

The Importance of Early Childhood Education in Building Social and Emotional Intelligence in Children

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ABSTRACT: This research is motivated by the presence of many people who have a high level of intelligence, but are less able to realize success in their lives, this is caused by social and emotional intelligence factors, not a few people who are less able to control impulses, are less able to manage stress with good, also less able to communicate well and less able to recognize and solve problems, and less able to adapt and so on. Seeing this, it is necessary to conduct a study of this incident by taking samples from various examples in the community who are currently or have undergone the process of educating their children. Researchers conducted surveys and asked questions with people around and got various kinds of responses that were quite diverse. To achieve this goal, this research uses qualitative-descriptive research methods with literature study techniques. The results of this study obtained data and facts that early childhood education () is very important in providing a stimulus in growing hidden potentials in children, namely the dimensions of child development, and one of them is social emotional development in early childhood.

Keywords: social, emotional, children.

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INTRODUCTION

SISDIKNAS Law No. 20 of 2003) is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills that needed by himself and society. (Nasional, 2003).

According to Ki Hajar Dewantara, explained the meaning of education, namely: Education is a demand in the life of the growth of children, as for the meaning, education is to guide all the natural forces that exist in children, so that they are human and as human beings. members of society can attain the highest safety and happiness. Education is a conscious effort to prepare students through guidance, teaching, and or training activities for their future roles (Hill, 1990), (Tabroni, 2019).

According to Law no. 20 of 2003 Education is a conscious and planned effort to create a learning atmosphere and learning process so that students actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble character, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation, and country. Meanwhile, according to H. Horne, education is a continuous (eternal) process of higher adjustment for human beings who have developed physically and mentally, who are free and aware of God, as manifested in the intellectual, emotional and human surroundings of God man. (Nasional, 2003).

From several definitions of education according to these experts, it can be concluded that education is guidance or assistance given by adults to the development of children to reach maturity with the aim that children are capable enough to carry out their own life tasks without the help of others.

Early childhood education based on Permendikbud number 146 of 2014 article 1 regarding the 2013 curriculum, namely Early Childhood Education is a level of education before the basic education level as a coaching effort aimed at children from birth to the age of 6 years (Schunk, 2015).

This is done through the provision of educational stimuli to help physical and spiritual growth and development so that children have readiness to enter further education (Siti Maesaroh et al., 2022). According to Rahman (Susanto, 2017), Early Childhood Education is a planned and systematic effort carried out by educators or caregivers for 0-8 children with the aim that children are able to develop their potential optimally.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Early Childhood Education Concept

Early childhood education is one form of education that focuses on laying the foundation for growth in accordance with the uniqueness and stages of development in accordance with the uniqueness and stages of development according to the groups that are passed by early childhood as stated in Permendikbud number 37 years 2014 article 1 paragraph (2), the standard level of achievement of early childhood development is a criterion regarding the abilities achieved by children in all aspects of development and growth including

aspects of development and growth, which include aspects of religious and moral values, physical motoric cognitive language arts and social emotional.

Early childhood education provides efforts to stimulate, guide, hone and provide activities that will produce children's abilities and skills (Imam Tabroni et al., 2021), (Imam Tabroni, Husniyah, et al., 2022). Early Childhood Education is education given to children from birth up to the age of 6 years. In accordance with the uniqueness and growth of early childhood, the implementation of early childhood education is adjusted to the stages of development that are passed by the early childhood (Kurdi, 2009), (Imam Tabroni & Siti Maryatul Qutbiyah, 2022).

Education can be said to be ideal if it pays attention to various dimensions, such as intellectual, spiritual, and social dimensions (Imam Tabroni, Ayit Irpani, et al., 2022). Of course, by paying attention to the physical capacity and potential, as well as the reality of the students to synergize well (Tirtayani, 2014). So that all elements and educational tools are needed to support the success of all learning programs and activities that will be carried out, such as fostering good teachers, organizing the learning environment, fostering the mental readiness of students, to planning programs that will and are being carried out as well as possible (Monette et al., 2013), (Tabroni et al., 2022).

Preparedness and planning that is mature and synergized well will provide calm and a comfortable learning atmosphere, thus affecting the child's personality. Socio-emotional development in early childhood is a change in behavior accompanied by certain feelings that surround early childhood when dealing with other people. Social and emotional development are two different aspects but in reality they influence each other. In their daily life, when interacting with other people, early childhood behavior is always surrounded by feelings and the feelings that surround early childhood will also affect the behavior they display.

Emotional intelligence is the ability to recognize one's own feelings and the feelings of others, the ability to motivate oneself and the ability to manage emotions and social behavior well in oneself and in fostering relationships with others (Nggermanto, 2001). Generally, parents do not realize that there is another dominant factor besides intelligence, namely emotion. Now another view has developed which states that the most dominant factor influencing individual success in life is not solely determined by high intellectual intelligence but is determined by the emotional stability factor which experts call emotional or emotional intelligence (Goleman, 1995). (Wiyani, 2014).

Today we often hear complaints from parents, teachers, and people who are involved in the world of children, especially those who are dealing directly with young children and even teenagers who are difficult to control. The occurrence of social and emotional disorders in children such as the inability to show appropriate behavior in certain situations, the inability to build friendships with peers, easily feeling depressed or anxious just for minor reasons, having certain symptom disorders when dealing with problems.

So that children grow up to be angry figures, have excessive fear, have difficulty adapting, do not have self-confidence, low self-esteem, shy and so on,

or other things that can disrupt public order and harm the child himself, so the author feels interested in exploring more with trying to research further about the importance of early childhood education () in shaping social and emotional intelligence in children, so that children grow into figures who have optimal social and emotional intelligence.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a descriptive and survey qualitative approach. Qualitative research is a study conducted by researchers by collecting data, processing data, analyzing, and interpreting the results of research data that were previously obtained through several techniques, including conducting observations, interviews or interviews, content analysis, and other appropriate methods in exploring and find data. (Suharsimi Arikunto, 2010).

The researcher conducts his research based on strategy, paradigm, and qualitative implementation. The purpose of this approach is to describe and explain an event, situation, or all objects related to the variables that are poured in numbers, interpreted in words, then given an in-depth interpretation and analysis. While descriptive research is a research that seeks to describe the solution of existing problems based on data, analyze and interpret. In addition, it can also be comparative and correlative. The purpose of this study is to solve problems systematically and factually regarding the facts and characteristics of the population. (Moeloeng, 2011).

RESULTS

Development Emotional intelligence increasingly needs to be understood and cared for considering the current conditions of life are increasingly complex and have a very bad impact on the development of children's emotional and social lives. The results of a survey of parents and teachers show that there is a similar trend, namely the current generation has more emotional difficulties than the previous generation, the current generation is less polite, anxious, nervous, and more impulsive.

The results of the survey regarding the importance of early childhood education in shaping social and emotional intelligence in children stated that early childhood education () is very important for early childhood. both personally and socially, there is evidence that children raised in a democratic setting are well adjusted.

Although the family is the center of education, but as children grow, the need for children's education also increases. This causes families to be expected to cooperate with other education centers, namely schools and communities. The Early Childhood Education Unit is one of the educational facilities for children, which has a special curriculum in educating children. The curriculum has a program of play and learning activities that are developed according to the child's developmental stage, and in curriculum development itself has several principles (relevance, adaptation, continuity, flexibility, practicality and acceptability, feasibility, and accountability) in order to provide the right direction in the process. education and outcomes to be achieved.

In addition, the function of itself is to develop children's potential, form children's character, and still provide opportunities for children to play. Because education is a directed socialization process, the nature of education as a normative process of knowledge operation, children give color to children's social life in society, and their lives in the future.

DISCUSSION

Early childhood education is very important because the goal in early childhood education is to develop the knowledge and understanding of parents and teachers, as well as parties related to education and development in early childhood, by developing various potentials of children from an early age, as preparation for life and development to adapt to their environment (Schunk, 2015), (Winfred F.Hill, 2012),(Thut et al., 1964). This means forming quality children, namely children who grow and develop according to their level of development so that they have optimal readiness to enter basic education, as well as to navigate the next life (Tabroni et al., 2021), (Tabroni et al., 2022).

Early Childhood Education plays a very important and decisive role in the history of subsequent child development because Early Childhood Education is the basic foundation for a child's personality (Arthur et al., n.d.). Children receiving guidance from an early age will be able to improve their physical and mental health and well-being which will have an impact on increasing learning achievement, work ethic, and productivity (Lewis, 2012), (Lickona, 2012), . In the end, children will be able to be independent and optimize their potential.

Early Childhood Education is also used as a mirror to see the success of children in the future. Children who get good services from an early age have greater hopes for success in the future.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Early childhood education () plays an important role in shaping social and emotional intelligence in early childhood, while the factors that influence social emotional development can be sourced from oneself such as physical intellectual or cognitive conditions, conflicts experienced by individuals during the learning process. previous developments, anxiety, family environment, school environment, and the surrounding community or living environment conditions.

Early Childhood Education plays a very important and decisive role in the history of subsequent child development, one of which is social and emotional development in children because Early Childhood Education is the basic foundation for a child's personality. Children receiving guidance from an early age will be able to improve their physical and mental health and well-being which will have an impact on increasing learning achievement, work ethic, and productivity. In the end, children will be able to be independent and optimize their potential.

FURTHER STUDY

Every research is subject to limitations; thus, you can explain them here and briefly provide suggestions to further investigations.

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