

BUILDING STUDENT CHARACTER THROUGH A GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING APPROACH: WELCOME A SUPERIOR GENERATION IN THE GLOBAL ERA

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Abstract

This research seeks to outline methods for fostering student character development using a guidance and counseling strategy, particularly in embracing the values of previous generations within the context of the contemporary global era. The study employs a qualitative methodology, primarily utilizing library research techniques. The findings of the research indicate that the cultivation of character revolves around instilling fundamental ethical principles as the foundation for strong moral character. The goal is for learners to have good character. Indicators of good character entail comprehension and concern for fundamental ethical principles, along with behaviors grounded in core ethical values or pure ethics. It is hoped that with the development of student character through this guidance and counseling approach, it will be able to make the younger generation even more in building good characters from understanding and caring for basic ethical values.

Keywords: Character development, ethics, guidance and counseling

1. Introduction

Characteristics are unique things that exist in an individual, which differentiates them from other individuals. Children's character is influenced by two factors, namely external and internal factors. Internal factors can be seen from genes, heredity, or inheritance from the family. Meanwhile, externally, it can be seen from the child's environment and social interactions. Characteristics related to internal factors tend to be more fixed, while characters related to external factors easily change because they are influenced by environmental factors. Character formation begins at the earliest possible age, because at this time children will imitate what adults often do. Like parents, teachers and other adults around them. Therefore, the formation of children's character is very important and very sensitive because this greatly influences the continuity of the child's future. Character is a unique trait that is intrinsic to an individual, a family, and a community. Character manifests as consistent and foreseeable through behavioral patterns. Behavior is not isolated; rather, it is intertwined with attitudes and values

(Hafiza & Firman, n.d.) It can be explained by Suprayitno & Wahyudi, (2020) that character education is seen as a solution to the lack of discipline in students at school, character education is used as a tool to characterize students. As for the values of character education which are increasingly underestimated by society today, such as religious values, the sense of responsibility is increasingly ignored, then the value of honesty is also often considered unimportant for the lives of today's teenagers, and this is one of the problems found by guidance and counseling teachers at schools, often students do not tell the truth when conveying their problems and even hide what the students themselves have done. According to Simarmata, et al (2019:68) the digital era is an era where technology and communication are increasingly advanced, information is no longer blocked, information sources are not only obtained from one or two media, but there are tens, hundreds and even thousands, and that can be carrier of new information and knowledge. (Tafonao et al., 2023)

Theoretically, BK has a strategic role in strengthening character education in schools. This role can be realized through the meaning of the essence of the service and the realization of BK

programs and services. The core of guidance and counseling services involves a systematic and ongoing process of support provided to individual students by trained professionals. Through this process, the individuals being assisted gain understanding of themselves and their surroundings, learn to navigate their path, adapt, and maximize their potential in alignment with their values, ultimately aiming to achieve personal and societal well-being (Muslihati, 2024)

From the previous explanation, it can be seen that the aim of guidance is for students to be able to direct themselves, adapt and develop their potential, understand themselves and their environment, be able to plan for the future and achieve optimal life development.

This research endeavors to explore the significance of Guidance and Counseling in shaping student character and strategies for prevention and management. Additionally, it is anticipated that this research can serve as a resource and guide for other Guidance and Counseling teachers in fulfilling their responsibilities in delivering services within school settings. Furthermore, it aims to raise awareness among school institutions and the community about the crucial and dynamic role of Guidance and Counseling in shaping student character. Where this character is a very sensitive matter and must be paid attention to not only by parents, but by teachers in the school environment, especially Guidance and Counseling teacher

2. Method

In this study, researchers used a literature review. Library research can take the form of a method of collecting data from library sources, including books, magazines and other print media, or from photos and videos (Khairiah & Silvianetri, 2022). This research method uses library research methods. The object of the research is a collection of several articles from various sources, books, documents and other references about the importance of character education in the independent curriculum era. The data analysis approach employed in this study comprises three stages: "data examination," "data refinement," and "conclusion drawing." Source triangulation was used for data validation (Sabarrudin et al., 2022)

3. Results and Discussion

In terms of linguistics, character is synonymous with habit. Conversely, psychologists define character as a framework of beliefs and habits guiding an individual's conduct. Hence, understanding someone's character can provide insights into how that individual is likely to act in specific circumstances. Character represents a distinctive trait innate to individuals, families, and communities. The process of character development begins with the cultivation of attitudes grounded in particular values, encompassing religious, cultural, and even state ideological principles. An individual's character is shaped not solely by self-assessment of attitudes and behaviors, but also by the perceptions and evaluations of others. Character doesn't solely emerge from lofty words or well-meaning intentions; rather, it arises from the foundations of honesty and loyalty anchored in moral principles.

Character education has been integrated into the curriculum in Indonesia since 2010, spanning from elementary school to university levels. Education is viewed as a proactive measure, as it nurtures a new and improved generation for the nation. As a preventative measure, education is anticipated to enhance the quality of the nation's youth across multiple dimensions, thereby mitigating and addressing various cultural and national character-related issues. (Rusilowati et al., 2019)

Based on the aforementioned viewpoints, it can be inferred that character encompasses a variety of elements such as traits, habits, attitudes, and potential inherent in a person which can influence a person's actions in certain situations. And this is what differentiates individuals from other individuals.

Character development entails instilling fundamental ethical values, serving as the cornerstone for fostering virtuous character. The objective is to cultivate positive character traits in students. Key indicators of good character include comprehension and consideration of fundamental ethical values, alongside behaviors guided by core ethical principles or pure ethics. Yus (2008) emphasizes the necessity for a comprehensive definition of character, one that encompasses its development across cognitive, affective, and behavioral domains. Hence, the Guidance and Counseling program, through its diverse activities aimed at nurturing student potential, offers avenues for students to enhance their personal development in alignment with their capabilities. As for more details, the position of Guidance Counseling is also strengthened as a forum for character formation from the perspective of Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory (2005) as one of the aspects that influences individual interactions in their life processes. (Eliasa & Kartasasmita, 2020)

Guidance and counseling teachers are the second educators after family (parents) at home. The authority possessed by guidance and counseling teachers has a very important role in optimizing child-friendly education in forming children's character. Actions that can be taken by guidance and counseling teachers are starting from explaining and socializing child-friendly education and how this character is formed. Guidance and counseling (BK) is part of education so it is a part (component) of the education system starting from early childhood education to school. The other components are teaching and training. Therefore, the position of BK in schools or at the same level as teaching and training positions. The education implementing staff, namely counselors (in schools they are called supervising teachers) have the same position as subject teachers and practical teachers. (Hanifudin & Idawati, 2024) In general, the superior generation in the global era has unique characteristics compared to the characteristics of previous generations. Teaching children of the current generation will be difficult if educators still apply the style of the past, such as using the Sit Listen Note Memorize (DDCH) method. Now is no longer the time for children to sit and spend time listening, summarizing and writing homework in notebooks. As time progresses, educators need to discard traditional methods to effectively mentor the upcoming generation in the global era, preparing them to tackle the challenges of the future. Innovation is really needed in teaching superior generation children in the global era, because they have different concepts of thinking. In the global era, the environment for the next generation extends beyond the physical realm to include the virtual world (Purnomo et al., 2016)

This guidance and counseling program is usually carried out by educators or counselors at schools which are places to educate students, but not just counselors at schools. In facing a superior generation in this global era, there needs to be collaboration between various parties in order to be successful in facing and forming a good personal generation. excel in the global era. The context of personal-social guidance and counseling also emphasizes collaboration between fellow guidance and counseling teachers by providing space for school stakeholders and parents at home to provide guidance and counseling services.

Student development occurs because it is followed by changes in behavior in themselves, such as cognitive, psychomotor, religious, social and moral behavior. Therefore, guidance and counseling services should be directed at how to equip the superior generation in the global era with superior characters by utilizing information and communication technology, so that they can lead them towards a bright future.

4. Conclusion

Character development involves implanting fundamental ethical values, serving as the foundation for cultivating positive character traits. The objective is to foster good character among students. Indicators of such character include comprehension and appreciation of fundamental ethical values, as well as adherence to core ethical principles or pure ethics in actions. Hence, the Guidance and Counseling program, through its diverse activities aimed at

nurturing student potential, offers opportunities for students to develop themselves according to their individual abilities. Guidance and counseling teachers are the second educators after the family (parents) at home. The authority possessed by guidance and counseling teachers has a very important role in optimizing child-friendly education in forming children's character.

In general, the superior generation in the global era has unique characteristics compared to the characteristics of previous generations. Teaching children of the current generation will be difficult if educators still apply the style of the past, such as using the Sit Listen Note Memorize (DDCH) method. Now is no longer the time for children to sit and spend time listening, summarizing and writing homework in notebooks. Over time, educators must discard outdated methods to effectively mentor the next generation in the global era, preparing them to confront the future. Innovation is really needed in teaching superior generation children in the global era, because they have different concepts of thinking.

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