

The Role of Parents in Instilling Multicultural Values

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ABSTRACT

This study explores the vital role of parents in instilling multicultural values in Indonesia, a nation marked by cultural, religious, ethnic, and linguistic diversity. Using a qualitative literature review method, data were collected from scientific journals, books, news articles, and research reports. Key values such as tolerance, equality, mutual respect, and justice are analyzed in terms of how parents educate children through daily interactions, moral guidance, exemplary behavior, and exposure to diverse cultures. The findings indicate that moral education must go beyond distinguishing right from wrong. It must include embracing cultural differences, promoting inclusivity, and fostering respect for others. Parents bear a strategic responsibility to nurture children who not only uphold moral norms but also appreciate diversity and live in harmony with people from different backgrounds.

1. Introduction

Indonesia has many ethnic groups and social and cultural diversity, with diverse and distinctive languages and traditions. With hundreds of regional languages, dozens of ethnic groups, various races, and beliefs, Indonesia is rich in multicultural values. Multiculturalism is the recognition and acceptance of social diversity, cultural values, beliefs, customs, gender, and political orientation without discriminating against any group.

Parents, especially fathers and mothers, play an important role as moderators, companions, teachers, and friends for children in every learning process. These roles shape the attitudes, character, and behavior of children that continue to develop from the home environment. Parents are the main parties in educating children; how children behave is a reflection of their parents' upbringing. Children's education is the responsibility of the family. Therefore, parental support is very important in children's development, which is manifested through the instilling of moral values and character building. Of course, every parent wants their children to grow up with good behavior and noble moral values.

2. Literature Review

"The Role of Teachers and Parents in Implementing Multicultural Education" A study on the collaboration between teachers and parents in schools in implementing multicultural education. Teachers play a role in creating an inclusive learning environment, introducing students to different cultures, and encouraging discussion about differences. Parents serve as heads of families who respect diversity within the family; encourage children to interact with other cultures; and

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communicate openly about diversity. The synergy between teachers and parents strengthens the internalization of multicultural values in children. It emphasizes home-school cooperation; demonstrates integrative practices; and relevance to the context of formal education. (A. Octamaya Tenri Awaru)

3. Methodology

This study uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method, in which the author collects data from scientific journals, books, news articles, and research reports related to multicultural values and the role of parents. Data analysis was conducted using systematic content analysis techniques: first, determining important topics and keywords such as "multiculturalism," "tolerance," and "cultural diversity," then searching for relevant literature from reliable sources. Each piece of literature was read critically, key points were noted, and summarized. After that, the results from various sources were synthesized into logical and coherent arguments. This method was chosen because it helped build a strong theoretical framework, elaborating on complex issues such as how parents educate children to respect cultural differences without having to conduct direct field research.

4. Results and Discussion

Forming a quality family in accordance with the mandate of the law that families must be legitimate, prosperous, healthy, independent, have an ideal number of children, be forward-looking, responsible, harmonious, and devoted to God Almighty is not easy. Many moral values in families today are often violated. Morals are very important because they are related to right and wrong, good and bad. Therefore, children must be educated through parenting patterns that prioritize the moral values that apply in this country. Multiculturalism is an important element in moral parenting because Indonesia is a country with pluralistic cultures, religions, ethnicities, and customs. Multiculturalism teaches recognition of differences, tolerance, and appreciation of other cultural identities. Within the family, parents have a strategic role in instilling values of tolerance, mutual respect, and justice so that children can live with others from different cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds. Thus, moral education is not only about understanding right and wrong but also about learning to live in cultural diversity and appreciating differences, as emphasized by multiculturalism in Indonesia (Herviana Muarifah Ngewa 2019). By instilling multicultural education in every individual from an early age, in addition to educational attainment, individual morals become a benchmark for future success. Humans are social beings who require special education. This specific education is aimed at self-improvement, guidance, and developing human potential to harmonize with their social environment (Mulyadi 2019).

Introducing children to the community environment aims to expose them to various forms of social diversity. It is necessary to instill multicultural education in children so that they do not discriminate against groups or individuals based on skin color/race, dialect, social status, or religion. Parents teach positive attitudes about how we do good things/good deeds for others, and those people will also exemplify those good things back to children, for example, respecting others when we respect others, surely others will also respect us. Educate children by establishing habits at home so that they are always close to the Creator of all things, Allah SWT. For example, at home, get children used to reciting the Quran every day after Maghrib prayer, then afterward, parents can give a little advice or convey good things (Fawaid & Hasanah 2020)

4.1 Instilling the Value of Tolerance

Tolerance is the attitude of accepting, appreciating, and respecting the beliefs or convictions of others. One way parents can do this is by bringing their children closer to diversity by introducing them to different ethnic groups, languages, and cultures. Applying multicultural tolerance education in daily activities is a simple way to exemplify respect for the opinions of friends and others (Aeni & Astuti 2020). In teaching tolerance and respect, parents need to emphasize the following (Ratna Hutagalung¹, Zaka Hadikusuma Ramadan 20200):

- a. When visiting the home of a friend of a different religion and seeing images of other beliefs or symbols of God, parents teach their children not to point or mock, but simply to respect and remain silent.
- b. During group prayers in a class consisting of children of different faiths, parents encourage their children to respect them: to watch and remain silent, not to laugh or impose their own beliefs on their friends.
- c. When encountering differences such as skin color or different accents, children are taught that diversity is enriching; their friends' regional languages can be learned to broaden their horizons, and in Indonesia it is better to use the unifying language, Indonesian.

4.2 Instilling Values of Equality and Brotherhood

The value of equality means treating everyone as brothers and sisters, regardless of ethnicity, culture, religion, or language; everyone has the same status. Parents can instill multicultural values and a sense of equality by taking their children to play in parks or on vacations to places with different cultures, attending cultural performances at school so that children can see diversity firsthand, and socializing with friends from different regions and backgrounds. All friends are treated equally regardless of their language, ethnicity, or culture.

4.3 Instilling the Value of Mutual Assistance

Helping others is an act of empathy because, as social beings, we cannot live alone and need the help of others. Parents teach this through simple examples such as helping neighbors in need, helping mothers with housework, or visiting sick friends and bringing them something. Instilling empathy in children will enable them to be more sensitive and aware of other people's feelings. Explain to children that we must help each other whenever we can. We must help others regardless of their religion, ethnicity, or culture. In addition, by helping each other, we can finish our work faster and feel happy because we are helping others (Wiguna & Sunariyadi, 2021).

5. Conclusion

Instilling multicultural values within the family is essential for building children who respect diversity in culture, religion, ethnicity, and customs. Parents must guide their children through moral education that emphasizes tolerance, equality, and justice. Moral education is not just about distinguishing right from wrong, but also about inculcating habits of mutual respect and openness toward others. By modeling inclusive behavior, exposing children to varied cultural experiences, and maintaining open communication about differences, parents create a foundation for harmonious coexistence. Multiculturalism in moral parenting helps children not only understand diverse identities but also appreciate and live among them with dignity.

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