

PARENTAL LEADERSHIP IN FORMING CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SKILLS IN THE DIGITAL ERA

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ABSTRACT

Social skills are one of the goals of education. However, this goal was not fully realized. Based on research in Lubuk Napa Village, children often have poor mental health, such as being less polite in speaking to their parents and peers, lacking order, and lacking respect for their parents. This research aims to describe the role of parents in shaping the social skills of children in Lubuk Napa Village. In addition, this research aims to describe the factors that influence children's social skills in Lubuk Napa Village. This type of research is qualitative with a descriptive approach. Data collection techniques include interviews and observation. Data analysis techniques include data reduction activities, data presentation, drawing conclusions. The research results show that parents are role models for children in all aspects of development. The concept of parenting using exemplary methods is a very influential concept for children. Every child will grow up imitating the habits of their parents. Good habits taught to children will have an impact on children's behavior in society.

Keywords: Role model, Parents, Social Skills

INTRODUCTION

Education is a process of human dignity towards the peak of optimizing their cognitive, affective and psychomotor potential. Education includes the process of guiding, training and guiding people so that someone can avoid or get out of the nest of ignorance and deception. Education also means behavioral metamorphosis towards true maturity (Akhyar, Nelwati, et al., 2024). Education must be a provision for humans to face the revolution that will occur in this century and the next through the formation of a strong human personality. In reality, human resources in Indonesia are still very low. One of the factors that causes this is the minimal role of the family (parents) in developing a child's personality, even though parents play a big role in a child's education so that the child becomes a complete human being. Field facts that are often encountered today are: socializing outside the home is rare because they are often at home and playing on their cellphones, parents are always busy working and when they are at home they rarely pay attention to their children's activities because they are busy playing with their cellphones, children no longer know how to socialize with "kato nan ampek", children The child has started to be anti-social and doesn't like to greet him. Based on the results of a joint interview with MH, as one of the parents in Lubuk Napa Village, he explained that the reason why children become anti-social is because their parents are busy outside the house working, so after school children are neglected and

they use cellphones, the problem above is also caused by Cell phones have become very attached to children, even though they have been banned, they still use cell phones because teachers send them their school assignments on their cell phones and are told to watch YouTube videos to find their assignments.

Efforts to educate children to become fully human must of course not be attempted. The education that parents give their children should not only be based on the experience they have, but also on knowledge. This knowledge, if combined with experience, will make parents the first and foremost educators in guiding children (Erzad, 2018).

Social skills are considered important because they can influence other developments, such as social and academic development. There are several factors that influence the development of social skills. Talib, SB mentioned these factors including family, environment, personality, recreation, education, interactions with the opposite sex, friendship and ability to adapt (Fatmawati et al., 2021) (Resmasari, 2020). Exemplary is a method that has a big influence in forming good social behavior in children. In the family, children are students who imitate and imitate indirectly the characteristics, behavior, words of their educators, and parents act as educators who must provide good examples to their students. Parents' attitudes and behavior are the initial lessons they receive and become a reference to follow, especially in early childhood (Juwita & Yunitasari, 2024). Experts call toddlerhood the golden *age period*. This is because at the age of 0-2 years, children's brain development reaches 80%. It is during this period that children have the opportunity to develop all aspects of themselves, both physically, cognitively, linguistically, morally and socially emotionally (Orient Christianity, 2023).

In her research, Lanu emphasized that parents' example is an example in providing life through spiritual practices in everyday life. Referring to the research above, it can be understood that parental example has a huge influence in improving children's morality (Harti, 2023). Regarding the issue of morality, Wahyuni explained in his research that many children have moral problems, such as not showing good attitudes and behavior (Wahyuni, 2021). Therefore, parents need the ability to fulfill all the child's needs for nurturing, love and honing through good and correct communication so that it will influence the quality of the child's personality as an adult in the future.

The need for this research is that it is hoped that people who want to become parents or who are already parents are prepared and understand the correct goals of parenting in order to be able to produce children who have good social skills and commendable behavior amidst digital flows and the use of technology. It has become increasingly massive, because it cannot be denied that today's children are used to and accustomed to using cellphones, whether used to care for them or just as a game for their world.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research is descriptive qualitative in nature (Akhyar, Iswantir, et al., 2024). This research describes how parents shape children's social skills. The subjects in this research were parents of children in Lubuk Napa Village. The object of study is parental leadership in shaping the social skills of digital era children in Lubuk Napa Village. This object was researched because of the problem of parental leadership in shaping children's social skills.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on data obtained through interviews with sources, parents generally have almost the same way of forming their children's social skills. From interviews it was discovered that most of the parents of Lubuk Napa Village children had played their role in shaping their children's social skills because according to them in social life social skills were very important for the creation of good social relations between each other.

These parents have a big commitment so that their children have good personalities. For this reason, parents shape and educate children from an early age so that children get used to good things. Apart from giving love and attention to their children, parents also instill education in their children. The education provided, namely character education, includes getting used to politeness, honesty, caring, discipline, religion, responsibility and etiquette. In forming these character values, the method used by parents is by providing role models or examples. Regarding the role of parents as educators for their children at home, parents often advise children at home to study diligently, help complete their children's assignments from school, and encourage children to be diligent and enthusiastic about school.

The results of direct observation activities in the field show that the majority of Lubuk Napa Village children, both low class and high class, have good abilities in relating to other people. This was discovered when observing the attitudes and behavior of children in the school environment where children join their friends without looking at their class level or friends' circumstances. On the other hand, children often show an attitude of cooperation, empathy, responsibility, and self-control through morning activities at school and when playing.

leadership in shaping the social skills of children in Lubuk Napa Village, namely by using almost the same method. The methods they use are the training method, the example method and the positive habituation method. The real manifestation of the training methods used by parents in forming children's social skills is inviting children to pray, training children to speak politely to other people, greeting other people, and training children to behave well.

The real manifestation of the exemplary method used by parents is almost the same as the training method, namely parents show good attitudes such as using smooth and polite language in speaking and showing a caring attitude towards other people. In addition, the manifestation of positive habituation methods used by parents in forming children's social skills is behaving politely both in speaking and in behaving towards family members at home and with other people in the living environment, being honest, and care about others. These three methods are instilled by parents from an early age in

their children. Therefore, it can be concluded that the role of parents in shaping their children's social skills has been carried out optimally by parents in Lubuk Napa Village.

Based on the results of observations and interviews, there are three factors that influence the social skills of children in Lubuk Napa Village, namely educational factors, internal factors and external factors. This educational factor originates from the parents' own way of educating and forming social skills in their children. Apart from that, internal factors originate from within the child himself, where children sometimes tend to be lazy and don't care about what their parents train and teach them. Meanwhile, external factors originate from outside the child and education from parents. These external factors are in the form of influences from the child's living environment and school environment. External factors from the living environment, for example a rough environment, can affect a child's mental and emotional development, such as an environment that is used to cursing and rude speech, besides that, children are also engrossed in their world of play.

The love of parents in raising children will lead to the child's personal development, the ability to feel happy, express affection for others, and love and be proud of himself. On the other hand, demands are a way for fathers and mothers to direct children towards maturity or becoming adult humans who are responsible, disciplined, persistent and consistent. From the opinion above, the author concludes that parental leadership is a total interaction between parents and looking after, caring for and educating their children, which aims to stimulate their children by changing behavior, knowledge and values that are considered most appropriate by parents, so that Children can be independent, grow and develop healthily and optimally. Apart from that, leadership is an attitude that is carried out in interacting with their children, seen from the way parents provide discipline, gifts, punishments, attention and responses so that it influences the formation of the child's personality, because parents are the initial model for children in dealing with people. other.

In an interview the researcher conducted with one of the parents of a child in Lubuk Napa Village. From the results of the interview, it can be concluded that the cause of children not having good social skills is because their parents are busy outside the house working, so after school children are neglected and they use cellphones, the problem above is also caused because cellphones are very attached to children even though they have it is prohibited but they still use cellphones because their school assignments are sent by the teacher to their cellphones and they are told to watch YouTube videos to find their assignments. This can also be seen from interviews conducted by researchers with other parents that families must implement rules that their children must obey. For example, if a child does not finish his work, parents will scold him, but parents will also give advice.

The family is *the primary group* for children who first educate them and is the first social environment where children develop as social creatures. Hadi Machmud in his research concluded that children's changes from an egocentric to a social nature were greatly influenced by the social opportunities provided by their parents. Through opportunities to socialize, especially with peers, this is a medium for children for the

socialization process to occur. Through this media, children learn to play their roles in society. For this reason, children's social development targets are focused on the social skills that children are expected to have (Suryani et al., 2019) .

Being a great parent requires careful preparation and planning before and after the arrival of your child in your household life. Building a family is the beginning of the birth of the next generation. The family as the smallest unit in society is a place to educate and form morals and train togetherness as a provision for social life. Prospective fathers and mothers need to determine the family model that is their dreams, choices and hopes and need to have sufficient knowledge to become parents to their children. To build a family, careful planning is needed, the planning is in the form of planning the marriage age . (20-30 years), fostering relationships between partners, with other families and social groups, planning the birth of their first child and preparing to become parents, caring for and nurturing children under five by meeting the child's basic needs (physical needs, affection and stimulation) .

Building a family by creating a quality family is not easy. This requires the role of parents as good role models for their children. The example of parents has an influence on the internal environment of the family and gives a significant color to the community in the environment where they live. Therefore, parents must have external control over their children's attitudes and behavior in everyday life. Parents must always pay attention to their children's habits of good behavior by fostering a love for doing good (*loving the good*) . This aspect of love is what Piaget calls a source of energy that effectively makes a child's character consistent between knowledge (*moral knowing*) and his actions (*moral action*) . Parents must carry out their role as external controls because external control is necessary and important to provide, especially in providing a conducive environment for children to get used to good behavior. To consistently carry out the family's function as the first and main educator for children, the most important thing to do is carry out religious functions properly and correctly so that children get used to doing things in accordance with religious (Ngewa, 2019).

Based on the conclusions of the interview with one of the parents, the solution to improving children's social skills is for parents to invite their children to pray together at the mosque and ask their children to keep their cellphones, apart from that, children are also accustomed to making a schedule for playing with cellphones and other people. Parents also follow this schedule, if in a state of urgency the parents go into the room to open the cellphone so that the child does not see the parents playing on the cellphone, then the child is left to play with his peers when the evening is limited to 8pm.

DISCUSSION

The growth and development of early childhood needs to be directed at laying the right foundations for complete human growth and development, namely physical growth and development, thinking power, creativity, social emotionality, language and balanced communication as the basis for the formation of a complete person (Kusuma et al., 2021). In educating children, parents must have techniques to use in forming

mentality and instilling self-esteem. One method of educating children is habituation and example (Ritonga S, 2021).

There are several factors that influence the process of child development, one of which is parenting patterns for children (Agustin Ningrum, 2015). Pattern means arrangement, model, form, procedure, style in doing something (Islamiyah & Susilo, 2019). The toddler years are a very critical early period of parenting. If parents fail to care for and educate their children during this period, it will have a negative impact on the next development period. During the toddler years, parents have a very significant role in life to fulfill their growth and development. At this time almost all brain cells develop rapidly. In other words, the role of parents is very important in determining the direction and quality of children's growth and development (Ngewa, 2019). The period under five years of age (toddlers) is the most critical period in determining the quality of life in the future (Asiyani et al., 2023). Educating children well and correctly means developing the child's total potential naturally (Suryani et al., 2019). The development of children aged 4-6 years is part of overall human development (Atika & Rasyid, 2018).

Exemplary is a form of leadership which is a process of forming a person's character in the family. The definition of exemplary comes from the word *al-uswah* which means someone who follows other people, regardless of whether what they follow is good or bad, destructive or misleading. So role modeling in education is part of "*Uswatun hasanah*". Exemplary has an important meaning in education, exemplary is one of the teaching methods, where a parent has behavior, actions and words that are used as a role model or example (Akbar, 2019). Basic examples are said to be exemplary, namely things that can be imitated or imitated. The example of parents and elders is a good act or behavior, then it is worth imitating what a parent and parents do in their duties as educators, both words and actions that can be applied in the child's daily life. students, both in the school environment and in the community. Educators are big in the eyes of their students, what they see from their parents they will imitate, because students will imitate and emulate what they see from their parents (Suhono, S., & Utama, 2017).

The principles of exemplary behavior according to Abdurrahman An-Nahlawi are exemplary behavior which is accompanied by an explanation or order to imitate or do it. For example, parents provide an example of reading good basmallah and parents performing the correct prayer (Akbar, 2019). In relation to exemplary, this means that the principles referred to here are the basic ideas used in applying exemplary in Islamic education. In the world of education, example is the most effective way that has a great influence on children, both personally and socially. This is because an educator is a real example in the eyes of children. A good example is what students will imitate in behavior and morals, whether they realize it or not. It can even penetrate and influence their inner character. Parental example is related to children's politeness towards parents and emotional intelligence. A child will imitate the actions of his parents if the child emotionally plays a good role in his leadership. Apart from providing an example, parents need to establish good communication with their children, namely parents must try to hear and understand their children's wishes, parents should also provide

attention and affection, as well as honesty and mutual understanding in the family (Effendi, Annisa Yuliani, 2019). There are various factors that influence children's happiness in life, one of which is having social skills.

Lynch and Simpson stated that social skills are behaviors that encourage positive interactions in the form of actions with other people and the environment which include showing empathy, participation in group activities, generosity, helping, communicating with other people, negotiating, and solving problems (Istianti, 2018). Social skills have a big role in children's success both in academic life and in real life in society (Suhono, S., & Utama, 2017). This happens because by having social skills children can direct and motivate themselves to achieve the desired goals, be flexible in socializing both at school and in society. Various studies in the last two decades have widely supported the importance of children having social skills (Hunca-Bednarska, 2019).

Children who have social skills can express positive and negative feelings in interpersonal relationships without having to lose consistency and social *reinforcement* in a broader interpersonal context, including managing the delivery of verbal and non-verbal responses appropriately. Mansooreh & Mollazadeh, concluded that children who have social skills can behave socially in accordance with group norms, get respect and acceptance by their group, on the other hand children who behave incompatible with the group such as aggressive, overactive, always alone and shy tend to get rejection from the group. group members (Darmiany, 2021).

From the explanation above, the author can conclude that the example of parents and elders is very important to pay attention to in guiding and educating their children. its existence is an integral part of the educational process with the aim of equipping children to solve all the life problems they face, whether personal, group or school, in order to form a person with noble character, in accordance with what they aspire to, namely to become a child who is devoted to others. parents, religion, nation and state.

CONCLUSIONS

Education and upbringing are very important for children. Because parents are the place to build the initial foundation for a child's growth and development. Therefore, it is very necessary to prepare and plan quality care for children by paying attention to the following things: preparing to become parents, understanding the role of parents, understanding the self-concept of parents, and involving the role of the father. Parents are role models for children in all aspects of development. Therefore, parents need to understand the concept of good parenting to apply to children, so that parents can apply the parenting concept appropriately according to the child's needs. A father also has a very important role in raising children. The active involvement of parents in child care will be beneficial for the quality of children's development in several aspects including: physical development, cognitive development, and social emotional development. There are things that fathers do to be involved in child care, such as accompanying the pregnancy, taking part in caring for the baby, and doing activities with the child. This can create and maintain good communication with children.

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