

## THE ROLE OF EDUCATORS AND PARENTS IN INSTILLING RELIGIOUS AND MORAL VALUES IN EARLY CHILDREN IN THE DIGITALIZATION ERA

Novi Cynthia Yusnita<sup>1</sup>, Putri Sari Ulfa Sembiring<sup>2</sup>, Afdhalina Afdhalina<sup>3</sup>, Abdul Zebar<sup>4</sup>,  
Afridiani Pulungan<sup>5</sup>

Pendidikan Guru Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini, Universitas Battuta<sup>1,2,3,4,5</sup>

Email: novicynthiay@gmail.com, putrisulfa.29@gmail.com, afdhalinakahar@gmail.com,  
rabezludba@gmail.com, afridianipulungan@gmail.com

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This research is motivated by the large number of children whose behavior is not in accordance with the religious and moral values that have been taught. This is caused by the lack of instilling religious and moral values in children from an early age. The purpose of this study was to determine the role of parents in instilling religious and moral values in early childhood in the digitalization era. This type of research is a qualitative using a descriptive method, namely the description of the situation experienced. Data collection used in the form of interviews, observation and documentation. The results of this study are that parents and teachers use several methods in instilling religious and moral values in early childhood, namely 1) exemplary methods; 2) habituation method; 3) advice method; 4) storytelling method. Educators and parents have roles in their respective environments. Educators play more of a role in the school environment, while parents play more of a role in the home environment. However, both of them continue to work together so that children can have good religious and moral values in this digitalization era.

Keywords: educators, parents, religious and moral values.

### 1. Introduction

Early childhood is the initial period of child development which covers the age range from birth to six years old. This period is a period of growth and early formation which is very important in the life of an individual. Children will experience every development that exists well if the stimulus is carried out appropriately. Early childhood is a very important period in the formation of a child's mindset, character and attitude. Interaction with the environment and experiences gained at this age can have a long-term impact on further development. Development is a mental change that takes place gradually and within a certain time, from simple abilities to more difficult abilities, for example intelligence, attitudes, behavior, talents, interests. The process of this mental change first goes through the maturation stage. If the time of maturity has not arrived, the child should not be forced to advance to the next stage, for example the ability to sit or stand (Hurlock, 2011).

Suyadi (2010) a very strategic role in optimizing moral and religious early childhood is teachers and parents. Humane cooperation between teachers and parents is an internal (important) part in building moral and religious values. Parents are the first and foremost educators for children from birth, from an early age to adulthood. In the process of forming morals and religion, character, personality, cultural values, simple skills, the mother's role as a first educator must be a model for children, meaning that parents must also have moral and religious values that can be shown to children. The teacher's role in Developing children's morals and religion is more inviting, facilitating, guiding and teaching young children so that they can understand good and bad morally and know the contents of religious teachings for the growth and development of children's faith.

In the current era of digitalization, of course it will be very easy for children to access information from the outside world through internet facilities. Like juvenile delinquency which becomes a crisis for the growth and development of children in the future. Not all information that children get from outside is good and correct information. Examples that are often heard in media



reports about fights, brawls, theft, mugging and even other actions that are not in accordance with the teachings of the prevailing religious and moral values. The existence of this is a concern that will certainly happen to children if the right actions are not taken. One of them is by providing education to children about things that need to be avoided by children.

Children's education is carried out in three educational environments, namely family, school and community. Parents play a role in education, children will show academic achievement, followed by improvements in attitude, social-emotional stability, discipline, and children's aspirations to study until college, even after working and starting a family. (Maemunah Hasan, 2009:20). Educators are the main spearhead in carrying out the process of educating the nation's children. Educator is someone who has a role and responsibility to provide direction, guidance, and knowledge to individuals or groups in the teaching-learning process. The main objective of education is to assist students or students in developing their potential holistically, namely in the intellectual, emotional, social and physical aspects. The role of educators is very important in shaping character, broadening knowledge, and helping develop students' skills. Educators not only convey facts and information, but also play a role in inspiring, encouraging critical thinking, improving thinking skills, and helping students to face life's challenges better.

The family is the closest environment for children since the child is born. In the family, children get a lot of experience and stimulus to grow and develop. The influence of the family on the moral development of children is enormous. By looking at the behavior of adults in the family environment where children live, children will pay attention to this behavior, then imitate it within a certain period of time. The family is a very effective place to internalize moral values to children. The role of parents for children's education is to provide basic education, attitudes, and basic skills, such as religion, manners, politeness, aesthetics, affection, a sense of security, basics for obeying rules, and instilling habits. The role of the family is to teach values and appropriate behavior. The role of parents in the family for the moral development of children is very large. Children need to get assistance in the development of moral values. The main role of parents in this assistance is very large. Everyday events can be used as a tool for parents to internalize moral values to children.

Moral value education is education of noble values for individuals. The cultivation of knowledge of religious and moral values is the cultivation of urgent provisions for children, education must be obtained as a whole, both children who live in cities or in remote villages. Educators have an active role in instilling religious and moral values for children, especially in terms of worship, prayer and respect for others (Yanti, 2021). This provision is useful for children in fulfilling the natural provisions that are embedded in them (Pulungan, 2011). Moral value education is education of noble values for individuals.

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According to Syaodih, the development of religious and moral values in early childhood includes: imitation, that is, starting to imitate the attitudes, perspectives and behavior of other people, internalizing children, that is, children have started to get along with their social environment and are starting to be influenced. with the circumstances in that environment, children are introverted and extroverted, namely reactions shown by children based on experience (Purba, 2013). According to John Dewey, the stages of a person's moral development are in the pre-conventional phase which has the characteristics of a child's attitude and behavior based on biological and social impulses (Asti Inawati, 2017). In the opinion of experts, the authors can conclude that the moral and religious

development of children aged 5-6 years is an ability to interact with good behavior according to norms, giving rise to good and bad behavior.

In infancy, children do not know moral behavior or behavior that is appropriate or not in accordance with the habits of the people around them. As the days go by, the child's age also increases knowledge of the surrounding environment. His knowledge about "permissible or not" behavior or behavior that is in accordance with the habits of the surrounding environment is understood based on education from the adults around him. Parents and other adults involved in children's education must teach children what behavior is right and not in accordance with local rules or customs.

Children must also be given the opportunity to take part in group activities so that children can learn various behaviors that are in accordance with group expectations and behaviors that are not in accordance with group expectations. The character of a child at an early age will influence his behavior when he is an adult. This is the reason for children to be provided with provisions by instilling good and appropriate religious and moral values in early childhood. In the next stage, it is hoped that with the education of religious and moral values, children will be able to distinguish between good and bad, right and wrong behavior, so that they can be applied in everyday life. Therefore, the role of educators and the role of parents is very important in helping early childhood to grow and develop optimally.

## 2. Method

This method uses a qualitative research approach by describing the thoughts of the objects that have been observed. A qualitative research approach is a research method that aims to understand and explain human phenomena from a deep, detailed and interpretation-focused perspective. In this approach, researchers try to understand the meaning, values, beliefs, behaviors, interactions, and social contexts that involve individuals or groups of people. The use of the descriptive method focuses on in-depth and detailed descriptions of the phenomenon under study. In the qualitative descriptive research, the elaboration uses and prioritizes data descriptions through words (Rostiyati et al., 2019). Data collection techniques used through observation, interviews and documentation with. (Hewot et al., 2020). Obtaining data from two sources, namely primary data and secondary data. Primary data is the origin of data from the field obtained through class teachers and parents who are informants in this study. Furthermore, secondary data is obtaining data from various findings from a literature review (Nasution & Suyadi, 2020). Meanwhile, the data analysis technique was carried out in three stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions (Hewot et al., 2020).

## 3. Results and Discussion

The success of moral education for early childhood is influenced by three educational environments, namely the family environment, school environment and community environment. In the family environment, parents play a very important role. The role of parents in children's education is to provide basic education, basic attitudes and skills, such as religion, manners, manners, aesthetics, affection, a sense of security, the basics for obeying rules, and instilling habits. The role of the family is to teach values and appropriate behavior. The role of parents in the family for the moral development of children is very large. Children need to get assistance in the development of moral values. The main role of parents in this assistance is very large. Everyday events can be used as a tool for parents to internalize moral values to children.

In an effort to carry out its role in moral education for early childhood, the family environment must be able to create an atmosphere that is conducive to learning moral values for children. This means that the family does not only provide moral concepts in the abstract, but also strives for children to learn about the application of these moral concepts from the everyday behavior of family members. However, based on the interviews that have been conducted, some parents are not optimal in monitoring the development of their children's religious and moral values. This is caused by the work of parents who are quite busy so that it takes up most of the time they have. Meanwhile in the

school environment, the main determinant is educators, namely teachers. When the child is at school, the teacher takes on the role of the child's parent. The responsibility of the teacher towards his students is very large. Because parents have entrusted their children to teachers to carry out the process of education, teaching and guidance in shaping children's character.

The role of the teacher in developing children's morals and religion is to invite, facilitate, guide and teach early childhood so they can understand good and bad morally and know the contents of religious teachings for the growth and development of children's faith. However, educators and parents certainly have to work together in realizing children who have behavior in accordance with the religious and moral values that have been taught. Efforts made by teachers and parents in building moral and religious values as optimizing children's growth and development, including improving infrastructure, various learning methods, parents supporting learning at school, teachers are more professional, school principals are directly involved in learning programs at school so that it becomes an encouragement for educators and a conducive environment, the enthusiasm of students in participating in learning activities, the habit of doing positive things such as throwing garbage in its place, good listening attitude, singing together, caring for friends who are sick, the teacher requires children in RA Al-Hidayah to participate in worship at school.

In instilling religious and moral values in early childhood, methods or methods are needed that must be applied so that children can behave as expected. The following are some of the methods applied by educators and parents in instilling religious and moral values in children, that is:

#### **Exemplary Method**

The exemplary method is the most important part of the learning process at all levels of education, including in PAUD. The figure of the teacher who is so exemplary makes him the most central person in the learning process at school. The teacher is an actor that cannot be separated from the implementation of education. However, the good and bad behavior of a teacher will have an impact on students who have made him an exemplary figure. Educators must also act as a role model for their students so that they can be a good example in their lives (Mustofa, 2019). The teacher as a model for children can play himself as a role model well, because children are imitators. Children are small creatures who like to imitate whatever interests them, there are many ways that educators can do so that children imitate things that are fine. Imitation is a way for children to learn, so the process of imitation can also be used as a strategy. The process of imitation in the exemplary strategy will produce imitators who are the same as those imitated, the child is a reflection of any educator that is obtained is an imitation of the educator. Exemplary is a strategy of character building that can be used to determine the good or bad character of a person (Munawaroh, 2019).

The behavior displayed by educators and parents greatly determines the merits of early childhood behavior. If parents and educators behave well and are based on religious and moral values, children will also show similar behavior. The main essence of exemplary is imitation, namely the process of imitating a model. In other words, in exemplary the process of imitating. The process of imitation in the exemplary method can occur consciously or unconsciously. Unconscious imitation is imitation that occurs when people imitating feel unaware that they are basically imitating someone (Munawwaroh, 2019). Likewise with early childhood, remembering that early childhood is in a period that allows them to easily imitate what they see around them. Thus, the teacher as an educator in schools holds an important role and responsibility in terms of setting a good example or example for students so that they can become good role models for their students. Therefore, several very relevant methods are implemented in instilling moral and religious values in early childhood.

#### **Habituation Method**

The habituation method is considered very effective when applied to early childhood. This is because young children have strong memories and immature personality conditions, so they are easy to manage with the various habits they carry out every day. That is why habituation is an effective way of optimizing moral and religious development in early childhood. In this habituation, moral values are instilled in accordance with the child's religious teachings (Wiyani, 2014). The method of



habituation is related to the cultivation of morals, which is mostly carried out through habituation of behavior in the learning process. This can be seen, for example, in praying before and after studying, praying before eating and drinking, greeting teachers and friends, tidying up toys after studying, lining up before entering class and so on. This habituation method educators act as models, mentors, and trainers. As a model, the teacher sets a good example for students such as always saying basmallah when they are going to do something and say hamdalah when after doing something.

In addition, what is often applied by educators is to greet and return greetings when meeting with students or with other fellow educators. The role of the educator as a guide is that the teacher teaches daily prayer readings, short letters and hadiths. The habituation method is carried out by repeating the reading that has been taught by the teacher to students every day until students memorize it. The habituation method is considered very effective when applied to early childhood. This is because early childhood has strong memory records and immature personality conditions, so they are easy to manage with the various habits they carry out every day. That is why habituation is an effective way of optimizing moral and religious development in early childhood. In this habituation, moral values are instilled in accordance with the child's religious teachings (Wiyani, 2014).

#### **Advice Method**

The method of advice is carried out when children deviate from religious and moral values. Of course, in a good tone and not yelling. Carrying out the words carried out by the teacher must be done repeatedly. Influential advice opens its way into the soul directly through feelings. Indeed, early childhood should always be advised in a gentle and gentle way so that children more easily accept advice and calls that are conveyed to them. Giving advice should always make an impression on students' hearts because in essence students will remember what touches their heart and when the advice given touches their heart, that's where learning begins.

The advice method is carried out when there are children who deviate from religious and moral values. Of course, in a good tone and not snapping. As said by the teacher in the interview about the way the teacher gives advice to children. The way it is done to boys and girls is very different. Boys tend to communicate by not making direct eye contact, but they still listen to what is being said to them. So that the teacher and parents convey it near the left ear, and indirectly the child listens to it.

#### **Storytelling Method**

There have been several attempts made to instill religious and moral values in children at school and at home. One of them is by communicating in advance that children are individuals who still have a limited mindset, have not been able to think about meaningful things, are passive of ideas, can only know, feel and convey something with the five senses but psychologically children have subtle feelings. and easily influenced. Therefore, in meeting the needs and developing the potential of children both physically and psychologically which includes religious and moral values, social emotional, cognitive, language, physical motor, independence, and art, one of them is by using the storytelling method (Kurniasih, 2016).

The storytelling method can be used as a method to convey the values prevailing in society. In stories or fairy tales, various kinds of moral values, religious values, social values, cultural values, and so on can be instilled. When telling a story about something, a teacher can also use visual aids to overcome the limitations of children who are not yet able to think abstractly (Zainab, 2012). Storytelling activities carried out by the teacher at school are carried out 3 times a week with different stories. Then at home the parents will also tell stories when the child is about to sleep. So that the stories read to children can be conveyed properly and can be applied to everyday life.

#### **4. Conclusion**

The inculcation of religious and moral values is part of the child's self-development which has been formulated in the development of aspects of child development. The process of instilling religious and moral values in children starts early, because this period tends to be more effective and easier for children to get used to so that they become good habits in the future. The results of the

research data analysis show that the most dominant method of habituation is carried out in internalizing religious and moral values in children's everyday behavior. But all of these methods are very important to apply to children's everyday lives. In the context of instilling moral values in early childhood in the family there are several things that need to be considered, namely First, the values that are instilled must be clear. Second. There must be consistency or constancy. Third, there is an example from parents. Fourth, there is an attitude of consequence towards the rules that are enforced. Therefore, it is important for institutions and families to play a role and be responsible for providing various kinds of stimulation and appropriate guidance so that future generations will be created who have morals and behave in accordance with the norms.

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