

ROLE OF PARENTS IN MULTICULTURAL AWARENESS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Abstract

Children are the future investments that must be developed optimally. Without the proper stimulus from their parents, which carried the potential for children from birth will not be able to develop optimally. In this era one of the potential to be developed in children is associated with awareness multicultural. It is undeniable that Indonesia is a pluralistic nation in terms of culture. Therefore, children need to be embedded in the plurality that can be used as a means to strengthen national unity, not as a means to split. The need for the development of multicultural awareness to early childhood is to shape a generation that is not filled with prejudices against another group. If until the appearance of prejudice to the other groups will be able to become the seeds of discriminatory behavior in everyday life, ranging from interpersonal relationships to the affairs of the bureaucracy. Its can also result in horizontal conflicts. The role of parents in this case is very important, considering the family environment is the immediate environment with children who have a portion of the lot in developing the potential of children, including the inculcation of values. Hopefully, with a maximum role of parents in this multicultural awareness, later in life that children can live in peace.

Keywords: early childhood, multicultural awareness, parental role

Preliminary

Children are the next generation should be prepared to become a man of quality. Measuring the quality here is not just limited to the quality of cognitive intelligence, but also affective and psychomotor intelligence. In preparing children to become the next generation of quality education is one way that can be achieved, in addition to other needs such as nutrition for example. Education is an important thing done since early childhood. This represents an early age to remember the golden era, which only happened once in the development of human life. This period is also a critical period in child development. If at this time the child gets less attention in terms of education, treatment, care and health services and nutritional needs of children are feared can not grow and develop optimally.

The importance of education for children from an early age is also supported by studies that found that since the birth of a son of man has approximately 100 billion brain cells. Brain cells that are interconnected with nerve cells. These brain cells will not grow and thrive without any stimulation and utilized (Gutama, et al., 2005: 3). The importance of education for children from an early age is also based on Law Number 20 Year 2003 on National Education System, which states that early childhood education is one of the construction effort that childhood education is one of many efforts aimed at guiding the development of children from birth to 6 years of education is done through providing stimulus to help the growth and development of the mind and body so that the child has a level of readiness to enter further education (Article 1 point 14). Based on these things then it is clear that education at an early age is very important.

One of the crucial things that need attention relating to early childhood education today is to develop an awareness of multicultural. This is considering that the Indonesian nation is a pluralistic nation in terms of culture, religion, race, education, and others. In addition, the need for the development of multicultural awareness for early childhood is to shape a generation that is not filled with prejudices against other groups. If until the appearance of prejudice to the other groups will be able to become the seeds of discriminatory behavior in everyday life, ranging from interpersonal relationships to the affairs of the bureaucracy. In addition, can also result in horizontal conflicts are like the riots in May 1998, the conflict in Ambon, Poso, and Sampit. (Kristianto Batuadji, 2010).

In order to develop multicultural awareness in early childhood can be done both through formal and non formal educational institutions. Through formal institutions developing multicultural awareness can be integrated into school curricula. But a lot happening right now that the learning that goes on at school focuses only on the ability of learners to be able to work on the problems of evaluation so that the value obtained in rapot be good. Therefore, the development of multicultural awareness needs to be supported by institutions other than schools.

Development of multicultural awareness can be conducted in family education. The role of parents in this case is very important to establish awareness of multicultural children. Examples of behavior, and speech given by the parents will observe the child in everyday life and will eventually be imitated by children in their behavior. Based on this research shows that parents play in education, children will learn to perform, followed by improving attitudes, socio emotional stability, discipline, and aspirations of children to learn to college, even after work and settle down. (Maemunah Hasan, 2009:20).

Family and Parents

One of the early childhood education environments that have the greatest role is the family. Dobbert opinion and Winkler (1985), the family environment is the dominant factor in effective and important. The role of families in the educational value is to support the process of identification, internalization, modeling, and reproduction directly from moral values to be invested as the orientation patterns of family life. ([www. aneahira.com](http://www.aneahira.com)).

Ahmadi was quoted as saying by family Fitria Susanti and Novita (2009) is the most important primary group in society. Family is a group formed from the relationship between men and women who long to create and raise a child. So the family in pure form is a social entity consisting of husband, wife and children. Family is the immediate environment for the child since the child was born. Children in the family obtained a wealth of experience and a stimulus to grow and develop. Family influence on the moral development of children is enormous. By looking at the behavior of adults in the family environment in which children live, your child will notice this behavior, then copy it within a certain timeframe. Thus the family is a very effective way to internalize moral values to children, including in it the value will kersadaran multicultural.

The role of parents to their children's education is to provide basic education, attitudes, and basic skills, such as religion, manners, polite, aesthetics, love saying, security, grounds to comply with regulations, and inculcate habits. The role of the family is to teach the values and behavior accordingly. The role of

parents in the family for the moral development of children is enormous. Children need to receive assistance in the development of moral values. The primary role of parents in this assistance has been great. Everyday events can be used as a tool for parents to internalize moral values to children.

Education in the family is the thing that is important to remember the early childhood family education is the largest portion of which will be embedded in the child. Inside the child's family will get a polite education, self-discipline, religion (mental), socializing and member motivation. Therefore the role of parents (families) become important in children's education. Therefore, a conducive family environment will influence the success of education that took place in the family. (Rahardjo and Murwatie, 1993).

Early Childhood Education

In Law. 23 Year 2000 regarding National Education System stated that early childhood education is one of the construction effort that intended for children from birth up to six years which is done through provision of educational stimulation to assist the growth and development of the mind and body so that my son has a readiness to enter the education ladder more information (Article 1 para 14).

Early childhood education is the most fundamental foundation for the future is formed and the creation of a more educative youth education. The children have mental development, spiritual and moral potential for development. Early childhood education in a more extreme is the beginning of the most potent of the character's personality and identity. If the way many of non educative behavior by young students, then the root of the problem rests not only on factors that are already on the era, but a far more play is a factor since the lack of attention which early childhood. Such factors including dominant enough to remember such an early age is the age of potential psychological development of children and it was as a mirror while a teenager. (Najamuddin Muhammad).

Early childhood education will provide initial supplies for the next education level. Early childhood education requires critical attention from parents, education experts, community and government. Thus the role of parents and families in early childhood education is essential. Even during the early age children are in solidarity with the family much longer than the time of the child to stay in the school environment.

Given the success of early childhood education is basic for subsequent educational success, the early childhood education needs to be done optimally to future results, as the initial stock take further education is also optimal. Some things that need to be developed in early childhood education, among other aspects of the development of moral, cognitive, language, socio emotional, independence and physical ability.

Multicultural Awareness

The Indonesian nation is a pluralistic nation. This is a fact that can not be denied. Indonesian society is a society composed of various ethnic groups, cultures, religions, and others. because of that Indonesian society is known as a multicultural society. In the situation of a multicultural society is the need for planting a multicultural awareness.

Planting multicultural awareness is essential this be done now, given the existence of the Indonesian nation from the diverse cultures, religions, races, and others. in the middle of the plurality of the Indonesian nation, needed a proper understanding in order to avoid any perception among different cultural groups. This would have been fatal if it occurs until negative prejudice between different cultures.

Education multiculturalism is very beneficial to inculcate attitudes of students who are able and willing to appreciate the different cultural, religious, racial, and faith. With have a good multicultural awareness will help children to understand, accept and appreciate other people of different ethnic, cultural and personal values. Later in his life the child will be a younger generation that is able

to accept different cultures, races, religions, and beliefs, so they will be able to live in peace in the midst of national plurality.

Patterns of education is being done to develop multicultural awareness should be precise. What often happens now is that the children are given the understanding of "different" with the faction are inferior. According Kristianto Batuadji (2010) if the pattern of education as it lasts continuous, then in time the generation that formed a generation full of prejudice against other groups. prejudices that arise will be the seeds of discriminatory behavior in everyday life, ranging from interpersonal relationships to bureaucratic affairs. In addition it will also trigger the emergence of prejudice conflicts like the riots in May 1998 horizontal, the conflict in Ambon, Poso, and Sampit.

Therefore, multicultural awareness needs to be invested since early childhood. The hope through awareness of multicultural education from an early age, children will have enough stock when it will interact with the social environment. In addition, multicultural awareness early planting is expected to fortify the child from negative influences that can potentially cause prejudice in children. The child needs to be invested that plurality, diversity, which exists between different cultures is not used as a solver of unity and oneness, but instead pledged as a vehicle to strengthen national unity.

According to cousin Saeful Rohmat (2008) The main goal of multicultural education is to inculcate the attitude of sympathy, respect, appreciation, and empathy for the adherents of different religions and cultures. Furthermore, adherents of different religions and cultures can learn to fight or at least do not agree with the lack of tolerare (l'intorelable) such as the Inquisition (the legal state court-whether theology or ideology), religious wars, discrimination, and cultural hegemony in monolithic culture center and global uniformity. In implementation, the paradigm of multicultural education are required to adhere to the following principles:

1. Multicultural education must offer a diverse curriculum that represents the views and perspectives of many people.
2. Multicultural education must be based on the assumption that no single interpretation of the truth of history.
3. Curriculum emphasis is achieved in accordance with comparative analysis with the perspective of different cultures.
4. Multicultural education must support the guiding principal in combating stereotypical views of race, culture and religion.

Family Role In Developing Multicultural Awareness

Planting multicultural awareness to young children one of which can be done through the family environment. In the family role of parents in multicultural awareness to early childhood is very large. Parents must provide understanding to the children that differences in national pluralism is a beautiful thing. Such pluralism should be used as a vehicle for unifying the nation, rather than used as a trigger disintegration of the nation. Diversity that would look good, beautiful, harmonious and well balanced when walking.

In the language of children parents can use the analogy of a rainbow. In a whole rainbow is beautiful. Beauty because it supported a variety of colors. Diversity colors that make a beautiful rainbow appeared. It will not be possible to look beautiful when the rainbow is composed of only one color. Similarly, the Indonesian nation. Will be able to be a beautiful thing when composed of cultures, races, religions and different beliefs and between the diversity that can be united with each other.

It also can be done with the planting of multicultural awareness through song. Songs associated with planting multicultural awareness songs such as "*lihat kebunku penuh dengan bunga. Ada yang putih, dan ada yang merah. Setiap hari kusiram semua. Mawar melati semuanya indah*". From the song "Look at my garden is then parents need to convey to children that the Indonesian nation is like a garden. Inside there are a variety of race, class, religion and belief. All of them

will be beautiful when maintained like a park. Not exactly the differences are eliminated altogether.

Besides using the analogy of "Rainbow" and the song "Look at my garden" planting of multicultural awareness to young children through a family there should be an example of a parent. This is to remember that in early life is a golden age that's very easy to imitate behaviors performed by those around him. In this case the parents need to give examples of how to get along with people of different religions. Parents should provide examples of behavior to respect people of different religions. This behavior such as when there are other people of different religions are running the church, then should not interfere. Besides that, parents must also provide an example for others who do not mocking different languages, and customs. At the point that parents must set an example for not lowering the cultural identity of others who differ with children. With the planting of multicultural awareness from parents to children is expected to be able to equip our children's lives will enable them to interact with their environment properly. Children is able to accept and appreciate the different ethnic groups, cultures, religions, and beliefs. In addition, children will also be easier and easier adjust themselves socially acceptable environment.

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Planting multicultural awareness is crucial done, considering the nation Indonesia is a pluralistic nation. The child needs to instilled values that differences exist not be used as vehicle for the split, but instead used as a tool unifying the nation. In planting things multicultural awareness is one of the family environment plays an important role. Parents can perform this role through providing examples of everyday behavior, and also through stories or children's songs. Certainly the language used should be adjusted to the level of child development. It is expected that with the planting of multicultural awareness from parents to children is expected to be able to equip our children's lives will enable them to interact with their environment properly. Children is able to accept and appreciate

the different ethnic groups, cultures, religions, and beliefs. In addition, children will also be easier and easier adjust themselves socially acceptable environment.

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