

Growing The Character of Non-Given-Up in Children in The Story Books of The Fish Pool by Ammy Ramdhanian

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Abstract

Early childhood is often known as the *golden age*, at this time is a glorious period and becomes a guide for the formation of the characteristics or character of children in adulthood. At this time it needs to be developed optimally because the *golden age* cannot be replaced in the future. Parents and teachers are individuals who play an important role in instilling character in children, character needs to be developed from an early age because it determines the habituation of children to adulthood. The slower the character is implanted in the child, the more difficult it will be for the character to form, like a mangrove tree, the older it is, the more difficult it will be to deflect the mangrove tree. This study was conducted to identify the cultivation of a never-give-up attitude in early childhood through storytelling media. This study uses a qualitative method using the type of *library research*. Data collection uses documentation techniques by examining the content of the story as a whole and identifying its relevance to existing theories, so as to obtain detailed and valid results. The results of this study indicate that there are three unyielding habits that can be taught to children, namely: unyielding attitude when problems come, unyielding attitude when efforts fail, and abstinence when friends don't help.

Keywords: unyielding attitude, grandpa's fish pond story, early childhood.

1. Introduction

Character education is important to be instilled in early childhood, character education from an early age is believed to be one solution to various cases of low morale among students. According to Dr. Ratna Megawangi (2007), in the formation of children's character must integrate the following: First, children understand good or bad things. Second, have a love for good things and a dislike for bad things. Third, children are able and accustomed to doing good things. (1) One of the character educations that can be instilled from an early age is the character of never giving up. The unyielding character can be interpreted as an attitude that is not easily discouraged and consistent in what is done. (2)

Parents and teachers are individuals who can motivate children to cultivate an unyielding attitude. The attitude of never giving up is instilled from an early age so that children are accustomed to instilling an unyielding character in everyday life in all conditions and become individuals who are not easy to give up if they fail or get things that are not as expected.

Character formation in children cannot be done in a short time. It takes a long, patient, gradual process and uses a variety of appropriate methods. (3) One method that can be used is by telling stories to children. Storytelling can be done directly or by using children's story books. When children listen to stories read by parents or educators, children will imagine the story and position themselves as the main character in the story. After listening to stories, children cannot directly apply the values contained in the story, there is still a need for a long process, this causes the need for support from parents, teachers and the environment to become direct examples of children in real life. .

The story books used to introduce unyielding character education to children are adapted to the needs and criteria of early childhood. Usually the story books used for early childhood are light and short stories so that it is easy for children to understand the value in the story. Like the story of Grandpa's Fish Pond by Ammy Ramdhanian that the author got from the web <https://letsreadasia.org>, the story uses short language that is easy for children to understand and displays interesting pictures so that young children can easily be interested in the story. On the web there are various collections of children's

story books from various regions and contain advice on virtues that can be used as a medium for building character for early childhood.

Several studies on character education in early childhood have been carried out before, including by Maskufah, et al (2015) who discussed increasing unyielding attitudes through puzzle games. There are also other studies, namely Titien Diah Soelistyarini (2011) and Edi Widiyanto (2015) which discuss character education but with different objects. Titien Diah Soelistyarini (2011) discusses the character of early childhood through the storytelling method and Edi Widiyanto (2015) discusses the character of early childhood in the family sphere.

Based on some of the studies above, there are similarities with the research that the author did, namely discussing character education in early childhood. But the research above still discusses character education in general, while the author only focuses on one early childhood character education, namely the character of never giving up. Therefore, the author tries to fill the research gap by reviewing in detail about the character education of never giving up on the story of Grandpa's Fish Pond.

2. Research Methods

This study uses a library research method, which is a research approach that examines a theory that exists in references related to values, traditions, and norms contained in a particular social situation to be studied. (4) Research Literature study consists of text instruments such as books, journals, or other research results, because the references used use these instruments.

The variables studied in this study consisted of two variables, namely the independent variable and the dependent variable. Unyielding attitude is an independent variable, because this variable has an influence on other variables, and the story of Grandpa's Fish Pond as the dependent variable because it is a variable that is affected by the influence of the independent variable.

Sources of data used in this study consisted of primary and secondary sources. The primary data source is data that is used as the main reference for research, namely the story of Grandpa's Fish Pond. While secondary data sources are data that function as supporting or complementary primary data so that appropriate and detailed data can be obtained. Secondary data sources are books, articles and previous research that are relevant to the topic and can be used as a source of supporting data.

Documentation is carried out to obtain the required data. This activity is carried out by analyzing and identifying the content of the story as a whole and seeing its relevance to the unyielding character as explained on the theoretical basis. The identification process is carried out by reading the whole story of Grandpa's Fish Pond, then an analysis is carried out on matters relating to the unyielding character. The more theoretical foundations used, the more accurate the data will be. Furthermore, the results of the data will be described in such a way as to present scientific data that is easy to understand.

3. Results and Discussion

3.1. The Character of Abstinence

Abstinence, can be divided into two meanings, the word abstinence which means prohibition or things that are not allowed to be done. While the word surrender comes from the word surrender which gets the initial affix me-, which means surrender and has no more enthusiasm.

In terminology, never giving up can be interpreted as always being optimistic about doing something, not giving up easily, rising from failures that have been experienced. (5) And another meaning of never giving up is working hard to face various obstacles, working hard to realize the goals and desires that you want to achieve, considers that obstacles and obstacles must always exist and must be faced with enthusiasm. (6)

The character of unyielding is also explained in Islam in Surah Az-Zumar verse 53 which means "Say: O my servants who transgress against themselves, do not despair of the mercy of Allah. Verily Allah forgives all sins. Verily, He is the Most Forgiving, the Most Merciful." And it is also explained in the letter Al Baqarah verse 286 which means "God will not burden a person but according to his ability. He gets the reward (from the good) that he worked for and he gets the punishment (from the evil) that he did.(7). From these two verses, it can be concluded that every problem there must be a solution, because the problems we face have been adjusted by Allah to the ability of each person.

Never give up can be interpreted briefly as a combination of hard work and motivation to succeed. Unyielding attitude is the first step that must exist before doing all activities, it is so that we can position ourselves so that we continue to be enthusiastic about the results we expect. (8) The attitude of never giving up needs to be instilled from an early age, this is so that children have high spirits to achieve the goals they want. Motivation plays an important role in fostering an unyielding attitude for adults and children, motivation can come from oneself or from outside oneself. Self-motivation such as support and appreciation for oneself, while external motivation is in the form of direct support from those closest to us.

3.2. Grandfather's Fish Pond

Story Children's stories are written works that tell about children and describe the feelings and experiences of children and are easily understood by children. Children's stories use short and clear language so that they are easily understood by children and there are messages in them in the form of values, morals, and education that are in accordance with the level of child development. (3)

Children's stories have several functions for early childhood, including: instilling good educational values, presenting things from abstract to clear, developing children's imagination and creativity, arousing curiosity in children, influencing children's feelings, attitudes and behavior, educating children to become individuals who can take lessons or lessons from something. events.(9)

The story of Grandpa's Fish Pond by Ammy Ramdhanian is one of the stories on the web <https://letsreadasia.org>, which is a digital library application in which there are various collections of electronic books (*e-books*) for children from various regions and contain advice on virtues that can be used as a medium for building character for early childhood.

In the application the author is interested in one of the story books entitled Grandfather's Fish Pond, the book tells about a little girl named Eneng who has an unyielding character doing various ways with her brother helping grandfather to catch fish in a pond where the water is overflowing. With enthusiasm and unyielding attitude, Eneng finally succeeded in all the fish in the pond, but before that Eneng tried various ways to catch fish, starting from catching fish with his bare hands and apparently failed, Eneng looked for other ways to catch with clothes and nets but still failed, finally Eneng and brother found another way, namely draining the pool water to make it easier to catch fish, but draining the pool water was not as easy as Eneng and brother imagined, they had to find a hole to drain the pool water and it turned out that the hole was clogged with wood. . Eneng and brother worked together to pull the wood, finally the wood was able to be pulled and the water slowly came out of the hole. fish are also easier to catch.(10)

3.3. Children's Stories and Character Building

Good character is important to grow from an early age, this is because early childhood is a foundation until adulthood. To introduce character to our children, we can give an example directly or through intermediaries. If you give an example directly, then the parent or teacher gives an example directly in front of the child, and if through an intermediary you can use stories, advice and *public figures*. Character formation with the story can be said to run effectively. This is because stories have concise and concise language, and are often accompanied by pictures that make children more interested.

For character building with stories, it must be done gradually and repeatedly, because it will not be meaningful if the story is only done once but after that parents and educators demand that children immediately change for the better, a process that is not short and requires high patience. (3)

a. The Unyielding Character in Grandpa's Fish Pond Story

In the grandfather's fish pond story, there is an unyielding character that can be instilled in early childhood. This can be seen from the story of the main character in the story, even though the story is short but has a very deep meaning if we really understand it well.

b. Never Give Up When Problems Come

When there is a problem people often can't see the gaps in the problem. If we can see a problem from the positive side, we will realize that after the problem there must be success. Like what happened to Eneng, the main character in Grandpa's Fish Pond.

"On holidays like this, it's good to eat grilled fish. Uh, where's Grandpa? The pool water is overflowing! Some fish are still stuck in the pond. Eneng has to catch him."

Eneng taught him to never give up even though there were problems that came, without the slightest hesitation, Eneng immediately helped Grandpa to catch the fish that were still in the pond even though at that time the pond was overflowing. This attitude needs to be instilled in early childhood, so that early childhood is enthusiastic and does not hesitate to do something new. A new thing should be used as a motivation for children, as well as parents and educators participating in convincing children if children can get through the problems they are facing.

c. Never Give Up When Businesses Fail Failed

Businesses often make adults or children down, even children are often angry if he loses a race until no one else can persuade him. It is feared that if it is not directed, it can continue into adulthood. As educators and parents, they must be able to give a good understanding to children, that if what he does he can never give up trying until he succeeds.

"Ah, Eneng just went down to the river. Maybe he can catch fish by hand. That's the fish! Duh, the fish nimbly avoided Eneng's hand. That's the fish! Duh, the fish nimbly avoided Eneng's hand."

"Aha, Eneng has an idea! Shuut... Shuut! He managed to catch three fish at once. Uh, uh.... The fish thrashed. One fish even jumped very high. Ouch! The fish were lost again.

This conversation illustrates Eneng's unyielding attitude even though he failed to catch fish many times, various ways that Eneng did to be able to catch fish in the pond. This is something that needs to be instilled in early childhood, that if you fail to do something, you are still eager to find other ways to get to what you want. As the saying goes "one die grows a thousand" which means if one way fails then there are a thousand other ways.

d. Never Give Up When Friends Don't Help

Humans are social creatures, they cannot live alone without the help of others. But that doesn't mean we always depend on other people, as well as children. Sometimes there are children who do not want to do anything if they are not helped by friends. But this results in children not being independent and dependent on others.

"Kang Ujang, please get me a net, Eneng exclaimed."

"Take it yourself or wait for Grandpa," said Ujang. "I want to find my glove. Yesterday I hung out here."

"Ah, Eneng just went down to the river. Maybe he can catch fish by hand."

This conversation describes Eneng's unyielding attitude and does not run out of wits even though his brother Ujang doesn't want to help him catch fish, we can also see Eneng's other attitude, which is not depending on others. This needs to be instilled in children, so that children can become independent children and are able to make their own decisions.

4. Conclusion

Character education needs to be instilled from an early age to shape character as an adult. One of the characters that can be applied since early childhood is the unyielding character, the unyielding attitude teaches children to continue to be enthusiastic about achieving what they want and not be discouraged by accepting defeat. There are three habits of never giving up that can be taught to children, namely: the attitude of never giving up when problems come, the attitude of never giving up when the business fails, the attitude of never giving up when friends don't help.

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