Character Development in Children of Baitul Hidayah Foundation (East Jakarta)

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ABSTRACT

Character development education for children remains largely overlooked, with the majority only receiving instruction within elementary school classrooms, lacking practical activities to enhance their awareness. In our community empowerment project at the Baitul Hidayah Foundation, we endeavored to address this gap by providing materials, educational sessions, games, and project activities centered around children’s character development, employing the 4-color character approach. Our efforts were guided by research focusing on children’s character education and its impact on their comprehension of the significance of possessing good character to nurture positive relationships with peers, siblings, and others. Furthermore, following the outcomes of the Focus Group Discussion (FGD) involving the Baitul Hidayah Cijantung Foundation and Group 6 members, it became evident that the Baitul Hidayah Foundation had previously neglected character development education for its students, to the extent of never incorporating it into their curriculum. Therefore, our Community Empowerment Group 4 set out to rectify this deficiency by educating students at the Baitul Hidayah Foundation about the importance of character and providing guidance on its practical application.

INTRODUCTION

Community empowerment is an effort aimed at developing the self-reliance of individuals or communities in meeting their needs. Additionally, community empowerment aims to empower community groups to address issues within the community (Qowaid, 2016). The awareness of the community, especially the students (the majority of whom are residents around the Yayasan Baitul Hidayah, Cijantung, Pasar Rebo, East Jakarta) in developing their character is considered lacking (Halim et al., 2023). Undesirable habits such as not listening to what is being said and underestimating the abilities of their peers are prevalent (Muchtar et al., 2022).

Given this situation, it is our responsibility as students and Indonesian citizens to conduct character education activities for the students of Yayasan Baitul Hidayah. The activities we conduct involve educating the importance of character for the students at Yayasan Baitul Hidayah (East Jakarta). These activities are aimed at raising awareness of the importance of character so that the children at...
Yayasan Baitul Hidayah become individuals with morals, noble manners, tolerance, resilience, and good behavior. The education is delivered in the form of 6 meetings filled with practical exercises, materials, and games.

METHOD

1. Input
The inputs of this Community Empowerment program include:
   b. Prioritizing the most urgent character issues identified.
   c. Designing the financial plan for the educational program at TPA Baitul Hidayah.
   d. Developing module materials for the educational program at TPA Baitul Hidayah.

2. Process
The process of this Community Empowerment program is outlined as follows:
   a. The implementation consists of 6 meetings.
   b. Community Empowerment activities encompass various learning methods, understanding sessions, training, and Q&A sessions focused on character development. These activities take place at Yayasan Baitul Hidayah, East Jakarta, spanning from October 18, 2023, to December 18, 2023.
   c. The Yayasan Baitul Hidayah team facilitates the participation of its students in the PKM University of Ary Ginanjar team program held at Yayasan Baitul Hidayah, East Jakarta.
   d. The implementation involves six sessions held every Wednesday from 16:00 to 17:00 WIB. The number of Yayasan Baitul Hidayah students participating ranges from 25 to 30 students, while the PKM student team consists of 8 members.

3. Output
   Increased understanding among the children at TPA Baitul Hidayah regarding the importance of character awareness and their potential. Output measurement is conducted through direct Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with participants and weekly progress reports for TPA Baitul Hidayah teachers regarding the implementation progress of the materials by the students (in instances when our team is not present on-site). Additionally, as the PKM University of Ary Ginanjar team, we also gain a deeper understanding of community empowerment through the activities conducted at Yayasan Baitul Hidayah.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The community empowerment program is implemented through 6 meetings with the following details:

1. First Meeting:
   a. Theme: Getting to Know Each Other & Basic Character Material
   b. Date: Friday, October 18, 2023
   c. Time: 16:00-17:00 WIB
   d. Description: Introduction session for Community Empowerment Group 6, providing basic character material tailored to the children’s age along with visual aids. Games and rewards like candy and wafers are used to engage the children.

2. Second Meeting:
   a. Theme: Character Material and Test Based on Color
   b. Date: Monday, October 30, 2023
   c. Time: 16:00-17:00 WIB
   d. Description: Explanation of character material for children and conducting tests to categorize them based on color (personality or character). Games and rewards are incorporated.
3. Third Meeting:
   a. Theme: Grouping and Mentoring Sessions Based on Color
   b. Date: Wednesday, November 15, 2023
   c. Time: 16:00-17:00 WIB
   d. Description: Tasks are divided into mentors for each color, who then engage with children in their respective groups, discussing hobbies, dreams, and elaborating on the strengths and weaknesses of character colors.

4. Fourth Meeting:
   a. Theme: Projects and Games According to Colors
   b. Date: Wednesday, November 29, 2023
   c. Time: 16:00-17:00 WIB
   d. Description: Mentors propose projects and games tailored to the nature of each color's character, encouraging children to address internal challenges.

5. Fifth Meeting:
   a. Theme: Color Collaboration Projects
   b. Date: Wednesday, December 4, 2023
   c. Time: 16:00-17:00 WIB
   d. Description: A collaborative project named "Picture Guessing Relay" is introduced, demonstrating teamwork across different character colors.

6. Sixth Meeting:
   a. Theme: Visualization, Feedback, Closing
   b. Date: Monday, December 18, 2023
   c. Time: 16:00-17:00 WIB
   d. Description: Closing session attended by the Supervising Lecturer and Mr. Sujoko Winanto. Speeches, advice, and thanks are given, followed by certificate handover and feedback from the children expressed through a bouquet of flowers, marking the conclusion of the Community Empowerment Program for Character Development in Children at TPA Baitul Hidayah East Jakarta.

The outcomes of the aforementioned activities indicate that the majority of students comprehended and appreciated the character education learning materials provided during the community empowerment period. Similarly, our collaborating partner expressed satisfaction with the program (Maulidizen et al., 2023). Out of the 5 respondents who completed the satisfaction form, 3 expressed satisfaction, while 2 responded as very satisfied. Furthermore, all personnel from our partner expressed willingness to collaborate again with University of Ary Ginanjar students, expressing a desire for continued support in the realm of character education and child development (Fauzi & Islami, 2022)

Table 1 Documentation of Community Empowerment Program

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<th>First Meeting</th>
<th>Third Meeting</th>
<th>Fourth Meeting</th>
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CONCLUSION

Community empowerment at Taman Pendidikan Al-Qur’an (TPA) Baitul Hidayah in East Jakarta has yielded positive outcomes, particularly in the realms of education and child development. This initiative focuses on character development and leadership skills starting from an early age. One of the key activities involves imparting self-awareness and character knowledge to children, enabling them to grasp moral and ethical values and cultivate positive personalities. Additionally, this program includes early leadership training, allowing children to hone leadership abilities essential for their daily lives.

Furthermore, the approach adopted incorporates interactive activities that highlight the relevance of concepts to everyday life. The objective is for children not only to comprehend abstract ideas but also to apply them to practical situations. Through this approach, they can be nurtured to develop commendable character traits that will serve as guiding principles as they grow older. Emphasis is also placed on training children to recognize and address their potential weaknesses. This approach aims to instill in children the resilience to confront and overcome challenges, fostering self-confidence and independence. Consequently, they will be better equipped to navigate future obstacles without fear or hesitation. Through these concerted efforts, community empowerment at TPA Baitul Hidayah has fostered an environment conducive to character education. Children are equipped with essential skills, values, and positive attributes that will pave the way for a promising future.

REFERENCES


