OPTIMIZATION OF COOPERATIVE LEARNING FOR DEVELOPMENT OF CHARACTER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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Abstract

Education is a conscious effort and planning to Realize the nation's character generation and high competitiveness. Education is very important character instilled in students from an early age, at an early age Because Also children imitate what they see and hear. The conditions in Indonesia show that the nation's character has faded, as a result of the collapse of the characters has created many problems. Seeing the fact that there needs to be a change, such changes are made in the world of education where it is currently more using models Competitive everything into a competition begin to change and accustomed to using cooperative learning models is a very effective tool for shaping the character of early childhood, some cooperative learning models that can make students have a positive reliance, individual responsibility, promotive interaction, communication between members, and group processing. Cooperative Application Model can be started early age, a period where Children Need to learn tolerance and cooperation.

Keywords: Character Education, Cooperative Learning, Early Childhood Education

INTRODUCTION

Humans have diverse characters; it is closely related to the personality of a person shown in the behavior of everyday life. Humans already have potential characters that can be viewed in terms of cognitive abilities and qualities which he was born. The inborn character will develop optimally when getting a stimulus of the learning environment, living environment, even the individual neighborhood socializing. This is a strong foundation to establish a code of stepping into adulthood, so the right time in the formation of this character is in early childhood education.

Character education has a purpose to inculcate in oneself and be establishing renewal in the lives of individuals, it is more emphasizing the value freedom of an individual. The building of character can be started from childhood, where at the age of 0- 6 years is a period that is appropriate for our member understanding and performing a habituation.

The program to improve the quality of education is the achievement of national education substantive, which is embodied in the competence intact in self-learners, including academic, social, and moral competence Zamroni, (2005: 1). Currently, Indonesia is in an era of MEA (AEC), it is interpreted as a form of ASEAN economic integration means that all countries located area of Southeast Asia ASEAN implements free trade system, due to next generation who live in the era of MEA is full of complex challenges, we as educators need to prepare human resources who are able to have high competitiveness so as to compete globally. But in Indonesia still has a lot of problems include a breakdown character of the nation. One reason is the lack of education character building in the school environment, character education is only considered as a complement not included as a priority in the curriculum that is being developed at this time. Whereas cultivation of character is very important in the personal development of children formidable or even in the development of civilization.

Construction and development of the child's character is determined by upbringing which early childhood education exist in this because is needed for educators who are able to bear the next generation quality and civilized. The phenomenon of a negative character made by the nation's future is often a source of news in the media, among others: brawl, violence, cheating at the time of the test and so on. Mazzola, (2003) conducted a survey on *bullying* (violence) in schools. The results of the survey take into by the following findings: each day some 160,000 learners get *bullying* in school, ages 1 and 3 respondents surveyed (students at the age of 18 years) never got

violent, 75-80% of students have experienced violence, 15-35% of students are victims of violence from abuse of cyberspace *(cyber-bullying).*

Currently less than the maximum character education in its early practitioners an education, there are many facts that support that indeed education in Indonesia has more priority than the cognitive aspects of the affective aspect (characters), including:

a. Not a few learners are motivated to learn just for the sake of getting a good value
b. When educators gave the task group, learners find it difficult to cooperate or solve a problem with someone else
c. The success of students is measured only by few see high test scores for taking education

Education is more focused on the cognitive aspects, also exacerbated premises a model of learning in which educators emphasize the competitive aspects of cooperative between learners. It can be seen that the existing education still uses a ranking system, comparing among learners and learning activities educators still using model competitive everything is using the competition. View the existing problems, some things to consider in the world of education in Indonesia, whether the country will advance like other countries if in Indonesia is still using competitive learning that is both competition and more emphasis on individual success itself. As educators, we need to make a change, a change in the sense of eliminating the competition but collaboration between the competitive to cooperative. It i ni can be applied starting from childhood education d it would be very helpful in the world of education in Indonesia, because that is usually a competition conducted individually but this time a group of individuals into a group to come and compete in the era of the MEA, with strong teamwork will get maximum results. This collaboration can be applied starting from this childhood education.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Early Childhood Education

Hasan, (2009) stated that early childhood education is an education before primary education which is an effort coaching aimed for children from birth up to the age of six years were made through giving stimulation of education to help the growth and development of physical and spiritually so that children have the readiness to enter further education, which was held on the track formal, non-formal and informal. Suryani, (2007), early childhood is the phase that begins from the age of 0 years to kid about 6 years old. at this stage as educators should be more focused in observing and started to make a character early on. Will be successful if done continuously and gradually, the character education will be formed by itself.

Character Building

The character is a character, form character, a character that exists within the individual that is formed from the internalization which serves as a guideline to think and act, giving rise to an identity as themselves on the individual. Zubaedi, (2012: 15) states that the age deliberately (consciously) to realize the virtue, the good human qualities objectively, is not only good for the individual but also good people of society as a whole.

In constitution No. 20 of 2003 on National Education System (Education) has formulated functions and educational purposes only rice. Article 3 states: "The national education serves to develop the ability of d late formed character and civilization dignified nation in the context of the intellectual life of nation, aims to develop students' potentials to become a man of faith and devoted to God Almighty, noble, healthy, knowledgeable , capable, independent, and become citizens of a democratic and responsible ". The article is the basis for the development of character education for the formation of human character, especially the next generation of the nation.

The educational function can be achieved if done gradually and continuously, starting from the basic education level that is in early childhood education. Character education who applied early can give important provision in preparing learners in facing the future better.

Cooperative Learning and Competitive Learning

Yahya, (2007) stated that the competitive better teaching is a matter relating to a competition or race. Model better teaching competitive characterized in s state all individualists who founded by their negative attitude in terms of dependence, whereby when someone wins then the other is lost. It can be placed as a condition of the seizure or the state of competition experienced by a person or group of people to win a competition , better teaching is motivated by the participation in the competition.

There are some things that are not always considered to be true, which is commonly used as an excuse the use of competitive methods in teaching practice, namely:
a. Learners full competitive atmosphere, because the students are required to have to prepare for the situation that exists today
b. Achievement, success, rank, respectable appearance and its ambition to become a great leader are all related to competition with other individuals
c. Competition can build character and strengthen learners for life in the real world
d. The competition is able to build confidence and self-esteem of an individual.

The competitive learning model is still widely used in education, there is definitely a learning deficiency and excess. The shortcomings in the competitive learning model, include:
a. There is only one winner and the other learners must fail
b. Associated with high levels of anxiety, selfishness, self-doubt in, and aggression
c. It can promote fraud
This deficiency can hinder the advance of the learning model in Indonesia if only the model used in excess. It does not mean that the competitive learning model is bad but there's nothing better than competitive learning model where learning is the emphasis on competition or race that cooperative learning model.

Slavin (2009), states that Learning cooperative is a method or a model where the students learn together to contribute to each other and be responsible for the achievement of learning outcomes of individuals and groups. Meanwhile, cooperative learning is applied in early childhood began to be used when defenders take place, such as: when playing educators more use games that work is done in groups or teams, for that child become easier in finishing the game and train children to socialize in the neighborhood about. One example games for early childhood to develop character in the students through cooperative learning model is a game "Move Flag" where the game is more emphasis on cooperation, seen which team has won it can be concluded that the coordination between the individual interwoven well, with their race will inevitably be winners and losers. Here the application of character development is emphasized for the winning team is expected to have properties not arrogant and humble while for the losing team in the development of this character learners are expected to not get discouraged and feel that the defeat is the end of everything.

One of the things that can shape the character is through Cooperative Learning Model, among others:
a. Positive interdependence
    Connecting learners with each other because no one can live individually. There is no success without the support of others, this element indicates that the cooperative learning there are two accountability groups. The goal is to learn the material assigned to the group and ensure that all members of the group individually studying the assigned material.
b. Individual responsibility
    Individual responsibility is the key to ensure all members are reinforced by learning activities together means that after following study groups together, members of the group should be

able to accomplish the same tasks as well as timely. It is able to judge the success of the group, the objective forms all members of the group into a powerful personal.

c. Interaction promotive
    This element is important because it can foster positive interdependence. One thing that is promotive interaction activities is to help each other effectively and efficiently, inform, motivate each other to achieve success together, and help formulate or develop the ability insight into the problems that exist.

d. Communication between members
    Coordinate the activities of learners in achieving a common goal, things do get to know and trust, able to communicate accurately, tolerance, and is able to resolve the problem.

e. Batch processing
    Improving the effectiveness of members in contributing to the collaborative activities to achieve group goals.

From these explanations it can be seen that the model of cooperative learning has a positive impact on learners, namely: a). P Participants students into positive interdependence in question is a relationship between learners with each other, here you can see if a person's success without the support and intervention of others can not. B). The responsibility of the individual, in this aspect can foster a sense of having the responsibilities among learners. c). This promotive interaction as well as the positive dependence which the activities therein are helping each other, exchanging ideas, and motivate others. d). Interpersonal communication to coordinate the activities of learners in achieving common goals. e). Batch processing can increase the effectiveness of members in contributing to collaboration to achieve group goals. Learning cooperative which has a major role in changing the education system which has been using a competitive learning model, where everything was contested without seeing aspects of what develops during the competition.

CONCLUSION

Education is one way to build a civilization become qualified and dignified. As a foundation for early childhood is a necessity for all parties, even so not much to assume that character education is the education that is crucial in the cultivation of character through cooperative learning is more emphasis on group work. It set us as a successor nation to be able to compete with other countries in healthy and effective. Using model cooperative learning in early childhood has a goal of shaping the character of the child before birth already has the potential to be developed, therefore the character of the child -children formed from now will determine the future character of the nation.

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