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The Impact of Christian Religious Education Management in Developing Children's Character in The Family

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Abstract

Christian Religious Education management has a very important impact in fostering children's character in the family. It not only focuses on the formation of a child's religious beliefs, but also plays an important role in the formation of moral values and character. In the family environment, the management of Christian religious education implies several important components: teaching, training, modeling, monitoring the child's personal development, and creating a solid foundation for the formation of the child's character. This can be done through various methods, such as teaching the Bible, praying together, telling inspiring stories based on the truth of God's Word, participating in family and church worship activities. It also helps to encourage children to face various challenges and difficult situations experienced in daily life with a strong faith. Children can also make the right decisions when facing pressure, temptation, and even difficult circumstances. The overall role of Christian religious education management in the family has a huge impact on helping to develop children's character. This not only affects the child's behavior in the family environment, but also has an impact on social relationships and interactions with the wider community. Therefore, it is imperative for parents to be more diligent in implementing Christian education management to help their children grow into individuals who have the morality and responsibility of the Christian faith.

Keywords: christian religious education management, character development, children, family

INTRODUCTION

Good management will greatly impact the life of every child even in developing their character. Character is a major issue in education in this modern era. Which is the center point of character formation, is in the home. Mullins in (*Parenting for Character, 2005*) Affirms that "good parents do more than just give affection and meet the needs of their children. Parents must plan how they will shape the character of their children" parents are the best method and teacher in educating and teaching all good things in their children. Because something wrong does not need to be taught but something right must continue to be instilled in the child.

Children who have been taught or introduced to the rules of character formation within themselves will be very different and visible in every action they do. Through their way of thinking, their words, and even every action they do. Every child will form their perspective if the management process is carried out early on in them, and this is a note for families to be more active in fostering children's character through management that has been determined to be carried out by parents in the family. Good management cannot be separated from the example and the right way of life that is shown to children, so that their character is formed with the pattern that they see every time in the practice carried out by their parents. Because parents are the first to fill the process of growing a child's character.

In the development of technology, socializing and the current environment, there are so many things that change the way a child thinks, speaks and behaves. This is all due to the lack of management control and guidance from parents who tend to be busy with their daily activities. Bill Graham stated that people who lose their character will lose everything. If all aspects of a child's life are controlled by technology, controlled by their socializing and influenced by their surroundings on bad things, then do not be surprised if the child has a bad character. If the family cannot welcome the child with better and

more interesting things for the child in the house, then do not be surprised if the child is more tempted to follow his desires that satisfy him. For that, the family must be more serious in helping, directing, fostering and being a good role model, giving affection to their children, so that the child's character can grow based on the examples he sees every day.

METHODS

This study uses a library research method, namely by collecting data by studying and understanding theories from various literatures related to the intended research. From this method, it provides input to answer the need to describe the impact of effective and efficient Christian religious education management in the home for the formation of children's character. This study aims to provide an understanding to parents in managing good Christian religious education management at home so that children are not carried away by various external influences. So that children can have a good understanding in sorting, determining, deciding who they will associate with, who they are and what kind of character they will grow in themselves,

The ultimate goal of this study is not only to have an impact on children but especially on parents who are the main actors in the management of children's character formation. *First*, so that parents have a broader understanding of what Christian Religious Education management is. *Second*, so that the impact of Christian Religious Education management is truly channeled in fostering children's character. *Third*, so that parents must better understand how important it is to foster children's character based on exemplary behavior. *Fourth*, the family becomes a container in fostering children's character that is not only good but more than that. Children have awareness of the things they do, sort out who they will associate with and direct children to be able to make the right decision and not harm themselves and others.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Management

A healthy family must start with good management. It requires management. John Suprihanto stated; management is a process of planning, organizing, leading and controlling the work of each individual involved to achieve each set target using various available resources (Suprihanto, 2014). A well-planned and well-organized family will have a big impact in achieving a desired target. A healthy family cannot be separated from the reciprocal relationship between husband and wife who are the managers of the management. Husband and wife must have the same direction and goals in carrying out their respective functions to develop what is desired to happen in the family, that is what is called management.

In the family, it is not only able to carry out its function as a parent in fulfilling physical needs alone but how other functions can also go hand in hand. Like the management of Christian Religious Education which is something that is very close in fostering the character of a child in his family. Every parent must realize how important the management of Christian Religious Education in the family is. To start everything must be based on an arrangement and application of that management. Good management is not only understood but more than that so that it can be practiced. Parents must first learn and understand the importance of management in the home, especially the management of Christian Religious Education which is a strong foundation for parents to apply to children in educating. The right education will be perfectly embedded in the child which will be a strong provision in living his life in the future. However, if the education of parents has begun to deviate from the right target, it is impossible for the child to be better in going through the next journey of life. We must understand well that there are no perfect parents in this world but many parents are able to direct their children to the perfect God through the understanding and teaching of Christian Religious Education in their homes. The most important thing in Christian Religious Education management is how parents teach and educate children to experience a personal encounter with God through the upbringing of their parents. Like the example of Joshua in the Old Testament who decided that he and his family would worship the true God "... as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord. (Joshua 24:15). Every parent must be able to make the right decision to be the best legacy for their children and families. Likewise with Timothy in the New Testament who received a good example in faith in God through his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice "... the faith that first lived in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and I am sure lives in you also. (2 Timothy 1:5). Explaining that Timothy received an example of faith from his parents and that became a role model that filled his life's journey in carrying out his ministry.

Impact of Christian Religious Education Management

Good Christian Religious Education Management will direct children to make the right decisions. Arranging the child's perspective in the future about his faith. Providing role models. This will be a good intake for a child to form his character.

Correct decision making and role models are the greatest assets in shaping a child's character. More than that, parents must instill into their child's thinking "*whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable, if anything is excellent or praiseworthy, think about such things*" (Philippians 4:8). Parents must position themselves first to provide good practices to their children through everything that can be seen and exemplified to their children, that is the right management arrangement. Christian education management can be demonstrated through the example of parents' lives as follows:

First. exemplary in faith . Parents must tell their children who they should trust and base their life's trust on. Because, if parents do not teach their children the correct basis of belief, then do not be mistaken if the child will be wrong in choosing who he will trust. Parents must introduce that the Lord Jesus is the only true object of faith. Faith which means a real experience that is lived, namely a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Children have faith in God, as Lord and Savior of their lives. Because "*faith comes from hearing and hearing by the word of Christ*" (Romans 10:17). Through the introduction of the truth, children are brought to true faith. Parents continue to teach the word of God every day through contemplation together with their children. Through various stories and Bible characters that must be introduced to children about faith. So that children are increasingly convinced of what has been taught and what they believe. With the exemplary faith that can be felt by a child in his family, it will lead the child to understand faith and direct his heart to be able to make the right decision to follow God based on the faith he believes in .

Second. exemplary in praying . Praying is a very important part of Christian life. Praying is called the spiritual breath of believers. The Lord Jesus himself is the perfect example who taught his disciples and all of us today, how to pray with supplication and thanksgiving that glorifies the name of the Father in heaven. By setting aside time to pray. Parents must show their children an example of praying so that children can follow suit and do this in every moment they live. Such as morning prayers when waking up, prayers for meals, evening prayers, which teach children to be able to express gratitude for all that God does and gives in their lives. Expressing gratitude is a form of our gratitude to God. and this must be taught repeatedly to children. "*Pray continually*" (1 Thessalonians 5:17).

Third, exemplary in worship through praise. So many worldly songs that emerge and with melodious melodies often seize and divert our attention to focus more on worldly praise. Often shifting our worship to God that can be imitated by children. The songs that we often hear will become food in our minds, which will also be digested by a child. So, parents must be more dominant in listening to and singing spiritual songs if they want to instill the right example of worship to their children. "*... and praises and spiritual songs, giving thanks to God in your hearts*" (Colossians 3:16b).

Fourth , exemplary in speaking , "*... Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms , ..*" (Colossians 3:16a). Every parent must speak every word that builds up, gives praise, is firm and gentle in educating. Words that build up are very much needed by everyone, in any condition because everyone is certainly happy if praised, respected, and given appreciation, words that build up provide enthusiasm and encouragement to do good things more than before. This is what will make children confident and become a motivator for children to do more things in themselves. But if dirty words, ridicule and insults are spoken by parents, it will make children not confident, not enthusiastic.

Fifth, role models in socializing. "*Bad company corrupts good habits .*" (1 Cor. 15:33) Every parent must be a friend to their child in socializing, the best place for children to share stories, a place for children to find direction in socializing, a place for children to get an explanation in maintaining their socializing, because bad company will have a bad impact on their future. If this role model can be applied by parents at home and done repeatedly, then this will become a good character in the child.

"... for this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love ..." (2 Peter 1:5-7).

Parents must realize that children must be taught seriously about the truth, so that faith grows, knowledge increases, can control themselves and practice love, these are the things that make their lives stronger in leading God. This will make them stronger and not easily shaken by the changes of the times. This is a form of Christian religious education management that must be carried out by parents, first built in the home, not elsewhere.

The Importance of Character Building

Children's character is a reflection of their parents' upbringing in their homes. The good or bad character of a child is greatly influenced by their family environment. The process of educating children's character in the family can be done by parents using several methods including role models, habits, advice and punishment and motivation for children. This character formation is a conscious effort to direct and guide attitudes and behaviors towards good things (in accordance with life values) so that individuals understand, are able to feel and are able to carry them out. The form of good habits will become a character for children such as: their love for God and truth; understanding of responsibility, discipline and independence; being trustworthy; instilling an attitude of respect and politeness; showing affection, concern and good cooperation; children can be confident, creative and never give up; showing justice and leadership; doing good and humble actions: being able to appreciate differences and love peace with others. These are the things that parents should instill in their children from an early age. So that in the future, children will be useful to others, tough and strong-spirited in facing challenges in the future. In the formation of this character, everything is based on the child's family environment which is the main foundation in the development of the child's character. Great children make parents proud. Children with good character will be useful for the progress of the nation.

Children's Character Development Container

Family should be the best place for children, so that they can grow and develop both physically and spiritually. Family is also the best place for children to learn about character before their social environment creates a different pattern in their growth. The development of a child's character cannot be separated from the decisions and examples left by their parents in them. Why are so many children neglected, neglected, these things are caused by the lack of primary examples that a child gets in their home environment. Maybe with parents who are too busy, parents who often fight, parents who pay less attention to their children. Lack of touch and affection that children get from within their home. So that children seek comfort, affection, outside the home which makes the child often wrong in choosing friends. From this we learn as parents so that the family can be the best place for children to get affection, a place to share, the most comfortable place. These things are what parents feel necessary so that they do not keep too much distance between parents and children so that children do not feel ignored. Things that parents can do such as giving praise, reprimanding and reminding with love, asking about the child and giving special attention to the child so that the child feels comfortable. Because if the child already feels comfortable with his parents, then the child can easily tell and share about many things that he experiences in his daily life. The formation of a child's character in the family is in line with Thomas Lichona's opinion which states that there are three aspects of good character, must be integrated in the process of forming a child's character as follows:

First, Knowing the good (moral knowing), meaning that children understand good and bad, understand the actions that must be taken and are able to prioritize good things. Forming a child's character is not just about knowing about good things, but they must also be able to understand why they should do it.

second, Feeling the good (moral feeling), meaning that children have a love for virtue and hate bad deeds or children emphasize goodness more than badness. This concept tries to arouse children's love for doing good deeds. At this stage, children are trained to feel the effects of the good deeds they do. So if this love has been embedded, it will become an extraordinary power from within the child to do good and "brake" or leave negative deeds

Third, Acting the good (moral action), meaning that children are able to do good and are accustomed to doing so. At this stage, children are trained to do good deeds, because without doing something that is already known or felt, it has no meaning.

The process of forming a child's character certainly goes through several stages like this and this must be done as early as possible in the family. Parents are the ones who play the main role in influencing, educating and guiding their children to prepare a strong next generation of the nation.

CONCLUSION

Great parents are parents who are able to manage their families in understanding and implementing Christian beliefs into their children's lives through Christian Religious Education that begins first in the family environment. Parental exemplars are something that must be real in their daily life practices. In order to have a big impact on the lives lived by their children in the future. Weaknesses, shortcomings are things that need to be fixed so that children do not stumble with the life practices they observe. The achievement of the character education process in the family environment depends on the harmony of parents, children and the methods used and a supportive family environment. Thus, the

implementation of the character education process in the family is an integration between role models, habits, advice and motivation as well as togetherness that is oriented towards creating family harmony.

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