

The Role of MPPL Students in Character Education at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong

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ABSTRACT

Character education is a very important element in shaping students' personalities. Students involved in the Field Experience Internship Program (MPPL) at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong play a strategic role in the development of character education. This article will discuss the contribution of MPPL students in character education, the methods applied, and the impacts they produce. The purpose of this article is to examine the role of students in character education at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong. This study uses a descriptive approach to reveal how students contribute to shaping students' characters through social activities that instill the country's basic values and participation in preserving local culture. The results of the study indicate that students have an important role as examples, organizational drivers, and implementers of community service programs. Character education implemented through project-based learning, social skills training, and extracurricular activities not only helps students achieve good academic achievement but also forms positive characters. Therefore, the active involvement of students has a significant impact on shaping a young generation that is responsible and has integrity

INTRODUCTION

Character education plays a very important role in the formation of individuals who are not only superior in terms of intellectuality, but also have good moral and ethical values. The main focus of character education is to form individuals who have high values of integrity, empathy, and social responsibility in all aspects that are very important in community life. Amidst the increasingly complex global challenges, character education in Indonesia, especially at the secondary school level, is an inseparable part of the main goals of national education. (I Nengah Sudiarta & Ariance Leilu Porro, 2023).

To produce a young generation who not only excels but also has noble character, one of the main priorities of MTs Alkhairaat Bohotokong is to improve character education. Among the important components in this school in improving character education is the role of MPPL (Internship Field Experience) students who actively accompany and guide students in the school environment (Qadimunnur et al., 2022). This program provides opportunities for students to participate directly in the world of education, especially in strengthening and teaching character values to students at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong. Character education is the responsibility of all elements of society, starting from parents, schools and the government (Karmila P Lamadang, 2023).

MPPL students at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong are not only involved in academic learning activities, but also act as agents of change who create an environment that supports the formation of student character. They help instill positive attitudes such as discipline, responsibility, cooperation, and social concern. Their role is crucial in character education that emphasizes moral values that come from local cultural and religious traditions that are strong in the area (Rasyid et al., 2024).

This article will discuss in more depth the contribution of MPPL students to character education at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong, as well as how they play a role in forming superior student characters who are ready to face global challenges. It is hoped that this study will provide an overview of the importance of collaboration between students and schools in building good character for the young generation of Indonesia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

1. *Definition of Character Education*

Character education is a continuous stage in an effort to form and improve attitudes, behaviors, and good moral principles in individuals. The main goal is to produce individuals who have high integrity, deep empathy, and strong social responsibility. This character education is not only applied through learning in schools, but also involves learning that occurs in the family environment, society, and interactions with the surrounding environment. In this situation, it shows that character education covers various aspects of life that are interconnected. (Laana, 2022).

Character education is an effort made to build and develop national character through affective learning, namely learning that focuses on developing good moral values and forming positive attitudes in individuals. This character education is more than just teaching academic knowledge because what is more important is how someone can become an individual who is not only intelligent, but also has good attitudes, is responsible and is able to play a positive role in community life. (Laana, 2022)

2. *Character Education in the Context of Education in Indonesia*

Character education can be understood as an organized and systematic effort to shape and develop individual moral traits with the aim of fostering noble values in each individual such as integrity, respect, responsibility, discipline and honesty. In Lickona's view (1991) character education not only teaches moral principles, but also includes three main dimensions that are interrelated (Damariswara et al., 2021). First, is an understanding of moral principles that are important to be carried out in everyday life; second, developing attitudes that support the application of these principles and third, forming habits that consistently lead to behavior that is in accordance with the moral principles that have been taught. According to Lickona, this process not only aims to provide knowledge about good and right things, but also to help individuals apply these principles in their daily lives (Loloagin et al., 2023).

In Indonesia, character education has become a major component of the national education curriculum and in this case emphasizes strengthening morality and ethics in every teaching and learning process (Nurhayati, 2023). The Ministry of Education and Culture (2017) stated that character education is an integral component that must be present at every level of education to ensure that the younger generation is not only academically intelligent, but also has moral skills that can support them in living a challenging life (Yandri A, 2022).

In practice, character education not only prioritizes academic achievement progress, but also the formation of students' personalities who have high integrity and awareness of self-responsibility and community. The purpose of this process is to ensure that students not only gain knowledge, but also develop moral qualities that can make them better individuals and contribute positively to their social environment. Therefore, character education plays a very important role in shaping students' personalities, especially at the secondary school level where they are in the stage of searching for their identity and preparing themselves to face the wider world. Therefore, character education is an inseparable part of efforts to produce a young generation who are not only intellectually intelligent, but also have strong characters and are based on noble moral principles. (Nurhadi et al., 2022)

3. *Character Education at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong*

Schools such as MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong play a very important role as one of the educational institutions that support the development of student character, with a focus on forming individuals who are not only academically intelligent but also have strong moral values. In this school environment, students involved in the Field Experience Internship Program (MPPL) are given a valuable opportunity to play an active role in the process of educating students'

character. MPPL itself is an internship program designed to bridge students with educational institutions such as schools, in order to provide direct contributions to various aspects of education. This program includes teaching, mentoring and implementing various social activities that can enrich students' practical experience in the world of education (Qadimunnur et al., 2022).

Through participation in MPPL, students are not only involved in academic activities but also have the opportunity to interact directly with students in a wider atmosphere outside the formal classroom. They can play a role in introducing and internalizing character values to students in a more practical and applicable way, which is adapted to everyday life (Hasugian, Abdul Halim, Puput & Saragih, 2023). With a direct and involved approach, MPPL students play a role in helping students develop positive attitudes such as responsibility, cooperation, discipline and concern for others. Thus, the MPPL program at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong not only focuses on teaching academic material but also plays a role in shaping students' character to be better prepared to face social and global challenges in the future. Character education is greatly influenced by the role model. (Lamadang, 2024).

METHODOLOGY

In writing this article, we use a qualitative research model with a descriptive approach, namely in the form of a detailed description or explanation of the phenomena that are occurring. This research is included in the field research category, namely a type of research that is carried out intensively, in detail and in depth on objects whose study requires analysis (Nurhadi et al., 2022). Data were obtained through observation and in-depth interviews with teachers and students as well as document analysis related to the character education program at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong. Data were analyzed by applying thematic analysis techniques to determine the role and contribution of MPPL students in student character education.

RESULTS

In this study, the author highlights the main focus on character education implemented at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong. During the implementation of the task as part of the MPPL program, namely teaching at the school, the author not only taught but also conducted a series of observations and interviews with teachers and students to obtain a more detailed picture of the ongoing character education practices. This research process lasted for approximately two weeks, where the author spent time teaching and analyzing various relevant educational documents at the school. In its implementation, the author focused the study on teaching and learning activities (KBM) and extracurricular programs at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong. The results of this study indicate that MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong has had annual programs and semester programs that actively support and integrate character education in every activity carried out at the school.

Based on the results of the interviews conducted and data obtained from teachers at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong, it can be concluded that character education at this school has been well integrated in various subjects, both general and religious, as well as in extracurricular activities that are very popular with students. This character education is not the responsibility of one party alone, but rather the obligation of every teacher in teaching various subjects. Every teacher is given the freedom to choose relevant character education materials, which are adjusted to the context of the material taught in each subject. Thus, in this learning model every teacher not only acts as a subject teacher but also as a character educator for students.



Figure 1. MPPL Students with Mrs. Yamna (Teacher)



Figure 2. Self-Development Learning Activities

The Role of MPPL Students in Character Education

Students involved in the MPPL program have a very active role as teachers and mentors in various activities that focus on character education. In addition to teaching, students also act as role models for students. Every behavior and activity carried out by students will receive special attention from students at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong. Interaction between students and students in the teaching and learning process (KBM) is one important way to shape students' character. During their teaching duties, students also find various bad habits that are often found among students. This is certainly a major concern for both teachers and students to help build better character in these students.

Therefore, through teaching and learning activities (KBM), extracurricular activities and daily interactions with students, MPPL students try their best to shape positive character in their students. Character values such as honesty, discipline, independence, responsibility and other positive values are taught directly to students both through learning in the classroom and outside the

classroom. Methods Implemented by MPPL Students in Character Education at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong.

MPPL students at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong implement various approaches in an effort to develop student character, with the aim of forming positive attitudes and behaviors. The various methods applied in this character education process include a number of techniques designed to foster good moral and ethical values, so that students can internalize and practice behaviors that support their positive personal development. Among the methods used are:

1. Exemplary Method

MPPL students take on the role of good examples by demonstrating positive attitudes in their daily activities, such as demonstrating honesty, discipline, politeness and a sense of responsibility. The exemplary attitudes they demonstrate become a strong foundation for students to imitate and adopt these positive behaviors in their daily lives, as part of the ongoing learning and character building process. Thus, MPPL students are not only teachers, but also role models who inspire students to apply good values in their social interactions.



Figure 3. MPPL Students' Teaching Activities at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong

2. Habituation Method

MPPL students apply a habituation approach with the aim of getting students used to practicing character values in their daily lives. Some of the values taught include the importance of performing congregational prayers, maintaining a clean environment and interacting with full courtesy. This habituation process is carried out consistently, not only in class but also outside of class, to ensure that students can internalize and apply these values in various aspects of their lives. Thus, students are expected to be accustomed to this positive behavior as part of their daily habits that support their character development.



Figure 4. Routine Morning and Afternoon Assembly Activities (Habituation of Memorizing the Qur'an, Dhikr, Sholawat, and Daily Prayers)

3. *Interactive Dialogue Method*

MPPL students routinely use interactive dialogue methods with students to discuss important character values, such as honesty, responsibility and discipline. This method is carried out through various forms, such as question and answer sessions, group discussions and joint reflections that provide opportunities for students to think critically about the role of character values in their lives. Through these dialogues, students are not only able to explore students' understanding of these values, but also provide direction, guidance and motivation that encourages them to apply these values in their daily lives.



Figure 5. MPPL Students with MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong Students

4. *Extracurricular Activities*

MPPL students also play an active role in organizing various school extracurricular activities that support the formation of student character, such as scouting and tapak suci activities, which are designed to strengthen positive values and social skills of students outside of formal school hours.



Figure 6. Tapak Suci Extracurricular Activities



Figure 7. Scout Extracurricular Activities

DISCUSSION

From the results found, it can be seen that the role of MPPL students in character education at MTs Alkhairaat Bohotokong is very large and has a positive impact on the formation of student character. Students not only function as teachers in an academic context, but more than that, they also become agents of change in strengthening character values applied in schools.

1. *Strengthening Character Values in Learning*

In the context of character education, MPPL students assist teachers in conveying moral values contained in learning materials, especially in religious lessons. This learning not only emphasizes academic aspects, but also the application of good moral values in everyday life. Students often use a more practical and relevant approach, such as stories of everyday life or real examples, which make it easier for students to understand and apply these values in their lives.

In addition, students are also direct examples for students. They not only teach, but also show discipline, honesty and responsibility in various activities. This is very important because students tend to imitate the behavior of people they consider role models, including MPPL students.

2. *Implementation of Character Education Through Extracurricular Activities*

Extracurricular activities at MTs Alkhairaat Bohotokong provide an effective forum for implementing character education. MPPL students who act as mentors in these activities can facilitate students to be more active in social interactions, working together and developing a sense of responsibility. For example, in scouting activities, students teach about discipline and teamwork, which are character values that are very important for students' personal development. Or in tapak suci activities, students teach about spiritual values, honesty, patience and cooperation. Character education is important in the process of success of the future generation (Lamadang, 2021)

In addition, students also have an important role in organizing activities that involve cooperation between students, thereby strengthening character values such as solidarity, responsibility, and honesty. This activity provides students with direct experience that is difficult to obtain in the classroom, but has a very strong impact on the formation of their character.

3. *Mentoring in Personality Development*

The existence of MPPL students as personal mentors is very important in the process of developing students' personalities. Students often become a place for students to share personal or social problems they face, both in school and outside of school. Through good communication and caring guidance, students provide much-needed morale and motivation.

This mentoring also helps students to be more confident in overcoming their life challenges. In addition, students can provide advice on the importance of self-control, discipline and responsibility, which are important aspects of character education.

4. *Social Activities that Foster Social Awareness*

Social activities carried out by MPPL students at MTs Alkhairaat Bohotokong have a great impact on fostering a sense of social awareness among students. By being directly involved in social activities, students learn to

appreciate and care more about the needs of others. This is closely related to character values such as empathy, caring and sharing.

These social activities not only have a positive impact on students, but also provide benefits to the surrounding community. Students learn to see the world from a broader perspective, understand the difficulties of others, and strive to make real contributions to the common welfare. Students, through the MPPL program, play an important role in fostering this social awareness among students.

The presence of MPPL program students at MTS Alkhairaat Bohotokong also makes a significant contribution to the development of character education at the school. Students involved in this program often play a role in increasing students' motivation and enthusiasm for learning, by becoming a liaison between the religious values taught in school and their application in everyday life. Not only that, they also provide additional encouragement and motivation for students to continue to try to learn, develop and achieve their best potential.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

From the results of the research and discussion above, it can be concluded that MPPL students have a very important role in the development of character education at MTS ALkhairaat Bohotokong. They not only act as teachers, but also as role models, facilitators, and companions in the process of developing student character. With their involvement in various learning activities, extracurricular activities, and social activities, MPPL students can help create an environment that supports the formation of strong character in students. This is very important in producing a young generation who are not only academically intelligent, but also have noble morals and care about others. Although there are still many bad habits that are found among students. therefore, there needs to be great attention from both schools, teachers, and parents to make efforts to help build better character in these students. In addition, closer cooperation is needed between MPPL students, teachers and students in implementing character education activities.

FURTHER STUDY

From the writing of this article, it is suggested that MPPL students be more active in collaborating with teachers and staff at MTS ALkhairaat Bohotokong to design a more integrated program in character education, there needs to be a routine evaluation of the program implemented to ensure that the objectives of character education are achieved and can be improved if necessary, students should be given further training on character education strategies so that they are more effective in carrying out their duties, inviting parents to be involved in character education activities at school will strengthen the values instilled in the school and home environment. With these steps, it is hoped that character education at MTS ALkhairaat Bohotokong can be more optimal and sustainable.

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