

## **Professional Ethics Of Primary School Teachers In Educating Students' Character And Morals**

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Character and moral education are crucial aspects in shaping the personal development of elementary school students. Teachers, as primary agents in the educational process, bear significant ethical responsibilities in guiding and fostering the moral growth of their students. This literature review adopts a descriptive approach to explore the pivotal role of elementary school teachers in educating students' character and morals, as well as the ethical challenges they encounter in this endeavor. The study reviews existing literature to identify effective strategies for integrating character education into the elementary school curriculum. The findings of this review are expected to contribute to strengthening ethical professionalism among teachers and enhancing the quality of moral education at the elementary level.

**Keywords:** *Education, chrackter, moral*

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Education is a cultural heritagewhich must be passed on from one generation to the next. Through education, the current generation is used as a role model based on the teachings of previous generations. Until now, the definition of education has not been perfected because of its complexity, which is often referred to as the science of education. Science education is a continuation of the educational process which focuses more on scientific theories in context.

Moral and character education for children is an educational process that aims to form good moral values, attitudes and behavior in children. Character education starts from an early age because this phase has proven to be crucial in forming a child's potential. Schools, as one of the main institutions, have a big responsibility in this matter, because the role and contribution of teachers is very important in shaping children's character. Moral education is an integral part of the educational process. Some aspects related to moral education include:

1. character education, which focuses on children's direct moral development
2. value clarification, namely helping children understand the purpose of life and clarifying the type of behavior that is appropriate

cognitive moral education, an approach based on the belief that students should learn concepts such as democracy and justice while their morals are developing. Moral education is very important to shape a child's good character. Childhood is a crucial time for forming character and introducing moral values, where interactions with the surrounding environment greatly influence responses and memories. His imagination expands depending on what he learns.

As is known, education does not only aim to convey knowledge to children but also to instill the values and social norms that exist in society. The goal is for children to grow up understanding and respecting these values. In the current era of globalization, the world feels increasingly closely connected, and rapid technological advances allow easy access to information. The importance of cultivating this character begins at an early age, especially during elementary school, because at this time children tend to observe and imitate behavior.

adults around them. Schools have a moral responsibility to direct children's development so that they achieve the intelligence expected by parents and society. The role of teachers is very important in shaping children's character because they not only teach, but also educate holistically. Education is a deliberate process to help children grow both physically and mentally towards maturity.

Researchers summarize several cases that are contrary to the ideals in the National Education System Law. In 2023, a case is emerging in Pekanbaru City, where there is a WhatsApp group that is suspected of being related to LGBT among elementary school students. (Datikcom, 2023). In the next case, the police arrested 4th grade elementary school students while they were playing. It was discovered that the child had stolen religious equipment from the monastery in order to play online games. The elementary school student was determined to steal (iNews.ID, 2020). The next case was the bullying case that occurred in Bukittinggi, a brutal act of beatings by 6 students against one student (Datiknews, 2014).

The age period between 6-12 years is a transition period from pre-school to elementary school (SD). This period is also known as the transition period from early childhood to late childhood until pre-puberty. In general, after reaching the age of 6 years, children's physical and spiritual development has become more perfect. Physical growth develops rapidly and health conditions improve, meaning children become more resistant to various situations that can disrupt their health. By knowing the child's developmental tasks according to their age, as parents and teachers we can fulfill the needs needed for each child's development so that behavioral deviations do not occur.

According to Furqon (2010), an educator with character must be ready not only to teach professionally but also to teach important values in life. They should help students develop an understanding of what is good and bad, and open their eyes to the problems around them. The character teacher model according to Furqon (2020) has several important characteristics, namely being trustworthy in terms of commitment, competence, persistence and consistency; be a role model through simplicity, closeness and maximum service; and has comprehensive intelligence.

## **METHOD**

This type of research is a literature study with a descriptive approach. The aim is to describe findings from literature taken from articles and books that are relevant to the topic discussed. The data analysis technique used refers to Sugiyono's (2015) data analysis method, which includes collecting data related to topics similar to this article. The collected data is then reduced to produce information relevant to the research questions, followed by data presentation. From the data presented, conclusions can be drawn.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **The important role of teachers in instilling moral values in children**

Teachers are individuals who have professionalism in educating, teaching, guiding, training, evaluating and guiding students on formal education pathways for early childhood, primary education and secondary education (based on Republic of Indonesia Law No. 14 of 2005 concerning Teachers). Teachers have duties that include service both within the scope of service and outside of service. These tasks can be divided into three main types:

1. Duties in the Professional Field: This includes educational, teaching and training activities. Educating means conveying and developing life values that are important for the development of students' character. Teaching means transferring and developing knowledge and technology to students, while training means developing skills needed in their lives.

2. **Humanitarian Duties:** As educators in schools, teachers must play a dual role as second figures after parents. They are expected to be able to build deep and empathetic relationships with students, so that they can become role models and idols in their lives.
3. **Duties in the Community Field:** Teachers are placed in a respected position in society because they are considered a source of knowledge that can enrich society. Teachers have the responsibility to spread knowledge and help in educating the nation, based on the values of Pancasila as the main guide.

### **Instilling values and attitudes towards students**

Values are a crucial foundation in shaping the character of a society and nation. Values do not just appear, but are formed through a process of dissemination and awareness, including through education in schools. There are four important steps that must be taken so that values education can be effective. In general, values are standards for assessing behavior that is considered good or bad in a society, and reflect the culture of that group. Attitude is a condition that controls human behavior in interaction with the social environment, influenced by experience and responses to certain situations. In the context of learning at school, attitude assessment is an effort to measure and evaluate student development. Some attitudes and behaviors that need to be developed include:

1. An attitude of respect for the dignity of every individual, by understanding that every human being has important value and should not be underestimated. This attitude is a basic human right, so behavior such as demeaning, insulting or criticizing other people is considered inappropriate. For example, students must respect each other without badmouthing their peers.
2. Honest, fair and polite attitudes are very important to teach to students in order to help them in interacting with other people.
3. Democratic attitudes and respect for other people's opinions are very relevant in the context of a democratic country. This attitude is useful when students are involved in discussions or electing class leaders, where every opinion is respected and considered. By prioritizing these values and attitudes, education in schools is expected to play an active role in forming good and honorable student characters.

### **Several ways of instilling morals by teachers in students**

Moral instillation by teachers in students is an active and conscious process carried out by educators to form character and ethical behavior in their students. This involves teaching moral values, ethics, as well as social norms that are considered important in social life. Teachers are not only responsible for transmitting academic knowledge, but also for modeling the attitudes, actions, and moral attitudes expected of students. Here are some ways to cultivate character and morals:

1. The storytelling method can be used to instill moral values. In this approach, various values such as religious, social, cultural and others can be conveyed through stories. Teachers can use props or media to help children who are still developing abstract thinking skills, such as dolls, mini plants, or artificial objects. Apart from that, teachers can utilize their vocal abilities to make stories more interesting and lively so that they attract students' attention.
2. The singing method is effective in increasing children's happiness and joy, as well as helping them appreciate beauty through words and tones. The moral message in the song must be conveyed in words that are easily understood by students so that it is well received.
3. The poetry method allows teachers to instill moral values in a beautiful and subtle way, and invites children to appreciate art in every sentence and expression of poetry.
4. Behavioral habits are another effective method for instilling moral values, such as praying before and after learning activities, praying before eating, greeting teachers and friends,

tidying up toys after use, and so on. Consistency in implementing these habits is important, and warnings must be consistent when there is a violation.

5. Discussion is a method that involves students in understanding certain events or issues. Students can be asked to watch relevant videos or materials, then discuss with the teacher about the moral messages contained in them. These discussions allow students to examine the reasons behind actions, why certain behaviors are considered good, and the importance of loving attitudes, among other things.

## CONCLUSION

Moral instillation by teachers in elementary school students is very important because it has a broad impact on the formation of children's character and behavior in the future. Teachers have a crucial role in shaping students' character through moral education, helping them understand the difference between good and bad behavior and building a strong ethical foundation. Through moral education, students can also understand and appreciate cultural and social values, and prepare themselves for the future by becoming responsible individuals and contributing positively to society. Therefore, teachers' efforts to instill morality are not only important for students' personal development, but also for building a better society in the future.

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