



Training the Honest Character of the Child at Home

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ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Parents, Honest Character, Child

Received : 22 November

Revised : 28 December

Accepted: 31 January

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ABSTRACT

The weakening of honest character requires an increase in the intensity and quality of the implementation of character education in the formal and non-formal institutions. However, in reality, it is not only formal or non-formal institutions that are responsible for shaping the honest character of children, but the most dominant thing to shape the character of children is their families, especially parents. This study aims to provide an overview of how to train honest character in children at home. The research conducted is PAR-based, where the researcher directly participates in the actions carried out. Data collection through observation, interviews, and documentation. Before the action was taken, there were several problems regarding the child's incompetence, such as not telling the truth, taking things that did not belong to him, not being entrusted with the task given, being reluctant to apologize after making a mistake, and not wanting to admit mistakes. Thus, action is needed to train children to have an honest character because honesty is the basic capital in life. Some of the actions taken to train honest character at home are through democratic types of parenting, providing teaching, setting an example, and giving positive appreciation to children. In addition, parents must have a high and consistent commitment to honest character training in children at home.

INTRODUCTION

The presence of a child for a husband and wife is an extraordinary gift that is priceless. The weakening of honest character requires an increase in the intensity and quality of implementing character education in formal and non-formal institutions (Arthur, 2003). However, in reality it is not only formal or non-formal institutions that are responsible for forming honest character in children, in fact the most dominant for shaping children's character is their family, especially parents (Pendidikan et al., n.d.). Basically, everyone will agree that honesty is a very important character, in which honest character is what parents want for their children. However, in reality, it turns out that practicing honest character has many challenges in its application.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The importance of building honest character and prioritizing it to be taught to children was once conveyed by Indonesia's first president, Ir. Sukarno. According to him, so that the Indonesian nation becomes a great and victorious nation, and has dignity if it is built by prioritizing character education so that if this is neglected then be prepared that this nation will become a slave to other countries (Balitbang Puskur, 2010). Realizing honest character in children is of course very urgent because honest character is the key to one's success and must be used to it as early as possible (Ansori, 2021). The importance of training children to be honest is stated by several experts. Freud in Muslich (Ansori, 2021) suggests that failure to instill personality in early childhood will lead to destructive and problematic personalities because at an early age is the most important time for the formation of a child's personality or character and builds a solid foundation so that later when he becomes an adult it will not be easy unsteady and tempted by things that are not good (Putra & Imam Tabroni, 2022).

However, the fact is that nowadays there are still many dishonest behaviors found (Imam Tabroni, Sovani Rizky Handayani, 2021). At the early childhood level, dishonest attitudes are still found, such as being really not used to it, their toys are not cared for properly, they don't want to admit mistakes they have made, they cheat on tests, they don't do their own assignments where this often happens, especially in online learning, until take things that don't belong to them (Ansori, 2021). Several other facts have occurred, such as the incident in 2011 regarding a grade 6 elementary school student who was forced by his school teacher to provide cheat sheets to his friends while carrying out the National Examination (IntiPesan Chanel, 2020). In addition, some of these things are considered to make it difficult to be honest because being honest is considered detrimental. In fact, according to a survey conducted by the Corruption Eradication Commission in 2012-2013 in two big cities to parents, only 4% of mothers taught honesty. So only 4% of mothers really teach honesty to their children (IntiPesan Chanel, 2020). At the national level, dishonesty is evident based on a report from *Transparency International Indonesia* (TII) which revealed that Indonesia's *Corruption Perceptions Index* (CPI) for 2020 was at a score of 37 where there was a decrease of 3 points from the previous year. Indonesia is ranked 102 out of 180 countries in Southeast Asia (ASEAN) (Ansori, 2021).

The data above proves that the Indonesian state is experiencing a crisis of honest character and the character that has been instilled has not succeeded in being fully embedded in children where it is suspected that this is happening because education, both at school and at home, is still oriented towards intellectual intelligence (Ansori, 2021). Not a few parents are satisfied only with the intellectual intelligence possessed by their children, but they forget that intellectual intelligence is not the only key in achieving success in the future (Imam Tabroni et al., 2022).

Parental education for their children is like an empty bottle where what is put into the bottle will be the same as what is poured by the parents (Hendarti Permono, 2013). Indeed, it is not as easy as turning the palm of the hand to have consistency in training honest character in children, because sometimes parents set bad examples, sometimes it is parents who are dishonest with children (Rosmiati & Imam Tabroni, 2021). This is what makes it difficult to train honest character in children because how can we want honest children when at the same time we are also unconsciously teaching children to lie (Tabroni et al., 2022). Although actually there are still many who have an honest attitude in this world. This is proven by research conducted in America that students who are academically honest, such as not cheating, turn out to have a better, happier life, live a calmer life, and have better social relations than students who cheat. Another study conducted by Indonesian Transparency in 2013, in which the objects of research were young people of productive age when asked to choose a rich life but in a dishonest way or an ordinary but honest life, and the result was that 78% prefer to be honest than rich. (IntiPesan Chanel, 2020). This means that actually the human conscience is inclined towards goodness, and that kindness will be stronger and stronger if it is supported by the people around it and the environment.

METHODOLOGY

Through a qualitative descriptive approach, this study aims to provide an overview of how to train honest character in children at home. The research was conducted based on *Participatory Action research*, where the author directly participated in conducting guidance on how to train honest character in children at home. By using descriptive qualitative, the author tries to provide an overview of the various actions taken in training children's honest character at home.

RESEARCH RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Problem analysis

Honesty is the most important and fundamental value that must be taught to children from an early age. One indicator of a child who has an honest character is that he can be trusted in every word, action, and deed he does (Purwanto, 2021). Honesty can also be interpreted as an attitude that reflects harmony between actions, words, and the human heart (Sulastri & Fahmi, 2019). In line with Kusuma's opinion that honesty has something to do with sincerity to act rightly and express this reality in the form of words, deeds, feelings, and there

is no manipulation or lying and deceiving for one's own gain (Sulastri & Fahmi, 2019) .

In this study, the first thing the writer did was to record dishonest attitudes that had been committed by children through observations before the action was taken.

Indicators of dishonesty that have been committed by children, including:

1. When the child is told to take a bath by the parents, the child just goes into the bathroom but apparently doesn't take a bath and lies to his parents by saying he has taken a shower.
2. A younger sibling takes money from his older sibling's piggy bank to buy food at a stall or other seller.
3. Children ignore the trust from their parents by not keeping the house clean.
4. Several times the child does not want to admit the mistakes he has made.
5. Several times children are reluctant to apologize after making mistakes.

Dishonesty committed by children is a serious problem that must be addressed as soon as possible. One of the causes of children not being honest can be influenced by fear if they tell the truth, such as fear that their parents will hate them or fear of being punished by their parents if they tell the truth.

Action (Cognitive-Affective-Psychomotor)

Character is the values of a person's behavior in relation to God , himself , fellow human beings, nature , and nationality which are embodied in one's thoughts, heart , words, and actions based on religious norms , laws, manners, culture. , and customs. Meanwhile, according to the Language Center of the Ministry of National Education, character is innate, heart, soul, personality, character, behavior, personality, character traits, temperament and character. (Hendarti Permono, 2013). According to Lickona, there are 3 good components that need to be considered in shaping one's character, namely knowing goodness (*moral knowing*), loving goodness (*moral feeling*), and doing good (*moral acting*) (Lickona, 2013) (Tabroni & Purnamasari, 2022). To provide knowledge to children, of course, the methods used need to be adjusted to the age and development of the child. Because the world of children is a world of play, learning while playing can be used. By playing, parents can directly increase children's potential because playing not only gives satisfaction but playing can be a means of training character in children (Anggi Asmara Firdaus et al., 2022). By playing children can also explore themselves freely so that children can discover new things. (Pendidikan et al., n.d.).

However, knowledge alone is not enough to instill goodness in children, so after the child gets knowledge, it must be continued by instilling moral feelings in children (Tabroni, 2019). Knowledge that is already owned by the child must be internalized in the conscience of the child (Hill, 1990). Parents need to raise conscience awareness of the importance of a commitment to carrying out moral values. After *the moral feeling* has been instilled, then the next step is *moral acting* , where *moral acting* is a means to realize that moral. Megawangi in Ansori (Ansori, 2021)suggests that what can motivate someone to do good is through 3 dimensions of character, namely *competence* , *will* , *habit* .

Through triangulation of data collection techniques, here are some actions that parents take in training honest character in their children at home:

1. Applying democratic parenting type;

Parents who have this type of democratic parenting will give birth to a child who always thinks that his parents will value honesty so they don't have to lie (Aprilia T et al., 2022). In addition, democratic parents tend to teach their children the importance of honesty. Parents need to do the right type of parenting so that an honest attitude can easily be instilled in children (IntiPesan Chanel, 2020). Also in view of what was conveyed by Pitaloka et al in his journal that between parenting styles and children's behavior has a positive and sustainable relationship (Pendidikan et al., n.d.). In this action, the author who is also the parent (mother) collaborates with the father to be equally committed to providing good parenting at home, one of which is democratic parenting. Some of the democratic parenting styles that have been implemented include:

- a. Parents listen to the opinions and contents of the child's heart; When younger siblings and older siblings are having small fights, and both of them do not want to admit mistakes and defend themselves, parents try not to be one-sided or side with one side, but listen to both sides of what prompted them to do this. Parents give the understanding that there will always be consequences from the attitude we have done. In addition, parents also teach not to be ashamed to apologize first because apologizing is an honest and commendable attitude.
- b. Make small agreements with children; This democratic parenting style does not mean that parents give unlimited freedom to their children because parents also need to teach them about the risks or consequences that must be accepted when a child does something bad, such as an older brother who bothers his younger sibling until his younger sibling cries, so the older sibling must be willing to apologize and admit his actions. By making small agreements with children, it can instill honesty and responsibility for children, such as having to apologize when they make mistakes, having to forgive each other, having to help each other because as social beings, of course, we definitely need each other, and so on.

2. Teaching children directly;

In this action, what needs to be underlined is how the communication techniques used in giving direct instruction to children? In the actions taken, parents use three communication techniques, namely storytelling, listening, and empathy. This is in line with Hendarti's opinion in her journal (Hendarti Permono, 2013) that there are three communication techniques that parents should use in fostering an honest attitude in children, namely by telling stories, listening, and empathizing. Storytelling is done by parents to their children with the aim of getting used to the openness of parents towards children so that children are

encouraged to open up to their parents. In addition, parents must also be good listeners for their children. As previously stated, parents must also provide opportunities for children to express their opinions (Listari et al., 2022). Likewise with empathy, parents try to show their children that they also feel what the child feels by responding to everything the child feels, what the child likes or doesn't like. In this action, parents can empathize verbally, such as by saying "you are sad, son, come here, give me a hug". Teaching is also not limited to telling children what is wrong and what is right, but teaching children how to care about what is right and what is wrong. Sometimes many children already know that honesty is important to do but when they know about it, then they also care that honesty needs to be done? So how do you make them care? In the actions taken, parents always convince their children that God is all-seeing. Parents introduce that even though other people don't know what we do, God always watches over every human action. Parents give understanding slowly when children are relaxed, such as before going to bed. Parents also take the time to read interesting stories or fairy tales to children about honesty (Hendarti Permono, 2013). To further maximize these actions, parents also often provide educational shows, especially about honesty (Putri Nurul Fadillah et al., 2022). This activity is carried out approximately 3-4 times a week. In these activities, parents occasionally conduct questions and answers with their children from heart to heart such as, have you lied today, have you been honest today? Do you feel calm when telling the truth? Do you feel guilty when you lie?

3. Setting an example for children to be honest;

Teaching alone is certainly not enough. If parents want their children to be children who are always honest, then start from themselves. Parents need to commit to being honest and never lying, especially in front of their children and to their children. What is exemplified by parents, that will also be done by children. At an early age, children are great imitators. He will imitate anything he sees, including the attitude of his parents. In this action, parents also need to be committed to always set a good example. This is very important to do because children need to learn concretely. With everyday children at home who often see, hear, and feel their parents telling the truth, the children will follow this example. Some things are done to show honesty to children such as always keeping promises, don't easily make promises to dissat children when they are happy or if they feel it will be difficult to keep them, apologize and admit mistakes if parents make mistakes, because it is possible that parents can too wronged the child. Like accidentally scolding a child.

4. Give positive appreciation;

A compliment can be an effective tool, not just for children, but adults as well (Prabaningtyas & Tabroni, 2022). By giving positive appreciation to children both verbally and non-verbally verbal can encourage children to do things that are praised even better (Sari & Tabroni, 2022). Examples of verbal appreciation by saying "oh you are great son, you are smart, you are an honest child, you need to know that an honest child must be loved by Allah,

parents and other people, I am very proud that you dare to tell the truth", or nonverbal like by buying ice cream or their favorite food when children dare to be honest . However, give praise that is not excessive and not too often because it is feared it will cause a riya attitude (Ulwan, n.d.). The following are pictures of actions to train honest character in children at home.

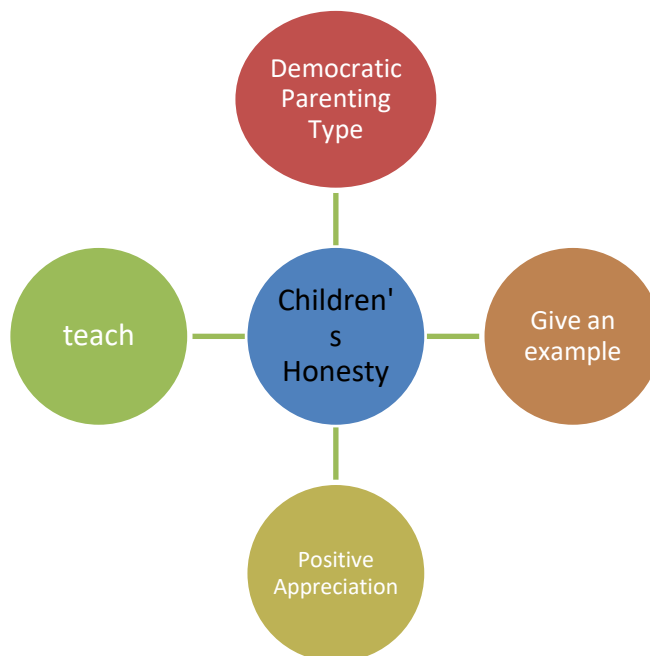


Figure 1. Actions to Train Honest Character in Children

The actions above of course require high commitment and good cooperation between parents, both father and mother (Yusra & Tabroni, 2022). Impossible character can grow in children if parents are not consistent in applying it (Supaih & Tabroni, 2022). How to train honest character in children at home can be redeveloped by every parent by paying attention to the characteristics of children at home. Parents cannot generalize how to apply character to children. Some children may be more effective with different types of parenting, depending on how well the parents know their child. In essence, every child is a gift that parents must take care of and educate as best they can. Maintaining good communication with children needs to be done, not only with the mother but the role of the father and also greatly influences the formation of the child's character at home (Husniyah & Imam Tabroni, 2021).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the above statement, the following conclusions can be drawn:

1. Before the action was taken, indicators of dishonesty behaviors that had been carried out by children were recorded, such as not telling the truth, taking things that did not belong to them, not trusting the tasks given, refusing to apologize after making a mistake, not wanting to admit mistakes.

2. Actions taken by parents to train honest character in children at home are through democratic parenting, giving direct teaching, direct examples, and giving positive appreciation.
3. Parents need to have a high and consistent commitment in carrying out the actions taken so that honest character can be formed in children properly.
4. Cooperation is also needed between fathers and mothers because both of them have a very important role in accompanying the growth and development of children so that later they become children who have good character, including honest characters.

ADVANCED RESEARCH

In writing this article the researcher realizes that there are still many shortcomings in terms of language, writing, and form of presentation considering the limited knowledge and abilities of the researchers themselves. Therefore, for the perfection of the article, the researcher expects constructive criticism and suggestions from various parties.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

In writing this article, it is inseparable from the help and guidance of various parties, morally, spiritually and materially so that this article can be structured to completion. For this reason, on this occasion the researcher would like to thank all the sources who have helped researchers in completing this article. Finally, the researcher would like to thank profusely to all parties who cannot be mentioned one by one who have helped complete this article.

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