The Role of Parents' Attention in the Moral Development of Children in the Amid of COVID-19 Pandemic

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ABSTRACT

The current covid-19 pandemic has caused the child's needs to be less fulfilled for the attention and guidance of parents, which will undoubtedly affect the aspects of children's moral development. This research was conducted to identify the role of parental attention in the moral development of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic. This research uses qualitative methods with literature studies from several sources, both print and electronic media, as well as books and online journals. The research technique used is the documentation technique in the form of notes, books, papers or articles, journals, and news. Validity test, researchers used the triangulation of data sources. The literature review analysis uses the content analysis paradigm presentation of data using informal presentation methods. The results of this study are based on a survey from the Ministry of Education and Culture, namely that around 90% of parents accompany their children during SFH, and only 3.4% of children do not receive assistance from their parents because their parents work outside the home. This research concludes that it is essential for parents to pay attention to the moral development of their children, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, in general, parents have played a role in accompanying their children during the Covid-19 and SFH pandemic.

1. Introduction

Education is essential in a nation because it is a measure of whether a nation is progressing or not. Education has a role in supporting the development and as a basis for developing competent human resources. But while the Indonesian people are improving the quality of their education, the world is currently facing the worst outbreak in human history, namely a new type of Corona virus. The world...
community knows it by the acronym COVID-19, "CO" stands for Corona, "VI" is Virus, "D" is Disease, and number 19 is the year of the first discovery of this virus, that is 2019 (Oktaria & Putra, 2020).

Covid-19 began to take the world by storm starting in early 2020, with the outbreak of a new type of corona virus, which the WHO called SARS-COV-2. The virus, which is known to have originated in the city of Wuhan, Hubei Province, China, was first discovered in December 2019 by doctor Ai Fen, a doctor on duty in the city of Wuhan (Yuliana, 2020). Covid-19 is a virus that is very dangerous and very deadly and can spread quickly. This virus usually has flu-like symptoms, dry cough, fever more than 38OC, and shortness of breath (Zaharah & Kirilova, 2020).

With the discovery of more than 6 million positive confirmed cases and the number of deaths reaching hundreds of thousands of people, currently the world is facing a challenge and health problem, namely the corona pandemic (Covid-19) which has an impact on all aspects of life including in the field of education. The effect on the education sector is leading to the closure of educational institutions ranging from universities, schools to madrasas, and Islamic boarding schools. From UNESCO data on June 5, 2020, at 19.56 WIB, 146 countries have closed their educational institutions nationwide with 1.186,161,728 students (67,7% of the world’s total student population) (UNESCO, 2020).

Anticipating the impact of Covid-19 on the education sector, the Ministry of Education and Culture issued Circular No. 3 of 2020 concerning the prevention of COVID-19 in the Education unit. The contents are guidelines for the prevention of Covid-19 in the Education unit and Study from Home (SFH) policies with distance learning. The government’s hope of implementing a Study from Home (SFH) policy with distance learning as a way to prevent teaching and learning activities from stopping in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic deserves to be appreciated. But SFH certainly has weaknesses compared to face-to-face learning. The weakness of SFH is that teachers cannot pay attention to their students one by one directly. Ideally, the implementation of SFH requires adequate guidance and supervision from parents to their children. Still, in the field conditions, it was found that there were cases of some students who did not receive attention and assistance during SFH because their parents were busy working outside the home. This is also following a survey conducted by UNICEF Indonesia, and it is known that some parents do not have time to pay attention and help their children with tasks during SFH because parents focus on other obligations to support their families. (UNICEF, 2020). So that children do not get enough attention from parents during SFH. Even though children need attention and guidance from parents when doing assignments from teachers during SFH.

Lack of meeting children’s needs for attention and guidance from parents will undoubtedly affect aspects of children’s moral development. Especially in the Covid-19 pandemic, which relies on technology as a way to deal with this outbreak. When children access technology based on the Internet of Things (IoT), which is a computational concept that describes a future where every physical object can be connected to the internet in real-time without being limited by space and time. The physical objects in question include television, telephones, cars, chairs, lights, and anything equipped with sensors or tools to communicate with other physical objects/objects or with computers via the internet network anywhere, anytime, by any means and however. Many of these technology applications are smart applications such as smart homes, smart cities, smart healthcare, and other applications that involve surrounding objects equipped with sensors, communication capabilities, and computing capabilities. Sensors can be used to capture data in the form of sound, video, images, waves, and motion. Currently, many smartphones are equipped with the ability to sense with several sensors and the use of IoT which is all connected to the internet for children, of course, will require more attention and assistance from parents, otherwise, the child will be wrong in utilizing technology which might result in things - negative things that affect children’s moral development (Arief & Sundara, 2017; Hidayatullah & Juliando, 2017). The use of the Internet of Things (IoT) technology, which leads to negative things when SFH takes place, for example, is the case that occurred in America. Quoted from the Tempo Magazine article, it was stated that some students took advantage of gaps in google docs that escaped the supervision of teachers and parents for cyberbullying their other friends.

From the phenomena, the lack of fulfilling children’s needs for attention and guidance from parents during the Covid-19 pandemic will undoubtedly contribute to children’s moral development. Whereas according to Chasiyah in Mawarsih, it is stated that the family has a primary function, namely meeting physical and spiritual needs such as a sense of avoiding feelings of fear, belonging, affection, and developing harmonious family relationships. Children are the responsibility of parents; therefore, parents are obliged to provide the best for children, including paying attention (Mawarsih & Hamidi, 2013). Apart from that from Asdijoh’s research, it was stated that parents have an essential role in cultivating children’s ethics, if parents do not have enough time for their children, the children cannot understand social ethics properly and even tend to violate them (Asdijoh, 2018).

Previous studies that are relevant to this research include: (1) first, research conducted by (Bahirah et al., 2019) who obtained the results of the study that there was a positive and significant relationship between emotional regulation and parental attention with the Social Problem-Solving of SMAN CMBBS adolescents, (2) second, research conducted by (Hartati, 2019) who obtained the results of the study that the role of parents in developing children’s morals has five points, namely: a. As role models, people know
that they have to give good examples to their children, b. As an instruction, parents must rule to their children who are good, both from work and character and behavior, as educators, where parents must educate, nurture their children, d. As supervisors, parents must supervise their children what they do daily. As mentors, parents must guide their children, f. Providing affection for children, (3) third, research conducted by (M Rahman, 2014) who obtained research results that parents play a vital role in shaping the character of a child.

Based on the above problems, the authors are interested in raising a research title, namely "The Role of Parents’ Attention in Moral Development of Elementary School-aged Children Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic". This research was conducted to identify the role of parental attention in the moral development of elementary school children during the Covid-19 pandemic. The difference between this research and other research is that this research examines two research variables at once, namely the attention of parents during the Covid-19 epidemic and the moral development of elementary school children. While other studies mostly focus on one variable only, it can be on parental attention or moral development alone

2. Method

This study used a qualitative method with literature studies from several sources, both print and electronic media, as well as online books and journals. Journal searches were carried out through Google Scholar with the keywords "Parents' attention amid the Covid-19 pandemic" and "Children's Moral Development." Based on the search results obtained by researchers, various kinds of articles were obtained. Then, those who meet the criteria are selected, namely, the discussion related to the attention of parents during the Covid-19 pandemic and children’s moral development.

The research technique used is the documentation technique in the form of notes, books, papers or articles, journals, and news. Validity test, researchers used the triangulation of data sources. The literature review analysis used the content analysis paradigm—presentation of data using informal presentation methods. The informal presentation method is a method of presenting data in the form of formulations with common words/phrases following linguistic rules.

In presenting the data, the authors include quotes from various references used, in the form of analysis results, mentioning sources and illustrated based on a summary or essence of information (which may be in different paraphrases but still the same meaning) for each topic analyzed. This is done in the context of critical thinking and in-depth analysis of information.

3. Result and Discussion

Parents certainly have hopes or desires to be achieved in the future. That desire lies in the shoulders of the children who he cleanses and raises. For example, their parents expect their children to become obedient, obedient, and devoted people to their parents, and so on. These expectations will influence the pattern of care and attention to their children in the future; parents will educate and treat their children responsibly. They will meet all the needs of their children, both physical and non-physical. But some parents are too focused on meeting the physical demands of their children, so they forget about non-physical / spiritual needs such as attention and affection from parents.

Lack of meeting children's non-physical needs will certainly affect children's development, including children's moral development. According to Maharani, when children do not get enough attention from their parents, they will express negative moral attitudes, such as opposing moral values in society (Maharani, 2014). Therefore, parents are obliged to meet non-physical needs as well.

When parents try to meet the physical and non-physical needs of their children, the parents will involve other parties in education, namely the school. Parents send their children to school in addition to aiming for their children who gain intellectual abilities but also to get moral education so that children have noble character (Septiani & Nasution, 2018). However, during the Covid-19 pandemic, the current role of schools as a vehicle for obtaining intellectual abilities and moral education will be disrupted due to this pandemic. Learning that is usually done in school is face-to-face, so that the teacher's attention is maximally devoted to his students. During this pandemic, to reduce the risk of virus transmission, learning was carried out using an online system, namely learning carried out online from each home. Learning with this online system (SFH) certainly has a drawback, namely that the teacher cannot pay attention to students one by one directly. The teacher carries the task of paying attention to students in normal learning, but during this SFH, the task of paying attention to students has shifted to being the task of parents at home (Kurniati et al., 2020). But from interviews with classroom teachers conducted by researchers, it was found that there were students who did not get the attention of their parents when SFH took place because their parents worked outside the home.

Fulfilling the attention of parents to the moral development of children is very important. It is not only a duty assigned to educational institutions and religious institutions, but the role of parents is huge in
the formation of good morals of a child. This is following Croitoru and Munteanu's research that, in Romania, the inculcation of the values of religiosity and morality is not only the duty of certain sects or the missionary duties of the orthodox church but is the duty of all members of society including the family so that it will produce education that invites reflection, self-awareness, acquisition. Direct moral values and its first effect is to create solidarity among community members and to portray an authentic conscience. Being an educated person also means being initiated spiritually by the treasure of one’s people, and to grow and continue one’s education is to value and live. In the case of the Romanian people, the values of the Christian way of life, the values that are inherited from the historical treasures of the nation, and are open to the moral-religious values of their peers with other religious faiths (Hayati et al., 2019). Therefore, the task of instilling the importance of religiosity and morality is not only the duty of educational and religious institutions but the duty of all elements of society, including parents.

Parents play an essential role in children's moral development, namely by fulfilling the attention, guidance, and supervision of parents to their children. According to research conducted by Gianoza by testing the hypothesis, it is known that the calculated r-value is 0.353, and the r table (5%) is 0.213, with a significance of 0.001. This means that there is a relationship between parental attention and the children’s morale. The higher the attention paid by parents to their children, the better the child’s confidence, on the other hand, if the lower the attention of parents who are devoted to their children, the better the child’s moral (Gianoza, 2013).

From the survey conducted by the Ministry of Education and Culture in collaboration with UNICEF, we can see that the attention of parents when SFH towards their children is very high. That is, 90% of parents accompany their children during SFH. However, there are a small proportion of students who did not receive assistance during SFH, namely 3.4% of students, did not receive assistance during SFH because their parents work outside the home.

Previous studies that are relevant to this research include: (1) first, research conducted by (Bahirah et al., 2019) who obtained the results of the study that there was a positive and significant relationship between emotional regulation and parental attention with the Social Problem-Solving of SMAN CMBBS adolescents, (2) second, research conducted by (Hartati, 2019) who obtained the results of the study that the role of parents in developing children’s morals has five points, namely: a. As role models, people know that they have to give good examples to their children, b. As an instruction, parents must rule to their excellent children, both from work and character and behavior, as educators, where parents must educate, nurture their children, d. As supervisors, parents must supervise their children what they do daily. As mentors, parents must guide their children, f. Providing affection for children, (3) third, research conducted by (M Rahman, 2014) who obtained the research results that parents play a vital role in shaping the character of a child.

From the research above, we can see that parents must pay attention to the moral development of their children, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Parents who initially reasoned working outside the home so that they paid less attention to their children during the Covid pandemic, slowly began to realize the importance of giving adequate attention to their children. This is evidenced by the results of a survey from the Ministry of Education and Culture, where around 90% of parents accompany their children during the SFH, and only 3.4% of children do not receive assistance from their parents because their parents work outside the home. In general, parents have appeared in the role of accompanying their children during the Covid-19 and SFH pandemic. Because parents know that if the child does not get enough attention from parents especially during the Covid-19 and SFH pandemic, it will harm the child’s development, especially on the child’s moral development, so that when the child’s morale is terrible, the child will tend to behave negatively and to oppose social norms prevailing in the society.

4. Conclusions and suggestions

It is so crucial for parents to pay attention to the moral development of their children, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Parents who initially reasoned working outside the home so that they paid less attention to their children during the Covid pandemic are slowly becoming aware of the importance of paying adequate attention to their children. This is evidenced by the results of a survey from the Ministry of Education and Culture, where around 90% of parents accompany their children during the SFH, and only 3.4% of children do not receive assistance from their parents because their parents work outside the home. In general, parents have appeared in the role of accompanying their children during the Covid-19 and SFH pandemic. Because parents know that if the child does not get enough attention from parents especially during the Covid-19 and SFH pandemic, it will harm the child’s development, especially in the child’s moral development, so that when the child’s morale is terrible, the child will tend to behave negatively and to oppose social norms prevailing in the society.
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