

Strengthening Character-Based Positive Parenting Patterns for Parents in Depok City

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Abstract	Article Info
<p>Various negative phenomena carried out by our children require serious handling with various strategies, including strengthening character education. Therefore, this activity aims to provide theoretical and practical assistance to strengthen character-based positive parenting patterns for parents in Depok City. This activity adopts the Participatory Action Research (PAR) method which involves the participation of participants. Participants in this activity were parents from Cilodong District, Depok City, totaling 115 people. This activity was carried out in the Meeting Hall of the Character Genius Islamic School Elementary School, Depok City. The results of this mentoring show that parents as activity participants are increasingly understanding: 1) their roles and functions in the family environment, namely providing serious and sustainable assistance to children's growth and development, so as not to be eroded by negative factors of technological development; 2) positive parenting for children has 3 positive impacts, namely: making the relationship between parents and children closer; make parent-child communication more effective and increase the child's self-confidence and happiness. The conclusion of this activity has a positive impact on parents because it is given strengthens parenting patterns in the family both theoretically and practically.</p>	<p>Article History <i>Received :</i> <i>March 10, 2022</i> <i>Revised :</i> <i>October 06, 2022</i> <i>Accepted :</i> <i>October 09, 2022</i></p> <p>Keywords: <i>Positive Parenting,</i> <i>Strengthening</i> <i>Character,</i> <i>Parenting Pattern</i></p>

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INTRODUCTION

Today, the character of our children is experiencing a crisis that is very worrying about their future as an asset to a nation. The issue of character becomes the main discussion in every discussion room, both among policymakers, educators, to parents. This is not without reason, considering the various news offerings that make us gasp (Zubaidah, 2019). Every parents decide the growth and development of children can run optimally, physically and mentally healthy, intelligent, have a strong faith and have good character (Rochanah, & Silakhuddin, 2022). Various cases such as acts of juvenile violence against fellow students, fights between students, decreased respect of children for their parents and teachers, decreased sense of responsibility, increased dishonesty, moral decline, cases of suicide, cyberbullying, obscenity, rape cases among elementary school students, etc. It really makes the material of thought for our education world (Sezer & Tuncer, 2021).

Character is not something that is brought from birth, character is a special personality that distinguishes one individual from another. Forming a child's character takes the role of parental care for a sustainable and long time (Khotimah et al., 2021; Islamy, et al., 2022; Bela et al., 2022; Fathoni, et al., 2021). Character is not formed in formal educational activities, but the character of a child is formed through the habituation of positive things. The main and first character education for children is the family environment (Trisiana, 2021; Khumairo, A., & Romlah, O. Y. 2021). In family members, children will learn the basics of behavior that are important for their lives in the future. The family is the first non-formal educational institution for children, it is also the family that contributes mentally and physically to the child's life (Susanto et al., 2022; Susanto, 2022). That is, family parenting has a positive impact on the development of children's character.

Parenting can be interpreted as a system, way of working, or form to maintain, care for, educate and guide young children so that they can stand on their own. In addition, parenting can be interpreted as an interaction between children and parents during parenting activities (Visković & Višnjić Jevtić, 2017). Parenting is the process of humanizing or maturing humans humanely, which must be adapted to the situation and conditions as well as the development of the times. In general, the family consists of a father, mother, and children and each family member needs each other and influences each other. Parents are in control of their children and have a great responsibility for their child's growth (Hasanah, 2021). To bring children to maturity, parents must set good examples for children, because the development of children's attitudes is also influenced by the habits of the family as their place of residence.

The urgency of character education has finally invited the sympathy of academics, experts, practitioners, and educational, social, and humanitarian researchers to conduct studies on parenting patterns for children in the family environment (. As a result, we are presented with several data on parenting patterns based on strengthening children's character. As Baharun's research revealed that character education is currently a serious concern because it is a benchmark for the progress of a nation's national education system (Baharun, 2017). The results of Perbowosari's study revealed that the role of parents cannot be separated in the formation of children's character, even parents are the first role models for children who determine their future personality (Perbowosari, 2018). Rika's research corroborates the above opinion by saying that the character of children today is heavily influenced by massive technological developments, therefore, parenting patterns must continue to be improved to form a noble child's personality (Rika, 2019).

Based on the results of previous studies, researchers consider it important to provide assistance to strengthen parenting patterns for parents to provide positive guidance for children during their growth period. The strengthening of parenting is carried out based on the character of parents in Depok City as an effort to increase

parental care for quality child development in Depok City. In this activity, researchers will describe the steps for strengthening character-based positive parenting for parents. The researcher hopes that this activity to strengthen parenting patterns will give positive results and have a good impact on parents.

METHOD

This activity uses a participatory action research (PAR) method where this method is carried out in a participatory manner with the aim of learning in overcoming problems and meeting the practical needs of the community. The use of the PAR method in this study is to increase the strengthening of positive parenting patterns of parents to character-based children. The reason for choosing this PAR method is the need to get the desired desire (Afandi et al., 2016). This activity is an activity carried out to solve the problem of the child's character which is decreasing along with the times and information technology so that parents are fully obliged to maintain and improve the child's character. This activity was carried out 4 times for participants, namely parents in the Cilodong sub-district, Depok city. The procurement of this activity is carried out at the genius Islamic school which is in a meeting building with 115 parents. This mentoring activity is carried out every Saturday for one day, starting from January 29, 2022, to February 19, 2022.

The activities referred to in this study are 1) Resource persons providing a description of how to become parents who can educate children to become good and better individuals; 2) resource persons also related to several incidents of deviant criminal acts carried out by children, especially teenagers. So that it became a boomerang for parents to supervise and take care of their respective children; 3) Further discussion activities are accompanied by questions and answers between the speakers and participants. This activity will be described and analyzed descriptively, and the results of this service activity will be described in accordance with the findings of data and facts in the field.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The family is the main element and the first educational center for the individual child, before going directly into the social environment of the community. In the family environment, there will be a process of forming the character of the child through the role played by the parents in it. When parents are not prepared mentally, physically, financially, or even spiritually to carry out the real roles and functions of the family, then this will become an obstacle. This influence will certainly affect the formation of children's character from an early age because the parenting method is very closely related to the child's character (Khumairo, & Anggriliana, (2022). Therefore, considering the importance of the nation's children with character (Chowdhury, 2016). Aspects of human resources that are expected in the future need to be nurtured since children are born into the world. The character of a person who

is qualified or not is determined by looking for parenting patterns. This activity is directed at strengthening positive parenting patterns for character-based children with two important questions, namely: 1) How to provide proper care for children? 2) What is the impact of positive parenting on children?

Figure 1. Resource persons and parents in the activity of Strengthening Character-Based Positive Parenting Patterns



The formation of good character is certainly the goal and hope of every layer of family, community, school, nation, and state. The strength of each person's character can certainly contribute positively to their future well-being and position themselves to prevent unwanted behavior in the future so that they are expected to achieve their potential for happiness. Ideally, these things are expectations to be achieved. In this case, the resource persons carry out community service activities as an effort to form children with a character through good parenting (Waluyandi et al., 2020). This activity begins with the resource person giving an explanation to parents about the right parenting pattern for their child.

1. How do provide a character-based positive parenting pattern for children?

Parenting emphasizes a positive attitude and applies discipline with compassion. The basic principle is to respect children so that they grow into

independent and responsible individuals. In practice, parenting applied to one child does not always work for another child. Why? Because in principle, all children are unique and different from one another. Differences can be caused by age, gender, parenting patterns, family background, environmental conditions including socio-cultural conditions that exist in the community, temperament, or learning styles, or various other differences from the child is in the womb, the delivery process, until after childbirth (Cahya Dewi, 2021). However, there are several principles that can be used in parenting each child at every opportunity. There are parenting principles that are intended internally for parents, teachers, or other adults. There are also principles aimed at conditioning the child's environment (external).

Parents can apply education in the family. In practice, education in the family can be done with various educational models. The impact that can be felt from the implementation of education in the family also varies. Parczewska's research proves that families who can adapt the family education model to the situation, conditions, needs, and abilities of children certainly have a more positive impact on their psychology and independence (Parczewska, 2021). To achieve this positive impact, family education models can be carried out such as the application and compliance with regulations, the motivation and support for children to continue to grow and develop, the guidance of religious knowledge, and the example of parents.

The role of parents in educating, indirectly positions both parents as educators in their small family. Educators who teach about the most basic social education. The family is the oldest educational institution for their children. Regardless of how parents play a role in carrying out the educational process for them, be it the authoritarian type, in which all behavior and attitudes of children are the will of the parents, or democratic, which is open to children, or very loose permissive towards children's behavior (Townsend & Wells, 2018). The three roles are equally important for parents in educating their children. Aslan argues that the dynamics of the times of course also need to synchronize the parenting pattern. Parents really need to understand which types of educational materials are appropriate to use at certain times, and when to be authoritarian, permissive, and democratic.

Authoritarian characteristics, namely how parents become rigid, and firm, feel always right in expressing opinions and apply punishment if they do not comply with the rules or the wishes of the parents. This parenting will form a child with a disciplined and obedient character. However, this authoritarian parenting can lead to a loss of freedom in children, and a lack of initiative and activities, so children become not confident in their abilities. The permissive parenting pattern is the opposite of the authoritarian parenting pattern. Parents tend to follow all the wishes of the child, or the term 'pamper' the child. Permissive parents can be good friends to their children because they provide attention, warmth, and good interaction (Perbowosari, 2018). Another characteristic of this type of parenting is that parents always encourage their children to do whatever they want, rarely

arrange children's schedules, support children's behavior even if it is negative, and avoid punishment for children. Children who grow up with permissive parenting will grow creative because they are accustomed to being free to express themselves in various ways (Owens & Grauerholz, 2019). However, in the long run, children become undisciplined, behave aggressively, especially when their desires are not fulfilled, and lack initiative. The democratic parenting style is the most ideal parenting style. Democratic parenting is instilling discipline in children and respecting freedom that is not absolute, with understanding guidance between children and parents, giving rational and objective explanations if the wishes and opinions of children do not match (Adawiyah, 2017) (Arisnaini, 2019). In this parenting style, the child grows a sense of responsibility, and in the end, can act according to existing norms. Therefore, the choice of parenting patterns will have a significant influence on the character of the child in the future. Various positive impacts will be seen when parents have applied the right parenting pattern to their children. However, many also argue that providing positive authoritarian parenting can also trigger a child's character development that is much better. On the other hand, parents can also combine the three parenting styles. Where in addition to parents being firm with children to train their children's discipline, parents can also be permissive which supports all children's activities which are also positive (Susanto, 2022). And parents also become good listeners and discussion partners for children when children lose direction in determining their life path. If these three are combined, positive parenting will be very good in shaping the character of children in the future. However, this positive impact will not be obtained quickly if there are still obstacles for parents who are concerned with busy work and the lack of scientific discipline.

Based on the results above, parents who are present are allowed to apply parenting styles that they think are good for the development of the child's character. However, you shouldn't be a selfish parent who thinks it's good, but not for the future of your child. After being explained about positive parenting patterns for children, many of the parents discussed the condition of their respective children. As for children with special needs, we need to provide parenting patterns that are authoritarian, positive, and allowed to be positive and permissive. So that we as parents are not only pressured for children, we are also parents who provide space for children to be able to explore their activities. However, there are also parents who ask what if parents find it difficult to control their children's emotions. What kind of parenting is suitable for children like this? Children's emotions are formed from the child born into the world. Children who have excessive emotions can be applied to a democratic pattern of compassion where parents are much involved in children's activities (Sari et al., 2020). Parents can be a place for children to express their emotions so that parents can discuss with their children what they want to relieve their emotions. However, parents cannot do everything their children want. This can make the child will be spoiled and unable to live

independently. Therefore, it is important for parents to understand the circumstances of their respective children and apply a good parenting pattern for the formation of a child's positive character.

2. The Impact of Positive Parenting Patterns

Furthermore, the informants revealed the impact of positive parenting on children by saying that parents play an active role in the development of their children, and parenting patterns certainly affect children because they will become a benchmark for children to act or how to behave in the future. which will come. Therefore, parents must also be careful in the pattern of parenting their children. Every positive thing that is done will certainly have positive reciprocity as well, as, in the case of parenting, there are many benefits that are generated if parents apply positive parenting patterns to their children. informant quoted Susanto's opinion as saying that a positive parenting pattern is characterized by empathy and has a strong relationship between parents and their children (Susanto et al., 2022). As a parent, it's okay to have one that has more parenting models for children and each parenting pattern will have a big impact on children.

The resource person then explained some of the benefits that parents get if they apply positive parenting patterns to their children as follows: *First*, it makes the relationship between parents and children closer. Positive parenting patterns help develop stronger parent-child relationships. The resource person continued his explanation by saying that this behavioral development approach increases trust between children and parents. This is in accordance with the opinion of experts that the reason for this belief is that children have positive interactions with parents as a result of positive parenting (Sari et al., 2020). These positive interactions and positive outlooks are associated with strong and distant relationships with abusive or negative interactions that research suggests can lead to mental health problems in childhood or later in life.

Second, make parent-child communication more effective. Sources said that communication is an important part of positive parenting. In a sense, the focus of a positive approach to parenting is finding ways to communicate with children in a positive and action-oriented way, not in a negative or abusive way. Parents can manifest this positivity by encouraging children to talk about their feelings and explaining to them how good behavior choices can lead to good feelings and positive outcomes. *Third*, increase children's self-confidence and happiness. The resource person told parents in attendance that focusing on building children's self-confidence, and communication would lead to higher levels of happiness and help children develop self-confidence (Wahidah & Adam, 2019). By correcting the mistakes made by the child rather than punishment that will trigger negative behavior, it is more helpful for the child to have a positive approach to life in general. They will develop positive behavior because they will see mistakes and imperfections as opportunities for improvement rather than negative things like

punishment and reduce their level of trust.

Based on the results of this service activity, the following conclusions were obtained: 1) parents can understand how to apply positive parenting to children, according to the child's circumstances and the current developments. This positive parenting pattern can be applied by parents through three existing parenting patterns such as authoritarian parenting, permissive parenting, and democratic parenting. These three parenting patterns can have a good positive impact on the development of children's character if parents understand how to apply them to children. However, the positive side cannot be obtained easily if parents cannot provide good care for their children from an early age. For example, parents who are busy working, indifferent to children's activities, do not spend much time with children, do not understand the child's condition, or even parents' hand over their child to someone else as a caregiver without ascertaining the situation of the caregiver and the child's condition. 2) The resource persons also provided motivation by describing the impact of positive parenting on children, namely: first, making the relationship between parents and children closer. Second, make parent-child communication more effective. Third, increase the child's self-confidence. Of course, parents do not want to feel close to their children. Children who have received positive parenting from parents will be able to treat their parents well, have polite character, and have a positive impact on the child's own life in the future.

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