

THE IMPORTANCE OF TEACHING MORAL VALUES TO THE STUDENTS

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Abstract: Debating whether moral values are important to be taught or not is the wrong issue. Moral values have to be taught to the students to decrease a moral decadence. The question is how to teach moral values to the students. Education is the best way to teach moral values to the students. Education needs educators or teachers and strategies to deliver the materials. The strategies can be Character Building program in which the activities are arranged to increase the students' emotional quotient, Caring School Community in which the activities are arranged to create a caring relationship between teachers-students, and Integrative Ethical Education model which has five steps for moral character development (supportive climate, ethical skills, apprenticeship instruction, self-regulation and adopting a developmental system approach). And the teachers should have four basic principles in teaching at the class such as *Amanah, Rahmah, Taadubah* and *Sillah* (called *Religiulitas Profesional*).

Keywords: *Moral, values, education, teaching, character building*

Introduction

Education in its general sense is a form of learning in which knowledge, skills and habits of a group of people are transferred from one generation to next through teaching, training, research, or autodidacticism (www.wikipedia.com). By education, people's moral values can be improved, especially students'. I think education is the best way to teach people about moral values. According to the laws of Republic of Indonesia No. 2 at 1989, article 4 "*Pendidikan Nasional bertujuan mencerdaskan kehidupan bangsa dan mengembangkan manusia Indonesia seutuhnya, yaitu manusia yang beriman dan bertaqwa terhadap Tuhan Yang Maha Esa dan berbudi pekerti luhur, memiliki pengetahuan dan keterampilan, kepribadian yang mantap dan mandiri, serta tanggungjawab kemasyarakatan dan kebangsaan*". From that law, it can be seen that the national education is arranged to create human resources who are smart, skilled, have a good character, independent, religious, responsible to the

environment and to the nation. Therefore, education and teaching moral values are important to create human resources with those characters. Teaching moral values isn't the government's responsibility only, but also our concern and every element of the nations.

And the fact today, there is a moral decadence. There are several cases that were done by the teenagers or students such as crime, violence, married by accident, bullying, gangster, drugs, free sex, etc. For example, motor cycle gang in Bandung which makes people worried and afraid to go out at night and Nero gang. The members of the gang are teenagers and students. There are also several cases about pregnancy, married by accident, free sex, abortion or the violence cases/bullying that have done by the senior at school to the junior. Based on the data from www.detik.com, 21% teenagers in Indonesia have done the abortion, it means that 1 of 5 teenagers did the abortion. The leader of Komnas PA, Arist Merdeka Siriat states that 93.7% teenagers in Indonesia had done free sex. This data gained from the study of 14.726 students from Jakarta, Bandung, Makasar, Medan, Lampung, Palembang, and Riau. And the data from TVone News.com, there were 128 cases of students' fighting at 2010, 330 cases at 2011 and 139 cases from January until June 2012. The question is why it can be happen? I believe that the moral decadence at our environment being the major cause. Perhaps at some point in the halcyon past it was sufficient, but in the present culture milieu children are reared increasingly in toxic environments that pose special challenges for their moral and social development (Gabarino, 2004; Quart, 2003).

Before we focus on the importance of teaching moral values to the students, we have to know what a moral value is. Morals have a greater social element to values and tend to have a very broad acceptance. Morals are far more about good and bad than other values. We thus judge others more strongly on morals than values. A person can be described as immoral, yet there is no word for them not following values (www.dictionary.com). Values are the basic principle that influence human's behaviors. If someone has basic life principles, they will insusceptible by their environment. This principle will guide someone to behave. Values are positive

potential in human being. Values are the rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong, should and should not, good and bad. It also tells us which are more or less important, which is useful when we have trade off meeting one value over another (www.dictionary.com). That is why it needs an appropriate educational method to teach those values to the students, so it will be implemented to be positive life principles that will be developed by the students in their future. For example, once students done a crime, violence or pregnant before married, their future will be destroy by it. When they in jail, of course their study will messy or if a girl student pregnant, then she is get married, of course she cannot continue her study, being a young mother at the teenage age.

Based on those facts, I am interested in this topic because I think the teaching of the moral values is very important to our education. My article will focus on how important teaching moral values to the students is, how to teach moral values at the school and whether the moral values have an impact on the students' achievement and behavior. We have to teach moral values at school because school is an appropriate place to teach moral values besides home. Based on Hamre & Pianta (2001), "the quality of early teacher-student relationships can have strong influence on academic and social outcomes that persist through eight grade". That is why moral values or character building is possible to be taught at the school, at home and our environment. Moral values can be put as a part in curriculum at school. And the teacher also has an important part to teach moral values or character building to their students. They can impart values to the lesson topic or activity at the class. On the other hand, teachers should implicitly impart values when they select and exclude topics; when they insist on correct answers; when they encourage students to seek the truth of the matter; when they establish classroom routines, form groups, enforce discipline, encourage excellence, etc. Moral values saturate the daily life classroom (Bryk, 1998; Goodlad, 1992; Hansen, 1993; Strike, 1996).

Even for the teachers, they should be a model for the students. They have to act properly, dress properly, and also have to have a good belief. Teachers have to have four basic principles in teaching at the class: *Amanah, Rahmah, Taadubah* and *Sillah*

(Suherdi, 2012: 200). They are called *Religiulitas Profesional*. Because when the teachers have a good belief, it will influence the students. They will respect the teachers and obey the teachers' advice. And when the teachers arrange the activity at class, they should consider not only how instructional practice influence academic learning but also how it shapes student character development. Indeed, teachers with positive attitudes about students are more likely to foster students' achievement and ethical behavior (Haberman, 1999).

Moral values will influence students' emotional intelligences. Students' achievement is influenced by their emotional intelligences. Emotional intelligences related to moral behaviors, the way of thinking, problem solving, social interacts, personal emotion, and academic achievement (Saphiro, 1999). That is why the teaching of moral values is important in our education. I hope by the teaching of moral values in our education, it can increase students' achievement and decrease the moral decadence in our environment.

Methodology

In this study I used an interview to gain the data. I interviewed the teachers from a private and a public vocational schools in Bandung. I interviewed them about the importance of teaching moral values to the students, the way to teach moral values to the students, and whether the moral values had an impact to the students' achievements and behaviors. I recorded the interview, then I made the transcription of it to analyzed the data.

Data Presentation and Discussion

Based on the data I found from the interview, I can conclude that the teaching of moral values at school is important to be done because moral values can make the students' behavior better because moral values lead the students to decide the good and the bad things in their life. Morals are far more about good and bad than other values. A person can be described as immoral, yet there is no word for them not following values (www.dictionary.com). Values are the basic principle that influence

human's behaviors. If someone has basic life principles, they will insusceptible by their environment. This principle will guide someone to behave. Values are positive potential in human being. Values are the rules by which we make decisions about right and wrong, should and should not, good and bad. It also tells us which are more or less important, which is useful when we have trade off meeting one value over another (dictionary.com).

The respondents of my interview also said that the teaching of moral values at school is very important because it can influence the students' behavior and they agree if the moral values are included into the curriculum.

N: *Terus ini Bu.. Ibu setuju gak kalo pendidikan karakter dimasukkan kedalam kurikulum pembelajaran?*

S: *Setuju.*

R: *Setuju, karena seharusnya pendidikan karakter ada dalam setiap pelajaran jadi tidak perlu terpisah, karena kalau terpisah akan menambah beban belajar.*

The vice minister of education, Musliar Kasim said that the ministry of education and culture is preparing the new curriculum which is focus on the attitude competition and it will be launched on 2013. "*Saat ini Kemendikbud sendiri sedang menyiapkan kurikulum baru yang lebih menekankan pada kompetensi attitude (perilaku), tahun 2013 akan kami pakai,*" said Musliar Kasim. By this new curriculum, I think the teaching of moral values can be easier since it has included in the curriculum.

We need strategies and methods to teach moral values to the students because teaching moral values is not an easy duty for the teachers or educators. It should have a big impact on the students' behavior and life. There are many strategies and methods to teach the moral values to the students. Some of them are Character Building program in which the activities are arranged to increase students' emotional quotient, Caring School Community in which the activities are arranged to create a caring relationship between teacher-student, and Integrative Ethical Education model which has five steps for moral character development (supportive climate, ethical

skills, apprenticeship instruction, self-regulation, and adopting a developmental systems approach).

Berkowitz and Bier (2005:8) mention about character education:

- (1). Character education is a national movement creating school that foster ethical, responsible, and caring young people by modeling and teaching good character through emphasis on universal values that we all share. It is the intentional, proactive effort by school, districts, and states to instill in their students important core, ethical values such as caring, honesty, fairness, responsibility, and respect for self and others.
- (2). Character education is teaching children about human basic human values, including honesty, kindness, generosity, courage, freedom, equality, and respect. The goal is to raise children to become morally responsible, self-disciplined citizens.
- (3). Character education is the deliberate effort to develop good character based on core virtues that are good for the individual and good for society.
- (4). Character education is any deliberate approach by which school personnel, often in conjunction with parents and community members help children and youth become caring, principled, and responsible.

The respondents of my interview said that their schools also used methods to teach moral values to the students, such as doing the ceremony every Monday, *Bakti Sosial*, training leadership, asking the students to work in group, praying together before starting the class, performing *shalat Duha*, and giving reward and punishment to the student.

N : *Langkah apa saja yang dilakukan sekolah untuk mengajarkan nilai-nilai moral pada siswa?*

S : *Banyak. Salah satunya upacara, itu salah satu cara mendidik siswa agar bisa disiplin dan cinta tanah air atau sekolah kami pernah juga melaksanakan kegiatan bakti sosial, yang mengajarkan tentang nilai peduli lingkungan dan peduli sosial. Ada juga kegiatan latihan kepemimpinan siswa khusus untuk anak kelas x, yang bisa melatih nilai disiplin, kemandirian dan tanggungjawab. Jadi cukup banyak yang dilakukan oleh sekolah. Kalau dikelas itu seperti berdoa sebelum belajar lalu baca al-qur'an. Dan pada saat ulangan di kelas, siswa dilarang mencontek, kalau dia nyontek maka nilai dikurangi trus dikelas juga siswa kadang disuruh bikin dialog mengenai suatu tema yang berkaitan dengan moral jadi siswa bisa sekalian belajar tentang moral dari tulisan mereka.*

R : *Bisa berbagai cara, salah satu yg dilakukan disekolah kami adalah membuat peraturan yang didalamnya terdapat nilai-nilai kehidupan seperti siswa diwajibkan sholat tepat waktu, sholat dhuha (agama), memberi reward dan punishment kepada siswa, selain itu juga dalam pembelajaran memberikan tugas yang menuntut kerjasama kelompok.*

I believe that if the methods used are applied continuously, step by step the moral values will be the part of the students' behavior. They will be able to decide what the good and bad things for themselves. And I can also say that the moral values give an impact on the students' behavior during the process of teaching and learning process in the class or at the examination. Based on the respondents' answer, she said that her students showed a better attitude at the class and also at the examination. The students would not be cheating while doing their exam because the teacher has told that cheating is a bad thing and they understand it well. They were study hard to prepare the exam and more serious.

N : *Apakah pembelajaran moral memiliki dampak terhadap perilaku siswa?*

S : *Ada. Contohnya saat ulangan ketika diminta untuk tidak nyontek, mereka jadi serius belajar dan gak banyak bercanda padahal biasanya mereka sering bercanda. Mereka jadi berusaha sendiri karena tau bahwa kalo gak belajar, nilai ulangan mereka akan jelek.*

The data show that moral values had an impact on the students' achievement and behavior. And it can be concluded that teaching moral values to the students is very important and to teach moral values to the students, strategies or methods are needed to make the teaching process success. Moral values have an impact on the students' behavior at the class and school. For example, the students of in the public vocational school in this study acted differently while doing the examination because their behavior could influence their achievement.

Conclusion

Based on the data, I can conclude that students' moral development influences the students' achievement and behavior. Moral values have to be taught to the students by an education at school and also at their house. Teachers, parents and also the students have to work together to create a caring relationship between them. There are several strategies to teach moral values to the students, such as Character Building program which the activities arranged to increase the students' emotional quotient, Caring School Community which the activities arranged to create a caring relationship between teachers-students and Integrative Ethical Education model which has five steps for moral character development: supportive climate, ethical skills, apprenticeship instruction, self-regulation and adopting a developmental system approach. And the teachers, they should have four basic principles in teaching at the class such as Amanah, Rahmah, Taadubah and Sillah, it calls Religiulitas Profesional. It is important to know that moral values are important to be taught to the students because moral values have an impact on the students' achievement and behavior. And hope by the teaching of moral values, the students can learn what they will, they can differentiate what is good or bad, they can solve the problem of their life. And I believe if the students have good morals, characters and principles in their life, their future will be brighter.

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