

The Role of Teachers in Strengthening Character as Role Models for Students to Instill the Value of Honesty in the Era of Society 5.0

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the role of teachers as role models in strengthening students' character, particularly in instilling honesty values in the era of Society 5.0, where rapid technological advancement has significantly influenced students' moral behavior and increased academic dishonesty. This research employed a qualitative approach using library research by reviewing relevant literature, including books, scientific journals, and research articles related to character education, teacher exemplarity, honesty values, and educational challenges in the digital era. The collected data were analyzed descriptively to identify key concepts and theoretical perspectives regarding teachers' roles as uswah hasanah in character formation. The findings indicate that teachers' exemplary behavior plays a crucial role in shaping students' honesty character, reflected through consistency between words and actions, fairness in assessment, openness in communication, responsibility, and ethical use of technology in learning activities. Through continuous role modeling, teachers enable students to internalize honesty values not merely as theoretical concepts but as practical attitudes applied in daily academic life. However, teachers also face various challenges, including the influence of digital culture, external environmental factors, limited instructional time, and the dominance of instant oriented academic practices. Therefore, strengthening teachers' awareness, professionalism, and moral commitment is essential to ensure the effectiveness of honesty character development in contemporary educational settings. This study provides conceptual insights into strengthening honesty character through teacher exemplarity and contributes to the development of character education strategies that integrate moral values with technological advancement in the Society 5.0 era.

Keywords : Teacher Role Model; Honesty Character; Character Education; Society 5.0; Islamic Education

Introduction

One of the main challenges in the world of education today is the decline in the value of honesty towards students, which occurred in the era of technological advancement in the era of Society 5.0. Easy access to information is often misused to commit academic cheating, such as copying assignments from *internet sources* or relying on technology without going through an honest learning process. This indicates that the improvement of students' intellectual abilities does not always go hand in hand with the development of their morality, so strengthening the character of honesty is an important priority in the school environment. (zufiroh Shirley , 2023)

A teacher is someone who is in charge of fostering and facilitating the development of students until they reach the stage of maturity. Basically, humans are given the task of uswah hasanah. Thus, the function of teachers is not limited to transferring knowledge to students, but also includes moral and social obligations as mentors who build character and prepare future generations to contribute meaningfully in human life. The teacher should be the most advanced figure in the front row to set a good example for his students. The reason is simple, because in the eyes of students, teachers are figures who can be used as role models and positive life examples. This means that these students will later tend to imitate their teachers' daily behavior, even to the point of absorbing their good qualities or morals, whether they do it consciously or without realizing it at all. So, the role of teachers as models is crucial, because what they show can shape the character of future students. (Shofiah Mar'ah et al., 2024) (Munir et al., 2025)

The use of information technology in learning is an important factor to improve learning outcomes and achieve better output. This challenge in the field of information technology is marked by the industrial revolution 4.0 which then transitions to a more complex era of Society 5.0, with advantages and disadvantages involving all parties. According to Abdul Malik Fadjar's view, currently there are three major challenges that are being faced by the world of education in the era of society 5.0. The first challenge relates to efforts to maintain the achievements that have been achieved so that they are not lost due to possible crisis attacks. Second, we are in a global situation in the field of education, where competition is inevitable, both on a regional, national, and international scale. Third, steps are needed to make changes and adjustments to the national education system in order to support a more democratic education process, by paying attention to the

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diversity of regional needs or conditions and students, and encouraging increased community participation more broadly. (Muharroma et al., 2024) (Ayurveda et al., 2021)

Character is the mindset and behavior that distinguishes each individual, reflecting the way they live and interact in their family, society, and country. Based on this opinion, character is the main foundation that forms identity and determines how a person interacts with the surrounding environment, both in personal and social contexts. A teacher must be able to set a positive example, especially to students. In this context, the role of teacher role in character education has high significance, because character education is not limited to theoretical aspects through lectures and explanations from teachers to students. The most effective character education is through example, where teachers are expected to be able to apply the values of character education in real daily actions, so that they can be observed by students and serve as concrete models that can be imitated by them. Although a number of studies have reviewed character education and the significance of the teacher's function as a role model, studies that specifically examine the development of honesty values through teacher examples are still limited. Many studies focus more on character education as a whole and have not explained in detail the actual practice of teachers in building honest student behavior in school. Meanwhile, technological advances in the Society 5.0 era bring new challenges that impact student ethics, so it is important to re-understand the role of teachers as role models in contemporary education. This situation reveals that there is a gap between the expectations of the ideal teacher's role as a character printer and the reality of obstacles to students' honesty in the digital age. By considering this gap, this study is intended to examine the function of teachers as role models in strengthening the honesty character of students in the Society 5.0 era. This research focuses on the types of examples shown by teachers, the approaches applied to foster the value of honesty, and the obstacles encountered in the process of developing students' character in the midst of the current technological development rate. (Hamidah & Hasanah, n.d.) (Mawakhira Yusuf & Aysar Ahsan, 2023) (Sugiarto&Farid , 2023)

Research Methods

This research uses a library research method that focuses on the analysis and interpretation of data from various relevant literature sources. Literature study is a research approach that is carried out by collecting and reviewing information from various scientific documents, such as books, journals, articles, research reports, and other written sources. This approach was chosen because it provides flexibility in exploring theories, concepts, and previous research results.

Discussion

The Condition of Student Honesty in the Era of Society 5.0

Academic integrity is an important foundation for students and academics to achieve success in the future, especially in their careers. Individuals who have good academic integrity tend to be honest, fair, responsible, respectful of others, and able to build trust, thus supporting the creation of relationships and a productive work environment. However, in reality, academic integrity is often overlooked in the learning process. This is reflected in the rampant practice of academic cheating, such as cheating, plagiarism, assignment manipulation, and misuse of technology, which is carried out without moral consideration. (Imam São Paulo Nugroho , 2023)

Today, access to internet technology is widely available to all walks of life without significant barriers. This situation requires Indonesian people to regulate the use of the internet in a balanced and wise manner. Everyone has the freedom to access a variety of information, but without self-control, the use of digital media can have a negative impact on social values, such as reduced patriotism and nationalism. The decline in morality among adolescents is often associated with rapid technological advances, weakened understanding and practice of religious values, unfavorable environmental influences, low levels of honesty, fading sense of responsibility, lack of future direction, and weak discipline. In the family environment, there is a tendency to reject norms in order to gain unlimited freedom. In addition, a life orientation that emphasizes too much material in order to gain social recognition encourages an attitude of feeling the most right. Non-compliance with these norms and values can eventually push individuals towards moral degradation, including through free association. In the era of Society 5.0, where technology is increasingly integrated with human life, the challenge of character formation has become more complicated. The ease of manipulating information, disseminating content without examination, and building a self-image that does not match reality shows symptoms of declining the value of honesty in cyberspace. Therefore, strengthening character, especially the value of honesty, is crucial so that the younger generation can take advantage of technological advances responsibly, ethically, and still uphold moral values in social life. (Alfusanah et al., 2024)

Academic integrity is the main foundation in the world of education, as it reflects an honest, fair, and responsible attitude that will shape students' behavior in the future. While these values should be firmly instilled in students, the reality is that

integrity is often overlooked in daily study routines. Habits such as copying answers, plagiarizing other people's work, or manipulating tasks are becoming easier to do thanks to the development of digital technology that provides quick and unlimited access to a wide range of information (Hayati et al., 2025). This suggests that technology, while facilitating the learning process, can be a major obstacle to the value of honesty if not balanced with self-control and solid character education. Extensive internet access opens up opportunities for students to search for materials and reference resources, but without ethical guidance, these facilities also allow students to avoid honest learning. Studies reveal that students who often rely on the ease of technology without reinforcing moral values tend to be less honest compared to those who are routinely taught about the importance of academic integrity (Yeningsih et al., 2025).

The Role of Teachers as Role Models

Teachers are obliged to be role models, examples, and guides for students in developing positive behaviors. The role of teachers has a strategic position in efforts to achieve national goals, especially in the field of education. Teachers are a key element that greatly influences the course of the educational process and outcomes, where as professionals, they act as learning agents to improve the overall quality of education. Teachers play a major strategic role in instilling religious values as well as shaping students' moral character. Their duties go beyond just delivering subject matter, they also include spiritual guidance and example in daily life. According to Nata, teachers play the role of *mu'allim*, namely teachers who convey religious knowledge systematically and relevant to the context; as *murabbi*, who guides and shapes students' morals so that they develop into individuals of faith and piety; and as *mursyid*, who provides moral and spiritual direction to students in overcoming various life challenges based on Islamic teachings. In addition, teachers also become *uswah hasanah*, which is an example that embodies Islamic values through concrete behavior, such as honesty, patience, and a sense of responsibility. (Safiqo & Ghofur, 2022)

Although each educator has a different scientific background, they all bear similar moral responsibilities in organizing learning while forming knowledgeable and high-personality students. Teacher role models are the main determining factor in character education, because students tend to emulate attitudes and behaviors that they observe directly. In this context, the example of *uswatun hasanah* for educators is reflected in the person of the Prophet PBUH, which shows the perfect harmony between words and deeds. By imitating his morals, teachers are able to present education that not only emphasizes the cognitive aspect, but also touches the affective and spiritual dimensions of students as a whole. (BY Leliani, 2024)

Teachers play a crucial role in shaping students' characters, because they are not only the deliverers of subject matter but also moral models in daily life. The teacher's function as a direct example helps students absorb honest, fair, and responsible behavior. When teachers display consistency between words and deeds, it creates a learning atmosphere that supports the value of honesty. (Kusumo et al., 2024)

A Form of Teacher Example in Instilling the Value of Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental value that must be embedded in every individual as the basis for the formation of personal integrity and social trust. Character education that focuses on instilling the value of honesty has a strategic role in building strong young generation's personalities, so that they are able to become leaders and agents of change with integrity in the future. The example shown by a teacher serves as a fundamental component in the process of forming student character, especially when it comes to efforts to cultivate and develop the value of honesty among students. These examples do not only emerge through the presentation of theoretical or abstract concepts of value, but rather emphasize on practical actions taken by teachers in daily life, which can be observed directly by students and then used as a reference to follow. The teacher's honesty that is evident in every speech expressed, the behavior shown, as well as the perfect fit between what is said and what is done, serves as a concrete example that facilitates students to understand and experience the essence of honesty in the context of daily life practice. (Azzahra et al., 2024) (Rosnawati A, 2025)

Teachers in the learning process can choose certain ways or strategies to instill the values of honesty in their students, such as conveying moral messages about honesty, through short stories, biographies, and role playing. Teachers can directly act as a model who communicates directly with students, so teachers must be role models and role models in assessing the value of honesty to children. In the context of well-organized formal education, a teacher who consistently shows a fair attitude in treating all students without discrimination, is open in communicating and receiving input, and is responsible in carrying out each task, is able to create a learning atmosphere that is highly respectful and upholds the value of honesty as a core principle. Such examples indirectly contribute to building a strong and positive school culture, where students are encouraged to act honestly naturally and without outside pressure, because the value of honesty has been deeply internalized as a living norm and applies in various daily activities in the school environment (Simple Tools & STAIM São Paulo, São Paulo JIKHAbdul Fattah Kertosono Nganjuk, 2024) (Karso, 2019).

In addition, the honesty applied by teachers in the academic aspect, including in the process of providing objective and fair assessments and the application of strict regulations, has a direct and significant influence on student behavior during the learning process. A teacher's attitude that is consistent in every action, open in providing explanations, and responsible in carrying out learning evaluations can effectively shape students' awareness to uphold the value of honesty and avoid academic cheating practices that can damage integrity. This example ultimately encourages students to value the learning process as an important element in the formation of overall character, rather than solely focusing on achieving instant end results. The value of honesty needs to be shown directly by teachers in various aspects of the learning process. Examples are seen when teachers treat all students fairly without favoritism, are open in communication, and are firm in carrying out class rules and evaluations. Such an attitude helps build a school culture that values honesty as a core principle. (Munif Muhammad & São Paulo, São Paulo Scott, 2021) (Kusumo et al., 2024)

Teachers' Strategies to Strengthen the Character of Honesty

Honesty is an important part that is integrated into the educational curriculum, honesty is now a value that is increasingly difficult to find, because being honest is not an easy thing to do without sincerity and cleanliness of heart. From the perspective of Islamic teachings, honesty has a very important position in human life, so Islam pays great attention to the cultivation and application of the value of honesty in every aspect of life. Honesty character development requires a continuous and interrelated approach in the development of honesty character in students requires an approach that is carried out continuously and interconnected throughout the process of teaching and learning activities. One of the main effective approaches is to familiarize the value of honesty through the exemplary examples provided by teachers in a stable and sustainable way. The example is then further strengthened by positive routines that are applied thoroughly in the school environment, so that the value of honesty is not only mastered theoretically by students, but also actively applied in their daily lives (Munif et al., 2021) teachers can also use four main strategies in instilling the value of honesty in students, namely, teachers apply cooperative learning through group discussion activities, Teachers become role models for students by showing honest behavior in teaching and learning activities, such as admitting mistakes, reprimanding dishonest behavior, and providing concrete examples from social life, Schools form honest habits through routine activities, such as honesty canteens, queue culture, prohibition of cheating, and giving rewards for honest students, Teachers together with the student field conduct coaching with a humanist approach to students who are behaving dishonestly. (Hepy Kusuma Astuti, 2022) (Düsseldorf Syahrizal & Bagus Setiawan, 2025)

Another important approach is to give positive rewards for honest actions shown by students. By giving appreciation for honesty, this can arouse intrinsic motivation in students to continue to maintain and maintain these behaviors in various situations, both when they are in the school environment and outside the scope of formal education. (Suhartika et al., 2025)

The affirmation of the value of honesty can be achieved with a carefully planned and sustainable learning approach. Teachers can implement methods that emphasize teamwork, dialogue on ethics, and providing practical illustrations through everyday life scenarios. This context-relevant approach to learning helps students understand honesty in real application, not just abstract concepts separate from their reality. In addition, the active participation of schools with parents is crucial. This collaboration builds an ecosystem that supports the strengthening of the value of honesty both in the school and home environment. The reinforcement of these values becomes stronger if students receive a uniform ethical message from both environments (Stuttgart et al., 2024)

Teachers' Challenges in Instilling Honesty

Although teachers have implemented examples and various strategies to strengthen students' character, they are still faced with a number of challenges in an effort to cultivate the value of honesty. . Some of the challenges faced by teachers are, such as, the influence of digital media that displays figures who do not show honesty, lack of control over the social environment of students outside of school, limited time for teachers to instill values deeply due to academic demands. (Mulyati et al., 2020) (Amini et al., n.d. .) teacher also Need Creating Environment Learn The Support Development Character siswa, itu juga menjadi tantangan. (Lase & Lase, 2023)

In addition, instant culture and the tendency to prioritize the end result without considering the process are major obstacles in character education. With the rapid advancement of digital technology in the era of Society 5.0, practices such as cheating, plagiarism, and task manipulation have become easier to do. This situation requires teachers to make more intensive efforts to instill awareness of morals and ethics in students. (Saeful School High Religion of Islam Binamadani , n.d.)

Although teachers play a key role in shaping students' character, there are several obstacles that make the process of affirming the value of honesty not always smooth. One of them is the impact of digital media that often airs content without priority on ethical values, so that students can be influenced by behavior that is contrary to honesty (Septiwiharti et al., 2025). The heavy burden of the academic curriculum is also an obstacle, because teachers often have to divide their time between delivering subject matter and intensive character development. Research shows that teachers often feel pressured by time constraints so that it is difficult to provide adequate space for the development of moral values such as honesty (Yi Yi , 2024)

Conclusion

Based on the results of the studies that have been conducted, it can be concluded that strengthening the value of honesty in students in the era of Society 5.0 is a very urgent need in the world of education. The rapid development of digital technology has a major impact on students' learning patterns and behavior. The ease of access to information is often not balanced with moral readiness, resulting in various forms of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism, cheating, and dependence on technology without going through an honest learning process. This condition shows that there is a gap between intellectual progress and character development of students, so character education, especially the value of honesty, must be strengthened more systematically and sustainably.

In this context, teachers have a very strategic position as role models (uswah hasanah) in shaping students' character. The example of teachers which is reflected through the suitability between speech and action, honesty in attitude, fairness in giving assessments, openness in communicating, and professional responsibility are important factors in helping students understand and internalize the value of honesty. These values are not only taught theoretically, but are instilled through real practice that students see and experience directly in their daily lives at school. Thus, honesty develops not just as a rule, but as a moral awareness that grows from within students.

However, this role cannot be separated from various challenges. The influence of digital culture, a less supportive social environment, limited learning time, and the tendency of instant culture are obstacles in efforts to cultivate character. Therefore, strengthening the character of honesty cannot be imposed on teachers alone, but requires synergy between schools, families, and communities. This collaboration is important to create a consistent environment in instilling moral values in students.

With the example of sustainable teachers and the support of a conducive educational environment, strengthening the character of honesty in the Society 5.0 era can run more effectively. Education not only produces an academically intelligent generation, but also has integrity, responsibility, and is able to utilize technological advances ethically. Through the role of teachers as role models, the value of honesty is expected to be a strong foundation in shaping the character of students who are ready to face moral challenges in the future.

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