

# Strengthening Children's Character Through School Sports Festival

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# Strengthening Children's Character Through School Sports Festival

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**Abstract**—All parties should do the character of elementary school students jointly. One of them, it can be done through fun sports activities. Excellent character needs to develop in the form of physical activity packages that are cultivated in a school sports festival. This activity is also a solution to develop the psychomotor, affective, and cognitive aspects of students simultaneously. Therefore, this community service activity aims to strengthen the character of elementary school students through school sports festival activity. The participants are 142 students of Soka Elementary School in Pundong, Bantul. In addition, the principal, six classroom teachers, and one physical education teacher also participated. This activity consists of training and festivals conducting by lecture, demonstration, and practice/simulation methods. The evaluation of this activity based on its implementation and results. The training activities have been carried out for one day at Soka elementary School while the festival was held for also one day in the Mblali field, Seloharjo, Pundong, Bantul. The attendance of participants, both teachers and students was 100%. The teachers and students look happy and excited during the training and festival activities. In addition, the students also saw a variety of good behaviors that could develop into good character, such as discipline, majesty, honoring victory, acknowledging defeat, hard work, and fair competition. Therefore, festival activities expected to hold at least annually or biannually as long as they follow the academic calendar at the end of the semester in school. The routine and sustainability of the school sports festival will help students to develop a variety of good characters.

**Keywords:** student, character, sport, festival.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Building the character of the next generation at home (informal) and at school (formal) is extremely important. Budiningsih stated that the low quality of education caused by many factors but mainly insensitivity to students' pluralism and conditions of

the environment [1]. Meaningful education designed and developed based on students' conditions. Learning process is a process carried out under certain circumstances to encourage students to keep learning. A positive learning is not a one-time event but a continuous, lifelong process in which an event or an incident can be one's source for learning. Therefore, it takes an extremely long time to see the outcomes of education.

Reinforcing character education is strongly relevant to respond to morale crisis currently happening in Indonesia [2]. Character usually refers to an idealistic and spiritual approach in education known as the Normative Education Theory [3]. Character education is an education process aiming to build students' characters. Education is not solely about transferring knowledge but also teaching and introducing students to values and norms in the society so that they grow with values and norms in mind.

While all parties should partake in children's character building, the character building process can be carried out through fun sports activities, which fit children's characteristics and development stages. Sports activities are designed to encompass several values of characters including religion, nationalism, independence, cooperation, and integrity. In sport activities, there are many things closely related to characters and many responses to follow. An exemplary action starts with an imitation among humans. In education, teachers' or friends' wisdom and behavior are good models. The involvement of all teachers, not only those of Sports and Physical Education subject, can support the use of sports activities in character building.

Sports festivals will bring great benefits as they are made up of various competitions and group games

while the results will be used to determine the winners. All activities and games in this festival are modification of various games such as the target game, the bamboo-compass game, tying the feet game, rope game, tug a war game, and many more. These games are psychomotor games, which also incorporate both affective and cognitive aspects. Group games, which are full of cooperation, should be part of school sports festival as they encourage all students, teachers, and principals to unite and create a meaningful joy.

II. METHODS

This community service event namely School Sports Festival was held at Soka Pundong Elementary School Bantul. It involved 243 participants consisting of 10 teachers, 71 students from grade 1 to 6, 142 parents, and 20 FIK UNY students. This event encompassed two activities including (1) the training prior to the implementation of the festival to provide participants (teachers and FIK students) with materials, both theoretical and practical, and comprehensive knowledge of the event as well as (2) the implementation of School Sports Festival.

III. RESULTS

The School Sports Festival at Soka Pundong Elementary School Bantul was a success. The training was conducted on Saturday, 20 July 2019 from 1 to 4 pm local time at Soka Pundong Elementary School Bantul. Ten teachers and 71 students attended the training, which focused on providing participants with understanding of the festival related materials. During the training, groups were divided and activities and winner selection were simulated. This activity has successfully provided teachers and students with information and understanding related to the implementation of the festival. The participants showed enthusiasm and asked various questions related to the given material during the training. The training schedule is presented in Table 1.

TABLE I. TRAINING SCHEDULE

Time	Activities	Person in Charge
13.00 – 13.30	Opening Ceremony	Soni Nopembri
13.30 – 14.30	Material 1: School Sports Festival and group division	Soni Nopembri Saryono
14.30 – 16.00	Material 2: Activity simulation and winner selection	A. Erlina Listyarini Nur Rohmah Muktiani



Fig. 1. Training for teachers and students

The festival was conducted on 21 July 2019 in Pundong Bantul field. Started at 08.00 and finished at 12.00, this School Sports Festival involved guests, teachers, students, and parents. There were nine sports competitions for students and two sports competitions for parents held in this event. Trophies and medals were awarded as a prize. Giwangan Elementary School earned gold trophies and medals while Kota Gede 1 Elementary School earned silver trophies and medals. The implementation of this festival has been written in School Sports Festival’s Practical Guidelines in the appendix.



Fig. 2. The School Sports Festival implementation

Students’ Character Reinforcement in School Sports Festival

All activities/physical competitions in School Sports Festival were full of values that can reinforce students’ characters. The following pictures 3 to 7 show this.





Fig. 3. The Target Ball Throwing to build competitiveness and cooperation



Fig. 6. The Bamboo Battle to build creativity, hard work, and resistance



Fig. 4. The Relay Race to build self-confidence and courage



Fig. 7. The Storm Game to teach students cooperation



Fig. 5. The Tug of War to develop cooperation, hard work, and resistance

#### IV. DISCUSSION

Fallacy summarized that festival is a crucial event; a social phenomenon existed in all human cultures [4]. A festival is a joyous day or week to commemorate an important or historical event or in other words, a people's party [5]. Festival is a massive party held jovially to commemorate a historical event. Festival means party indicating that festival is a big celebration that is held to commemorate a historical event [5]. A festival held in certain place is called an event. Event is divided into public and private events. Public events encompass celebrations of culture, art, entertainment, business or trading, sports competition, education and science, recreation, as well as politics at state; meanwhile, private events include personal celebrations such as anniversaries, family vacations, wedding ceremonies, and birthday parties as well as social events such as parties, galas, and reunions [6]. Referring to the above descriptions, festival can be considered as both public and private events depending on its purposes.

School sports festival adopts Sport Education Model that brings many benefits to students' character reinforcement. As competition is the fundamental of sports, this model guarantees that fair

competitions will help students understand that winning is not everything. The values being developed by the model are pleasure and appreciation to the children joining the game [7]. In sports education, teams can compete well if their members demonstrate strong cooperation [8]. Sport Education Model has the capacity to provide sports experiences that benefit for physical, psychological, and emotional growth of children [9]. The model is considered a student-centered approach as it puts students at the center of learning process and gives them actual responsibilities [10].

#### V. CONCLUSIONS

The training and mentoring for School Sports Festival were a great success. Participants consisting of teachers and students of Soka Pundong Elementary School Bantul have gained knowledge and skills regarding the concept, implementation, and evaluation of School Sports Festival. Students as participants demonstrated improvement in their characters while participating in each stage of the festival. They showed full enthusiasm and excitement while learning and absorbing values attached in the event. Involvement of all parties in School Sports Festival is highly required to guarantee success.

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