

Analysis of Parental Involvement in the Formation of Children's Character at Primary School Age

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Abstract: This study explores the influence of parental involvement on the character development of elementary school-aged children, focusing on how different forms of parental engagement shape positive character traits. Utilizing a literature review methodology, this research synthesizes and analyzes empirical studies to provide a comprehensive understanding of the connection between parental involvement and children's character formation at this crucial developmental stage. Findings indicate that parental involvement plays a pivotal role in shaping children's character. Positive engagement from parents correlates with enhanced character development, while insufficient or negative involvement tends to impede the growth of positive character traits. The study underscores that the development of children's character is a collaborative endeavor involving parents, schools, and the wider community, highlighting the importance of a united approach in nurturing well-rounded individuals.

Keywords: Parental involvement, Character education, Elementary school children

INTRODCUTION

Education during the primary school years plays a critical role in shaping children's character, which encompasses the unique characteristics reflected in their attitudes, behaviors, and actions across various environments such as school, family, and community (Demirel et al., 2016). Character education aims to cultivate values, attitudes, and behaviors that embody noble morals and character traits. Instilling these qualities at an elementary school age is crucial, as it establishes a robust foundation for their moral and mental development (Seider et al., 2013). Each child possesses the inherent potential for good character, which must be nurtured continuously through early socialization and education. A strong and positive character forms a vital foundation for a child's personal, social, and academic growth, underscoring the significance of character education in early learning stages (Berkowitz & Grych, 2000).

Character education represents a systematic approach to embedding values, manners, and good morals in students. It not only fosters awareness and will but also promotes actions that encapsulate these virtues. The goal is to mold students' personalities, enhancing their ability to make decisions, demonstrate honesty, respect others, and behave appropriately in everyday situations (Ritonga, 2022). This form of education is increasingly vital as the younger generation navigates the technology-driven '5.0 era,' which presents unique challenges and opportunities (Zogara et al., 2022). Character education serves to develop moral attitudes and behaviors in students, achieved through consistent and repeated habituation (Yulianti, 2021). This continual practice is essential in shaping individuals who can thrive and contribute positively to society.

Character education is a deliberate and structured effort aimed at shaping and refining students' moral fiber and character (Retno et al., 2023). As noted by Rokhman & Misbah (2023), it involves a conscious strategy by educators to cultivate desirable traits such as integrity and

respect in their students. [Shodiq \(2017\)](#) highlights that the goal of character education is to enhance the quality of educational delivery and outcomes, thereby fostering the development of students' character and ethics in a comprehensive, integrated, and balanced way. There are several methodologies through which character education can be implemented. According to [Listyono \(2012\)](#), approaches such as cognitive moral development, value analysis, and values clarification are effective in imparting moral principles. Additionally, [Suwartini \(2017\)](#) points out that character education can also be pursued through traditional methods that integrate knowledge, emotions, and actions, creating a holistic development environment for students.

The Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) and the Federation of Indonesian Teachers' Unions (FSGI) reported an alarming trend in bullying cases, with 226 incidents in 2022, a significant increase from 53 cases in 2021 and 119 in 2020 ([Munira et al., 2023](#)). The prevalent forms of bullying recorded include physical bullying at 55.5%, verbal bullying at 29.3%, and psychological bullying at 15.2%. These disturbing patterns are often attributed to poor character development in children, influenced by inadequate parenting and socioeconomic factors.

Research conducted by [Hidayah \(2019\)](#) provides specific examples of such behavior, detailing the case of a child known as "BL" who exhibited deviant behaviors including skipping school, smoking, staying out late, and wearing inappropriate clothing. The underlying causes of such behaviors are typically rooted in external factors, particularly parental influence. Children often mimic the actions of parents who engage in similar deviant behaviors, such as smoking and irresponsible social habits ([Drouin et al., 2019](#)). Additionally, the social environment plays a crucial role, where peer influence becomes a powerful force in shaping a child's actions, leading them to adopt behaviors that are prevalent within their peer groups. This scenario underscores the importance of effective character education and the role of positive role models in mitigating the rise of such adverse behaviors among young individuals ([Daud et al., 2023](#)).

The significance of implementing character education from an early age is paramount and cannot be overlooked. Such educational initiatives are aimed at reducing incidents of bullying and other character-related issues in the future ([Miller et al., 2005](#)). This aligns with the objectives outlined in Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning Education, which describes education as a deliberate and strategic effort to foster the personal potential of students. This includes cultivating spiritual strength, noble character, intelligence, personality, self-control, and skills that are beneficial not only to the individual but also to society, the nation, and the state at large.

Emphasizing character education from the onset is crucial. It must be integrated continuously through formal schooling and supplemented by non-formal educational avenues at home and within the community. This comprehensive approach ensures that children develop a robust moral foundation, equipping them with the capacity to act with integrity and responsibility in a society characterized by complex challenges and diverse values. By fostering these essential qualities early on, children are better prepared to navigate and contribute positively to the world around them ([Kamaruddin, 2012](#)).

The role of parents in shaping the character of elementary school-aged children is critically influential on their overall development. During this pivotal stage, children are forming their personalities and moral values, which will underpin their future behaviors ([Handayani et al., 2021](#)). In this context, the impact of parents as role models and primary influencers is profoundly significant. This research aims to thoroughly explore how interactions between individuals and their environments contribute to shaping the characteristics of elementary school students. Understanding the dynamics involved in the character development process will enable the formulation of effective strategies to positively influence children's growth. It is anticipated that this research will yield deeper insights into the vital role parents play in character formation, as well as the broader implications for education and childcare.

Character education is intrinsically linked to moral education, which seeks to continually develop and enhance individuals' capacity to improve themselves and lead enriched lives. This is also reflected in the broader objectives of the national education system. According to Law Number 20 of 2003, education not only fosters skill development but also provides a framework

for nurturing the character and cultural fabric of the nation, aiming to create citizens who are devout, of noble character, and who are healthy, well-informed, capable, creative, democratic, and responsible. Through such comprehensive educational goals, the nation aspires to develop the full potential of its people, reinforcing the importance of character and moral education from a young age.

Parental involvement has been consistently identified as a critical factor influencing character formation in children. This involvement encompasses a range of support, interaction, and understanding that parents provide during their children's formative years in elementary school (Feuerstein, 2000). The pivotal role of parents in shaping their children's character has increasingly become a focal point of scholarly research within the field of education. Despite the extensive studies conducted to examine the relationship between parental involvement and children's character development, findings remain varied. This inconsistency underscores the need for a comprehensive review of the existing literature. Such a review is essential to gain a deeper understanding of how parental involvement contributes to character formation in children at the primary school level. By synthesizing and analyzing current research, we can better comprehend the nuances of this relationship and enhance our strategies for fostering positive character development in young learners.

Numerous studies have emphasized the importance of understanding different parenting styles, as these styles significantly shape a child's character development. Fimansyah (2019) highlights that specific parenting approaches have a profound impact on shaping children's character traits. Similarly, research by Safitri et al. (2020) has shown that democratic parenting, which involves negotiation and guided decision-making, is particularly effective in fostering discipline and learning in elementary school students. Additionally, Rindawan et al. (2020) found that parenting styles also play a crucial role in shaping children's personalities, further underscoring the influence of parental behavior on child development.

Despite the existing research, there remains a gap in the comprehensive synthesis of how various forms of parental involvement directly impact children's character formation. This research aims to address this gap by conducting an extensive review and synthesis of empirical evidence on the influence of parental involvement in character education for elementary school-aged children. The variations in existing findings indicate a need for a deeper understanding of how different parental interactions affect character development at this critical stage.

Literature studies are particularly valuable in this context as they allow for the collection, synthesis, and analysis of data from previous studies, leading to a more holistic understanding and robust generalizations about the relationship between parental involvement and children's character formation. This research will focus on identifying and analyzing patterns of parental involvement that significantly influence character development in elementary-aged children. By integrating findings from various sources, the study seeks to develop effective strategies that educators and parents can use to enhance character education. This comprehensive approach aims to provide deeper insights into the crucial role parents play in forming the character of children at a primary school age, ultimately contributing to the development of well-rounded individuals.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research methodology utilizing a literature review approach to explore the influence of parental involvement on character formation in primary school children. The primary data sources for this research were national and international academic journals accessed online via Google Scholar.

Literature Search and Selection Process

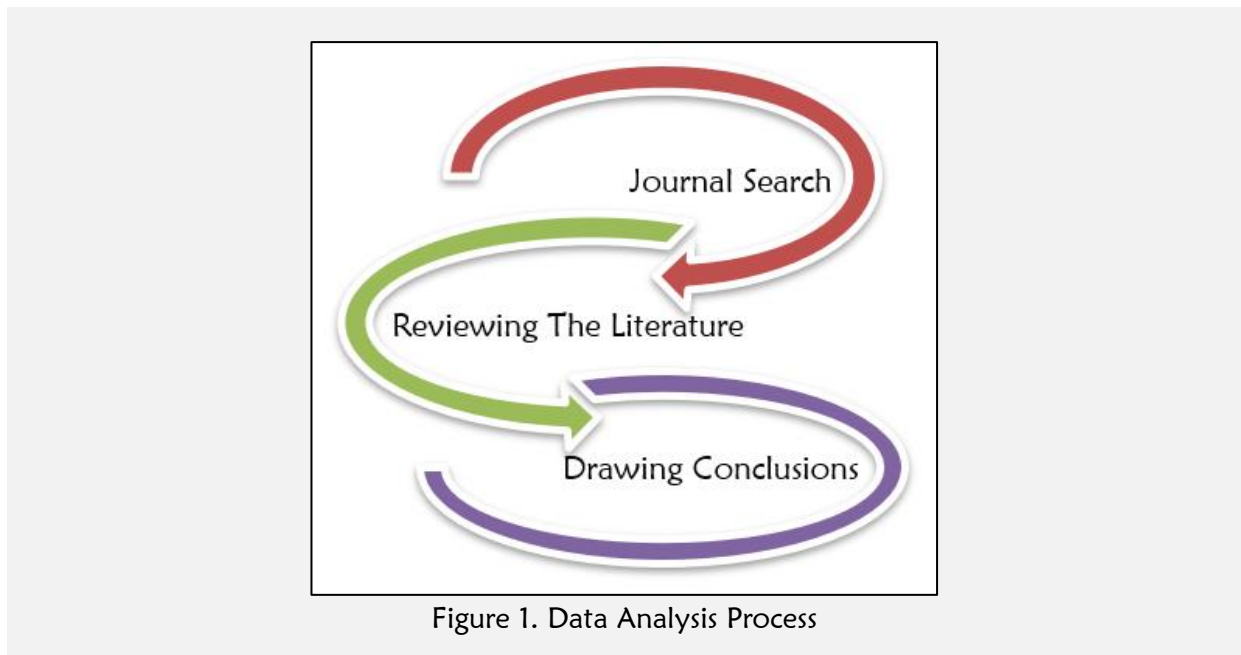
A systematic literature search was conducted across various academic databases using keywords such as "parental involvement," "character formation," and "primary school children." To refine the search, specific inclusion and exclusion criteria were established, allowing for the selection of the most relevant studies. The criteria focused on the quality of the studies, their

relevance to the research questions, and the recency of publication to ensure the data's current applicability.

Data Analysis Process

Upon identifying pertinent studies, detailed notes were made concerning how parental involvement impacts the character development of children. The data analysis involved several key steps (Figure 1):

1. Data Collection: Gathering information from selected articles, books, journals, and prior research.
2. Data Reduction: Distilling the collected data to focus on the most significant and relevant information.
3. Synthesis and Conclusion Drawing: Integrating insights from various sources to formulate conclusions and support the research propositions.



Research Steps in Library Study

- Preparation: Setting up the necessary tools and resources for conducting the literature review.
- Bibliography Compilation: Developing a working bibliography of all sources to be consulted.
- Time Management: Allocating specific periods for different phases of the research process to ensure timely completion.
- Reading and Note-Taking: Engaging with the literature critically, making comprehensive notes that highlight key findings and insights.

Analytical Methods

- Content Analysis: Examining the content of the collected data to identify patterns, themes, and insights related to parental involvement and character development.
- Descriptive Analysis: Describing the context, methods, and outcomes of the studies reviewed to provide a clear understanding of the existing research landscape.

Throughout the research, a high degree of rigor was maintained to avoid misinformation. This was achieved by critically evaluating and cross-verifying the data from various sources, and by repeated reviews of the collected articles to ensure the integrity and accuracy of the information presented. This methodological approach is designed to provide a comprehensive overview of the role of parental involvement in the character formation of primary school-aged

children, with the aim of identifying effective strategies and practices that can enhance educational outcomes.

RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The findings from the reviewed literature highlight critical developmental milestones in a child's cognitive growth. Research indicates that approximately 50 percent of the variability in adult intelligence is already apparent by the age of four. This early cognitive development is crucial, as it lays the groundwork for further intellectual growth, with an additional 30 percent of intelligence maturation occurring by the age of eight, and the remaining 20 percent developing in mid or late adulthood. These stages underline the importance of initiating character education early in a child's life, starting within the family environment, which is the primary arena for nurturing character.

The necessity for character education to commence at home and continue as a structured component of the curriculum in elementary schools is further emphasized by the developmental stages of children. Elementary school children are typically in the concrete operational stage of development, where they begin to think more logically and systematically. This stage is crucial for the introduction of character education, which can significantly influence and enhance the logical and moral capacities of the young mind.

It is noted that one of the pivotal elements in successful character education is the role of parents and educators as role models. Pratiwi (2018) argues that the effectiveness of character education largely depends on the positive examples set by parents and teachers. Their actions, words, and attitudes not only serve as direct illustrations of positive character traits but also provide motivation and facilitate the easier assimilation of these values during children's growth and development phases.

Moreover, character education is recognized not merely as a means to develop moral qualities but also as a strategy to enhance the overall quality of educational processes and outcomes. Shodiq (2017) points out that character education strives to create a school culture that embodies core values, shaping the behavior, traditions, daily habits, and symbols embraced by all members of the school community. Through this integrated approach, character education aims to equip students with the skills to independently enhance and apply both knowledge and moral values in their everyday lives.

Identified Types of Parental Involvement

The manner in which parents educate their children significantly impacts their development emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually. Unfortunately, not all parents recognize the substantial role they play in shaping their children's character. Many families tend to prioritize academic education and survival skills over character development. Mu'in (2011) emphasizes that the objectives we set in child-rearing are deeply intertwined with our personal perspectives, life obsessions, and overall goals. Thus, a positive family climate during childhood can significantly enhance creative and productive behaviors as the child matures into adulthood. Both positive and negative experiences within the family environment serve as critical life lessons, contributing to the formation of a child's moral compass.

It is crucial to acknowledge that a child's moral development is influenced by a combination of various factors including family dynamics, belief systems, friendships, and personal experiences such as hard work, suffering, and enjoyment. These elements collectively shape the ethical framework and character of a child, underlining the importance of holistic parental involvement in fostering well-rounded development.

According to Sukiyani & Zamroni (2014), effective character education by parents involves a holistic and multifaceted approach to developing a child's personality. This approach incorporates exemplary parenting, where parents not only set positive examples themselves but also explain the rationale behind their actions, setting high yet achievable standards for their children. A critical component of this process is involving children in decision-making, which empowers them and facilitates their learning and personal growth.

Managing the moral environment of the family is also vital. Parents are tasked with creating a nurturing atmosphere that promotes character building through providing guidance, embodying commendable behaviors and attitudes, and instilling beneficial habits in their daily routines. This method helps in molding children's conscience and familiarizing them with commendable values. Disciplinary measures, when necessary, are applied with love—either by temporarily withholding affection or through reasonable and fair punishment—aiming to teach rather than punish, with a strong emphasis on resolving familial conflicts in ways that preserve and enhance the parent-child relationship (Sujana et al., 2023; Sunarni, 2018).

Moreover, parents encourage the practice of virtue by allowing children the freedom to interact socially with their peers and neighbors. These social interactions enable children to experience and practice social values firsthand, reinforcing the lessons learned at home. Additionally, parents play a crucial role in imparting spiritual education, advising and modeling behaviors that deepen spiritual values within their children.

Thus, character education as described by Sukiyan & Zamroni (2014) is comprehensive, addressing not only moral and social facets but also the spiritual dimensions of a child's development. This rounded approach ensures that children grow into well-balanced individuals capable of navigating the complexities of life with a strong moral and ethical foundation.

The impact of parents and teachers as role models in character development is crucial and is often reflected through their attitudes, actions, and words, which encompass values such as honesty, tolerance, discipline, responsibility, religious observance, and a caring attitude towards others and the environment. According to Ramdan & Fauziah (2019), to effectively nurture these traits, both parents and teachers engage in various character education programs within schools. These programs include activities such as congregational prayers, religious studies, reading the Quran, parent-teacher meetings, and various extracurricular activities that reinforce the development of these values.

The role that parents and teachers play as exemplars significantly influences children's outcomes, not only boosting their academic achievements but also fostering positive behavioral changes. This influence underscores the importance of both parents and teachers being actively aware and responsible for modeling exemplary behavior. Good communication, responsible actions, and positive attitudes from adults are essential as they provide a live framework for children to emulate (Bryce et al., 2019). This environment helps children internalize and practice these virtues, equipping them to become well-rounded individuals who can contribute positively to society (Powell et al., 2010). Therefore, the conscious effort by parents and teachers to display and teach these values through both direct instruction and personal example is fundamental to effective character education.

Parental education plays a crucial role in shaping children's character and behavior, significantly influencing their holistic development and overall quality of life. The interactions that parents have with their children and the broader social environment are instrumental in how children perceive, understand, and emulate the values and attitudes around them. More than just transmitting information, parental education fundamentally molds the personality of the child (Wang & Sheikh-Khalil, 2014).

In the modern context, characterized by rapid globalization and the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, the role of parents in guiding their children through changes and uncertainties becomes even more critical. Effective parenting, supported by stable economic conditions within the family and a positive cultural environment, are pivotal in developing a resilient and well-rounded character in children (Vinkers et al., 2020). These factors contribute not only to the immediate well-being of the child but also prepare them to successfully navigate the complexities of a global society.

Therefore, parental education is far from being a mere individual obligation; it represents a significant investment in the future—a means to cultivate a generation equipped with the character, skills, and adaptability required to thrive in and contribute to the world. As highlighted by Prahastiwi (2023), this aspect of parenting is integral to fostering a society where future

generations possess the moral and ethical foundations necessary to face and shape a dynamic global environment effectively.

To foster a healthy relationship with their children and ensure open communication, parents should adopt several key practices as outlined by Pratiwi (2018). These steps are essential for building trust and understanding, which are foundational to a nurturing parent-child relationship.

1. *Listen to children attentively:* It is crucial for parents to actively listen to their children's stories and concerns. This involves more than just hearing their words—it requires engagement and empathy to fully comprehend the issues they face. By doing so, parents show their children that their thoughts and feelings are valued, which strengthens the emotional bond between them.
2. *Understand the child's emotional type:* Each child has a unique emotional landscape. Parents should make an effort to understand their child's specific emotional responses and triggers. This knowledge enables parents to handle situations sensitively and appropriately, avoiding reactions such as anger or impatience, which could escalate conflicts or cause emotional distress.
3. *Interrogate gently and patiently:* When parents need to discuss issues or concerns with their children, the approach should be gentle and patient. Aggressive or forceful questioning can lead to fear and dishonesty, hindering open communication. A calm and understanding approach helps children feel safe and more willing to share their true thoughts and feelings.

In their study, Darmayanti & Sadriani (2023) explore various factors that both support and hinder parental involvement in children's education, emphasizing its critical role in shaping character during the elementary years. Key enablers include open communication between schools and parents and involvement programs like workshops and school meetings, which facilitate greater engagement and understanding of parental roles. Parental education level and available free time also significantly impact their ability to participate actively in their children's education. Conversely, economic constraints and busy work schedules present major obstacles, limiting the opportunity for parents to engage fully. To mitigate these challenges, the research suggests enhancing collaboration between schools and parents to create a supportive educational environment that promotes holistic child development. The study concludes that positive parental involvement, characterized by emotional support, active participation in school activities, and open communication, is crucial for fostering desirable character traits in children, whereas a lack of such involvement can hinder their character development.

The Impact of Parental Involvement on Children's Character Development

This research highlights the profound impact of parental involvement on children's character development, notably influencing two main areas: children's achievement and behavioral changes. Irjanti & Setiawati (2018) emphasize that character education is a crucial determinant of children's academic success, even more so than emotional intelligence. A strong character fosters high motivation and confidence among children, which are vital for academic excellence. Furthermore, the role of parents in instilling character values at home and setting positive examples is instrumental in shaping children's behaviors. Parents, embodying virtues such as honesty, discipline, and tolerance, serve as primary role models, transferring these values to their children. The effectiveness of character education is also enhanced by transparent communication between school principals and teachers about the character education programs, ensuring that both parents and teachers not only preach good behavior but also practice it. This dual approach of telling and showing is pivotal because, as the saying goes, one good example is more influential than a thousand directives. The research underscores the necessity for parents and teachers to consciously embody these values, thereby fostering an environment that nurtures a generation that is not only intelligent but also characterful.

Parenting mistakes can have significant negative impacts on the development of a child's character, leading to various emotional and behavioral issues. According to [Fatmala \(2022\)](#), these issues can manifest in multiple problematic ways. For instance, children might become indifferent, losing the ability to value friendships or accept affection, often due to past traumas or a deep-seated distrust that leads them to reject support and love. Emotional unresponsiveness is also common; children who feel rejected may find it difficult to show affection towards others. Aggressive behavior can surface, with children possibly expressing a desire to verbally or physically harm others. Such issues are compounded by feelings of insecurity and worthlessness, which foster a negative self-perception and a bleak outlook on their environment. Emotional instability is another consequence, characterized by a low tolerance for stress and frequent irritability, making it challenging for them to predict others' reactions. Furthermore, an imbalance between emotional and intellectual development can propel children towards delinquent behaviors and physical altercations. To prevent these adverse outcomes and support children in growing into emotionally and socially healthy adults, it is crucial for parents to avoid these common parenting pitfalls.

The Role of Schools and Communities

Schools and their communities play a pivotal role in shaping the character of what many hope to be a golden generation. Teachers, in particular, are central to this developmental process, not merely imparting knowledge but also serving as behavioral role models for their students. According to [Yulianti \(2021\)](#), teachers are tasked with the significant responsibility of providing an education that respects human dignity, thereby enlightening students on the essence of humanity. This type of education emphasizes values such as solidarity and compassion, which are vital in fostering a respectful and empathetic society. Moreover, teachers are expected to employ creative and innovative learning strategies that are not only appropriate to the needs of students but also enhance their problem-solving capabilities, communication skills, and ability to coexist peacefully in diverse communities. Through such educational approaches, students are equipped with essential character values that enrich their personal and communal lives.

The community plays a crucial role in character education, as emphasized by Law Number 20 of 2003, which states that the community has both the right and the obligation to participate in implementing, planning, and monitoring the evaluation of educational programs. This legislation underscores the community's integral role and responsibility in the educational process. Beyond formal involvement, the community also acts as a role model and a catalyst for the successful instillation of good habits. It is essential for community members to set positive examples and offer moral guidance to foster an environment conducive to developing good character. According to [Yulianti \(2021\)](#), community support is vital for nurturing and instilling the values that will allow the golden generation to flourish and meet societal expectations. This collaborative approach ensures that character education is not confined to the classroom but is a widespread commitment shared across the community.

Schools play a crucial dual role in both optimizing student learning outcomes and shaping student character, as identified by [Rahayu et al. \(2023\)](#). Firstly, as learning facilitators, schools provide a structured and formal learning environment where teachers guide, teach, and support students to help them achieve optimal academic success. This role is fundamental in ensuring that students receive the necessary direction and assistance to excel in their studies.

Secondly, character formation is a primary focus for schools, tasked with molding students' character through integrated curricular programs. These programs are designed to develop positive attitudes, social skills, ethics, leadership qualities, and social responsibility. Such character-building initiatives are vital as they lay the groundwork for the holistic development of students, preparing them not just academically but also as responsible and ethical members of society.

Furthermore, schools are instrumental in creating a supportive learning environment that fosters character development. This is achieved by providing adequate facilities, organizing extracurricular activities, and promoting positive interactions among students and between students and teachers. These elements are essential for nurturing students' social and emotional

skills, which are crucial for their overall growth and success in life. Through these comprehensive roles, schools actively contribute to shaping well-rounded individuals equipped with the necessary academic and character skills to navigate future challenges.

The community plays a crucial role in enhancing the quality of learning and shaping the character of students, as outlined by [Rahayu et al. \(2023\)](#). First, the community offers sustainable social support through inclusive interactions with neighbors, peers, and local groups. This form of support not only assists students in overcoming educational challenges but also significantly contributes to their learning quality and character development. Such support systems provide students with a nurturing environment that fosters both academic and personal growth.

Secondly, the community serves as a source of inspirational role models. Respected community figures exemplify the values and behaviors expected by society, offering students tangible examples of the virtues they are encouraged to adopt. This aspect of community involvement is instrumental in reinforcing societal norms and expectations, thus playing a foundational role in student character formation.

Lastly, synergistic educational partnerships between schools and community organizations present significant opportunities for enhancing student learning and character development. These partnerships often involve students in activities outside the traditional school setting, such as workplace visits, social service activities, or internships. These experiences are invaluable as they not only broaden students' practical knowledge and skills but also deepen their engagement with community values and responsibilities. Educational partnerships thus serve as vital conduits for extending learning beyond the classroom and into the real world, enriching students' educational journeys and aiding in the holistic development of their character.

CONCLUSION

The research underscores that the formation of children's character is a collaborative endeavor that necessitates the active involvement of multiple stakeholders, notably parents, schools, and the broader community. Character education, particularly crucial from an early age within family settings and elementary schools, is essential for laying a strong foundation. Parents play a crucial role as both role models and caregivers, setting positive examples and instilling character values in their children. Similarly, schools are pivotal in supporting and promoting character development through well-integrated character education programs and fostering an inclusive learning environment that encourages personal growth among students.

Moreover, the community's role in character development is significant. It provides sustainable social support, acts as a source of inspirational role models, and engages in synergistic educational partnerships with schools, enhancing both the quality of learning and character formation. Thus, character development is a collective responsibility that demands close cooperation among parents, schools, and the community. This tripartite partnership is crucial in creating a supportive environment that facilitates the positive growth of character in the younger generation. Moving forward, it is vital to heighten the awareness and involvement of all parties in these collaborative efforts, ensuring that children not only grow into individuals of strong character but are also well-equipped to meet the challenges of the future.

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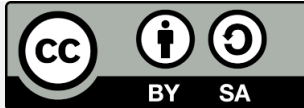
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