THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN THE MORAL EDUCATION OF CHILDREN OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE

Muhammad Feri
Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University Yogyakarta, Indonesia
muhammadferi281@gmail.com

Sutrisno
Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University Yogyakarta, Indonesia

Abstract
Morals are fundamental in humans as the perfect creatures that God created. One who has a role in moral education is parents. This study aims to determine the role of parents in the moral teaching of elementary school-age children. The approach used is a qualitative case study method with interviews with six parents to collect data. The results obtained are that most parents have played their role in the moral education of elementary school-age children. The parts that emerge are parents as mentors, role models, protectors, supervisors, and friends for their children. Parents are also educators who instill religious values in their children. However, there are still parents who forget their responsibilities in the moral education of their children. The role of parents is needed in elementary school moral education so that the formation of children who have noble character.

Keywords: The role of parents, moral education, elementary school-age children

Introduction
Morals are of great importance to man in the Islamic view as the perfect being that Allah created (Khamid, 2019). Prophet Muhammad shalallahu 'alaihi wasallam as the perfect man sent by Allah is to perfect the morals of the peoples (Salsabila & Firdaus, 2018). However, the current conditions show that there are still many teenagers and children of primary school age who do not reflect these noble morals. (Komariah, 2019). The occurrence of brawls between teenagers, scribbling on school walls, cheating, saying rudely to teachers, and even to the point of immoral acts that occur in the school environment (Hamzah et al., 2020). Moral formation can be change with an education that is carried out following the provisions and norms that apply in Indonesia (Suciati, 2016). The first education received by a child is from the family; education in the family is the basis for determining attitudes and characters that will be a provision in the life of society, nation, and state (Anshori, 2009). The parent is an example that the child will imitate in his actions and personality. In modeling parents of primary-school-age children, they have not been able to consider the good and bad of what their parents did. Parents should be aware of the importance of their role in children’s education by
paying attention to children's daily behavior and character (Syahrul & Nurhafizah, 2021). Some parents think that the obligation to provide education to children is the responsibility of the school (Daulae, 2020).

Research related to the role of parents in children's education has been done a lot before. One of them is research that has been carried out by Fahimah (2019) mentioned that one of the obligations of parents is to provide education to their children. Correspondingly shaleh and Miswar's research (2020) stated that moral education is something that needs to be given to children from elementary school age. Furthermore, the research of Kurniati et al (2020) which mentions the role of parents in accompanying children's education. Previous research has not clearly stated the position of parents in the moral education of children of primary school age. The research that has been carried out has more to suggest the moral education of children in general. Meanwhile, research on children of primary school age often goes unnoticed. In fact, the education of children of primary school age is essential to form a noble character for children to be able to grow up in the midst of society (Raharjo, 2019).

Based on this description, the research aims to describe parents' role in the moral education of children of primary school age based on cases obtained in the field. This research is expected to be able to illustrate how parents view their role in children's moral education and the actual conditions of the part that parents have carried out. For this reason, a research question was formulated, namely, how is the role of parents in the moral education of children of primary school age?.

**Method**

The approach used in this study is a qualitative approach using words obtained through observation, interviews and documentation with informants as research data (Cresswell, 2008). This study used the case study method to accept descriptive data on the role of parents in the moral education of elementary school-age children according to the Islamic perspective (Yin, 2003).

The participants of this study were parents of elementary school students in Sijunjung Regency who were selected by purposive sampling. Parental determination is based on the results of discussions with the principal regarding students who commit disciplinary violations at school. Furthermore, three fathers and three mothers were determined (Table 1) to conduct interviews related to their role in the child's moral education.
Table 1. Participant Identity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name (Initials)</th>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Age (Year)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TJ</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OA</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MF</td>
<td>Male</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SM</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>33</td>
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<tr>
<td>H</td>
<td>Female</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Types and Data Collection Techniques

The primary data in this study is the data from direct interviews with parents of students. Secondary data in this study are sourced from articles related to the research focus. Documentation techniques are used to collect articles related to the focus of research over the span of the last five years. Primary data were obtained through semi-structured interviews by providing six questions related to the role of parents in the moral education of children of primary school age. Interviews are conducted by visiting the informant's house in turn. The informant's name is written with initials to maintain privacy. The instrument of this study is that the researcher himself uses supporting indicators related to data collection techniques. Interview indicators are obtained based on the opinions of Kurniati et al. on the role and responsibility of parents towards children (Kurniati et al., 2020).

Table 2. Interview Indicators

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Assessment Aspects</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Establish communication with teachers on child development</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Establishing a closeness with the child</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Creating a comfortable environment for children at home</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Pay attention to children's playmates</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Become a role model for children</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Instilling religious values</td>
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Data Analysis

Field data analysis in the form of interview results were used by miles and Huberman's (1984) model, which consisted of data reduction stages, display data and conclusion drawing/verification (Sugiyono, 2017). First, data related to the research focus is collected at the data reduction stage. Next, at the data display stage, data is displayed with a brief description containing excerpts of the results of interviews with informants. Finally, at the conclusion drawing/verification stage, the results of
the study are concluded, and the relationship with previous research that supports the findings.

RESULTS

The study's results illustrate the role of parents in the moral education of children of primary school age. In this case, the researcher describes the data of the study's results on six sub-headings: 1) Establishing communication with the teacher towards the child's development, 2) Establishing a closeness with the child, 3) Creating a comfortable environment for the child at home, 4) Paying attention to the child's playmates, 5) Being a role model for the child, 6) Instilling religious values. The following is a presentation by one of the parents in the interview

...kita harus mengembalikan fungsi kelurga, semagai tempat yang nyaman bagi anak, dan sebagai orangtua kita harus memperhatikan perkembangan akhlak anak... (TJ interview, Nov 20, 2021)

The family has a significant influence on the moral education of the child because the family is the first and foremost environment in the child's life. The first person to communicate with the child is the parent. The cultivation of children's behaviour, socio-culture and moral patterns is first obtained through the family based on their respective cultures and cultures. Therefore, the family has an essential role in making children better and having noble morals. In more detail, the role of parents in the moral education of children of primary school age will be described as follows.

Establish communication with teachers on child development

From the results of field interviews with parents, data was obtained that parents have not been very active in establishing contact with teachers regarding the outcome of children's morals. Some parents claim they do not have time to meet their children's teachers, and some do not even know their children's teachers.

.... saya jarang sekali bertemu guru anak saya, ya... mungkin karena pekerjaan, pergi pagi dan pulangnya hampir malam... (A interview, Nov 20, 2021)

... saya tidak kenal dengan guru-guru ditempat anak saya sekolah... ya saya percaya mereka akan mampu meberi pendidikan terbaik pada anak saya... (OA interview, Nov 20, 2021)

Conditions like this must be studied more deeply; why do some parents still not pay attention to their child's development in school?. By handing over the child completely to the teacher without communting with the teacher, has the parent's task
been fulfilled?. In the learning process, parents and teachers must understand each other and work together to pay attention to children's development and achievement (Mattewakkang, 2020). Good communication between teachers and parents will make it easier for them to know their talents, interests and the advantages and disadvantages of children. Knowing this will make it easier to direct and solve problems in education faced by children.

Establishing closeness with the child

… Saya dengan anak sangat dekat, dia sering mengajak saya bermain apa yang dia suka… (MF interview, Nov 20, 2021)
… karena kesibukan juga mau gimana, sebenarnya saya mau dekat dengan anak, tapi kita jarang ketemu, saya pergi sebelum dia bangun saat saya kembali dia sudah asik bermain dengan teman-temannya… (SM interview, Nov 20, 2021)

The interview results showed that some parents had tried to establish closeness with the child so that it could be easier to give direction to the child. Meanwhile, some parents still have difficulty setting closeness with their children for work reasons and feel that their children are better left to play with friends of their age. Establishing a familiarity with children is very important because it will close the relationship between parents and children so that parents can know what the child wants (Murtiningsih, 2013). In addition, parents will find it easier to direct children if their relationship is well established and the child is more open to his parents.

Creating a comfortable environment for children at home

One of the obligations of parents is to create a comfortable environment for children while at home by making the house a pleasant place (Hatimah, 2016). Comfortable home conditions will make it easier for children to feel at home, and parents will find it easier to supervise and direct children, especially in children's education.

….kami berusaha agar anak tetap betah dirumah dengan membelikan mainan yang cukup, sehingga anak tidak perlu bermain diluar… (H interview, Nov 20, 2021)

... kami menghindari pertengkaran dirumah, kalau kami ada masalah akan diselesaikan ketika anak tidak dirumah atau saat mereka tidur, agar anak tetap merasa nyaman dirumah… (TJ interview, Nov 20, 2021)

Some parents measure the child's comfort with materials, and they still think that buying everything the child wants will make the child feel comfortable.
Meanwhile, Euis Kurniati's research states that to build comfort in children, parents must pay more attention to children by showing affection and occasionally joking with children (Kurniati et al., 2020). The results of the interview show that there are parents who provide comfort to children by avoiding quarrels and disputes. They try to prevent conflicts in front of children so that children do not know the family problems they face. This kind of thing will be able to maintain harmony in the family.

**Pay attention to children's playmates**

....anak saya kalau main tidak pilih-pilih teman, dan saya juga persilahkan dia mau bermain dengan siapa saja yang dia suka.. yang penting kan kita mengawasi..

( wOA interview, Nov 20, 2021)

....kondisi lingkungan saya cukup keras, sebagian anak-anak disini terbiasa berkata kotor dan kasar.. jadi saya harus memilih teman yang baik untuk anak saya.. (MF interview, Nov 20, 2021)

In interviews, they found that parents let their children play with who they like without paying attention to their child's playmates. However, some parents are aware of the environment's influence on their children's moral development. So he limits who his son can get along with. In a hadith of Prophet Muhammad Shalallahu 'alaihi wasallam say which means:

"The parable of a good friend and a bad friend is like a seller of aromatic oil and a blacksmith. The seller of aromatic oil will probably give you fragrant oil, or you can buy fragrant oil from him, and even if you don't, you still get a good smell from it. As for the blacksmith, it could be (the spark) hitting your clothes, and even if you don't, you still get the unpleasant smell of smoke (HR. Bukhari 5534 and Muslim 2628) (Al-Bukhari, 2011)."

The hadith shows the importance of a person paying attention to social friends because it will have a positive and negative impact depending on who we are friends with. If children who have can determine good or bad, it is the parents who have the responsibility of paying attention to their children's playmates. In general, the game is one of the efforts to develop children's emotions and instil social values in children (Lubis & Khadijah, 2018). Playing means the child socializes and hangs out with his friends. However, one must also know that one factor that affects children's morals is their peers or playmates (Fitri & Na’imah, 2020). Environmental conditions, including playmates, will easily affect children with unstable traits. For this reason, people must pay attention to who their children play with but also must not be overprotective, which can make children already get along.
Being a role model for the child
...saya selaku orangtua mencoba menjadi contoh yang baik bagi anak, karena saya tahu anak saya akan meniru apa yang dilihatnya... untuk itu saya memperhatikan betul tindakan yang saya lakukan dihadapan anak... (MF interview, Nov 20, 2021)
...saya melakukan aktivitas sehari-hari yang menurut saya pantas untuk dilakukan.. (S interview, Nov 20, 2021)

From this data, one can see that parents have tried to be a good role models for their children by paying attention to the actions they will take in front of their children. But some parents do what they want without considering its effect on their children. Parental behaviour affects the child's moral development because of the nature of the child, who prefers to imitate something he sees (Rakhmawati, 2015).

Instilling religious values in children

Religious education is essential in shaping children into human beings with noble morals. From the results of the study, it can be seen that there are parents who have not provided proper religious education to their children. Some parents give up the responsibility of their children's education entirely to school without providing the essential education at home. This can be seen in the following interview excerpts :
...kalau untuk pendidikan agama saya sudah percayakan ke sekolah dan tempat mengaji... (OA interview, Nov 20, 2021)
... sebagai orangtua saya memiliki tanggung jawab terhadap agama anak saya, sejak kecil saya menanamkan nilai-nilai agama kepadanya mulai dari adab dan doa dalam kehidupan sehari-hari sampai mengenalkannya kepada Allah dan RasulNya.. (MF interview, Nov 20, 2021)

Discussion

As children in social interactions know the first figures, parents need good closeness to influence children's education (Suud et al., 2020). Therefore, parents' busyness should not hinder interaction and establish good communication with children. Ongoing communication between parents and children will make it easier for parents to see the development of children anak (Rokhmaniyah et al., 2021). So that parents can know every action of the child that begins to deviate from the prevailing norms. Because basically, every slight deviation will be easier for the child to correct (Hasanah, 2021)).
Children tend to do things they like and play in places they find exciting and comfortable (Spahić & Čerkez, 2014). Children who feel uncomfortable at home will tend to play outside the house. The farther the child is from home, the more difficult it will be for parents to supervise their daily behaviour. For this reason, children's comfort in the family environment is essential for parents to accompany children's education (Ramdan & Fauziah, 2019). In addition, children's playmates must also be encouraged by parents not to make anti-social attitudes but to choose friends who will have a good influence on the child (Baidi, 2019).

Children's most dominant trait is to imitate what they see and say what they hear (Saputri & Marzuki, 2021). Parents must be aware of this attitude to make parents pay attention to their actions and words in front of their children. Likewise, parents must avoid actions and words that do not deserve to be heard by children. Who can achieve all these things by instilling religious values in children? Religion is the basis that regulates how human life is. Therefore, applying good religious values according to the guidance of the Shari’a will make it easier for parents to educate their children's morals (Supaat & Fa’atin, 2019).

For this reason, parents must try to act reasonably and correctly so that their children can imitate them, for example, by praying in congregation, saying politely and behaving following Islamic teachings. Because this will affect children who see their parents every day (Nugraheni & Hidayana, 2019), parents should be aware of the importance of religion for children and instil religious values in children from an early age. Belief will direct life, and our every action will be meaningful. Therefore, the most precious thing in our life is religion. And to make children people who have noble character is to teach and practice religious values both in aqidah, worship and other matters.

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Conclusion

In general, the study results show that parents have carried out their role in the moral education of children of primary school age. The part that arises is parents as mentors, role models, protectors, supervisors and friends for their children. Parents are also educators who instil religious values in their children. However, some parents still forget their responsibility in their children’s moral education. Researchers hope that this study can be helpful to for those who read and study it. Researchers also advised parents to always pay attention and play a role in the moral education of children of primary school age. Furthermore, researchers are expected to develop more in-depth research on the part of parents in the education of children of primary school age and be more innovative in its implementation.

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