CHARACTER EDUCATION IN FORMING STUDENT BEHAVIOR: A Viewpoint of Christian Religious Education Learning

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Abstract
Educational institutions become a central place to shape the character of children who are better than before through character education. Character education is a process of forming students into human beings with good character intact in the dimensions of reason, thinking, healthy, physically, spirituality, and a human heart. Character education carves the morals of students through the process of knowing goodness, loving-kindness, and practicing goodness. The process involves cognitive, emotional, and physical aspects so that noble character can be realized and carved into habits of the mint, heart, and hands. People who have a knowledge and knowledge orientation based on faith in Jesus Christ. A teacher carries out character education learning in the teaching and learning process by making students formulate questions actively, find learning resources, collect information, reconstruct facts, and present the results of reconstruction or improvement. Learning character education must be carried out by teachers by planning, implementing, and evaluating Christian religious education teachers not only provide information or knowledge to their students but Christian religious education teachers are expected to be able to guide and set good examples for students so that they can imitate and indirectly shape the character of children. In this paper, the author uses the literature study method to solve the problems in this research. This aims to find out how character education in shaping the behavior of students through learning Christian religious education. The results of the research are in building character, Christian Religious Education content must place Jesus Christ as the center of life and become the perfect role model for the character in their lives.

Keywords: character education, behavior, learning, Christian religious education

Abstrak
Lembaga pendidikan menjadi tempat sentral untuk membentuk karakter anak yang lebih baik dari sebelumnya melalui pendidikan karakter. Pendidikan karakter merupakan proses membentuk peserta didik menjadi manusia yang berkarakter baik utuh dalam dimensi akal, budi pekerti berpikir, sehat jasmani, rohani, dan berhati manusia. Pendidikan karakter mengukir akhlak peserta didik melalui proses mengetahui kebaikan, mencintai kebaikan, dan mengamalkan kebaikan. Proses tersebut melibatkan aspek kognitif, emosional dan fisik, sehingga akhlak mulia dapat terwujud mengukir menjadi kebiasaan pikiran, hati, dan tangan. Orang yang memiliki orientasi ilmu dan pengetahuan yang dilandasi dengan iman kepada Yesus Kristus. Seorang guru melaksanakan pembelajaran pendidikan karakter dalam proses belajar mengajar dengan cara: membuat peserta didik merumuskan pertanyaan secara aktif, menemukan sumber belajar, mengumpulkan informasi, merekonstruksi fakta, dan

Kata Kunci: pendidikan karakter, perilaku, pembelajaran, pendidikan agama kristen

INTRODUCTION

In the world of education, character education is needed and developed both at home, at school, and in the community. The current education system emphasizes character education, with the hope that it can produce graduates who are good in quality, education in behavior, or character. Character education is a very important key in shaping a better human being. Character education is very important in the world of education so that it can be used as a process in shaping the behavior of students so that they become good students. Especially if we look at today's many students who do not pay attention to the importance of education. Therefore, character education is needed today. Character education aims to develop the ability of students to become independent and creative human beings.

In today's era, education is not only fixated on the intellectual factors that a person has while studying but also must be integrated with other factors such as attitudes, behavior, and character (morals). In this case, the character needs


to be instilled in students early on so that something that has been instilled from an early age can be accustomed from childhood to adulthood which will determine the attitude and future of children, starting from small things to big things.\(^3\)

Education is a process to change the identity of students to be more advanced. The values of education itself are a precise and accurate meaning and measure that affect the existence of education itself, among the values in national character education which consists of several elements.\(^4\) Starting from kindergarten schools to universities have an important role in spreading positive character to the nation's culture. In this case, there is no denying the importance of character and culture, but what is far more important is how we can develop the character itself for students.

The Father of Indonesian Education, Ki Hajar Dewantara, stated that education is an effort to cultivate character, thoughts and children's growth so that children can grow perfectly.\(^5\) Thus, character education is an integral part that is very important in education, so it should not be separated from the content of our education. Character according to Thomas Lickona is a person's natural nature in responding to situations morally. Character education according to Thomas Lickona is education to shape one's personality through character education, the results of which can be seen in one's real actions, namely good behavior, honesty, responsibility, respecting the rights of others, hard work, and so on.\(^6\)

Character education is a system of inculcating character values which includes components of knowledge, awareness or willingness, and actions to implement these values both towards God Almighty, oneself, the environment, and nationality. Character education in elementary schools should get more attention to form a strong foundation of noble character for students. This is done so that students have an awareness of the importance of good values and have a commitment to always do good in further education and daily life, in line with

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\(^5\) Muchlas Samani and Hariyanto, Konsep Dan Model Pendidikan Karakter (Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya, 2012), 33.

Rohendi’s\textsuperscript{7} opinion that, "Character education must start at the elementary school level because if the character is not formed early it will be difficult to change one's character".

To realize the cultivation of these character values, the teacher plays a very important role in this regard. The embodiment of character values, especially Christian character, can be carried out in Christian Religious Education subjects in schools. Christian religious education is learning in which it not only contains cognitive aspects but is also applicable. In the points of learning, there are many things whose goals can be applied in daily life, namely the values of Christian character.\textsuperscript{8} By acquiring intellectual knowledge of Christian Religious Education, students are expected to be able to apply it and build a spiritual life for each student. Seeing the above, the purpose of this research is how character education through Christian religious education forms the behavior of students.

The research method in this study uses the literature study method to solve the problems in this study.\textsuperscript{9} Literature study method in the context of practical theology with descriptive analysis of various literatures\textsuperscript{10} related to the topic of character education, student behavior, and Christian religious education learning. In deepening the analysis of the topic above, the author provides an integralistic discussion by relating it to psychology where it is hoped that it will provide an offer on how to shape good and correct student behavior in accordance with Christian values.

**DISCUSSION**

The form of character education in shaping the behavior or attitudes of students will shape the character and nature of the child himself. The behavior or attitude that is implemented by the child in his personality is the result of the upbringing given by the parents in the family, if the parents provide good guidance, they will have a good personality as well. Parents have a basic


obligation at home, namely to make an atmosphere where children learn to be comfortable.\textsuperscript{11} The value of Christian religious education is knowledge and teaching of God's word which is taught to every believer and this teaching starts from within the family, namely parents. The task of teaching and education or the values of Christian religious education can be in the form of teaching children to: live in fear of God, be diligent in prayer, be diligent in worshiping, loving parents and others, maintain attitudes and words, control the desires of the flesh or lust.\textsuperscript{12}

The behavior of students is influenced by the learning experience. Where the changes that exist in students are generally manifested or manifested in the form of habits, skills, observations, associative thinking and memory, rational and critical thinking, appreciation, and effective behavior.\textsuperscript{13} The learning manifestations are:\textsuperscript{14} first, habit is an act that has been mastered which is almost automatic and the perpetrator is almost not aware of it. Second, skills are activities related to the nerves and muscles that are usually seen in physical activities such as writing, typing, sports, and so on. Third, observation is the process of knowing the outside world by using the senses or the process of receiving and giving meaning to incoming stimuli through sensing. Through correct observations, students will gain learning experiences that form the correct understanding. On the other hand, wrong observations will form wrong understandings.

The characteristics of changes that are typical of the characteristics of student learning behavior are:\textsuperscript{15} first, intentional

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Changes in the sense that they are not experienced or practices that are carried out intentionally and consciously, or in other words, not by chance. Second, positive and active change in a good sense, useful, and following expectations. As for active change, it means that it does not occur by itself, such as due to the maturity process, but because of the efforts of the students themselves. Third, effective and functional changes in the sense that these changes bring certain effects, meanings, and benefits for students. The learning behavior of students is characterized by changes in behavior in learning activities because learning is a change that occurs in students caused by experiences that can affect the behavior of these students. So, learning is a process of individual mental activity in interacting with their environment to produce positive behavioral changes, both changes in aspects of knowledge, and psychomotor attitudes.

Learning behavior is related to changes in behavior because changes in a person’s behavior in the learning process are caused by repeated experiences in situations and changes in behavior that cannot be explained based on a person's innate response tendencies, maturity, or temporary state. Student learning behavior is a behavior change, the change can lead to good behavior in the learning process, but there is also the possibility of leading to worse behavior in the learning process, this means that the success and failure of achieving educational goals are very dependent on the learning process experienced by students, both at school and in the home environment or their families.

Character Building

Character education is a form of human activity in which there is an educational action intended for the next generation. The purpose of character education is to form continuous individual self-improvement and train self-ability to lead a better life. As explained above, successful education is education that can

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shape human behavior (students), not just providing humans with knowledge and information. But also with moral guidelines, and values, which can be instilled through Christian character education. Each individual has a different character that is brought and formed since he was born. A person’s character can be formed from the family environment or the community environment where the individual lives. Good character will display good behavior and bad character will produce bad behavior.¹⁹ That way, education can be understood as an effort to prepare students so that they can grow and develop well and be able to adapt to various situations and conditions they face in living their lives.

Character education can be applied to start with education in the family and education in schools. Character education aims to improve the morals and ethics of students to experience a life pleasing to God, character education is very important today, given the importance of character for students to become individuals with noble character.²⁰

**Forming Student Behavior**

Forming the character of students is an effort that involves all parties, parents, schools, the school environment, and the wider community. The combination, harmony, and continuity of the parties contribute directly to shaping one’s character. In other words, without the involvement of all parties, character education will be hobbled, slow and weak, and even threatened with failure. In general, everyone wants their students to have good character and are competent in their fields, and have good behavior.²¹

Walgito said there are three ways to shape behavior into character, namely: first, conditioning (habituation); second, insight (understanding); third, modeling (exemplary).²² Meanwhile, Arismantoro stated that theoretically in shaping the character of children starting from the age of 1-8 years. In this period the child’s character can still change and is very dependent on the life experiences he goes through.²³ This implies that shaping the character of children starts early.

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Therefore, the formation of character in children must be designed in stages, systematically, and continuously. Children are individuals who are curious and want to try something they like which sometimes appears immediately. This encourages children to always imitate the behavior of adults without considering the good or bad.

In shaping the character of students, the teacher must be a good role model, so that students can imitate what the teacher does. So that Christian religious education teachers must have good character that comes from Jesus Christ who is the Great teacher. Christian religious education teachers must be role models to the community, school environment, and church. So that other teachers and students can imitate the example of Christian religious education teachers.

That way, shaping the character of students will not end because it is a lifelong learning process. Through character education, students will leave old bad habits and become different with better attitudes and characters. The formation of character in students can lead them to be able to achieve their optimal potential. Forming the character of students is one of the duties and responsibilities of Christian teachers. Because Christian religious teachers must instill good character values to students as expected by many people. Instilling good characters will minimize or prevent the occurrence of bad characters.

**Christian Religious Education**

In the teaching and learning process, Christian religious education teachers have to encourage, guide, and provide learning facilities for students to achieve goals. Teachers have a responsibility in the classroom for the development process of students. In the whole educational process, the teacher is the main factor who serves as an educator. In the learning process, Christian religious teachers must be able to bring students to understand and carry out the religious values they have learned by relying on high abilities and character and referring to the figure of Jesus as the Great

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24 Sutrisno et al., “Christian Religious Education Toward The Teenagers Character Building.”
teacher. As a teacher who teaches in the field of Christian Religious Education (CRE) you must be able to be the salt and light of the world (Matt. 5:13-16). Christian religious education teachers as one of the shapers of the character of students through the learning process. Teachers help shape the character of students, including Christian religious education teachers must make efforts or plans to help students.²⁸

Then also Christian education is seen as a process that aims to restore the image of God that has been damaged and the Bible is a basis for Christian education. The Bible is a special revelation given by God. Through the Bible, humans gain knowledge of the true God.²⁹ According to Groom, Christian religious education aims to enable people to live as Christians, namely to live according to the Christian faith. So the main purpose of Christian religious education is to lead people out toward the Kingdom of God in Jesus Christ.³⁰ In this understanding, Christian schools are a place that should instill character values into students, both in training students themselves and in shaping student behavior following the character of Jesus Christ.

Learning that contains character education is a series of learning activities both taking place inside and outside the classroom that try to make students not only master the competencies (materials) but also make students recognize, realize or care, and internalize values and make them behavior.³¹ In learning Christian religious education, the quality of life of teachers has an important role in determining the goals of Christian religious education itself. Because the teacher plays a very important role in the implementation of the learning process. The teacher's responsibilities are very broad in his position as a teacher in shaping, guiding, and equipping students.³² Good teaching is teaching that is accompanied by the example of life and

the faith of the educator (teacher) delivered through Christian religious education. Because the teacher's personality is a reflection of the truth that is conveyed to students. This means that the morals and character of Christian religious education teachers must be commensurate with what is being taught. So that the teaching carried out by Christian religious education teachers is successful. Because it is based on the example of the great teacher Jesus Christ. So, the character of a Christian religious education teacher must be a reflection, which can be imitated by students.

To apply a Christian religious education lesson to students, a teacher must have good character. Christian religious education teachers are believed to be able to help students to experience an encounter with Jesus Christ who is the Great teacher through a life based on the Bible. Christian religious education teachers must experience being born again (having an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ). So when teachers apply education that shapes the character of students in a better direction, it can be said that Christian religious education teachers have succeeded in becoming good teachers. Christian religious education teachers must apply Christian character values to students by teachers are good examples to students, teachers must also motivate students, teachers are also friends to students and teachers are also parents to students so that students can feel accepted, and loved so that students can learn from the example given by Christian religious education teachers to become better.

Character Education in Christian Religious Education

Christian Religious Education contains materials about the truth value of the Christian faith. As stated by Nico Syukur Dister, Christian Religious Education is “Education that is Christian-based, based and oriented...” Christian religious education has a big role in shaping the Christian character of students. Because as said before, the material that contains the true value of the Christian faith is at the same time Christian values

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33 Sutrisno et al., “Christian Religious Education Toward The Teenagers Character Building.”


that must be nurtured by both teachers and students.

In terms of planting these character values, teachers must understand that in carrying out the educational process it is necessary to do repeated habits, especially in teaching character to students. So with this habitation, knowledge about the character that students receive can become a habit, and these habits become strong characters that shape their lives. Students are directed to be able to apply the character teachings that will shape their personality of students, namely having and living the Christian character values.\(^{37}\)

In building character, Christian Religious Education content must place Jesus Christ as the center of life and become the perfect role model for the character in their lives. It is undeniable, that the teacher is one real example that can be seen and imitated by students as part of developing this character. Students can see and find the example of Jesus from the life of his teacher.\(^{38}\) For this reason, CRE teachers must first have a good Christian character so that in their teaching, they not only teach theory, but the teacher becomes a real example for their students. A student can be said to have a good Christian character if he has succeeded in having good values or norms in social life and this becomes a moral strength and a strong characteristic of a character in his life.

So, Christian character education will shape the personality of students who are good at sorting and choosing relationships, actions, and actions following applicable norms. This has a positive impact on future generations so that they are not easily influenced by external culture and an environment that is not good.

**CONCLUSION**

Character education is needed and developed both at home, at school, and in the community. In shaping the character of students, the teacher must be a good role model, so that students can imitate what the teacher does. So that Christian religious education teachers must have good character that comes from Jesus Christ who is the Great teacher. Christian

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religious education teachers must be role models to the community, school environment, and church. So that other teachers and students can imitate the example of Christian religious education teachers.

Christian religious education teachers must be able to implement character education in the learning they have made. The success of a teacher in implementing character education can be seen in the ability of the students he teaches to be able to apply what has been taught to situations in the real world. Christian religious education teachers must experience being born again (having an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ). So, when teachers implement education that shapes the character of students in a better direction, it can be said that Christian religious education teachers have succeeded in becoming good teachers.

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