

# FORMATION OF CHARACTER FOR ORPHAN CHILDREN AT THE DARUL HADLONAH ORPHANAGE PURWODADI GROBOGAN

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## Keyword

Character, Building, Orphans, Discipline, Honesty, Orphanage

## Abstract

The purpose of this study is first to explore the factors that influence the formation of orphans' character, second is to explain how to form the character of orphans when viewed from the aspects of discipline and honesty and finally describes the way guardians as caregivers of orphans in the formation at the Darul Hadlonah Purwodadi Grobogan Orphanage. This study is a qualitative study. Data collection techniques used include observation, interviews, and document analysis. The data analysis technique used is an interactive data analysis technique and is carried out continuously. The results of the study indicate that the formation of the character of orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage is influenced by: a) social environment; b) education and learning; c) emotional and psychological support; d) physical conditions and facilities; e) instilling honest and disciplined characters. How to form character through discipline and honesty, namely: a) discipline as the foundation for character formation; b) honesty in the context of character education; c) education and learning through extracurricular activities; d) emotional and psychological support as supporting factors. The role of caregivers in character formation: a) formation of morals; b) habits of clean living; c) role models in discipline; d) respect yourself and others; e) integration of worship in daily life.

## INTRODUCTION

Children are the nation's next generation who have an important role as the spearhead of the nation's civilization in the future. So the nation's progress will depend on the quality of children's growth as the nation's next generation. In order for children to grow well and be able to carry out the nation's mandate, children must be able to get the widest possible opportunities to grow optimally. Children are creatures created by God who have a dual task, namely as individual and social creatures. As an individual, a child has a diverse and unique character. Meanwhile, as a social creature, a child has the freedom to do anything according to his abilities and potential, so guidance is needed so that children can optimize their role as social creatures (Muryono, 2010). Children are a trust in the hands of their two caregivers, who have the obligation to care for, love and educate them, because most of the child's time will be spent with the family so their role is very important in instilling character in children. Character formation in children can start from early childhood, because this is the golden age of children, so that children can have the potential to become good individuals. It is from this family environment that the initial process of cultivating character in children begins before the child faces the social environment where the child will grow and develop (Suryani & Listyaningsih, 2019). However, not all children are lucky to have a complete family. Like orphans, they cannot feel the role of their two caregivers, so they

need another figure who can replace the role of caregiver. In cultivating character in children, there needs to be cooperation between caregivers or guardians, the orphanage and the community so that good cooperation can be established and can provide the best values to children. Instilling character in children cannot happen by itself but needs to be built and developed starting from the family, orphanage and community environment in a sustainable manner. The stages of cultivating character in children start from an early age, where cultivating character is a systematic process and is in accordance with the child's growth and development phases. Each stage can reflect the level of nobility of each child (Sulthoni & Sarmini, 2017).

Instilling character in children is something that must be done so that children have morals, moral behavior and a commendable personality (Kurniawati, 2019). Cultivating this character is important for children as a guide and guide in their behavior. Apart from providing guidance in character building, it is also to improve children's morals so that they become good individuals. In forming these moral values, a child not only needs advice but also needs a model to emulate. Instilling character in children by providing direct examples can accustom children to carry out honest actions through what children see. This can reflect that the child's character is a reflection of the character in the family and the environment where the child lives (Ainiyah & Wibawa, 2015). Remembering how important it is to instill character in children so that children can become individuals with character, morals and good personality wherever they are. This is because technology is increasingly developing so that children's social interactions become free and difficult for their caregivers to control, so it is necessary to instill character in children. With strong character inherent in children, it is hoped that children can control their own relationships so that they do not fall into negative things. Therefore, it is necessary to study how to instill appropriate character in orphans during this millennial era.

The aims of this research are (1) to describe what factors influence the formation of the character of orphans, (2) to describe how to form a disciplined and honest character in orphans, (3) to describe how guardians act as caregivers for orphans in formation of their character.

## **METHOD**

This research uses a qualitative approach, where qualitative research is a type of research that aims to explore data and information qualitatively (Harsono, 2019). In this research, the researcher will observe orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage regarding their daily behavior of discipline and honesty. By using qualitative research, it is hoped that the data obtained by researchers will be objective. In this study, the research design used was ethnography. Ethnography in question is qualitative research, which in this case examines the life of a society carried out scientifically. This aims to understand, describe, describe and interpret cultural patterns in this community group regarding the values, behavior, language, beliefs and views that are shared together (Harsono, 2019).

Data collection in this research was by means of interviews, observation and documentation.

## **RESULTS**

After making observations and based on interviews with Mr. Zawawi and Mrs. Hj Siti Mahmudah at the Darul Hadlonah Purwodadi Orphanage, the results of research on "Character Building for Orphans" can be summarized as follows:

Factors Influencing the Character Formation of Orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Purwodadi Orphanage, Grobogan Regency, Central Java Province

Observations and interviews in orphanages show that these values are taught through daily interactions with caregivers and peers, as well as through formal and non-formal education. As Pak Zawawi said "First, is their social environment, including relationships with caregivers and peers... Second, education and extracurricular activities are very influential. Third, emotional and psychological support... And finally, the physical conditions in which they live and available facilities.". This is in line with Mrs Mahmudah's answer "There are several factors, but the most

dominant is their social environment here. These children are greatly influenced by their interactions with caregivers and other children in the institution. We try to create a positive environment, where they can learn about trust, cooperation and empathy." The warm and supportive social environment at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage plays an important role in forming the character of orphans. Positive interactions with caregivers and peers create a sense of security and help children develop empathy and good social skills. Caregivers, like Mr Zawawi, take active roles as mentors and surrogate parental figures, demonstrating the importance of close, loving relationships in supporting children's emotional development. Pak Zawawi stated "We teach children to always act with kindness, patience and empathy. We not only convey this through words but also through our own actions. We try to show good morals in all situations, whether in interacting with children or when facing problems."

At Darul Hadlonah, caregivers act as parental figures who provide examples of good behavior and values, which are consistent with the opinion that from good families children with good character will be born.

"The Darul Hadlonah Orphanage is a home for orphans who have lost one or both of their parents. We are here trying to provide love and good education to help them grow into strong and independent individuals."

In her interview, Mrs. Siti Mahmudah said "Here, we really encourage children to understand the importance of behaving well and following the rules that we have set. We try hard to make them realize that their every action has consequences, and they must be responsible for what they do. what they do."

Mrs. Siti emphasized that "We, as caregivers, must always be good role models. Children observe and imitate what we do, so we try to always act honestly and with discipline." Through this example, children learn that these values are not only theoretical but also applied in everyday life. In this way, the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage actively shapes the character of its orphans to not only become academically intelligent individuals, but also people with high integrity and discipline in all aspects of life.

How to Shape the Character of Orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Purwodadi Orphanage, Grobogan Regency, Central Java Province When Viewed From the Aspect of Discipline and Honesty

Mrs. Hj Siti Mahmudah explained, "For discipline, we apply clear and consistent rules... For honesty, we start from small things... We teach children to always speak the truth, even in difficult situations." Further, he added, "We use a child-centred approach... We hold reflection sessions where children can talk about their feelings and actions..."

The Darul Hadlonah Orphanage in Purwodadi, Grobogan Regency, Central Java Province, has implemented a series of principles and methods to instill these values in the children in their care. Based on the results of observations and interviews with caregivers, as previously mentioned, this section discusses how the orphanage applies aspects of discipline and honesty in forming the character of orphans.

a. Character Formation Through Discipline

1) Implementation of Discipline

Darul Hadlonah Orphanage understands the importance of discipline as the main foundation in life. Through setting clear and consistent rules, children are taught to respect their time, duties and responsibilities. Discipline here is not only emphasized through obedience to rules but also through the development of self-discipline, which allows children to control behavior and make wise decisions.

2) Assigning Responsibility

One effective method used is by giving children responsibility for their daily activities. These range from simple tasks such as personal hygiene and maintenance of the living environment to participation in the management of communal activities. This responsibility is aimed at teaching

children the importance of contributing to the community and fostering a sense of ownership and independence.

### 3) Sanctions and Rewards

A system of sanctions and rewards is implemented to support compliance and understanding of the rules. Sanctions are given not as a form of punishment but as a learning tool to understand the consequences of their actions. On the other hand, awards are given to recognize and motivate good behavior and discipline demonstrated by children, encouraging them to continue to behave positively.

#### b. Character Building Through Honesty

##### 1) Teaching the Value of Honesty

Mrs. Siti emphasized the importance of teaching the value of honesty from an early age to children in orphanages. "Teaching honesty to children is the foundation of all the character education we provide," said Mrs. Siti. Through discussions, stories and question and answer sessions, children are invited to understand the concept of honesty and the importance of applying it in everyday life. "We often have sessions where we discuss hypothetical or real situations and ask children to think about how they should honestly act in each situation," he added. This approach helps children understand honesty not just as a concept, but as a practical action to take in real life.

Apart from that, an interview with Mr Zawawi, who has worked in an orphanage for around 10 years, emphasized the importance of the social environment in forming children's character. "We try to create a family atmosphere here," said Mr. Zawawi, indicating that in a loving and supportive environment, teaching values such as honesty is more effective. A positive social environment allows children to feel loved and appreciated, which indirectly teaches them to act honestly and respect the honesty of others

##### 2) Make Honesty a Habit

Making honesty a habit is the next step after teaching the value of honesty. Ibu Siti explains that this is achieved through positive reinforcement and consistent consequences. "Every time a child acts honestly, especially in difficult situations, we give praise and sometimes a small reward," said Mrs. Siti. This helps children understand that honesty is valued and respected. On the other hand, dishonesty is treated seriously and used as a learning moment. "We discussed what happened and why it's important to always choose honesty, even when it's difficult," he added.

Pak Zawawi also discussed the role of education and extracurricular activities in helping children develop their character, including habits of honest behavior. "Extracurricular activities such as sports, arts and music give them the opportunity to develop talents and interests, as well as social and leadership skills," explained Pak Zawawi. Through these activities, children learn the importance of integrity and honesty in all aspects of life, from everyday interactions to competition and cooperation.

The combination of strong emotional and psychological support, as well as adequate physical conditions and facilities, as explained by Mr Zawawi, also plays a vital role. Children who feel safe and supported tend to be more open to accepting and applying the values taught, including honesty. "Emotional support helps them build self-confidence and develop a positive view of themselves and others," added Mr Zawawi. This all contributes to the internalization of the value of honesty as a daily habit.

Teaching the value of honesty and making it a habit at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage is, therefore, a process that involves many aspects of children's lives, including social interactions, formal and non-formal education, as well as consistent emotional support.

#### Ways of Guardians as Caregivers of Orphans in Character Building

Through in-depth interviews with Pak Zawawi, we gained a deeper understanding of how moral and ethical values are integrated into daily life at the orphanage. The following is how guardians can shape the character of orphans

### Moral Formation

Pak Zawawi emphasized that good morals are the basis of all actions taught in the orphanage. "We believe that good morals are the basis of all actions," said Pak Zawawi. They teach children to always act with kindness, patience, and empathy, not only through words but also through concrete examples of the caregiver's own actions.

Cleanliness is considered very important, not only for physical health but also as part of forming a child's character. "Every day, we have a cleaning schedule that involves all the children, and we participate with them," said Mr. Zawawi. This helps children understand the importance of cooperation and responsibility.

### Exemplary in Discipline

Discipline in an institution is more than just following the rules; it's about consistency and persistence in everything you do. "We show discipline through our daily lives," said Mr. Zawawi. Children are invited to see that discipline helps them achieve goals and live a more orderly life.

### Respect for Self and Others

Pak Zawawi also explained how they teach children to respect themselves and respect others. Through activities that promote empathy and cooperation, children learn about honesty, integrity and the importance of respecting differences. Mrs. Hj Siti Mahmudah added about the importance of honesty, "We teach children to respect themselves and respect others... We hold activities that promote empathy and cooperation..."

### Integration of Worship in Daily Life

Worship is an integral part of life at the orphanage, where spiritual values are taught alongside the practice of worship. "Through worship, we try to instill good habits and teach them the importance of praying, being grateful and sharing with others," explained Pak Zawawi.

## DISCUSSION

Based on the results of research conducted on the character formation process of orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage, Purwodadi Grobogan, it can be concluded that the character formation of orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage is influenced by: a) the social environment; b) education and learning; c) emotional and psychological support; d) physical conditions and facilities; e) instilling honest and disciplined character. Ways to shape character through discipline and honesty are: a) discipline as the foundation for character formation; b) honesty in the context of character education; c) education and learning through extracurricular activities; d) emotional and psychological support as a supporting factor. The role of caregivers in character formation: a) moral formation; b) clean living habits; c) exemplary discipline; d) respect yourself and others; e) integration of worship in daily life.

This consists of finding of the research derived from data analysis. The finding may relevant or support a theory (ies) or againts the theory (ies). Use theoretical bases in the discussion.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the results of research conducted on the character formation process of orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage, Purwodadi Grobogan, it can be concluded that the character formation of orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage is influenced by: a) the social environment; b) education and learning; c) emotional and psychological support; d) physical conditions and facilities; e) instilling honest and disciplined character. Ways to shape character through discipline and honesty are: a) discipline as the foundation for character formation; b) honesty in the context of character education; c) education and learning through extracurricular activities; d) emotional and psychological support as a supporting factor. The role of caregivers in character formation: a) moral formation; b) clean living habits; c) exemplary discipline; d) respect yourself and others; e) integration of worship in daily life.

For orphanages, orphanages should develop and improve character development programs, especially those that focus on discipline and honesty. This can include workshops, lectures on moral values, and practical activities that encourage the application of these values in everyday life. For future research, further research should be conducted on ways to increase the active participation of foster children in character development programs, as well as the factors that influence their level of participation.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

Factors Influencing the Character Formation of Orphans at the Darul Hadlonah Purwodadi Orphanage, Grobogan Regency, Central Java Province

The character formation of orphans, as observed at the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage, is a multidimensional phenomenon involving the interaction of various social, emotional and environmental factors. This research digs deeper into these factors and compares them with existing theory and research.

### **a) Social Environment**

The concept of 'social environment' as a dominant factor in character formation is supported by research in social psychology. As research conducted by (Arumsasi et al, 2015) shows that children's interactions with their immediate environment (microsystem) have a significant influence on their development. In the context of the Darul Hadlonah Orphanage, positive interactions with caregivers and peers play a crucial role in shaping children's attitudes and values, in line with this research.

### **b) Education and Learning**

According to contemporary educational literature, as explained by (Kamaruddin et al, 2023), education must facilitate children's social and intellectual growth. At Darul Hadlonah, education is provided not only as a transfer of knowledge but also as a means for moral development and creativity. This approach supports the idea that a curriculum that focuses on moral and social values can improve children's character formation.

### **c) Emotional and Psychological Support**

the importance of emotional security provided by caregivers to develop trust and emotional stability in children (Auliani, 2023). At Darul Hadlonah Orphanage, emotional and psychological support from caregivers helps children overcome trauma and rebuild their trust, which is very much in line with current research.

### **d) Physical Conditions and Facilities**

A study conducted by Nadziroh (2023) highlights the importance of adequate infrastructure in children's development, showing that facilities such as sports fields and libraries not only fulfill basic and intellectual needs, but also play a crucial role in creating an environment conducive to learning and personal growth. . The availability of these facilities is considered vital because they provide a safe and stimulating space for physical activity as well as intellectual activity, both of which are key components in supporting children's holistic development. Furthermore, this research emphasizes that by providing sufficient resources, educational institutions can significantly increase children's learning motivation, as well as improve their emotional and social well-being, paving the way for increased adaptive capacity and future academic success.

### **e) Cultivating Honest and Disciplined Character**

Research by Munif & Yusrohlana (2021) adapted Kohlberg's Moral Development Theory for the modern context, emphasizing the importance of moral education in character formation, especially in terms of honesty and discipline. At Darul Hadlonah, these values are taught through

clear and consistent rules, as well as the example of caregivers, who reflect this approach in applying moral dilemmas to promote ethical thinking in children.

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