



TEACHER STRATEGIES FOR INSTILLING AN ATTITUDE OF TOLERANCE IN STUDENTS IN RESPONDING TO DIFFERENCES IN BELIEFS

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Abstract:

Instilling an attitude of tolerance in students is a strategic step in creating a learning environment that is inclusive, harmonious and supports diversity. This article discusses the importance of tolerance as an effort to build harmony amidst the diversity of society, avoid conflict, and strengthen unity. Using library research methods, this article identifies strategies that teachers can implement, such as integrating diversity in the curriculum, implementing cross-cultural activities, and developing class discussions. The role of teachers as role models, mediators and facilitators is very important in encouraging students to understand diversity as richness. Apart from that, collaboration with parents and the community can strengthen the value of tolerance outside of school. This article concludes that education based on tolerance can create a generation that is ready to live side by side peacefully amidst plurality.

Keywords: *Teacher Strategies, Tolerance Attitude, Differences In Beliefs*

INTRODUCTION

Instilling an attitude of tolerance in students is an important task for a teacher to create a harmonious learning environment that supports diversity. The following are several strategies that teachers can apply. Instilling an attitude of tolerance is an important step in creating a harmonious life amidst the diversity of society. Tolerance is an attitude of respecting and accepting differences, whether in religion, culture, ethnicity, political views or lifestyle. Tolerance is a principle inherited from the Prophet Muhammad, which teaches us to respect the rights and freedoms of other people, and maintain peace and harmony between religious communities. (Syaiful, 2023) In a diverse society, religious tolerance is very important to create harmony, avoid conflict, and strengthen unity. Education is an investment in developing human resources and is seen as a basic need for a society that wants to progress. The aim of education is to create a person of quality and character who has a broad view of the future to achieve the expected goals and is able to adapt quickly and precisely in various environments. Education is the gateway to a better life by fighting for the smallest things to the biggest things that humans normally pass by. Education is a provision for pursuing everything a person targets in his life so that without education, logically everything he dreams of becomes very difficult to come true. Education is a tool for developing oneself, one's mentality, mindset and also one's quality, because education itself motivates every human being to be better in all aspects of life. (Sipahutar, 2023).

RESEARCH METHODS

The literature review research method is a research approach that utilizes written sources or literature as the main data to answer research questions. This method is usually used in qualitative research, especially to build theoretical frameworks, understand concepts, or review the results of previous research.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Instilling an attitude of tolerance in students when facing differences in beliefs is an important task for a teacher to create an inclusive and harmonious learning environment. Here are some strategies that can be done:

Providing Understanding of Diversity (YULIANA, 2023)

Integration in the Curriculum: Present material about cultural diversity, religion and belief as part of learning in various subjects, such as Religious Education and Citizenship Education.

Inspirational Stories: Use stories or stories that raise the themes of tolerance, unity and respect for differences.

It is important to provide students with an understanding of diversity as a first step in building an attitude of tolerance. Strategies such as integrating diversity values into the curriculum, especially through subjects such as Religious Education and Citizenship Education, are a holistic approach to instilling appreciation for differences from an early age. This approach is relevant because it allows students to understand diversity not only as a social concept, but also as part of character formation supported by formal education. Apart from that, using inspirational stories as a learning medium is an effective creative step. Stories that raise themes of tolerance, unity, and respect for differences can help students understand these abstract concepts in a more concrete and relatable way.

Building an Inclusive School Environment

Joint Activities: Organize interfaith or cultural activities, such as cultural festivals or group discussions about diversity. (Adiprasetyo, 2020)

Diversity Symbols: Use posters, slogans or symbols that promote the values of tolerance in the school environment.

An inclusive school environment can support the cultivation of tolerance in students. Through interfaith or cultural activities, such as cultural festivals and group discussions about diversity, students can learn to understand and respect differences in an interactive and fun way. This kind of activity not only strengthens relationships between students, but also creates an atmosphere of togetherness that reflects the values of tolerance.

Care needs to be taken to ensure that the activities and symbols used reflect the true diversity of the school environment. These activities should be designed to involve all students without discrimination, so that each individual feels valued and accepted. With this inclusive approach, the school environment can become a safe and comfortable place for all students, as well as a place for learning to build a harmonious society.

Be a Role Model

Teachers must be an example of tolerance by showing respect for all students regardless of their religious background or beliefs.

The important role of teachers as role models in instilling an attitude of tolerance in students. Teachers have a big influence in shaping students' behavior and thinking patterns, so showing real tolerance is a very effective step. By respecting all students regardless of their religious background or beliefs, teachers not only teach the theoretical values of tolerance but also provide direct examples of how tolerance can be applied in everyday life.

A consistent attitude of tolerance from teachers can create an inclusive learning environment, where every student feels accepted and valued. This not only impacts relationships between students but also builds students' trust in teachers as fair and wise leaders. It is important for teachers to manage their actions and words mindfully, ensuring that each student is treated equally and with the same respect.

Developing Class Discussions

Discussion Forum: Invite students to talk about the importance of tolerance and its positive impact on society. Make sure the discussion atmosphere is free from pressure.

Critical Approach: Help students understand that differences are a wealth, not a threat.

Developing class discussions is a very effective strategy for instilling the value of tolerance in students. By holding discussion forums, teachers can create space for students to talk openly about the importance of tolerance and its positive impact on society. These kinds of discussions allow students to express their views, share experiences, and listen to other people's perspectives, which can ultimately broaden their understanding of diversity. For discussions to take place well, teachers need to ensure an atmosphere that is free from pressure, so that students feel safe to express their opinions.

In addition, applying a critical approach in discussions is very important to help students understand that differences are a wealth that must be appreciated, not a threat that must be avoided. Teachers can guide students to analyze how diversity provides benefits for social life, such as increasing creativity, strengthening collaboration, and enriching cultural insight. This approach can also encourage students to think more deeply about diversity issues and how they can contribute to creating an inclusive society.

Handling Conflicts Wisely

Managing conflict wisely can help students learn how to deal with differences constructively. Conflict management involving open communication, respect for differing views, and peaceful problem resolution teaches students important skills for becoming tolerant individuals. (Thomas, 1992). If a conflict occurs due to differences in beliefs, resolve it immediately with a mediation approach that involves all parties. Use this moment as a lesson learner.

Handling conflict wisely is an important aspect in creating a harmonious and tolerant environment at school. Conflicts that arise due to differences in beliefs or views are often unavoidable, especially in diverse environments. Therefore, when conflict occurs, it is very important for teachers to immediately intervene and resolve it with a mediation approach that involves all parties concerned. This approach ensures that all voices are heard and each party feels valued in the problem-solving process. In the mediation process, the teacher acts as a neutral party, facilitating conversations wisely and fairly, and helping students to find mutually respectful solutions. In addition, it is important to create a calm and open atmosphere so that each party can express their feelings and opinions without fear or pressure.

Conflicts caused by differences in beliefs can also be used as learning opportunities. Through conflict resolution, students can learn the importance of effective communication, respecting other people's views, and appreciating differences. Teachers can use this moment to teach students the values of tolerance, justice and empathy, so that they can face them more wisely in the future. In this way, conflicts are not only resolved, but also become an opportunity to strengthen attitudes of tolerance among students.

Teaching Universal Values

Encourage students to understand universal values such as compassion, empathy, and justice that transcend differences in religion and belief.

Teaching universal values such as compassion, empathy and justice to students is an important step in shaping their character so they can coexist harmoniously amidst diversity. These values do not only apply in the context of a particular religion or belief, but are global and can be accepted by everyone, regardless of their background. Therefore, it is very important for teachers to encourage students to understand and internalize these values in everyday life.

Compassion teaches students to care and pay attention to others, not only to those who have the same views or beliefs, but also to those who are different. Empathy

teaches them to understand other people's feelings and put themselves in other people's shoes, while fairness encourages students to treat everyone equally, without discrimination. These three values are interrelated and form the basis for a strong attitude of tolerance.

Through an approach based on universal values, students are not only taught to respect religious or cultural differences, but also to see that every individual has the right to receive equal and loving treatment. In an educational context, teachers can integrate these values in daily learning and activities, such as class discussions, group projects, or social activities. In this way, students can develop mutual respect and create an inclusive and tolerant environment.

Involving Parents and Community

Parental Cooperation: Hold seminars or discussions with parents to support the value of tolerance at home.

Collaborate with the Community: Involve local organizations or community leaders who promote diversity and tolerance. (Yusuf, 2024)

Involving parents and communities in the education process about tolerance is essential to ensure that these values are continued beyond the school environment and are widely accepted in society. One way to involve parents is to hold seminars or discussions that can educate them about the importance of supporting tolerance at home. Parents, as the first educators of their children, have a very large role in shaping children's views and attitudes towards differences. In this seminar or discussion, parents can be given information about how to teach and instill the values of tolerance in their children, as well as how they can be role models in everyday life.

In addition, collaboration with local communities can also strengthen these efforts. Schools can collaborate with local organizations, community leaders, or institutions that promote diversity and tolerance. By involving them in school activities, such as seminars, workshops or cultural events, students can learn directly from the experience and knowledge of adults who have broad insight about the importance of diversity and tolerance in social life. Community involvement also provides an opportunity for students to see that the values of tolerance are not only applied at school, but also in the real world.

By involving parents and the community, the value of tolerance will become increasingly embedded in students' lives, both at home, school and society, thus forming a generation that is more inclusive and respectful of each other.

Creative Activities

Drama or Role Play: Engage students in drama or role play about diversity to build empathy.

Collaborative Projects: Assign interfaith groups to complete a project together, such as creating a tolerance poster.

Through collaboration in groups, students learn to communicate effectively, share ideas, and resolve conflicts constructively. Research shows that group work can improve social skills, which are essential in developing tolerance. (Johnson, 2009) Creative activities such as drama or role play and collaborative projects are very effective methods in teaching tolerance to students. Drama or role play can also be a means of introducing diversity issues in a more interesting and interactive way, encouraging students to think critically about differences and how to respond to them in a wise and respectful manner.

Meanwhile, collaborative projects, such as interfaith group assignments, give students the opportunity to work together to accomplish a common goal, despite their differences. For example, an assignment to create a tolerance poster will involve discussion and collaboration among students who have different views, cultures, or religions. In this process, students will learn to respect each other's opinions, discuss constructively, and combine ideas to create results that demonstrate the values of diversity and tolerance. Through this interaction, students can understand that differences of opinion are normal and can be a source of strength in solving problems, students not only understand the importance of tolerance but also make it a part of

everyday life. The teacher's role is very important as a facilitator and guide in this process.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research and development of the Islamic

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