



THE ROLE OF TEACHERS IN INSTALLING THE VALUES OF TOLERANCE IN EARLY CHILDREN

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Abstract:

One of the character values that is instilled in children is tolerance. Instilling the value of tolerance from an early age aims to ensure that children have a sense of respect for diversity. The aim of this research is to explain the importance of the role of teachers in instilling the value of tolerance in early childhood at Raudatul Athfal Miftahul Ulum. This research method involves classroom observations, interviews with teachers and analysis of curriculum documents. The collected data was analyzed qualitatively to identify teacher behavior patterns in designing understanding and acceptance of diversity. The results of the research show that the role of teachers in instilling the value of tolerance in children includes designing a tolerance curriculum, having optimal and proportional competence and having a strong commitment to providing examples to children regarding character values, one of which is the value of tolerance. The teacher's role in instilling the value of tolerance can also be through learning activities using several methods such as providing role models, providing direction, habituation, involving stories, role playing and collaborative activities, storytelling activities, game activities and the use of media, proven to be effective in increasing understanding and understanding. tolerance attitude. Apart from teachers, parents, the community also plays an important role in instilling the values of tolerance because young children also live in a pluralistic society.

Keywords: *teacher's role; tolerance value, early childhood.*

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia consists of various ethnicities, cultures and religions which can trigger character education for early childhood aimed at instilling good values so that they become habits when children are adults or at the next level of education. At this time, children have not received negative influences which tend to come from the environment, so parents and early childhood educators will find it easier to guide children to maximize their development, especially in instilling character education values (Time et al., 2019) . As the aim of character education is to provide guidance to students to develop character values consciously both at school and in the surrounding environment. Tolerance is a very important behavior in life. Moreover, the very rapid development of technology also influences the sense of tolerance that exists in every individual (Ketut Sudarsana OI, 2017) .

In a global, plural, multi-cultural era like now, at any time unimaginable and

completely unexpected events can occur. Apart from bringing convenience and comfort to human life, advances in science and technology have also resulted in widening differences in economic income levels between rich and poor countries (Sukarno, 2020) . Increasingly faster and more sophisticated means of transportation have the impact of eliminating the distance between one region holding a particular religious tradition and those holding another religious tradition. Cultural contacts are increasingly rapid and friction between cultures and traditions is inevitable, which no longer even recognizes conventional geographical boundaries. Internet, e-mail, fax, telephone, mobile phone, video and so on make students gain knowledge faster than their teachers (Nurul Dwi Tsoraya et al., 2023) .

One important part of the consequences of the global order of life, which is marked by ethnic, cultural and religious diversity, is building and regenerating the spirit of *tasâmuh* in society. Because in essence we are all "brothers" and "friends". In fact, Islam, through the Koran and its Hadith, also teaches tolerant attitudes. This attitude of tolerance is an attitude that must be instilled in schools and also in the role of the people around them (Purbajati, 2020) . Many cases of intolerance are due to differences in ethnicity and beliefs. An attitude of tolerance needs to be prepared from childhood, to maintain the differences that exist in society. Tolerance is related to citizenship education, to foster tolerance, responsibility, discipline and critical thinking. These values of tolerance provide provisions for respecting the differences and opinions of fellow citizens. Teachers are expected to be able to understand tolerance and apply creative and inclusive approaches to create a learning environment that supports positive values in early childhood (Endang, 2009) . Early Childhood Education (PAUD) is the period of education carried out by children before entering elementary school (SD) or education intended for children aged 0 to 6 years. Providing education at the age of 0-6 years can determine the child's development and personality, as well as influence the child's physical and spiritual growth and development so that they are ready to enter further education. Apart from that, the age of 0-6 years is the age that is considered the most important or "Golden Age" because 80% of brain development occurs at that age (Asti, 2017) .

It is hoped that instilling the values of tolerance from an early age will be able to turn the Indonesian generation into a generation that can maintain the integrity of this very plural nation. Early childhood is a golden age, known as *the golden age* , where at this age the influence of teachers and the surrounding environment will leave a deep impression on their memory. The role of teachers in early childhood is to understand and increase understanding about respecting the differences around them (Khaironi, 2018) .

An attitude of tolerance maintains peace and harmony in society . To maintain the integrity of the Indonesian nation, which is full of differences, an attitude of tolerance is needed in every element of society, so that there will be no such thing as division due to differences in culture, beliefs, race, or even differences in understanding (Aditya et al., 2022) . Indonesia has a motto that is a way of life in facing all existing differences, namely *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* (Diverse but still one). Tolerance can be divided into two types, namely active tolerance and passive tolerance. Active tolerance is an attitude based on knowledge, understanding and perspective. Meanwhile, passive tolerance is more limited to ignoring or not criticizing differences too much (Tirza et al., 2022) . Forms of tolerance are divided into two, namely religious tolerance and social tolerance. Religious tolerance is tolerance related to religious beliefs which is

related to an accepting attitude to provide opportunities for adherents of other religions to worship according to the provisions they believe in. Meanwhile, social tolerance is concerned with how people are able to cooperate with other people without looking at differences in religion, culture, etc. within predetermined boundaries. It is important for early childhood education teachers to choose, find and look for partners who are suitable for *golden age children* so that they can grow and develop perfectly, receive education, learning and care services with good character (Purbajati, 2020).

RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a literacy study method. The findings from this research illustrate the role of teachers in supporting the tolerance learning process in children (Asti, 2017). This includes designing a curriculum that supports the value of tolerance, having superior skills, and being a good example for children in building character, including tolerance. Teachers can also help children learn about tolerance through various ways such as social interaction, telling stories, involving them in games, and using various types of play activities. This research is different from the research I carried out in its scope. This research involved all schools in Indonesia, while our research only focused on the education of RA Miftahul Ulum Curah Kates Opo-Opo Krejengan.

This research is a qualitative descriptive case study type research. This research is research which includes an individual, a group, an organization, an activity program, and so on at a certain time. This type of descriptive research aims to explore and describe social reality, describing a number of variables related to the problem and unit being studied. This research aims to determine the process of forming a generation that has a high sense of tolerance so that it becomes the basis for good behavior in facing all the cultural diversity that exists in Indonesia (Diversity et al., nd).

Sources of information were obtained from several informants who were attached to the research location. The sources of informants were the principal of the Raudhatul Athfal school, Miftahul Ulum, Opo-Opo Krejengan (SP), three teachers (HS, MY, LL), three madrasa administrative staff (RM, SB, ZA) and the chairman of the Raudhatul Athfal (NR) community. In interviews, researchers used structured free questions to respondents. In this case, researchers link the strategy and process of delivering tolerance material, as well as how to instill an attitude of tolerance in early childhood. The research results show that the role of teachers is very significant in forming tolerance values in early childhood. Teachers act as models, facilitators and mentors who help children understand the importance of respecting differences in culture, religion and other backgrounds (Nurul Dwi Tsoraya et al., 2023). Teaching strategies involving stories, role plays, and collaborative activities have proven effective in increasing understanding and tolerance.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When someone carries out their rights and obligations in accordance with their position, then that person has carried out a role. Roles and positions depend on each other (Tirza et al., 2022). There is no role without a position, likewise there is no position without a role. Every person has various roles according to their social patterns. Teachers are educators and instructors in early childhood education through school or formal education, basic education and secondary education (Anggita & Suryadilaga, 2021). Such teachers must have some kind of formal qualification. In a

broader definition, anyone who teaches something new can also be considered a teacher. The teacher's role in the learning process is as Informator, Organizer, Motivator, Director/Director, Initiator, Transmitter, Facilitator, Mediator, and Evaluator.

Meanwhile, according to Ki Hajar Dewantara, teachers as leaders in the classroom must set a good example for their students. They must be able to practice the values they teach, such as discipline, hard work, honesty and tolerance. A teacher must also be a good role model for his students (Rukiyati, 2019) .

Teachers have a crucial role in instilling the value of tolerance in young children. First, through examples of positive behavior, teachers can guide children to respect differences and accept diversity. Apart from that, involving educational activities that encourage understanding of different cultures, religions and backgrounds can form tolerant thinking in children (Sulaeka & Susanto, 2023) . Teachers can also use stories or games that promote the values of tolerance to strengthen children's understanding of this concept. Thus, the role of teachers is not only as educators but also as role models who shape children's character in accepting differences with an open attitude (Fathul Amin, 2019) .

Good early childhood education has several main criteria. First, the learning environment must provide safety and emotional support for children. Second, educational programs must be appropriate to the child's developmental stage, integrate play approaches, and stimulate creative exploration. Furthermore, teachers must have a deep understanding of children's individual needs, and apply interesting and responsive learning methods (Mardi & Na'imah, 2020) . Collaboration with parents is also a key element to support children's holistic development. Effective early childhood education does not only focus on academic aspects, but also pays attention to children's social, emotional and physical development. By meeting these criteria, early childhood education can provide a solid foundation for children's optimal growth (Mimin & Pembangunan Satya Wacana Christian University, 2023) .

The challenges of religious tolerance education in early childhood mostly originate from within the young child. Naive egocentric nature in early childhood makes religious tolerance education at an early age important even though it is very difficult and takes time to implement. Early childhood children have narrow thoughts and feelings when assessing something that has broad components such as religion (Nisa et al., 2020) .

Tolerance comes from the English word "Tolerance" which means to allow. According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), tolerance is defined as an attitude of being tolerant, silent and allowing (Keragaman et al., nd) . Meanwhile, in Arabic, tolerance is a stance or attitude to accept various views, as well as diverse positions even if they do not agree. So, tolerance is a way of respecting, allowing, condoning opinions, views, beliefs, habits that are contrary to one's stance. As for Sukarno's explanation, character education is something that is fundamental in the context of forming a student's character or personality. Rofi'ie also explained that character education is a system that applies character values to students, which contains the components of knowledge, determination, individual awareness, as well as the desire and action to realize the values, both towards God, the environment, fellow human beings, oneself. themselves, as well as the nation that will ultimately form human beings (Asti, 2017) .

Character consists of three interrelated components, namely: moral behavior,

moral knowing (moral knowledge), and moral feeling (moral feelings). Positive character consists of knowledge about goodness (knowing the good), the desire to do good (desiring the good), and carrying out goodness (doing the good). In this condition, it requires habituation in thinking (habits of the mind), and habituation in action (habits of the heart), and habituation in action (habit of the action). The essence of character education has a higher meaning than moral education, because character education is not only focused on right or wrong, but also how to form habits regarding something that is good in carrying out life, so that students have high understanding and awareness, as well as commitment and concern for implementing virtues in everyday life (Hutagalung & Ramadan, 2022) .

The aim of character education is to build the quality of educational processes and outcomes that refer to the education of students' character and morals in an integrated, complete and balanced manner that is in line with the desired educational standards. With character education, students are expected to be competent in independently increasing and applying their knowledge, studying, and personalizing the values of character education and noble morals so that they are created in daily activities. Tolerance is not an attitude or trait, but rather a person's decision (Anggita & Suryadilaga, 2021) .

Tolerance is a gift of freedom possessed by all people who want to choose their beliefs or simply organize their lives to determine their own destiny. With limits, as long as the person's conduct and determination of life does not exceed or conflict with existing regulations in society (Mardi & Na'imah, 2020) . Meanwhile, according to the author, tolerance is an attitude that tolerates a stance that is contrary to one's stance. There are two approaches that can be used in teaching tolerance: direct methods and indirect methods. The first model focuses on direct interaction between students who have different backgrounds. This model requires different student backgrounds in the learning process (Nisa et al., 2020) .

To expand students' understanding of diversity, the second approach has great significance. Not only at the middle and high school levels, but also at the elementary school level, implementing an education model that prioritizes tolerance is very important. Tolerance education has a relevant effect in reducing prejudice and discriminatory behavior in several countries (Anggita & Suryadilaga, 2021) . In addition, the tolerance education model can influence the acceptance of students of different nationalities, skin types, religions and cultures. The values of tolerance can be instilled from an early age through the role of teachers at school and the role of parents in the surrounding environment. Explains that moral development in early childhood is still at a low level, because children's intellectual development is not yet able to apply abstract principles of right and wrong, and does not have the urge to follow rules, because they do not understand the benefits of being a member of a social group. Moral development in childhood has signs: repressive religious attitudes even though there are lots of questions, the view of divinity is personified, spiritual appreciation is still not deep, things about divinity are in accordance with cognitive abilities (Sulaeka & Susanto, 2023) .

Morals and religion are something abstract. Both will be visible to the sense of sight if demonstrated through behavior in everyday life. A person will be said to have obedience to his religion if he carries out various worship activities in accordance with the teachings of his religion. Likewise with morals, a person will be said to have good morals if he behaves (shows behavior) in accordance with the rules or follows the rules

within his group (Hutagalung & Ramadan, 2022) .

Likewise, in the National Education System Law, it is stated in Article 3 which reads, National education functions to develop abilities and shape the character and civilization of a dignified nation in order to make the life of the nation intelligent, with the aim of developing the potential of students so that they become human beings who believe in and are devoted to God Almighty, have noble character, are healthy, and knowledgeable. , capable, creative, independent, and become democratic and responsible citizens.

Teachers have a crucial role in instilling the value of tolerance in young children. First, through examples of positive behavior, teachers can guide children to respect differences and accept diversity. In addition, engaging in educational activities that encourage understanding of different cultures, religions and backgrounds can form tolerant thinking in children. Teachers can also use stories or games that promote the values of tolerance to strengthen children's understanding of this concept. Thus, the role of teachers is not only as educators but also as role models who shape children's character in accepting differences with an open attitude (Year, 2017) .

Early childhood is a child aged 0 to 8 years, this age is a period whose character must be formed, because it is still easy to be influenced and curiosity is very large (Time et al., 2019) . Gardner revealed that children at an early age have a very important role, because their brain development can jump and their development is very fast, reaching 80%. When a child is born, his brain has reached 25% of his brain development, at the age of up to 4 years his brain development has reached up to 50% and at the age of 8 years he has reached 80%, the child can then develop until the child is 18 years old. Basically, at an age like early childhood, it is very easy to form character, especially in forming the character of tolerance, so that at this age parents and teachers must be clever at developing strategies to form a tolerant character (Ketut Sudarsana OI, 2017) . At that age it becomes a good foundation for developing potential and personality. The main key in forming character at an early age is patience and perseverance from parents and teachers

Tolerance is a universal value in religions, in the form of an open attitude that respects and accepts differences, whether differences in views, beliefs, culture, religion, ethnicity, race, gender or social background. Instilling the values of tolerance in early childhood is very important to form inclusive attitudes, mutual respect, and the ability to live in harmony amidst the diversity of society (Rukiyati, 2019) .

According to Elis Teti Rusmiati from Prof. University. Dr. Moestopo (Religion), instilling the values of tolerance in early childhood aims to form children's attitudes that are more inclusive, respectful of each other, and able to live in harmony amidst the diversity of society. Through understanding the values of tolerance, children are expected to develop the ability to live in harmony with people of different backgrounds, cultures, religions, ethnicities, races or views. This activity involves key sources who provide an understanding of tolerance, various interactive methods, and the involvement of teachers and parents to encourage in-depth understanding and habituation of attitudes. Evaluation is carried out through observation, questionnaires and interviews. The results of the activity show that this activity succeeded in increasing children's awareness of the values of tolerance, broadening their understanding of differences, and helping them develop good communication skills and empathy (Endang, 2009) .

This finding is also supported by Patmonodewo's opinion that there needs to be

good cooperation between parents and teachers in educating early childhood. The importance of cooperation between parents and teachers in instilling a sense of tolerance is because young children spend more time with their parents than with educators at school (Hutagalung & Ramadan, 2022) .

This finding is confirmed by research which states that parental and community involvement needs to be carried out in instilling values in early childhood . The involvement of parents in efforts to strengthen religious moderation in early childhood is carried out by PAUD institutions throughout Jiwan District. This makes it a reference that the success of instilling the values of tolerance is due to the relationship between teachers, parents and the community helping each other in providing a good model of tolerance for them (early childhood).

In teaching tolerance to young children, parents must show or model this to their children. For example, parents can try to respect their children, even though they are only children. For example, parents can apologize to their children when they make mistakes, so that children can learn to apologize when they make mistakes. Apart from that, parents can also get their children used to respecting other people, including not making fun of or giving negative comments to other people (Nurul Dwi Tsoraya et al., 2023) . Show mutual respect for everyone regardless of any differences 23. Tolerance is a universal value in religions, in the form of an open attitude that respects and accepts differences, whether differences in views, beliefs, culture, religion, ethnicity, race, gender or background social background.

CONCLUSION

The role of teachers in instilling the value of tolerance in young children is very important and strategic. Teachers are not only transmitters of knowledge, but also role models and facilitators of children's character formation. By introducing the concept of tolerance from an early age, teachers help form a strong moral foundation in children.

Teachers can create an inclusive classroom environment and educate children about diversity. Through a child-friendly approach, they can teach the importance of respecting differences, understanding other people's perspectives, and working together regardless of religious, ethnic, or cultural background.

By instilling the value of tolerance, teachers help form a generation capable of living harmoniously in a diverse society. Tolerance taught from an early age not only creates more open-minded individuals, but also helps prevent conflict and builds a strong foundation for an inclusive and respectful society. Thus, the role of teachers in forming the value of tolerance in early childhood has a positive long-term impact on the formation of children's character and social relationships.

Parents and the community participate as models in instilling the values of tolerance in early childhood, so that children spend more time with their parents and community. Children at this age will see and imitate what they see in their surroundings.

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