



ENVIRONMENTALLY AWARENESS BEHAVIOUR INCREASE IN EARLY CHILDHOOD USING STORY TELLING METHOD

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Abstract

Background of this study is human and the universe is an ecosystem that has a reciprocal relationship between them. Science and technology development nowadays, has driven the rapid construction in all aspects of human life. On the other hand it is increasingly depriving people on things that are natural. Therefore, we are often ignored the children's knowledge and their concern about the environment which is expected to stimulate the imagination, admiration and affection for nature. Early childhood are in the fast growing and developing in all aspects. Early childhood education is very important, because it is the basis for the formation of the human personality as a whole, which is marked with the character, intellectual and skilled. Story is a medium that can inspire action, and to foster an appreciation of cultural, emotional intelligence, and to expand the child's knowledge, or just amusement. Listening the story helps children understand their world, and how they relate to others. Story Telling method is one of the learning strategies that can provide learning experiences for young children.

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INTRODUCTION

Sky, earth, and everything that is running inside of them are real fabulous facts. Human cosmos system and the universe are closely related, giving effects and they need each other.

However, these harmony do not come along with the relationship between the human and the universe forever. The human's instinct used to run well awareness on the law of the nature. But now, the development of human's knowledge in responding any difficulties related to their struggle to adapt with their environment give results on several advance creations above the nature's basic characteristics. The exploitations to the nature have ruined those balance relationships that have been running for a long time and the environment crisis destroy the relationship between human and nature. Even, according to Amin Rais, the damage level of Indonesian natural environment was the biggest in this world. About 72% tropical forest areas were heavily damaged. There was only 28% area left, which was also getting decreased by illegal logging. (Suara Merdeka, Saturday, 4th April 2009).

This behaviour will indirectly show its effects in several years time, such as green house effect that makes this earth getting hot so it can raise the ocean's surface. Even some scientists predict that the world will experience permanent flood if the green house effect cannot be stopped.

The developments of modern science and technology have also supported the development on every fields. On the other hand, these things make the human getting far away from natural stuff. That is also what happened with the knowledge of our children about the environment around them. According to Fachrudin, their awareness to the nature-which is various and is expected to improve their imagination-is now out of our concern.

One of a child's tendency is having natural intelligence. This intelligence is closely related to what we have known from this world. It is very sensitive to be stimulated with

all natural aspects, such as planting, animal, weather, and physical descriptions of the earth. The natural intelligence also includes the sensitivity to love the earth, as their desire to maintain and protect natural resources, showing high ecology awareness, understanding topics about the system of life, catching natural phenomenon like animal, plant, and other same things.

This nature is an absolutely precious learning source to the children because it can improve their creativity. The children's introduction to the nature around them with its all variousity of the living things can make a deep love and creativity to the nature. More important, according to Fachrudin M. Wijaya, if the children grow up into adult, they are expected to have high awareness with the importance of natural harmony and have a strong principal to make the ecosystem balance.

Early age children are the children who are growing up on all of their life aspects and unique. The education to early age children is very important to do, because it is a basic to build their character completely, which is symbolized with the improvement of their character, good attitude, smart, and creative.

As long as the children's development, their language products are also increase in quantity, scope, and complexity. Kindergarten children are usually able to develop their speaking skill through conversations that can attract others. The children are also able to use complex sentences, they like to do role play and excite in their performance on writing language.

The characteristics of the children's language development should be understood by the parents in order to give them the best way for their growth. According to Bettelheim and Zelan, instinctively the children are so interested in magic and secret language. So the children usually love stories and want to know much about something new. Recent research have proven that the story takes an

important role significantly not only for their language development but also for their emotional and psychological growth.

The story is a strong medium to inspire actions, helps cultural appreciation development, emotional quotient (EQ), broaden the children's knowledge, or only to make happiness. Listening to a story can help them to understand their world, and how they interact with others. Lewis Carroll stated a story as "a love gift", because telling a story is giving and sharing. When we tell a story, we show up our willingness, makes our deep feeling become spoiled, and the values we believe in. The excitement in sharing the story is also very useful for the children's development. Telling a story, being told a story, and listening to a story are very important to them because they will feel openness, warmth, and feel they are so important.

However, on our daily life, we still see most of our people do not have environmentally-awareness-behaviour yet. For instance, do littering on the garbage is not a part of our culture yet. A conviction that "Cleanliness is a part of our belief" is only a doctrine that has not been actualized yet in our life. The awareness of the importance of keeping the environment clean is not the part of the culture in most of our people yet.

A kindergarten as an educational institute has an important role in implanting moral value, social value, and environmentally-awareness-behaviour, one of them is through telling the story technique. However, the results on the field show that there are still so many kindergarten teachers that have not yet prepared the model of the telling a story course awareness on recommended theories. Commonly the lesson is done conventionally and lack of the attention to the children's needs and characteristics.

From the ideas on the background above and the beginning observation results, the researcher is interested in investigating deeply about how the environmentally-awareness-behaviour can be increased through telling the story method. From this awareness, the

researcher has prepared an action research for that program. The researcher is interested in investigating furthermore about environmentally-awareness-behaviour for the early age children by conducting a research to answer a question "how the environmentally-awareness-behaviour for early age children can be increased through "telling the story" method?"

METHOD

- This research is an action research
- The population of this research is B1 study group of TK Al Azhar 23 Salatiga.
- This research uses Kemmis work procedure and Taggart that will be conducted in 3 cycles.

Steps :

- Planning
- Actions
- Observation
- Reflection & Revision
- Replanning to solve the problems

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- The data taken before the research conducted showed the average score was 2.228 from the target score (4.0). It means the children's environmentally-awareness-behaviour was still low.

- On the first cycle, the researcher gave a lesson about environment theme through telling the story method. From the observation result, the researcher found out that the average score was 2.443. It means that there was no significant improvement.

- On the second cycle, the researcher gave a lesson about environmentally-awareness-behaviour by using a media directly and indirectly and also strengthen their behaviour by giving compliment. From the observation, it was found that the average

observation score was 3.065. It means that in this cycle the environmentally-awareness-behaviour was still far from the target. On the third cycle, the researcher gave a lesson about environmental theme through sociodrama method. From the observation, it was found the average score was 3,621. It means that in this cycle there was significant improvement from the early

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