

## **IDENTIFICATION OF PARENTAL PROBLEMS AND SOLUTIONS IN SHAPING RELIGIOUS AND WELL-MANNERED CHARACTERS IN STUDENTS OF SD MUHAMMADIYAH TEGALGEDE KARANGANYAR**

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### **Abstract**

This study aimed to describe parental problems and solutions in shaping religious and well-mannered characters in students of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede Karanganyar. The research applied descriptive-qualitative method. Data collection was done by conducting in-depth interviews, observations, and documentations. The collected data were analyzed non-statistically using data reduction, presentation, and drawing conclusion. The researchers described the problems in words to give clear picture to the readers. The study showed that 1) Parents faced some problems coming from outside home environment; 2) Solutions done by parents to solve those problems were building habits or routines from early age, restricting children's milieu, and always monitoring children so that they could grow up to be civilized and law-abiding citizen, and uphold the values of deity.

**Key words:** problem, solution, parents, religious character, well-mannered character

### **INTRODUCTION**

Allah SWT bestows children upon whom He wants. In the holy Qur'an Surah Ali 'Imran: 14, Allah SWT says: "Beautified for mankind is the love of that which they desire – of women and sons, heaped-up sums of gold and silver, fine branded horses, and cattle and tilled land". Therefore, children should be brought up and be educated well so that their parents can be held responsible before Allah. Sauri (2011: 36-47) said that children's positions in moslem families include some of the followings: as gifts from Allah SWT, as mediums to do righteous deeds, as trial, as mandate, and as the heirs of civilization.

Father and mother are the first adult known by children since they were baby. Due to the high intensity of time they spent together, children are usually close to their parents. This intimacy usually grows because of biological factor. Therefore, father and mother have quite high influence to children's development, including their character building.

Education is not solely the

responsibility of school, but also the family.

Therefore, family is considered an institution holding an important role in shaping children's characters and personalities. Children grow up and develop with their family so that either good or bad sides of the family will give either positive or negative influences on children's growth towards their maturity.

Parents always want the best for children. They want their children to have upright personality which is in accordance with Indonesian identity. However, along with the development of technology, children's characters instilled by parents fade and are replaced with characters that are inappropriate in Indonesia. There are some factors that influence that, such as: technology development, cultural acculturation, education, family, and surrounding environments. Some of the above-mentioned factors can fade someone's character, including the religious and well-mannered ones.

If the family, school, and society instill less or zero religious education than it

should be, there will be demoralisation (Darajat, 2003: 125). Moreover, An-Nahidl (2010: 271) also supported the statement above. He stated that family and society tend to entrust religious education for children to religion teachers, whereas the time allocation for Islamic education at school is very restricted, approximately 2 – 6 hours/week. Of course, this restricted time is not enough to shape good personalities on children. Therefore, parents' roles are really important to create children with good personality and morale.

Muhammadiyah Tegalgede Elementary School (*Sekolah Dasar/SD*) Karanganyar is an educational institution that is very concerned about shaping and civilizing character in religious field (religious and well-mannered). This concern is realized through cooperation with the parents. The most eminent character building at this school is religious and well-mannered character building. Those characters are reflected by the students through some activities at school, such as praying together, greeting friends and teachers, performing congregational prayer (*salah al-jamaah*), shaking hands with the teacher, and speaking in polite Javanese (*krama*).

Based on this background, the researchers intended to observe the parental problems and solutions in shaping religious and well-mannered character. The researchers chose "Identification of Parental Problems and Solutions in Shaping Religious and Well-Mannered Character in Students of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede Karanganyar" as the topic. This study was conducted to describe parental problems in shaping religious and well-mannered character in students of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede, as well as their solutions to solve those.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The research applied descriptive-qualitative method with case study as the strategy. The research was conducted from February to May at SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede, located in Ngrawoh Village, Tegalgede District, Karanganyar Regency, in academic period of 2014/2015. Data

collection techniques used in this research were 1) In-depth interview; intensive interview to get valid information about parents' role in shaping religious and well-mannered character in elementary school students. 2) Observation; collecting data by thoroughly and systematically observing subjects in fields, then recording it in accordance with the situation. 3) Documentation; collecting data related to the research either in photo or written forms. Documentation in this research included students' behaviours and parents' role in shaping religious and well-mannered character in students of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede, Karanganyar.

The collected data was then analyzed using non statistical analysis that included data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusion. Triangulation technique was used to measure data validation in this research. Triangulation is a technique to check data validation by using something outside the data for checking purpose or as a comparison to the data. Triangulations used in this research were data and method triangulation. Data triangulation was used to compare the data from interviews, whereas method triangulation was used to compare the method used by the researchers to the available methods, that was about parents' role in shaping religious and well-mannered characters in the students of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede Karanganyar.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

### Research Result

#### a. Problems Found by Parents in Shaping Religious and Well-Mannered Character in Students.

Long process is needed in shaping religious and well-mannered character. Those characters are not only introduced or instilled, but also need to be maintained in order to remain attached to students. Maintaining the characters is not as easy as introducing them, since in maintenance it can be better or remain stagnant. The researchers observed childrens' play environments that have different characters, however there were children who could maintain their religious

and well-mannered characters. Therefore, the researcher also asked the parents during interviews whether they faced any problems in shaping or maintaining their childrens' characters or not.

Based on the interviews with the parents of the students of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede Karanganyar, the researchers could conclude that the problems they faced came from childrens' play environment at school and neighborhood. However, parents also had solution for the problems. As told by the respondents (parents), one of the problems in maintaining religious and well-mannered characters instilled at school was their neighborhood. In the afternoon, students occasionally came over to their neighbor where they could meet and get along with many children and even teenagers. Sometimes students would see their friend's bad behavior and listen to coarse language. Sometimes the influence was carried over to home so that children became impolite, dared to talk back, even enjoyed watching TV more than praying at mosque. Therefore, parents had to admonish them and restrict their play environment and period.

Similar statements were also told by other respondents. They said that one of the problems in maintaining religious and well-mannered character came from the children's play environment at school. Since there were no other children at their neighborhood, students rarely came over to their neighbor to play after school. Students also had quite packed schedule with extra lessons. Sometimes, those children dared to talk back to parents, yelled, and perform *salah* improperly. If children started to perform deviant behaviors, admonish and made them understand so that they would not repeat them. Parents should also remember to coordinate with their homeroom teacher concerning the children's attitudes and behaviors at school.

Maintaining religious and well-mannered character needed quite a long time after introducing and teaching them, since accustoming children to do something would require more than one or two weeks.

Sometimes, parents thought they had already taught it but did not make it a habit so that the result was not maximal, did not meet the expectation, even children would be easily influenced by their play environment.

#### b. Solutions Done by Parents

The success on building character is influenced by several factors, not only from the parents, but also from other factors that take part in influencing the character building. Accustoming need to be conducted by parents since they are the closest to and have time together with children the most. In shaping religious and well-mannered character, parents should be able to monitor children wherever they are. So that the religious and well-mannered character instilled can meet the expectation or be maximal, parents need to restrict any factors that can fade the characters.

Based on the interview with the parents of the students of SD Muhammadiyah Tegalgede Karanganyar, the researcher found ways or solutions done by parents to solve the problems in shaping religious and well-mannered characters. Finding on the observations showed that Ibu Laila did these following in maintaining religious and well-mannered character in elementary school students:

- 1) Setting examples of attitude and actions that reflects religious and well-mannered characters from the family or home.
- 2) Accustoming children to speak, acquit, and dress themselves politely and appropriately.
- 3) Coordinating with teachers concerning children's behaviors and developments.
- 4) Admonishing and giving comprehension if children made mistakes or deviated from religious teaching so that they would not repeat them.

Things done by parents in maintaining religious and well-mannered character in elementary school students were as follows:

- 1) Always teaching good behaviors to children, such as giving examples of parents' behaviors to other people.
- 2) Accustoming in the family, such as having family meal together, expressing gratitude, greeting, praying for parents,

performing congregational prayer and reading *Quran* together.

- 3) Always monitoring children in their play environment, especially with neighbor.

Things done by other respondents in maintaining religious and well-mannered characters in elementary students were as follows:

- 1) Always teaching good behaviors to children by setting examples in daily life.
- 2) Accustoming children to always respect the elders, say farewell, and be friendly to family and guest.
- 3) Coordinating with teachers concerning children's behaviors and developments.
- 4) Restricting children from watching bad TV program, so we utilized more time to read *Quran* together.
- 5) Admonishing children if they made mistakes or did inappropriate acts so that they would not repeat them.

### **Discussion**

- a. Problems faced by parents in building religious and well-mannered characters

Maintaining religious and well-mannered characters in this globalisation era needs more monitoring and concern since there are many external factors that can influence children's characters, especially from their environments. Based on the interview with the respondents, the researchers could conclude that the problems the parents faced came from children's play environment at school and neighborhood. As stated by Suwito (2008: 125) "there are several parties that have important roles in building children's characters, those are: family, school, and community (neighborhood)." To get the maximal result, the three components needed to be optimized and be harmonized. Play environment is a unity of different characters and backgrounds. Children get different character educations that shape their behaviors. In a play environment, there are well-mannered children, mischievous children, children who love to tease, ill-mannered children, and also children who uphold their religion. Along with their togetherness and playtime would be shown their different attitudes and behaviors. Even

from any places visited or seen by children, they would see various attitudes and behaviors of others. As stated by Ujningsih (2010: 4, "child is regarded as a great imitator," which means children will imitate whatever they see or hear. Those events or daily life activities have already started to influence children's characters.

- b. Solutions done by parents

The success of building any character is influenced by various factors, not only from the parents, but also from other factors that take part in influencing the character building. Accustoming need to be conducted by parents, since they are the closest to and have time together with children the most. Parents need to monitor children's play environment and friends. Parents also need to restrict children's milieu. Parents have to choose proper environment for children so that their characters will grow and develop well. Moreover, parents also need to coordinate with teachers to get information concerning their children at school. Although parents can not always be with their children, they should monitor their children wherever they are, be it at home, at school, or at their play environment.

If children do any deviant behaviors, parents need to admonish and give comprehension that what the they do are wrong and inappropriate so they will not repeat them. Therefore, children will understand what is allowed and what is prohibited. If the comprehension can be accepted well by the children, the conciousness to have religious attitudes and behaviors will grow on themselves. One thing that is always done by parents is setting example on good attitudes and behaviors at home and society.

A relevant research was conducted by Seira Valentina (2009) concerning Parents' Roles in Developing Children Religiosity. The research result shows that parents' roles are the most important part of children life in the family, where there are many changes that have to be accepted in society in this globalisation era. Parents are demanded to always monitor their children so that they will not fell into promiscuity. Family education is very important in shaping

children characters, especially parents' roles in educate children directly. Parents are the reflection for their children. There are many things that can be done by parents in shaping children character. Therefore, characters instilled from early age by parents will shape children better and can help them to bring themselves in society.

This was supported by Ahmad Sadam Husein's research (2013) concerning Efforts on Building Religious and Discipline Characters Through Religious Activities in SMP N 2 Kalasan Sleman Yogyakarta. The research concluded that the efforts were done by making careful planning, cooperating with all school stakeholders, adding extra hours of Islamic Education to practice good coordination with all parties at school, accustoming and disciplining students' prayer with reward and punishment, and setting good example on the students.

Other research conducted by Ujiningsih (2010) concerning Cultivating Courteous Manner at Home and School as an Effort to Develop Students' Characters concluded that character education are long process that can be started from early age, and can be continued by maintaining it at every level of education. Courteous manner can be built by accustoming habit. This process will be successfully and effectively done if there is synergic cooperation between parents at home and school.

According to the relevant research, character education is highly depended on each environment's role, be it family, school, or community; especially family or parents. Instilling religious and well-mannered characters and then maintaining them are continuous process and parts of shaping religious and well-mannered character in students. Both need balance so that religious and well-mannered character can be attached in students.

Religious activities in Islamic Education that consists of performing *dhuha* prayer; praying together; writing and reading *Quran* together, performing congregational *zuhr* prayer; organizing integrated *Jummu'ah*; organizing *Ahad* monthly recitation; holding religious races; and taking part in extracurricular

activities always have to be implemented at school so that the expected characters can be built. The result of those efforts can improve students' prayer habit, *Quran* reading, Islamic Education understanding both theoretically and practically, pursuance in following religious activities, and ease in being adjusted and straighten up when doing religious activities.

Experience and environment will also influence character development in children. However, parents' roles that are able to give examples, concern, and restriction can shape religious and well-mannered character in students. Students will be able to maintain their religiosity and good manner wherever they are and with whomever they get along with. Religious and well-mannered character are cultures that we should preserve. Religious and well-mannered character building in children should be started from early age and be accustomed in daily life.

According to the relevant research, the character education is highly influenced by roles of each environments, be it family, school, or community; especially that of the family or parents.

## CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

According to the resources and data analysis, it can be concluded that:

1. Problems faced by parents came from the childrens' play environment. The environment consisted of various characters and backgrounds or cultural society.
2. Solutions for the problems were setting good examples, monitoring children, coordinating with teachers at school, and reprimanding children if they did things that were not in accordance with religion *syari'at*. In order to attach religious and well-mannered character in children, synergic roles were needed between parents or family, school, and community.

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