

THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN INCREASING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Abstract: The purpose of this article is to describe the role of the family in increasing environmental awareness in children from an early age. This problem is motivated by the human obligation to protect the environment so that the environment is balanced, the low level of public awareness in protecting the environment, Islam requires humans to protect the environment according to the recommendations in the Al-Qur'an Ar-rum verse 41 which means: There has been real damage on land and in the sea caused by human hands, Allah wants them to feel some of it. (as a result of) their actions, so that they return (to the right path).” This research is descriptive research in the form of a literature study. By reviewing several literature and scientific articles related to the role of the family in increasing environmental awareness in children from an early age. Based on the results of the analysis, the family plays an important role in increasing awareness of the environment from an early age.

Keywords: Family Role; Environmental care; Early childhood

Introduction

Education is the instillation of values carried out in the long term and consistently which will become a character for the child. Good education is education carried out from the womb, the ones who play a role in this are of course the parents. Parents are the first madrasah for children, whose task is to provide education both verbally and in action. Parents who have the orientation that their children are a trust from Allah SWT, will certainly provide a good education for their children so that they have an attitude, independence, the ability to think as capital to be able to face problems in the future when their parents are no longer with them. Wattimena (2021) states that the family is seen as an early environment built by parents and those closest to them. Every family is always different from other families, in this case what is different is, for example, the way the family is educated, the family's economic situation, values and habits passed down from generation to generation which will subconsciously shape the child's character. The value of character education must be instilled in children from an early age.

Cahyaningrum (2017) stated that there are several values of character education as follows:

1. Religious, attitudes and behavior that are obedient in implementing the teachings of the religion they adhere to, tolerant towards the implementation of worship of other religions, and living in harmony with followers of other religions.

2. Honesty, behavior that is based on efforts to make oneself a person who can always be trusted in words, actions and work.
3. Tolerance, an attitude of action that respects differences in religion, ethnicity, ethnicity, opinions, attitudes and actions of other people who are different from their own.
4. Discipline, actions that show orderly behavior and compliance with various rules and regulations.
5. Hard work, behavior that shows serious effort in overcoming various obstacles study and assignments, and complete assignments as well as possible.
6. Creative, thinking and doing something to produce new methods or results from something that is already owned.
7. Independent, attitudes and behavior that do not easily depend on others to complete tasks.
8. Democratic, a way of thinking, behaving and acting that values the rights and obligations of oneself and others equally.
9. Curiosity, attitudes and actions that always seek to know more deeply and broadly about something that is learned, seen and heard.
10. National spirit, a way of thinking, acting and insight, which places the interests of the nation and state, above the interests of oneself and one's group.
11. Love for one's country, a way of thinking, acting and doing that shows loyalty, concern and high appreciation for the language, physical, social, cultural, economic and political environment of the nation.
12. Appreciate achievements, attitudes and actions that encourage oneself to produce something useful for society, and recognize and respect the success of others.
13. Friendly or communicative, actions that show a sense of enjoyment in talking, socializing and working with other people.
14. Love of peace, attitudes, words and actions that cause other people to feel happy and safe in their presence.
15. Likes to read, the habit of making time to read various literature that brings goodness to him.
16. Care for the environment, attitudes and actions that always strive to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment, and develop efforts to repair natural damage that has occurred
17. Social care, attitudes and actions that always want to provide assistance to other people and communities in need.
18. Responsibility, attitude and behavior of a person to carry out his duties and obligations, which should be carried out towards himself, society, the environment (natural, social and cultural), the country and God Almighty.

Caring for the environment is part of the value of character education. Education is carried out continuously from the cradle to the grave, meaning education is carried out for life or Long Live Education.

Long live education is education that is carried out throughout life and in stages according to the child's age. The focus of this article is early childhood. Early childhood is a child whose age range is 0-6 years. Winarni (2017) stated "Children's growth and development at an early age is a golden age which is very vulnerable in various situations and conditions in their environment." Early childhood children are very vulnerable in absorbing the things they see, hear and do. Binta (2019)

stated that early childhood is a very good developmental stage for developing environmentally conscious behavior. Early age is the golden period for character and attitude formation in children, where this age is the age of self-knowledge, character and the environment so that children recognize their surroundings. An early childhood education psychologist, Novita Tandry, M.Psi said that the largest portion of children's memories are formed from actions (60%). Listening only makes up 30 percent of memory, while seeing only makes up 40 percent. Children's development is greatly influenced by the environment. Expert statements become a benchmark for parents to behave, act and say.

The most dominant early childhood learning environment is the family, according to Labaso, (2018) in the Islamic view, the family is the main and first gate in open up knowledge about everything to children. Family plays a big role in instilling strong faith in children as a basis in living his life. The cultivation of faith is not only focused on individual worship issues but also social worship as well. Social worship is worship related to relationships between humans and other humans in social life.

Examples of social services include helping orphans, helping the poor, helping disaster victims, caring for nature and the environment, doing good and loving others, and others. An equally important point is our obligation to protect, care for and preserve the environment.

Preserving the environment is part of worship and Islam recommends its followers to protect the environment because Allah has given us perfect nature and humans are obliged to protect it for the sake of the preservation and welfare of humanity. Al-Qur'an Surah Al-Araf verse 56 states "And do not cause damage on the face of the earth, after (Allah) has repaired it and pray to Him with fear (it will not be accepted) and hope (it will be granted). Indeed, Allah's mercy is very close to those who do good." This verse from the Koran must be implemented in everyday life because the nature created by Allah is an infinite gift for humans and an unbalanced nature contributes to disaster for humans. Islam encourages us as humans to care about the environment. Murdiati (2013) stated that in the Islamic view, nature is an entity that does not stand alone, but is related to humans and other realities. Nature has a real, objective existence and works in accordance with eternally valid laws (qadar), which are referred to as Allah's laws (sunnatullah).

Children who grow and develop in a family are given an introduction to their surrounding environment by their parents. Parents introduce the smallest environment, namely home. There are family members at home, parents instill a sense of love for family members. At home there is a yard filled with plants. Families are obliged to provide education to children so that children have awareness of protecting and caring for nature and the environment.

Introducing, protecting and caring for the environment in early childhood through learning about awareness will have the impact of raising children's awareness to protect their environment. Introducing awareness of the environment can shape children's lifelong attitudes, values and behavioral patterns, which are followed by a sense of social responsibility for their environment. So that children's character can be formed and it is hoped that they can increase positive behavior and be aware of the environment

Dini (2022) stated that caring for the environment is an aspect that must be introduced and instilled from an early age so it needs to be integrated into the early childhood education curriculum. This is what has been done since 2002 in Türkiye. They have integrated environmental education into the early childhood education curriculum. In this curriculum, environmental literacy has a portion

of 15% of the total number of components. This portion continued to increase in 2006 to 13%. The importance of introducing children to the environment from an early age has an impact on the emergence of activities related to awareness in protecting the environment in order to obtain a balanced environment. A balanced environment can create a safe, comfortable and prosperous situation for people living in the surrounding environment on a small scale to a world scale.

Endang, 2019 stated that developing awareness of the importance of the environment is a journey that must be initiated for the survival of the next generation so that it is not threatened by irresponsible human behavior today. Environmental awareness will be achieved if its formation is continuously pursued from an early age through habituation which will ultimately form a good character for children and adults.

Environment according to Law no. 23 of 1997 is the unity of space with all objects, resources, energy, conditions and living creatures, including humans and their behavior which influences nature itself, the continuity of life and the welfare of humans and other living creatures. The impact of protecting and preserving the environment is stated in the Al-Qur'an.

Allah Subhānahu Wa Ta'ālā says,,

يَا بُنَيَّ إِنَّهَا إِنْ تَكُ مِثْقَالَ حَبَّةٍ مِنْ خَرْدَلٍ فَتَكُنْ فِي صَخْرَةٍ أَوْ فِي السَّمَاوَاتِ أَوْ فِي الْأَرْضِ يَأْتِ بِهَا اللَّهُ إِنَّ اللَّهَ لَطِيفٌ خَبِيرٌ

It means:

"Luqman said, 'O my son! Indeed, if something is as heavy as a mustard seed and is embedded in a stone in the sky or on earth, Allah will surely reward it. Indeed, Allah is Most Subtle and Most Accurate.'" (QS. Luqman [31]: 16)

The content of the Qur'an states that actions the size of a mustard seed, whether real or hidden, will be rewarded by Allah Almighty, especially actions that have a good impact on humans, animals and plants in the environment. Of course, this as a Muslim community is a driving force to preserve the environment so that it will have an impact on the world globally. Binta, 2019 stated that Indonesia is ranked fourth in the country that contributes most to environmental damage on earth after Brazil, the United States and China, as quoted by Adelaide University (www.m.news.viva.co.id, 2010). The environment becomes uncomfortable to live in if there is no human concern to look after it, look after it properly and properly.

Purwanti (2017), Caring for the environment is defined as attitudes and actions that always strive to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develop efforts to repair natural damage that has occurred. It can be said that the character of caring for the environment is an attitude possessed by someone who strives to improve and manage the surrounding environment properly so that the environment can be enjoyed continuously without damaging its condition, as well as maintaining and preserving it so that there are sustainable benefits. Maintaining environmental sustainability is a worship and obligation for humans, especially Muslims. Humans have an obligation to maintain good relationships, both relationships with humans and relationships with fellow creatures of God. The gap in human relations with other creatures of Allah can bring disaster to humans themselves according to the QS. Ar-rum verse 41

يَرْجِعُونَ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَعْلَمُوا الَّذِي بَعْضَ النَّاسِ آيَدِي كَسَبَتْ بِمَا وَالْبَحْرُ الْبَرِّ فِي الْفَسَادِ ظَهَرَ

It means:

“There has been real damage on land and in the sea caused by human hands, Allah wants them to feel some of it. (as a result of) their actions, so that they return (to the right path).”

Humans who have reason are given by God, on the one hand they carry out development, on the other hand, humans also destroy the environment. In accordance with the Qur'anic verse above, the damage is done by irresponsible human hands and those who receive the impact directly are also humans, the impact can be economic and psychological on humans themselves. Some of the explanations above are the aim of the author to describe the importance of the family's role in protecting the environment from an early age

Research methods

This research is a literature study research by collecting several journal articles. The steps used to collect data are by reading book texts, looking for journals that are in line with this study and finally by analyzing the results that have been obtained from books, journals or research that are in line.

Discussion

(Statistics, 2018). Environmental Indifference Behavior (IKPLH) in 2018 was highest on the island of Sumatra with a score of 0.524 from the absolute figure. These figures identify that the people around the island of Sumatra do not have the behavior or character of caring about the environment around them.

Basically, children are happy with a clean, neat and well-organized environment and generally they are only happy but have not shown the reasons for the importance of a neat, clean and well-organized environment. Pragmatically, children want a clean and tidy environment, but practically they don't want to do it spontaneously. This can be seen in the campus environment in the classroom, when you enter the classroom you can see the uncomfortable sight of food wrappers scattered around. This is an indicator that awareness of environmental care is still very low. (Oktamarina, 2021 Cahyaningrum et al., 2017; Fitri, 2017; Saripudin, 2017; Sudarsana, 2018)), Environmental damage that occurs due to people's lack of concern for the surrounding environment, including plants whose flowers are picked for selfies, plants that are trampled on, plants that are not cared for, littering, use of plastic materials that cannot be decomposed, excessive water use, and animal hunting. Environmental damage that occurs due to human activities will have a very negative impact on nature, as well as the emergence of problems such as: health problems due to large-scale forest burning, imbalance in the natural ecosystem which results in damage to the beauty of the environment.

Character development must continue to be carried out holistically from all educational environments, namely the family. According to Miftahudin (2010), character education at an early age in the family aims at formation, at adolescence at school it aims at development, while at adulthood at college it aims at stabilization.

A child who has the character of caring about the environment will have a positive impact on the survival of the environment around him. The character of caring for the environment that has been ingrained from an early age will not easily fade when he grows up. Even with the right education, this character will grow stronger. He will definitely care more about the existence of animals, plants, water, land and air around him as an ecosystem that is interconnected and must be protected. Children's education to care about the environment starts from getting used to small things, for example instilling the attitude of throwing rubbish in its place, not destroying plants, watering plants regularly and taking good care of them. This activity is very adequate if done consistently in the family. Children are instilled with the attitude of throwing rubbish in its place, not destroying plants, introduced to planting activities, and invited to water the plants

According to Zuhairini, family education is the first educational institution, where children first receive education and guidance from parents or other family members. In the family, this is the place where the foundations of students' personalities are laid at a young age, because at this age children are more sensitive to the influence of education (parents and other members).

Previous research is used as a reference for researchers in conducting research on including research from Sayyidah Ulul Nabila et al entitled Instilling Environmental Concern Values in Early Childhood through Learning Principles. This research focuses on cultivating the character of caring for the environment from a young age, one of which is through introducing the surrounding natural environment. The object of the research is the Salam Children's Kindergarten in Yogyakarta. The results of Sayyidah's research reveal that the main principle of learning at SALAM is "take care of yourself, take care of your friends, take care of the environment." In the context of "protect the environment", students are taught not to carry out activities that have the potential to damage the environment, both natural and artificial. If students encounter incidents of environmental damage, then this can be used as a learning resource, and even good practice for managing the damage so that it does not get worse.

Previous research conducted by I Komang Wisnu Budi Wijaya with the title: Ecofamily: Early Childhood Parenting Methods to Form an Environmental Literacy Generation, the focus of the research was the role of the family in forming environmentally literate children. The results of research from I Komang Wisnu Budi Wijaya are that Eco-family is a family concept that cares about preserving nature. This concern is manifested in the form of real actions both in everyday life and in social life a certain period of time to preserve nature. The purpose of the Eco-family is to forming and educating children in the family environment to have an environmental literacy spirit. Role

The family in forming an environmental literacy generation cannot be ignored because the family is the first and main place of education.

The characteristics of a family with the eco-family concept are as follows:

1. Arrange your residence by leaving green space (yard)
2. Maintain a clean and healthy environment
3. There is an agreement within the family to save energy, for example turning on the lights a maximum of 12 hours a day or on certain days traveling a certain distance without using a motorized vehicle
4. Limit ownership of electrical equipment and motorized vehicles
5. Use environmentally friendly energy for household activities
6. Limit the use of plastic as packaging

7. Manage household waste properly, for example sorting waste
8. Availability of reading materials about nature and its conservation
9. Make nature the main recreation area
10. All family members join a community that preserves and cares about the environment

From these two studies, the researcher tried to conclude that the family plays a very important role in forming children's character to care about the environment and its portion is greater than the formation of environmentally caring character at school. The family is a place where children get learning experiences that last longer and the family is a place for children to learn directly from their parents and has a very high emotional bond compared to the school environment. In the family environment, children can practice directly what they should do and what they should not do through real practices modeled by parents.

Conclusion

Children are the human resources of the smallest part of society in the environment, children are also an investment for parents who will continue the next generation. Good and quality resources are resources that also have good character. The character referred to in this research is the character of caring about the environment. Children's character education initially starts from the family. The family is a forum for children whose parents are models in gaining very valuable learning experiences because learning from the family can be said to be very effective and efficient learning. Parents give real examples of how to get children to care about the environment.

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