

FAMILY EDUCATION AS A STRATEGIC BASIS FOR THE FORMATION OF SOCIO-CULTURAL CHARACTER OF THE YOUNG GENERATION IN THE ERA OF MODERN SOCIAL CHANGE

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Abstract

Family education has a very important role in shaping the socio-cultural character of individuals from an early age. The family is the first and foremost educational environment that provides the basis for values, norms, and patterns of social behavior that will affect the life of individuals in the future. This article aims to examine the role of family education as the basis for the formation of socio-cultural character and the challenges faced in the context of social change in modern society. This research uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method on various scientific sources in the form of relevant books and journal articles. The results of the study show that family education plays a strategic role in instilling social values such as responsibility, tolerance, discipline, and social concern, as well as cultural values related to local identity and wisdom. However, the development of globalization and digital technology poses new challenges in the family education process. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the role of the family so that it can remain the main foundation in the formation of the socio-cultural character of the younger generation.

Keywords: Family education, character, social values and cultural values

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INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental process in human life that functions not only to transmit knowledge but also to shape individual personality, character, and the capacity to participate meaningfully in social life. Within the educational framework, the family occupies a particularly strategic position because it constitutes the first and primary environment in which individuals acquire learning experiences. Family-based education extends beyond the fulfillment of children's physical needs and encompasses the systematic internalization of values, norms, attitudes, and behavioral patterns that form the foundation of socio-cultural

character. Consequently, the family is widely recognized as an informal educational institution whose influence on individual development is long-lasting and profound (Bornstein & Lansford, 2021).

Socio-cultural character refers to a constellation of values, dispositions, and behaviors that reflect an individual's ability to interact harmoniously within diverse social and cultural contexts. Core values such as honesty, responsibility, tolerance, cooperation, social empathy, and respect for cultural diversity represent essential dimensions of socio-cultural character. The formation of these attributes does not occur instantaneously but emerges through a continuous and cumulative educational process, particularly within the family setting. Through everyday interactions, children gradually learn to interpret social norms, internalize cultural meanings, and construct a sense of identity as members of a broader social community (Trommsdorff & Kornadt, 2020).

From a sociological perspective, the family functions as the primary agent of socialization that plays a dominant role in shaping individual personality structures. Social reality is constructed and maintained through processes of internalization and habituation that begin in early childhood. Within the family, children are introduced to social and cultural realities through language use, symbolic communication, routine practices, and patterned interactions modeled by parents or caregivers. These early experiences significantly influence how individuals perceive the social world and guide their future social behavior (Grusec & Hastings, 2021).

Family education also plays a critical role in the intergenerational transmission of cultural values. Culture encompasses not only tangible artifacts but also systems of meaning embedded in everyday social practices. Through the family, children are exposed to their native language, traditions, customs, belief systems, and collective memories that constitute the cultural identity of their social group. This process of cultural transmission ensures continuity across generations while fostering a sense of belonging and cultural pride, which is essential for maintaining social cohesion in pluralistic societies (Kagitcibasi, 2020).

Despite its central role, family education faces increasing challenges in the context of rapid social transformation. Globalization and modernization introduce new value systems that may diverge from or even contradict traditional norms transmitted within families. The expansion of digital media and online platforms has transformed children's sources of socialization, exposing them to global cultural influences at an unprecedented scale. These influences often promote values that are not fully aligned with local socio-cultural frameworks, thereby complicating the process of value internalization within the family (Livingstone & Third, 2021).

Changes in family structure and function further affect the effectiveness of family-based education. The growing prevalence of nuclear families, increased parental involvement in the workforce, and reduced opportunities for shared family time have diminished the intensity of intergenerational interaction. Such conditions may limit parents' capacity to provide consistent guidance and value-based mentoring. Empirical research indicates that reduced family communication and emotional closeness can contribute to intergenerational value gaps, which in turn influence the socio-cultural character development of younger generations (Nomaguchi & Milkie, 2020).

Nevertheless, family education retains significant potential as a foundational mechanism for socio-cultural character formation when implemented consciously and consistently. Parents serve as the first educators whose influence extends beyond verbal instruction to include behavioral modeling and daily habituation. Children tend to emulate parental attitudes and actions, making consistency between values articulated and values practiced a key determinant of successful character formation. Accordingly, the quality of

emotional bonds and communication patterns within families plays a decisive role in shaping children's socio-cultural orientations (Walsh, 2021).

The implications of family education extend beyond individual development to broader social life. Individuals raised in family environments that successfully transmit positive social and cultural values tend to exhibit stronger social adaptability, heightened social responsibility, and greater tolerance toward diversity. These qualities contribute to social cohesion, community stability, and cultural sustainability. Conversely, the weakening of family educational functions may lead to value disorientation, increasing the risk of social conflict and erosion of cultural identity (Park & Lau, 2021).

In the context of national development, strengthening family education aligns closely with efforts to cultivate human resources characterized by integrity, cultural awareness, and social responsibility. Educational development strategies that neglect the family's role risk overlooking a critical foundation of character formation. Therefore, family education should be understood as an integral component of the broader educational ecosystem, complementing formal and non-formal education in fostering socio-cultural character development (UNESCO, 2021).

Based on these considerations, it can be concluded that family education constitutes a fundamental foundation for the formation of individual socio-cultural character. Despite facing substantial challenges arising from contemporary social dynamics, the family remains an irreplaceable institution in transmitting social and cultural values. Consequently, systematic examination of family education is essential for understanding its evolving role and for formulating strategies to strengthen its relevance and effectiveness in shaping the socio-cultural character of younger generations in modern society. This introduction provides a conceptual and theoretical basis for further analysis of family education within a socio-cultural framework.

METHODS

This study uses a qualitative approach with a literature study method to analyze the role of family education as the basis for the formation of socio-cultural character. The qualitative approach was chosen because this research focuses on an in-depth understanding of the concepts, meanings, and social processes related to family education and character formation. The literature study allows researchers to explore various theoretical perspectives and empirical findings that have been put forward by experts in the fields of sociology, education, and anthropology. Research data was obtained from relevant written sources, including academic textbooks, national and international scientific journal articles, seminar proceedings, and policy documents related to education and family.

Data collection was carried out through systematic searches on various academic databases such as Google Scholar, Garuda, and other reputable journal portals. The keywords used include "family education", "socio-cultural character", "social values", and "cultural values". The sources obtained were then selected based on several criteria, namely suitability with the focus of the research, the credibility of the author and publisher, and the relatively up-to-date year of publication to ensure the relevance and novelty of the information. After the selection process, the relevant data is classified and recorded systematically to facilitate the analysis stage.

Data analysis was carried out using descriptive-analytical analysis techniques, namely by describing and synthesizing various concepts, theories, and results of previous research related to family education and the formation of socio-cultural character. The researcher identified key themes such as the role of the family as an agent of informal education, the mechanism of instilling value in the family, and the challenges of family education in the modern era. The data that has been analyzed is then presented in the form of a coherent and

systematic narrative to comprehensively explain the relationship between concepts. Through this method, the research is expected to provide a strong theoretical foundation and academic contribution in understanding the importance of family education as the foundation for the formation of socio-cultural character of the younger generation.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the literature review that has been conducted, family education has proven to have a very fundamental role in the formation of individual socio-cultural character. The family is the first educational environment that provides the earliest and most influential learning experience for children. From an early age, children begin to get to know social values through interaction with parents and other family members. Values such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, empathy, and social care are gradually instilled through habituation, behavior reinforcement, and parental example. This process takes place continuously and forms the basis of the child's personality that will influence his behavior in social life in the future.

The results of the study also show that family education functions as a primary socialization agent that shapes the individual's social frame of mind and attitude. The primary socialization that takes place in the family is profound because it is based on a strong emotional connection between parent and child. Children tend to be more receptive to and internalize the values conveyed by their parents than the values obtained from the outside environment. Therefore, the consistency of parents in implementing socio-cultural values is a determining factor for the success of family education. Inconsistencies between parents' words and actions can cause confusion of values in children and hinder the process of character formation.

In addition to social values, family education also plays an important role in inheriting cultural values. Cultural values inherited in the family include mother tongue, customs, traditions, and religious practices that become the collective identity of a society. Through children's involvement in various cultural activities in the family environment, children not only get to know culture cognitively, but also live it as part of daily life. This process helps children build an awareness of their identity and a sense of belonging to the local culture. Family education that instills pride in one's own culture contributes to the preservation of culture and the strengthening of social cohesion.

However, the results of the study also reveal that family education faces various challenges in the modern era. The development of information and communication technology has changed the pattern of interaction in the family. Children and adolescents now spend more time with gadgets and digital media, so the intensity of direct interaction with parents is reduced. Digital media is also the main source of value learning for children, which often brings global values that are not always in line with expected socio-cultural values. This condition has the potential to weaken the role of the family as the main source of value education.

Changes in family structure and function are also factors that affect the effectiveness of family education. The busyness of parents due to work and economic demands causes the time to be together in the family is increasingly limited. In these conditions, parents often leave the character education process to schools or formal educational institutions. In fact, formal education cannot completely replace the role of the family in instilling socio-cultural values. When family education does not run optimally, children are at risk of experiencing a value crisis characterized by low social concern and weakened cultural identity.

Despite these challenges, the results of the study show that family education still has great potential to shape children's socio-cultural character if it is done consciously and planned. One effective strategy is to strengthen communication in the family. Open and dialogical communication allows parents to understand the needs and problems faced by their children, as

well as a means to instill value contextually. With good communication, families can bridge differences of view between generations and help children filter out the influence of values from the outside.

Parental role models are also a key factor in the success of family education. Social and cultural values that are taught theoretically will be difficult for children to internalize if they are not manifested in real behavior. Children tend to imitate their parents' attitudes and actions in daily life, so that parental behavior becomes a concrete example for the formation of children's character. Therefore, parents are required to show consistency between the values taught and the behaviors displayed.

This discussion also shows that family education has broad implications for people's social lives. Individuals who grow up in families with strong values education tend to have positive social characteristics, such as a tolerant attitude, the ability to work together, and an awareness of social responsibility. This character is an important social capital in creating a harmonious and just community life. On the other hand, weak family education has the potential to cause various social problems, such as increasing deviant behavior and social conflicts.

Thus, these results and discussions confirm that family education is the main basis for the formation of socio-cultural character that cannot be replaced by other institutions. Despite the pressure of social and technological change, the family still has a strategic role in instilling social and cultural values. Strengthening family education through improving the quality of parenting, effective communication, and parental example is an important step to ensure the formation of a generation with character, strong cultural identity, and able to adapt positively in modern society.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the studies and discussions that have been carried out, it can be concluded that family education has a very fundamental role as the basis for the formation of individual socio-cultural character. The family is the first and main educational environment that is the starting place for the cultivation of social and cultural values, such as honesty, responsibility, discipline, tolerance, social concern, and respect for diversity and cultural identity. Through daily interactions, parenting, communication, and parental examples, these values are gradually internalized and form the basis of the child's personality that will influence his behavior in the broader social life.

However, social changes marked by globalization, modernization, and the rapid development of information technology present significant challenges for the implementation of family education. The reduced intensity of family interactions, the increasing influence of digital media, and the shift in value learning resources in children have the potential to weaken the role of the family as the main educational agent. This condition requires families to be able to adapt to the dynamics of the times without ignoring the essence of inherited socio-cultural values. Strengthening open and dialogical communication, assisting parents in the use of digital media, and consistency of example in daily life are important strategies in maintaining the effectiveness of family education.

Thus, strengthening family education is an urgent need in an effort to form a generation with character, high social awareness, and a strong cultural identity. Effective family education not only impacts the development of the individual, but also contributes to the realization of a harmonious social life and the sustainability of socio-cultural values in society as a whole.

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