



The Role of Parents in Building Spiritual, Moral, and Intellectual Mentality in Children

*Ahmad Fitriyadi Sari

ahmadfitriyadisari@stpdnrangkasbitung.ac.id

Sekolah Tinggi Pesantren Darunna'im (STPDN) Rangkasbitung, Lebak Banten, Indonesia

Abstract

This paper describes parents' role in building mental spiritual, moral and intellectual children through approaches and methods. The presentation of this paper is based on the analysis of library data with a descriptive model. From the results of the discussion, it can be concluded that the role of parents is the first and foremost educator for children, because it is from them that children first get basic education. Thus the first education obtained by children is from family life. Parent's failure to foster children's morals to make them virtuous will not occur if they carry out their function or role as parents responsible for children. The presence of parents is very influential on children. Because obedience to children's religious, moral, and intellectual teachings is a habit that children learn in their family environment, parents must set a good example for their children. So that children can imitate what their parents have done.

Keywords: *Parents, Mental Spiritual, Moral Development, Early Childhood*



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INTRODUCTION

The family or parents are the place where children interact with the first educator, parents must instill and increase religious knowledge and how to behave to parents and others, especially parents who have a madrasah educational background, who have received Islamic-based education must really educate children, so that in the future children are not easily influenced and fall into negative associations.

Children who are born still carry the traits inherited from their parents. Therefore, parents play a very important role in the continuity of the direction of their children's education, especially regarding moral problems. Moral development is very important in everyday life, especially for children today who are easily influenced by western-style education that puts aside morals and spirituality. So that many deviations occur in children. This is very contrary to Islamic Shari'a.

Family education is education that a person gets in his daily experience consciously or unconsciously, from birth to death in his family / daily associations. Parents are someone who accompanies and guides children in several stages of growth, starting from caring for, protecting, educating, directing in the child's new life, in each stage of development (Brooks, 2001).

The presence of children for the family is a mandate that must be accounted for. Therefore, parents are required to understand various aspects related to education and guidance and children's lives in accordance with Islamic teachings. Parents play an important and fundamental role in the family, because protecting and educating children is an obligation that must be carried out by every parent, especially in instilling and developing religious values so that children have good morals and personality. The family is a place for planting moral foundations for children, which is reflected in the attitudes and behavior of parents as role models that children can emulate.

It is called childhood because the child himself no longer wants to be considered or treated as a child or a child (Agoes Seojanto, 2005). Childhood begins after passing through a period of infancy which is full of dependence, namely age 2 to age 5, childhood, namely age 6 to 12 years, puberty, namely age 13 for girls and up to 12 years for boys, adolescence as a transition period to adulthood (Agoes Seojanto, 2005).

Childhood is a golden period in implementing basic education, both parents should educate based on certain values, directions, perspectives, and patterns of behavior so that the child's scope of knowledge expands with these associations, with relatives and neighbors. This requires careful attention, direction and constant supervision. Because his behavior can change and change from time to time according to the conditions that occur to him, and can have an influence that makes him good or bad morals.

It can be understood that a newborn child is still in a state of purity, like white paper. Both parents will determine the shape of the scratches on the paper, good and bad behavior, religious and social depending on the upbringing of their parents. If from childhood the child has been familiarized with positive coaching, it will make an impression in the future. Vice versa, because the basis of education in children starts from their parents.

Ki Hajar Dewantara stated that a sense of love, a sense of unity and other feelings and mental states which are generally very useful for the continuation of education, especially ethical education, are found in family life in a strong and pure nature, so that other educational centers cannot match it (Maftutah, Jannah, & Utama, 2021).

Every parent wants their children to grow up to be outstanding children who have noble personalities and morals. Parents who follow formal education well and have a lot of experience will certainly affect their leadership style in the family, both in terms of educating children and carrying out their obligations as head of the family.

Based on the above opinion, it is a must for every parent to pay attention, guide and educate their children, especially parents who have a madrasa educational background, who have received Islamic education since they were in school. Because in addition to the environment and school, parents are also the main factor that can affect children's morals.

METHOD

The method used in this study uses a method or library approach (library research) with a descriptive model. Library or literature study can be defined as a series of activities related to library data collection methods, reading and recording and processing research materials. Based on the foregoing, data collection in the study was carried out by reviewing and/or exploring several journals, books, and documents (both printed and electronic) and other sources of data and/or information deemed relevant to the research or study.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Building Children's Obedience to Religion

Parents are the first people known by children through physical and mental interactions in the family environment. From these interactions, children identify the words and actions of the people around them and become an important part of the development of the child's personality. This reality makes children's physical and mental development very dependent on the people around them, especially parents (Ferdian Utama, 2017).

Parents are the first and main educators for their children. It is said to be the first educator because this is where the child gets education for the first time before he receives other education. It is said to be the main educator because education from this place has a deep influence on the child's life in the future. Because their role is so important, parents must really realize it so that they can play it properly (Kartikawati, Roni, & Purwanti, 2022).

In the current era of digitalization, the role of parents must continue to learn and develop themselves in order to be able to assist and utilize digital technology in developing the potential of children. Children in the digital generation era are very quick to adapt to the development of information technology. Therefore, parents face many challenges in raising and nurturing children in this era. Character cannot be taught with a theoretical approach to children, but must be taught with behavior and examples.

The family is a place of education for all its members where parents have an important role in bringing children to physical and spiritual maturity in the dimensions of cognition, effectiveness and skills, with the aim of developing mental, spiritual, moral, intellectual, and professional aspects. Parents must study and observe the times, in order to be able to adapt optimally. Child education according to the times can be interpreted as directing children to be able to survive / survive the era in which they live, so that they are able to become independent and contributive people for the benefit of the people.

The Prophet said: "Teach your children according to their times, because they live in their time not in your time. Indeed they were created for their time, while you were created for your time". This means that science is dynamic and not fixed, its existence adjusts to current conditions and future life. (Ahmad Supardi, 2017)

Based on the explanation above, the author can understand that parents are the first and main educators, because it is from parents that children first get education. And education from these parents greatly affects the child's next life. Therefore, parents should educate their children as well as possible. So that children

can grow as aspired and expected by every parent, namely to become pious and shalihah children and have good character.

Parents have an influence on children according to the principle of exploration they have. Thus obedience to religious teachings is a habit that belongs to them that they learn from their parents and teachers (Ramayulis, 2002). The presence of parents is very influential on children. Because obedience to religious teachings owned by children is a habit that children learn in their family environment. Therefore, parents must really set a good example for their children. So that children can imitate what their parents have done.

As educators of their children, fathers and mothers have obligations and have different forms, because both have different natures. The father is obliged to earn a living to meet the needs of his family through the utilization of Allah's bounty on earth and then spend it on his children and wife. The mother's obligation is to look after, maintain, and manage the family in her husband's house, especially educating and caring for her children.

Allah SWT has also given a description of the losers, namely parents who only pay attention to the material and worldly problems of their children, by ignoring their fate in the hereafter and neglecting their education based on noble moral and spiritual values.

The word of Allah SWT. In Surah Az-Zumar; 39:15, namely:

فَاعْبُدُوا مَا شِئْتُمْ مِنْ دُونِهِ قُلْ إِنَّ الْخَاسِرِينَ الَّذِينَ خَسِرُوا أَنْفُسَهُمْ وَأَهْلِيَهُمْ يَوْمَ الْقِيَامَةِ أَلَا ذَلِكَ هُوَ الْخُسْرَانُ الْمُبِينُ

Meaning: *So worship other than Him as you please (O polytheists). Say, "Verily, the losers are those who harm themselves and their families on the Day of Resurrection." Remember, that is a real loss. (Az-Zumar; 39:15)*

The above verse is about the wrong direction of education, where parents are only ambitious to pay attention to the material education of their children, in order to obtain a high diploma in order to achieve a glorious future in terms of material, and achieve official positions, positions, and ranks without being accompanied by attention to their education based on the laws and good morals in Islam.

The role of parents is also explained in the Qur'an in Q.S. Luqman; 31: 13 tells the role of parents in the family to instill aqidah to their children:

وَإِذْ قَالَ لُقْمَانُ لِابْنِهِ وَهُوَ يَعِظُهُ يَا بُنَيَّ لَا تُشْرِكْ بِاللَّهِ إِنَّ الشِّرْكَ لَظُلْمٌ عَظِيمٌ

Meaning: *And (remember) when Lukman said to his son, when he was instructing him, "O my son, do not associate partners with Allah; indeed, associating partners with Allah is a great injustice." (Q.S. Luqman; 31: 13)*

In the verse, it can be understood that parents are the beginning of a person knowing himself and who his god is. Planting correct beliefs, habituation of worship with discipline and the formation of personality as a believer is very important in realizing religious children. Because children are family members, where parents are family leaders, as responsible for the safety of their citizens in the world, especially in the hereafter. So parents are obliged to educate their children so that the children do not fall into

Based on the explanation above, it can be understood that the responsibility of parents for children's education is very heavy, because they are required to save their families both in this world and in the hereafter. Parents must also be able to maintain and direct their children to a straight path so that they become children with noble morals because the guidance of their parents determines good and bad morals. And parents are also responsible for children's education at school, society and the family environment.

Methods in Developing Morals in Children

Parents act as leaders and have a great responsibility towards their children in various aspects of life, so from the Exemplary Parents and Teachers in the Growth and Development of Early Childhood (Abdullah Nashih Ulwan's Perspective on the Study of Tarbiyyah Al-Aulad Fi Al-Islam) it is as parents responsible for educating and developing mental spiritual, moral, intellectual and professional. So that children can grow and develop physically and spiritually as every parent dreams of (Ferdian Utama, 2017).

In the first years parents play the main role and bear the responsibility of children's education, at this time maintenance and habituation are very important in the implementation of education. Parental affection that grows as a result of blood relations and is given reasonably or according to needs has a very important meaning for its growth. Lack of parental affection makes children stubborn, difficult to manage, easily rebellious and others. But on the contrary, excessive affection makes children spoiled, timid, not quick to be able to live independently. Because parents must be clever and precise in giving affection to their children, not less and not too much (Sudiyono, 2009).

There are several ways that parents can foster children's morals in accordance with Islamic education, including:

a. Exemplary Education

Exemplary education is a very important and even the most important educational medium, as found in mental science it can be seen that since childhood humans, especially children, have the urge to imitate, and like to identify themselves with others or the behavior of others, especially towards their parents and teachers (Ahmad Zumaro, 2013).

Exemplary is an important factor in the good and bad of children. If educators are honest, trustworthy, have noble morals, dare to abstain from acts that are contrary to religion, then the child will grow up in honesty, have noble morals.

b. Method with Customs

The role of parents is not only to train children by habituation to do good morals. So that children in the future children are accustomed to doing praiseworthy morals formed from habituation obtained from generations from the habits of their parents. Consistently maintaining the traditions and social climate of the community is a big task for the next generation. The questions that arise related to traditions and habits will be re-examined in order to find a logical point of view and explanation why the tradition must be maintained and understand the true meaning of each tradition that has been carried out (Arif, 2020).

If from childhood he is accustomed to being angry, stubborn, hasty and indulging in lust, haphazard, greedy and so on, it will be difficult for him to improve and stay away from it as an adult. This kind of behavior will become inherent in him. If he does not fortify himself against it, then one day all these traits will certainly appear. Therefore, we find that most humans whose morals are deviant are caused by the education they go through (Muhammad Suwaid, 2004).

c. Method of Advice

Another method that is considered important in education, faith formation, preparing moral, spiritual, and social children is the method of giving advice. Because this advice can open the eyes of children to the nature of things, and encourage them towards noble situations, and decorate them with noble morals and equip them with Islamic principles.

Education with advice is considered important and very helpful for parents in conducting moral development of children. "Giving advice in the form of an explanation of the truth and the importance of something with the aim that the person being advised stays away from disobedience, so that it is directed towards something that can realize happiness and profit (Abdurrahman An Nahlawi, 2004).

d. Attention Method

Parents are obliged to pay attention to their children, because children need education with attention, not only enough to provide worldly facilities and luxuries but parents also need to pay attention to children's morals. If you see something positive in the child, parents must support it, but if you see something that is not good, parents must prevent and warn the child.

Attention education is basically devoting, paying attention and always following the development of children in the development of creed and morals, spiritual and social preparation in addition to always asking about the situation of physical education and scientific abilities (Abdullah Nashih Ulwan, 1995).

e. Punishment

Punishment in the Big Indonesian Dictionary is defined as: punishment and so on imposed on people who violate the law, etc., the decision sentenced by the judge; the result or effect of punishing.

Rewards are given with the aim that children are motivated to do things that are positive and want to always repeat these things. In addition to rewards, punishment is a teaching tool. Giving punishment to children must still be based on love and compassion, meaning that in giving punishment it is not solely out of hatred so that it punishes in a way that is too excessive. Through this punishment method, it is hoped that it can have an effect on the child so that the child can heed the recommendations given by the parents.

Based on the above understanding, it can be understood that parents play a very important role and are responsible for children's education. Since childhood, parents should start nurturing and habituating children, so that children get used to the education they receive in the family. In giving affection to children, parents should be adjusted to the needs of the child, not neglecting or giving too much. So that children can be more independent, not spoiled and not always dependent on others.

Neglecting affection for children can also have an unfavorable impact on the growth and development of children. Where children lack attention, they will seek attention by doing things that can have a bad impact. Such as never considering the advice given by parents, being stubborn, rebellious and considering the words of his group of friends better than the advice given by his parents. Therefore, parents must really fulfill their role in educating children as well as possible, so that children are not easily influenced by negative associations.

Parents as the main educator for children

Children are the next generation of the nation that will determine the fate and future of the nation as a whole in the future (Mufidah, 2008). A child is someone or an immature human being who is entrusted by God to parents to be cared for and educated, because parents have a responsibility to children in various ways, both maintenance, education, and guidance, especially those related to children's morals. Because children who have bad morals/*tabi'at* will not be liked by many people, on the other hand, if children have good morals/*tabi'at* they will be liked by many people.

Children or offspring are an asset for every household to be maintained and educated (Mahjudin, 2010). Children are a mandate that must be maintained, no matter how busy parents are in pursuing their profession, in the Qur'an it is strictly forbidden to leave their children neglected due to lack of attention. Parents play a very important role in educating children, because parents become role models whose attitudes and behavior will be seen and imitated by children, therefore parents should educate children in accordance with Islamic teachings, so that in the future children are accustomed to behaving and behavior that reflects good morals formed from within the family. Therefore, parents must keep their children as a sacred trust from Allah to remain in their nature. The loss of character in children indicates that there has been the loss of noble values inherent in our cultural identity, such as honesty, politeness, togetherness, *teposliro*, shame, responsibility, social care, and so on (Arif, 2022).

The piety of both parents is a good example for children, and has a great influence on the psychology of children. If both parents have the discipline to be devoted to Allah SWT and follow the path of Allah, and there is continued cooperation between the two parents to fulfill this, then the child will also grow in obedience and obedience to Allah.

CONCLUSION

Parents are the first and main educators for children, because it is from them that children first get education. Thus the first education obtained by children is from family life. The failure of parents in fostering children's morals to make them virtuous will not occur if parents carry out their function or role as parents who are responsible for children. The presence of parents is very influential on children. Because obedience to religious, moral and intellectual teachings owned by children is a habit that children learn in their family environment. Therefore, parents must really set a good example for their children. So that children can imitate what their parents have done.

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