurs between humans and their creators. This is a kind of morality to Allah SWT, who is the creator. In addition to morals to God, there are other types of morals, namely morals to parents, others, and yourself (Zamroni, 2017).

To facilitate the process of moral education carried out by parents at home, methods are needed that can make goals successful. parents to educate good personal ana. Such as Islamic education methods that are in accordance with the teachings of the Prophet Muhammad as follows, namely: 1) Educating by example; (Yuliana, 2018). 2) Educating by habituation; 3) Educate with Advice; and 4) Educate by giving punishment (Ismail, 2014). All methods can be done by parents according to their portion. However, the most effective method used in education and quite successful in preparing children's morals is the exemplary method (Qurotul'uyun, 2019). Actually, the other method is also quite effective, but when viewed from the child's point of view, the exemplary method is more effective to use. but also must be balanced with other methods.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed all habits, activities, and even changed the world's conditions that were once good to be bad. Covid-19 is a disaster that is currently being experienced by the entire population in the world. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic not only affects the economic sector, but also affects the world of education. Especially in Indonesia, which is currently closing schools in order to reduce direct contact and minimize exposure to COVID-19 (Aji, 2020). However, the implementation of learning continues with the online system. There are many positive and negative impacts in online learning systems. The positive

impact is that children can be closer to their parents, and can discuss or study together at home. But the negative impact appears if parents who have more busyness, and are only busy with their work.

Then children's learning at home will not be supervised even children will not focus on learning. Likewise, the habits of children who are used to learning face to face with their teachers, and currently the online learning system can only stare at their respective cellphone screens at home. Therefore, it is hoped that educators can find solutions to this challenge. Perhaps by applying the concept of independent learning, which can explore children's creativity at home, so that children will not feel stressed and happy in the learning process at home. (Saleh, 2020) Most educational institutions currently use the WhatsApp group application. Because it is considered more effective and helps the online learning process by children, parents and educators. Educators will provide materials, examples and explain related learning materials either through text or video. Then the child will send their learning results related to the material that has been delivered in the form of text, photos, or videos.

This is also done by educators in kindergarten as a strategy to raise children's enthusiasm in online learning during the covid-19 pandemic (Hutami & Nugraheni, 2020). However, the obstacles that occur in rural areas, not all parents have personal cellphones that can be used. to install the whatsapp application. Therefore, only part of the parents are included in the group, and some only rely on information from other parents who are members of the online learning group. And for sending children's assignments, parents who are not in the WhatsApp group will ask for help from parents who are members of the online group.

The online learning system contains the same material as school education. It's just not face to face. However, in this online learning process, early childhood education emphasizes children's creativity at home wrapped in play activities. More emphasis on learning everyday life, while still focusing on cognitive, affective and psychomotor development in children. (Billah, 2016) If parents feel that online learning is less effective for children's education, then parents can do a homeschooling education model. That is the learning process that is carried out at home, or anywhere and anytime with comfortable and pleasant conditions, as well as creative educators in providing the learning process (Wardati, 2019). Families have an important role in moral education for children. Because it is with the family that a child first interacts before getting to know the outside world. Parents must be able to form good character and personality of children, which are in accordance with Islamic teachings, such as truth, honesty, compassion, kindness and so on. Moral education carried out by parents is what will form different kinds of

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people. Some are shy, angry, rude, gentle, and so on. Therefore, Imam Al-Ghazali sees the need for a moral education (Nasution, 2016).

Early childhood education in principle has the main points of education that must be given to children which are none other than Islamic teachings, which are grouped into three broad lines, namely: education of faith, worship, and morals. (Aryani, 2015) Moral education is given to children from an early age so that children from an early age understand good procedures for behaving/ethical actions towards themselves, others, even to Allah SWT. And another goal, so that children can avoid despicable morals.

In the moral education system according to Imam Al-Ghazali, there are two educational systems, namely non-formal and formal educators. Non-formal moral education is education carried out by families at home, while formal education is intended as moral education carried out by educators in schools (Setiawan, 2017). Before the pandemic, moral education in formal schools was easy to do and exemplify. However, at this time when entering the Covid-19 pandemic, moral education carried out online is considered less effective. Because children cannot directly follow what is directed by an educator, and vice versa an educator cannot see directly the behavior of children during the online learning process.

However, there are some schools that continue to apply moral education that strengthens children's character even in the online learning process. Because they have the idea that learning can be done anywhere and anytime (Purnomo et al., 2020). Instilling Islamic values in children, in order to improve their morality can be done in several ways. That is by inviting children to play while learning, role-playing and telling exemplary stories, or inviting children to see educational cartoons, which then provide regular examples to children regarding the cultivation of noble character. (Arif, 2019) However, sometimes parents are busy with their interests, personal, will pay less attention to children. Especially now that the learning process is done online. Educators and parents must be able to work together in educating children so that they have good morals. It is likened to a child who has just been born is a white paper that has no stains. It will be bright in color when given a bright color, and will be dark when given a dark color. As described in the words of the Prophet Muhammad:

From this it is clear that moral education carried out by parents to children has a very important role (Hidaya, 2014). Therefore, parents will always try to guide and advise children slowly, so that children have good morals and do not violate the rules/norms that exist in society. This is one of the opinions of one of the parents. During this COVID-19 pandemic,

children's faith also needs to be guided. Such as memorizing short letters, memorizing prayers, being honest and responsible. Early childhood will practice what he has seen (Benyamin, 2020). Children will say politely if parents at home and adults around them always teach politeness when speaking. However, children will seek more attention and are difficult to direct, when people around them do not care about the moral education that has been instilled since childhood. If parents want their children to have good words, attitudes and actions, then parents must reflect the character of their good faith. Every parent has a varied way of educating their children (Trisnawati & Sugito, 2020).

During this pandemic, parents can teach their children good behavior for a long time. Because every day children and parents always interact with each other. Like Ibu Cintami, the guardian of Lisa, who gets used to saying greetings before playing, guiding children in memorizing short letters, and directing children to behave politely. Especially if the child's enthusiasm decreases in the online learning process, the parents will provide support or persuade the child in various ways so that the child becomes enthusiastic in learning and worshiping.

Moral education that parents give to children at home, must be done by playing but while learning. This was also done by Mariska's mother, the guardian of Sadira Acelin, who reprimanded her son in a good way and language when he made a mistake. So that children can understand their mistakes and will not repeat the same mistakes. A small example of moral education in early childhood during the COVID-19 pandemic is getting children to say greetings when going out / entering the house. Get used to praying before eating and doing other activities. Invite children to behave politely and speak politely.

CONCLUSION

From the above discussion, it can be concluded that moral education is very important for early childhood. because at that age children are easier to imitate and practice something taught by parents or students. The Covid-19 pandemic has made the education system face-to-face impossible because it minimizes the spread of the virus. Therefore, even though the learning process is carried out at their respective homes, this does not prevent the moral education needed by children from being neglected/neglected. It is the duty of parents and educators to unite to unite the vision and mission to guide children's morals for the better. Parents should care more about their children at a time like this, because in the future what the children do will also affect the parents. By giving examples, advising, getting used to and giving punishment (positive punishment) to children, in introducing and telling about good morals. Because basically every parent wants their child to have good character.

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