

EFFECTIVE APPROACHES TO CHARACTER EDUCATION: A LITERATURE REVIEW

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the most effective approaches in character education based on a review of existing literature. The main findings show that character education programmes that integrate the teaching of moral values with daily practices in the school environment tend to produce more significant impacts. In addition, collaboration between teachers, students and parents strengthens the effectiveness of such programmes through consistency of value reinforcement across different contexts. Continuous training for teachers on integrating character education in the curriculum also proved important. The study also highlights the need for continuous evaluation and adjustment to maintain the relevance and effectiveness of the programme. With a holistic, consistent and collaborative approach, character education programmes can achieve optimal results in shaping students' character.

Keywords: Effective Approach, Character Education, Literature Review

Introduction

Character education is one of the important aspects in the education system that aims to form individuals who are noble, have a good personality, and are able to interact positively in society. Character education is an educational process that aims to shape and develop moral and ethical values in individuals (Triyuni et al., 2024); (Hapinas et al., 2025); (Judijanto & Aslan, 2024); (Puspitasari & Aslan, 2024); (Ridwan et al., 2024). These values include attitudes, behaviours and habits that reflect honesty, responsibility, fairness, caring and respect for oneself and others. Character education is not only related to cognitive or intellectual aspects, but also involves the emotional and social development of learners. Overall, character education aims to form individuals who have high integrity and are able to contribute positively to their society (Kuhn, 2020).

The main objective of character education is to create individuals who are not only academically intelligent, but also moral and noble. Character education aims to instil positive values that can guide daily behaviour, both in the school environment, family, and the wider community (Ibrahim, 2022). The importance of character education lies in its ability to build a strong ethical and moral foundation in individuals, so that they are able to face various life challenges wisely and responsibly. With good character, individuals are

expected to create harmony in social interactions and make a real contribution to the development of a more just, peaceful and sustainable society (McGrath & Bier, 2024).

Along with the times and the complexity of the challenges faced by the younger generation, character education is becoming increasingly relevant and urgent to be implemented in an effective way. The main challenge in character education is the penetration of foreign cultures that is getting easier and faster due to advances in information and communication technology. Access to new cultures, ideologies and values through social media, the internet and other technologies often bring influences that conflict with traditional values and morals held dear by local communities (Jeries, 2023). This can cause confusion and moral dilemmas among young people who are in the process of shaping their identity and character. In addition, the unrestricted flow of information also makes controlling the content consumed by learners more difficult, allowing the spread of negative values that can damage their character (Osman, 2024).

In addition, increasing individualism as a result of globalisation is also a major challenge in character education. Globalisation often encourages intense competition in various aspects of life, leading to selfish attitudes and a lack of a sense of solidarity and social care. In the context of education, this can mean learners are more focused on academic achievement and personal accomplishment rather than building good character and community co-operation (Duckworth, 2021). Therefore, educators and educational institutions need to develop effective strategies to integrate character values in the curriculum and daily activities, and shape an educational environment that supports the growth of positive moral values, amidst the heavy influence of globalisation.

In recent decades, many researches and studies have been conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of various approaches in character education. It is important to summarise and analyse this literature to provide a more comprehensive picture of methods that have proven successful and can be adapted to various educational contexts (Angrist & Meager, 2022). In addition, an in-depth understanding of effective approaches in character education can also help educators, policy makers, and parents in designing and implementing educational programmes that do not only focus on cognitive aspects, but also on holistic character development. Thus, it is hoped that the results of this literature review can make a significant contribution to improving the quality of character education in Indonesia.

Research Methods

The study in this research uses the literature method. The literature research method, or literature review, is a research approach that involves collecting and analysing data from various existing written sources, such as books, journal articles, research reports, theses, and other documents (Madekhan, 2019); (Syawie, 2005). This process involves identifying, evaluating and synthesising relevant information from the available literature to gain an in-depth understanding of the research topic. Literature research is typically used to formulate a research problem, identify knowledge gaps, build a

theoretical framework, and provide historical and empirical context for the research to be conducted. This method not only saves time and resources, but also supports the validity and credibility of the research by being based on previous findings (Robbani, 2022).

Results and Discussion

Approaches to Character Education in the Education Scope

First, the theoretical and conceptual approach. This approach emphasises the importance of in-depth understanding of concepts and theories related to character education. In order to build a strong foundation for character education, an understanding of moral theory, ethics and child development psychology is essential. This theoretical knowledge helps educators design strategies and methods that suit the needs of learners (Surikova & González, 2022). This approach also involves understanding the core values that it is desirable to develop in learners, such as integrity, honesty, respect, responsibility and fairness. With a good theoretical understanding, educators can integrate character education into the curriculum and ensure that these values are taught consistently (Simanjuntak et al., 2022).

Second, the Active Learning Approach. The active learning approach emphasises the active participation of learners in the character learning process. This method involves various activities such as group discussions, role-playing, collaborative projects, and community service activities. Through active learning, learners do not just listen or memorise moral values, but they also experience and practice the values in real situations. This helps them develop a deeper understanding and skills in applying character values in daily life. This approach also encourages learners' emotional and intellectual engagement, which is crucial for the internalisation of character values (Berkowitz, 2022).

Third, the exemplary approach. Exemplification is a very effective approach in character education. This approach involves the participation of educators, parents, and other figures as role models in demonstrating desirable character values. When learners see character values such as honesty, responsibility and respect applied in daily actions by people they respect, they are more likely to internalise and emulate those behaviours. Exemplification should be ongoing in all aspects of school and home life, so that learners can see the consistency between what they are taught and what the adults around them do (Lu, 2024).

Fourth, the School Environment and Culture Approach. Building a school environment and culture that supports character values is an important approach in character education. Schools should create an atmosphere conducive to character development by implementing rules and norms that reflect moral values. The school environment should reward positive behaviour and deal with infractions fairly and judiciously. In addition, a school culture that is inclusive, respects diversity and encourages cooperation also helps learners to understand and appreciate differences and build the social skills needed in a plural society (Ashwin, 2020).

Fifth, Evaluative Approach. Evaluation in character education is a crucial component that ensures the effectiveness of the character education programme implemented. The evaluative approach involves continuous assessment of learners' character development through various methods, such as observation, interviews, questionnaires and self-reflection. This evaluation not only aims to measure learners' understanding of character values, but also to assess how they apply these values in their daily lives (Surtini & Muhtar, 2024). Feedback from this evaluation is important to improve and refine the character education programme, as well as to identify areas where learners need more support and guidance. With continuous evaluation, character education can be adapted to changing needs and dynamics so that it can have a greater and more effective impact (Watts et al., 2022).

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Character Education Approaches

The character education approach has become an important topic in the development of educational curricula in various countries. The main goal of character education is to mould individuals who are not only academically intelligent, but also have good morals and ethics. Character education covers various aspects such as honesty, responsibility, empathy and co-operation. Evaluation of the effectiveness of this approach is crucial to ensure that the goal is achieved. In this evaluation, several indicators such as changes in student behaviour, academic achievement, and feedback from teachers and parents will be considered (Dabdoub et al., 2023).

One of the main indicators of the effectiveness of character education is changes in student behaviour. Studies show that schools that implement character education well succeed in creating a more positive and conducive learning environment. Students in these schools tend to show improvements in terms of discipline, sense of responsibility and ability to co-operate with others. For example, programmes that teach values such as empathy and cooperation often lead to reduced levels of bullying and an increased sense of community among students (Dabdoub et al., 2023).

The effectiveness of character education can also be measured through students' academic achievement. Students who receive good character education usually show improvements in learning motivation and engagement in school activities. They are more likely to develop a positive attitude towards learning and have clear goals in their education. This can translate into better academic achievement as such students have better time management skills and are able to cope with learning challenges more effectively (Liebert, 2024).

Feedback from teachers and parents is also an important component in evaluating the effectiveness of character education. Teachers can provide insights into changes in student behaviour in the classroom and how character values are applied in daily interactions. Meanwhile, parents can report changes in their children's behaviour at home. These two perspectives provide a comprehensive picture of how character education affects students both in the school environment and at home (Adhikari, 2021).

Overall, the evaluation shows that character education has a significant positive impact on student development. Through better behavioural changes, improved academic achievement, and positive feedback from teachers and parents, the character education approach has proven effective in creating individuals who are not only intelligent but also ethical. However, to achieve maximum results, consistent and comprehensive implementation of character education programmes in schools is necessary.

Conclusion

Effective approaches to character education show that successful character education programmes generally have several things in common. First, programmes that integrate the teaching of moral values with daily practice in the school environment tend to be more successful. This approach ensures that the values taught are not only understood theoretically, but also applied in real situations so that students can benefit from them directly.

Furthermore, character education that involves co-operation between teachers, students and parents was also found to be more effective. The active participation of all stakeholders ensures that moral and ethical messages are reinforced in various contexts, both at school and at home. In addition, continuous training for teachers on how to integrate character education in the curriculum also contributed to the success of the programme.

Finally, the literature review underlined the importance of continuous evaluation and adjustment to ensure the character education programme remains relevant and effective. By monitoring student progress and obtaining feedback from all parties involved, schools can make the necessary changes to improve their approach. In conclusion, a consistent and collaborative holistic approach is the key to effective character education.

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