

CHARACTER EDUCATION AND CHILDREN'S MORAL DEVELOPMENT: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

This research reviews the literature related to character education and moral development in children, with the aim of understanding how moral values can be effectively transferred through formal and informal education. The study identified effective methods in character education, such as the use of moral stories, interactive discussions, and real-life examples from adults. Findings from various studies show that character education that is consistently implemented in the school curriculum has a significant positive impact on children's moral development, as seen in their daily behaviour and their ability to make ethical decisions. This study recommends closer collaboration between schools and families and the establishment of policies that support the integration of character education in the formal education system. Thus, character education can contribute to the formation of a generation that upholds moral and ethical values.

Keywords: Character Education, Children's Moral Development, Literature Review.

Introduction

Character education is a planned and systematic effort to help individuals develop positive values and behaviours, such as honesty, respect, responsibility, caring and fairness. This education not only focuses on cognitive aspects, but also includes emotional and social aspects, which aim to form individuals who have integrity and good morals (Aslan et al., 2019); (Hutagaluh & Aslan, 2019). Character education is often implemented through the school curriculum, extracurricular activities, as well as through daily examples and interactions provided by educators, parents, and the surrounding environment (Aslan, 2017a).

Character education is essential to shape a young generation that is not only academically intelligent but also has strong morals and good ethics. In the era of globalisation that is full of challenges and complex dynamics, character education helps individuals to be resilient, empathetic, and able to make wise decisions (Aslan, 2017b); (Iksal et al., 2024); (Putra et al., 2020). The values instilled through character education can build a solid foundation for children to become responsible citizens and positive contributors to society. Therefore, the inclusion of character education in the education