

Strengthening the Roles of Teachers in Educating Broken Home Students of Junior High School

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ABSTRACT

This community service aims to strengthen the role of teachers in educating students who come from broken home families in SMP Negeri 2 Siantar. This activity is beneficial for minimizing the negative activities of broken home students at school due to attracting teachers' and other students' attention. In this context, the teacher's role is very important in providing a comprehensive education to students and helping them overcome challenges related to their family conditions. This article highlights some of the major roles that teachers can play in educating broken home students, including creating a safe learning environment, providing emotional support, developing social and emotional skills, and collaborating with parents and other professionals to provide the right kind of attention to these students.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a systematic and structured process for transferring knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes from one generation to the next. The goal is to help individuals develop their full potential, both intellectually, emotionally and socially, so that they can contribute positively to society. Therefore, education involves various components, such as the role of the teacher or instructor who acts as a learning facilitator, the curriculum that designs the subject matter, the learning methods used, as well as the physical and social environment in which learning takes place. In the view of Moh. Uzer Usman (1992: 4), teachers are professions, positions and jobs that require special expertise.

The role of the teacher does not only act as this component, besides that the teacher can also educate students who experience a broken home. In the world of education today, educators also face a difficult task in dealing with the challenges and needs of students who come from various different backgrounds, such as students from broken families. According to Hetherington Save M. Degum (1999: 197) Broken home is a lack of attention from the family or a lack of affection from parents so that a child's mental become frustrated, brutal and unruly. Broken home can have a significant impact on student academic achievement. And many of the bad effects that this broken home has had on student learning such as coming from the students themselves, laziness and low interest in learning.

The role of the teacher in educating students who experience broken homes is very important because the teacher can have a significant influence on these adverse effects such as by making the classroom atmosphere and also fun learning methods then the teacher does positive reinforcement, praise and emotional support to build students' self-confidence then it will be able to encourage student academic success.

The junior high school period is a time when students experience development so that they must be given special attention and support, especially for broken home students so that they are. For students who

experience a broken home, maybe that period is a difficult time because they do not get more attention and affection from other people. Parents so that it can have an impact on their character and also their emotions. According to Sobur, (1985: 282) Adolescents whose needs are not met by their parents' angry emotions will be easily provoked.

Therefore as a teacher must be able to provide meaningful education for broken home students such as understanding and being a good listener, paying attention to needs, helping to find interests and skills and providing strong emotional support and seeing their emotional development. According to Hather Sall (Elida Prayitno, 2006: 96) Emotion is a psychological situation which is a subjective experience that can be seen from facial reactions and body. The role of the teacher is very important to educate any problems that exist within students, be they internal or external problems and help students overcome the problems they face. By providing emotional support, adapting their learning approach, encouraging academic achievement and also being a positive role model for them. With that the teacher's role in educating broken home students can have a positive impact on those who experience a broken home.

LITERATURE REVIEW

The role of teachers can provide emotional support to students, build good relationships, provide guidance and counseling, help students develop social skills, create a safe and comfortable learning environment, and involve parents in the educational process. In addition, these references also identify factors that cause broken homes, such as divorce, disharmony in the family, economic problems, lack of parental attention, and negative influences from third parties. They also recognize that broken home students can face challenges in learning motivation, emotional problems, and learning difficulties.

The results of research that has been conducted by (Arisnaini1 & Fadhilah,2023) show that the factors that cause broken homes can vary, but

some common factors that can cause broken homes include the busyness of both parents in earning family income, such as fathers who work and mothers who become career women. This can cause an imbalance in carrying out daily activities and have a negative impact on children.

The role of teachers in guiding broken home students is very important in helping them overcome the challenges and difficulties they face. Some of the roles of teachers in guiding broken home students include:

1. **Providing Emotional Support:** One of the crucial roles of teachers when guiding students from broken homes is offering emotional support. These students often experience emotional turmoil due to the challenges they face at home. Teachers can create a safe and empathetic environment within the classroom where students feel comfortable expressing their feelings. By being understanding and attentive, teachers can help alleviate their emotional distress and provide a sense of stability.
2. **Enhancing Supervision:** Increased supervision is vital for students from broken homes. Teachers can play a role in monitoring these students more closely, ensuring they are attending classes regularly and completing assignments. This extra attention can help prevent absenteeism or academic decline that might occur due to the circumstances they face at home.
3. **Providing Guidance and Counseling:** Teachers can serve as guides and counselors for students from broken homes. By offering guidance sessions or counseling, teachers can help students navigate personal challenges, manage emotions, and develop coping strategies. Through this process, students can build resilience and learn how to address difficulties in a constructive manner.
4. **Appreciating Efforts and Praising:** Recognizing the efforts and achievements of students from broken homes is crucial. These students might be dealing with additional stressors, making their accomplishments even more commendable. Teachers can encourage

them by acknowledging their hard work and praising their achievements, boosting their self-esteem and motivation to succeed academically.

Adam and Decey in his book *Basic Principles of Student Teaching* as quoted by Usman (1992) say that in the teaching and learning process, teachers have various roles including as teachers, class leaders, mentors, environmental regulators, participants, expeditors, planners, motivators, evaluators and counselors.

It can be concluded that teachers have an important role in educating students who come from broken home families. Teachers are responsible for providing good education, supervising and guiding students, and using appropriate strategies to help students overcome the challenges they face. The success of teachers in guiding broken home students can be seen from the improvement of students' learning achievement and their motivation to learn. However, teachers also face several obstacles such as frustrated, unruly students and lack of support from parents.

The results of research conducted by (D Damun, D Iswahyudi & EK Widijatmoko, 2021) show that the factors causing broken homes include parental divorce, lack of parental attention due to busy work, the influence of social media, and mothers as female workers. The role of teachers in educating broken home students is as follows:

1. **Providing Special Attention and Care:** Students from broken homes may require extra attention and care due to the challenges they face outside of school. Teachers can offer personalized support, understanding their individual needs and providing a nurturing environment that helps them feel valued and safe.
2. **Building Positive Relationships:** Building strong relationships with students from broken homes is crucial. By creating a positive and trusting connection, teachers can help these students feel more comfortable in the school environment. This sense of connection can

positively impact their emotional well-being and willingness to engage in learning.

3. **Being an Attentive Listener:** Teachers can serve as attentive listeners for students from broken homes. By being open and empathetic, teachers provide a space where students can share their concerns, fears, and challenges. This can lead to a sense of validation and emotional relief for these students.
4. **Offering Guidance and Counseling:** Guiding and counseling students is a vital role for teachers. They can provide guidance and counseling sessions tailored to the needs of students from broken homes. These sessions can help them address emotional and social challenges, assisting them in developing effective coping strategies.
5. **Developing Social Skills:** Teaching social skills is important for students from broken homes to help them interact effectively with peers and handle conflicts. Teachers can organize activities that encourage teamwork, communication, and conflict resolution, enabling these students to build healthy relationships.
6. **Integrating Students into School Activities:** Involving students from broken homes in school activities such as extracurricular programs or group projects is essential. It gives them a sense of belonging and achievement, boosting their self-esteem and helping them develop social skills.
7. **Engaging Parents:** Teachers can engage parents in the education process. For students from broken homes, involving parents can provide a more comprehensive support system. Teachers can communicate with parents about their child's progress, challenges, and successes, fostering a collaborative environment that benefits the student's overall development.

According to (Chan & Mark, 2020) The role of a teacher is to provide good motivation to students because students really need support from a teacher because they are no longer paid attention to by their parents.

It can be concluded that the role of teachers in educating broken home students is very important. Teachers need to pay special attention, build good relationships, be a good listener, provide guidance and counseling, help students develop social skills, integrate students in school activities, and involve parents. Teachers should also provide motivation to broken home students, help them overcome emotional and social problems, and help them achieve success in education. With a good teacher role, broken home students can feel supported and have the opportunity to grow and develop positively.

The results of research conducted by (A Nento, 2019) show that there are several factors that cause broken homes such as the occurrence of divorce, disharmony in the family, economic problems, dissatisfaction with the partner, negative influence from third parties, illness or health problems, differences in life principles, and differences in educating children. This causes children to become lazy to learn and lose motivation to go to school. Therefore, teachers have an important role in educating children who come from broken home families. Some of the roles of teachers in educating broken home children include:

1. Providing Attention and Emotional Support: Children from broken homes may experience emotional challenges due to family circumstances. Teachers can provide them with the attention and emotional support they need. By showing genuine care, empathy, and understanding, teachers help these children feel valued and secure within the school environment. This emotional support can positively impact their overall well-being and motivation to learn.
2. Creating a Safe and Comfortable Learning Environment: A safe and comfortable classroom environment is crucial for children from broken homes. Teachers can establish an atmosphere where students feel physically and emotionally safe. This involves setting clear rules,

promoting respectful behavior, and addressing any form of bullying or discrimination. A nurturing environment encourages these children to participate actively in learning.

3. Identifying and Addressing Learning Issues: Children from broken homes may face academic challenges due to disruptions in their home life. Teachers should be vigilant in identifying any learning difficulties early on. They can provide extra support, personalized instruction, or recommend additional resources to help these children catch up and excel academically.
4. Assisting in Developing Social Skills: Social skills are essential for healthy interactions with peers and adults. Teachers can facilitate activities that encourage cooperation, communication, and empathy. Through group projects, discussions, and role-playing, children from broken homes can enhance their social skills, boosting their self-confidence and ability to form positive relationships.
5. Being a Positive Role Model: Teachers serve as role models for all students, including those from broken homes. By demonstrating kindness, respect, responsibility, and a strong work ethic, teachers can inspire children to adopt positive behaviors. For children who may lack positive role models at home, teachers can play a crucial role in shaping their values and attitudes.

CONCLUSION

After reviewing and analyzing some of the journals above, it can be concluded that the role of teachers in educating broken home students underscores the importance of the teacher's role as a supporter, guide, and motivator for students who face challenges in broken home families. The factors that cause broken homes vary, including divorce, lack of attention, family conflict, and economic factors. In this context, teachers have a significant role in helping students overcome the negative impact of the situation.

Teachers' roles in educating broken home students include providing emotional support, building good relationships, providing guidance and

counseling, and creating a safe and comfortable learning environment. Teachers also play a role in integrating students in school activities and working with parents to provide a holistic approach to support student development.

By understanding the conditions of broken home students and having good communication skills and empathy, teachers can help students overcome emotional, social, and academic problems. Individual counseling services also play a crucial role in providing specific solutions and support to students. Teachers' success in this role can contribute to increased learning motivation, academic achievement and student well-being.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the summary of these references, the following are some recommendations that can be taken to optimize the role of teachers in educating students who come from broken home families:

1. **Teacher Training and Development:** Teachers need to undergo in-depth training on specific approaches to educating broken home students. This includes more sensitive communication skills, in-depth understanding of the problems students face, and effective counseling techniques.
2. **Building Empathic Relationships:** Teachers need to be able to build empathetic relationships with students. This will help students feel heard and understood, so that they feel more comfortable to talk about the problems they face.
3. **Counseling Services:** Schools need to provide easily accessible counseling services for broken home students. Counseling teachers can provide concrete solutions, emotional support, and help students develop necessary social skills.
4. **Collaboration with Parents:** Teachers need to involve parents in supporting children's education. This collaboration can help create a more stable and supportive environment for student development.
5. **Self-introduction:** Teachers can encourage students to better understand themselves, understand their feelings and reactions to their family situation. This will assist students in overcoming challenges and developing resilience.
6. **Rewards and Recognition:** Teachers should give rewards and recognition for students' efforts and achievements. This can increase their learning motivation and build self-confidence.
7. **Integration in School Activities:** Teachers can integrate students in school activities such as extracurricular activities or group projects. This will help students feel more involved and accepted in the school environment.

8. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Teachers need to constantly monitor students' development, both academically and emotionally. With a deeper understanding of students' development, teachers can better respond to their needs.
9. **Support Resources:** Schools need to provide additional support resources, such as psychological or counseling services, which can help students overcome deeper problems.
10. **Awareness Education:** In addition to educating students, teachers can also play a role in raising awareness among parents and communities about the impact of and ways to cope with broken home situations.

Implementing these recommendations will help teachers play a more effective role in educating students from broken homes, helping them overcome their challenges and giving them the opportunity to grow and develop positively. However, educating broken home students also faces several challenges, including students' difficulty in concentrating, frustration, and lack of support from parents. Therefore, the role of teachers in educating broken home students is important in creating an inclusive learning environment and providing the assistance needed for students to succeed in education.

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