The Role of Teachers in Building Character Caring for the Environment for Students of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh

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ABSTRACT

Teachers have an important role in shaping the character of students. So the purpose of this study is to (1) determine the role of teachers in building character, (2) determine the level of environmental care for students. This study uses a quantitative descriptive method. The entire research population was 25 teachers and 267 students in grades VII-IX. Sampling with random sampling technique. Data were collected by distributing questionnaires to respondents. Data were analyzed by descriptive statistical percentage formula. The results of data processing obtained: from 25 teachers, it is known that 2 respondents (8%) in very high category, 6 respondents (24%) in high category, 12 respondents (48%) in medium category, 1 respondent (4%) in low category, and 4 respondents (16%) are very low, so that the teacher's role in the formation of environmental character is the largest in the category. (2) Of the 50 students, 6 respondents (12%) were in the very high category, 7 respondents (14%) were in the high category, 22 respondents (44%) were in the medium category, 12 respondents (24%) were in the low category, and 3 respondents (6%) category is very low, so that the main environmental care level is in the medium category.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Environmental damage today is a world issue and is nothing new, but it is the same as the age of the earth today. According to experts, the age of the earth is currently around five billion years. The proof is that many types of animals and plants have been declared extinct. Their extinction may not come suddenly without being related to the ecosystem (Jazuli, 2015). Environmental problems greatly impact human life today. Developing countries and developed countries are always overwhelmed by the problem of environmental damage but with different causal factors. If in developed countries the main cause is industrial waste such as mercury, toxic gases, smog (smog), then in developing countries like Indonesia it is household waste and human waste (Hidayat, 2015). Although experts have different opinions about the causes of environmental damage, no one disputes that humans are one of the causes of the current destruction of the natural environment. How to make people aware so that they no longer carry out actions that cause a decrease in the quality of the environment, and with full awareness they stop doing it, then turn to care for the environment and carry out activities that can preserve the environment so that the ecosystem is safe and its sustainability is maintained (Rasyid, 2021). "Many ways can be done to provide a good understanding of the environment for each individual, such as information, counseling, guidance, and education (formal and non-formal)". Caring for the environment is a form of individual mental attitude which is reflected in their behavior (Mua'allim, 2008). Mental attitude and behavior can be called character (Purnomo, 2014). Character can be interpreted as a person's character, character, morals, and personality which is formed from the results of internalizing various virtues that are used as the basis for a perspective of thinking, behaving, and acting (Ariandy, 2019; Komariah, and Nihayah, 2023; Izzati, et al., 2019).

Regulation of the President of the Republic of Indonesia No.87 of 2017 Article 3 concerning Strengthening Character Education (PPK), there is a character value of caring for the environment in it which is an attitude and action that always tries to prevent damage to the surrounding natural environment and develops efforts to repair the damage to nature that already occurred. The process of forming character in education is something that must continue to be carried out in the educational process from an early age to adulthood, as long as the life process is still ongoing.

One of the characters that must be instilled from an early age is the character of caring for the environment (Harahap, 2021). "One of the efforts to keep the environment from getting damaged is instilling environmental care character education for all human beings, especially children as the next generation, children who have been taught good things from an early age, then later when mature he will be a useful person. In line with the theory of learning behavior which emphasizes changes in behavior after experiencing the learning process, early character formation can make students have strong character with respect to the environment (Walumbwa, 2009; Jeffery, 1995; Tierney, 1986).

In addition, in the flow of behaviorism, learning as a form of change in individual ability to behave in new ways that can be observed/observed and well controlled, as a result of the relationship between stimulus and response that is influenced by the surrounding environment, and the environment will also shape a person's behavior. individuals, in the end can become a habit they have (character) (Pane and Dasopang, 2017). (Gadeng et al., 2019; Isya et al., 2021). The character of every human being is formed according to the response (response/response) obtained from the stimulus (stimulus) found in their respective environments. So that behaviorism learning theory is very suitable for use by
teachers in order to shape the character of students, because changes in behavior as a result of learning are based on behaviorism learning theory.

The character of caring for the environment is not entirely an innate talent or instinct, but is also the result of an educational process in a broad sense. Wrong education or parenting of an individual may result in a character that is not good for the environment. Therefore, good character must be formed in each individual human being, so that each individual human being can animate his every action and behavior. Meanwhile we understand that character is not merely an innate human talent, but is the result of the formation of humans and the environment in which humans live. How to form these characters, academically, of course the answer is education. So that education makes it possible to shape human character as expected (Siriat and Nurbayani, 2018; Ubaidillah, 2016). Character education is a continuous process and never ends. Lasts since humans exist and ends when humans are gone. Character education as an integrated process to prepare the next generation of the nation, which is adapted to the needs of future humans. The number of bad behaviors committed by children makes character education something that must be applied to children from an early age. Not just teaching what is good and what is wrong, character education also instills habits about how to behave properly, especially towards the surrounding environment so that every human individual will understand and be able to apply these habits in everyday life.

The character that must be instilled early on in the personality of students is the character of caring for the environment (Dewi, et al., 2020; Rachmadullah, et al., 2020; Pala, 2011). Currently, many students do not realize how important it is to protect the environment so that nature remains sustainable for present and future life. This is proven by the many students who often litter, especially plastic waste, and don’t take good care of their environment. The problem of the environment is one of the main concerns of the Indonesian government and also the international community at this time. This is caused by human behavior that is less concerned about the environment which causes the condition of the natural environment to become increasingly apprehensive.

The teacher is a person who plays a very important role in education and at the same time determines the success or failure of a learning process (Volery, and Lord., 2000; Ten, et al., 2011). The current school environment (teacher) has a very large role in the formation of student character. (Wati, 2019). "Teachers play a very important role in students where students become aware of their responsibilities to the environment and foster student concern for the environment". The role of the teacher in the world of modern education is now increasingly complex, not only as a teacher, but also as an educator of character, morals and culture for students, especially those who care about the environment.

Then, (Wati, 2019) to cultivate a high environmental care character, the teacher makes 4 mandatory programs that must be followed by every student, daily pickets that must be carried out every day, as well as weekly activities on Saturday and Sunday clean, each student is required to work together and carry out mutual cooperation by trying cleaning the school and dormitory environment, pickets for students who violate school and dormitory rules will be given educational sanctions to clean up the school and dormitory environment, and pickets for each student council member which is carried out in the morning.

Schools are one of the media in giving birth to generations of character, the policies implemented by schools will later influence the formation of the character of students.
Currently there are many schools that implement boarding schools (Kurniadi et al., 2017; Arsyad et al., 2020). The term boarding school is often referred to as a boarding school. The presence of a boarding school is a teacher’s effort to assist and guide the situation of students who are going through a teenage period full of problems and conflicts. Therefore, in character building there is synchronization between activities carried out at school and in the dormitory. In the process of character formation, assistance is needed and the application of materials that will have an impact on the behavior of students in everyday life. Nowadays a lot of curriculum development is carried out by schools in order to achieve the goals desired by the school, one of which is boarding school. Systems such as boarding schools can make it possible for teachers to continue to accompany and guide students. In the process of forming the character of students through boarding schools, many problems arise, not only due to students having various characters but also due to the minimum number of teachers who can become role models for students in each dormitory.

SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh is one of the Integrated Islamic schools in Aceh that implements Boarding School, so that the learning process does not only take place during school hours but can also be found in the dormitory so students can be monitored and guided 24 hours a day. SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh aims to form students with strong character, faith, piety and noble character. In addition, it also provides knowledge and skills to grow and develop optimally through an integrated, balanced and sustainable educational process. Integrated boarding Islamic schools are of course very concerned about Islamic values, especially in terms of the cleanliness of students, both when they are in the school environment and in the dormitory environment. The issue of cleanliness and sanctity (thaharah) is an important matter in Islamic education, so it is closely related to the process of building the character of caring for the environment in SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students. Based on the background above, this research will examine further under the title "Teacher’s Role in Forming the Character of Caring for the Environment of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh Students". The formulation of the problem in this study is: 1) What is the role of the teacher in building the character of caring for the environment for SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students? What is the level of environmental care for SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students? Furthermore, the purpose of this study is: to find out how the role of the teacher is in forming the character of caring for the environment for SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students. To find out how the level of care for the environment of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students.

3. METHODS

Quantitative approach was used in this study, Quantitative research method is research where the research data is in the form of numbers and analysis using statistics. The population in this study were all teachers at SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh and students at this school. Due to the small number of teachers, all teachers were sampled in this study, while the sampling for students used a random sampling technique, namely students who were sampled as students in class VII-IX. The number of samples was set at 10 students/i for each class which was taken randomly.

The questionnaire (questionnaire) was used in order to see the teacher’s role in shaping the character of caring for the environment and was also used to determine the level of environmental care character of students at SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh. The research questionnaire uses a Likert scale. The Likert scale is a scale where respondents
agree or disagree about various statements regarding behavior, objects, people, or events. Before being used to obtain research data, the questionnaire must pass the validity and reliability test process.

The results of the questionnaire test on the teacher's role in forming the character of caring for the environment from the 30 item items obtained 25 valid item questions and a reliability coefficient of 0.92 at a very high level of reliability. After processing the data, an average value of 110 is obtained and a standard deviation = 17.21. The results of testing the environmental care character questionnaire instrument for SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students, from 25 item items obtained 24 valid item questions and a reliability coefficient of 0.89 at a very high level of reliability. After processing the data, the average value is 76 and the standard deviation = 14.10.

The data obtained from the research results were then analyzed and presented in the form of a frequency table and then categorized and presented in the form of a diagram. Categorization is arranged into five categories, namely using very high, high, medium, low, and very low category techniques. Calculating Average (Mean): $\bar{x} = \frac{\sum x_i}{n}$ with description: $\bar{x} = \text{Mean (Rata-rata)}$, $\sum x_i = \text{Total value } x_i \text{ until to } n$, $n = \text{Number of individuals}$.

Calculating Standard Deviation (Standar Deviasi), $s = \sqrt{\frac{\sum (x_i-\bar{x})^2}{n-1}}$ with information $s = \text{Sample standard deviation}$, $x_i = \text{measurement data}$, $\bar{x} = \text{Average value}$, $n-1 = \text{Number of samples}$. After the data is grouped into each category, then find the percentage of each category using the percentage formula. The grouping of data can be seen in table 1 below.

**Table 1. References to the Classification of Question Score Categories**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>Kategori</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$X \geq \bar{x} + 1.5 \text{ SD}$</td>
<td>Very high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{x} + 0.5 \text{ SD} \leq X &lt; \bar{x} + 1.5 \text{ SD}$</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{x} - 0.5 \text{ SD} \leq X &lt; \bar{x} + 0.5 \text{ SD}$</td>
<td>Currently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\bar{x} - 1.5 \text{ SD} \leq X &lt; \bar{x} - 0.5 \text{ SD}$</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X \leq \bar{x} - 1.5 \text{ SD}$</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Suhada et al., 2017*

**4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

Based on the results of the research, the category and frequency data of the teacher's role in forming the character of caring for the environment of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students can be seen in Table 2.

**Table 2. Categorical data and frequency of teacher role answers**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>Frekuensi</th>
<th>Kategori</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$X \geq 135,82$</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Very high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$118,61 \leq X &lt; 135,82$</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$101,40 \leq X &lt; 118,61$</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Currently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$84,19 \leq X &lt; 101,40$</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$X \leq 84,19$</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Total                     | 25        |

*Source: Data processing, 2021*
Then, the results of the frequency distribution data, percentage and categorization of the teacher's role in the formation of the environmental care character of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students can be seen in Table 3.

**Table 3. Distribution of frequencies, percentages and categories of the teacher's role in the formation of students' environmental care character**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Index Value</th>
<th>Total number of teachers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Competency Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>97.15 – 100</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8 %</td>
<td>Very high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>83.05 – 97.15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>24 %</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>68.95 – 83.05</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>48 %</td>
<td>Currently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>54.85 – 68.95</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4 %</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0 – 54.85</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>16 %</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>25 Teacher</strong></td>
<td><strong>100%</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Data processing, 2021

The results of the analysis of the answers to the teacher's role questionnaire show that some teachers are still lacking in providing high motivation to students in caring for the environment. Teachers are still lacking in providing convenience to students in planning a series of environmental care activities (Zachariou et al., 2017). The positive attitude of teachers in the development of environmental education is influenced by their knowledge and understanding of environmental issues and their work experience. In this case, teachers who are aware of environmental problems seem to care and are interested in developing environmental activities. Furthermore, they also contribute to strengthening the sense of responsibility of students and school members towards the environment.

Then in planning, organizing and programming environmental care learning activities, the teacher still lacks. Even though in fact the teacher plays a very important role in students where students become aware of their responsibilities to the environment and foster students' concern for the environment (Wati, 2019; Tripusa, 2019).

One of the efforts that can be made by schools to increase the teacher's role in building the character of caring for the environment of students at SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh can be done by implementing the Adiwiyata program. Adiwiyata schools seek to link environmental education in the school curriculum in shaping student character (Rezkita and Wardani, 2018). This program is a program launched by the Ministry of Environment in order to encourage the creation of awareness among school residents so that they become a character who cares about the environment. The results of this study are in sharp contrast to Wati's research 2019. The teacher's role in forming the character of caring for the environment at SMPN 1 Siman Ponorogo is quite good. This is measured through the teacher's role and actions in building the character of students and has won the Provincial Adiwiyata award. The adiwiyata program at school has a positive effect on cognitive, affective, and psychomotor students (Jumadil and Hamzah, 2015). Exemplary pioneered by school leaders is the main driver of change that encourages the running of environmental awareness programs, the school culture that is formed through this program has succeeded in making schools healthier and cleaner and school residents care more about the environment, seeing the large role of exemplary it is important to have...
leaders who have the capability sufficient to be able to initiate change (Sitorus and Lasso, 2021).

The role of the teacher in the formation of the character of caring for the environment of students can be seen that the teacher will play a better role if the school implements a special environmental care program. Schools that have a boarding school system, such as SMPIT Nurul Fikri boarding school Aceh, are very supportive if the Adiwiyata program is implemented as a flagship program in order to increase the teacher’s role to be better at socializing and internalizing the character of caring for the environment in schools. Because the school has a boarding school system and if there is a special program concerned with the environment at the school, the teacher can monitor and shape the character of caring for the environment of students both in the learning process at school and in the hostel.

Data on the category and frequency of the environmental care level of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students can be seen in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Data on categories and frequency of students' environmental care answers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interval</th>
<th>Frekuensi</th>
<th>categori</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>X ≥ 97,15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Very high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83,05 ≤ X &lt;97,15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68,95 ≤ X &lt;83,05</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Currently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54,85 ≤ X &lt;68,95</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X ≤ 54,85</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Jumlah | 50 |

Source: Data processing, 2021

The results of the frequency distribution data, percentage and environmental care categorization of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students can be seen in Table 5.

**Table 5.** Frequency distribution, percentage and environmental care categories of students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Index Value</th>
<th>Total number of teachers</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Competency Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>97,35 – 100</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>12 %</td>
<td>Very high</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>83,12 – 97,35</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14 %</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>68,89 – 83,12</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>44 %</td>
<td>Currently</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>54,66 – 68,89</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25 %</td>
<td>Low</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0 – 54,66</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 %</td>
<td>Very Low</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 50 Student Class VII–IX 100%

Source: Data processing, 2021

Based on the data in Table 6, the results of research on the level of environmental care of students conducted on 50 student respondents at SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh, show that students are still less concerned, especially in terms of maintaining cleanliness and caring for plants. This result is because some teachers still lack the role of providing motivation, information, and facilitating, as well as evaluating students in caring for the environment. These findings are in accordance with the opinion (Mukminin, 2014). (Noorzanah and Lidia, 2021), which says, "The cause of environmental damage is because
Islamic education is not properly embedded and causes the teachings of Islam to not be implemented properly”. Forming good character and habits in Muslims to live in accordance with Islamism is important to do from an early age. Forming habits must start from small and simple things, because small and simple things are usually very difficult to do.

The results in this study are in sharp contrast to the results of Wati’s research 2019, showing that the level of awareness of Siman Ponorogo 1 Public Middle School students about caring for the environment is already high, this good result is due to the many environmental care activities carried out by students. The school has also set 4 mandatory activities for the realization of the Adiwiyata program which must be followed by students. The four programs are, daily pickets that must be carried out every day, weekly clean Friday activities, special pickets for students who violate school rules, and pickets for OSIS members. Two of the four programs have also been carried out at SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh, namely the implementation of daily pickets and clean Friday activities. However, this has not been able to increase students’ awareness of the environment. So it takes a bigger role of the teacher in these activities.

Based on the results of the study it can be concluded that the level of environmental care of students is very dependent on the role of the teacher in the process of its formation and must be supported by the implementation of special environmental care programs in schools, it is not enough just to do activities such as clean Friday which is carried out once a week. Environmental care activities must be further improved and carried out in schools so that they can form the character of caring for the environment in students to the fullest. Even from elementary school age, students are trained to care for the surrounding environment through their real attitudes and actions. Thus the natural damage that occurs can be minimized (Hendriana and Jacobus, 2017). Furthermore (Latifah et al., 2023). childhood experience has a strong influence on the subsequent development of students.

Lickona that the character of students goes through stages, namely students first understand goodness, then students commit to goodness, and finally students show good behavior (Iswatiningsih, 2019). Understanding is the level after knowing and remembering about something that has been learned, in other words a person’s ability to understand or understand something after being known and remembered through the learning process, then through applying it in the real world (Mustofa and Handini, 2020; Rahmawati and Isya, 2021).

The character of caring for the environment cannot be obtained instantly, but requires a long process and a relatively long time. Someone will have a caring attitude towards the environment because of habituations that take place continuously and continuously. Habituations that take place continuously will be firmly embedded in his subconscious mind, so that later his actions will be expressed in daily life (habits) as character values that he already has (Nurani et al., 2014; Purwanti, 2017). Meanwhile, in habituation, caring for the environment can be formed through character strengthening which involves a tricenter of education, namely class-based, school-culture-based, and community-based. To apply means to apply or use a procedure in certain circumstances, usually a good level of understanding will be seen and reflected in attitudes and behavior in people’s daily lives. This shows that the expected learning outcomes are changes in behavior (Mustofa and Handini, 2020).

5. CONCLUSION

The results of the data processing of the research questionnaire on the role of the teacher in forming the character of caring for the environment, it was found that out of 25
teachers at SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh it could be seen that the role of the
teacher in forming the character of caring for the environment as many as 2 respondents (8%) were in the very high category, 6 respondents (24%) high, 12 respondents (48%) moderate, 1 respondent (4%) low, and 4 respondents (16%) very low. Of the 5 categories, the teacher’s role in forming the character of caring for the environment for SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students is in the medium category. Furthermore, the results of research questionnaire data processing on the level of environmental care of students obtained that from 50 students of SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh it can be seen that the level of environmental care of students as many as 6 respondents (12%) are in the very high category, 7 respondents (14%) are high , 22 respondents (44%) moderate, 12 respondents (24%) low, and 3 respondents (6%) very low. Of the 5 categories, the level of environmental care for SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students is in the medium category.

From the conclusions above, the researcher provides suggestions that schools are expected to maximize the implementation of environmental care character education by implementing programs and policies that are environmentally sustainable. For SMPIT Nurul Fikri Boarding School Aceh students, it is hoped that they will take better care of and care for the environment. For future researchers who wish to conduct similar research, it is hoped that they will conduct further research related to the title of this thesis so that in the end they can make a good contribution to the development of science in the world of education.

6. REFERENCES


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