

LEARNING BY LOVE FOR CHARACTER BUILDING IN THE FIRST LEVEL STUDENT OF PRIMARY EDUCATION

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Abstract

Character is one of aspects which is developed or built in primary education. Furthermore, character building in the first level student of primary education is an important thing, because they are in the transition period (from kindergarten to primary education) and they are still called the early childhood period. One way of character buildings in the first level student of primary education, apply the learning by love.

As the candidate of real Indonesian people, early childhood (the first level student of primary education) must have Indonesian society character which is smart, moralist, and spiritualist. The learning by love can be used to character building for the first level student in primary education. With the learning by love, teacher will bring student to joyful learning and increase the student achievement. Teacher has to teach with love (touch children's heart), and must have three characters of Indonesian society character (smart, moralist, and spiritualist). Teaching the first level student of primary education is most easy when teacher uses their heart, and student will be most easy to take what teacher gives. In addition, with three characters of Indonesian society people, teacher can be a model for student in the school and student can imitate it.

In summary, character building in the first level student of primary education can use the learning by love. In the learning by love, teacher has to teach with love and touch children's heart. Furthermore, teacher must have Indonesian society character because teacher is a model for student.

Keywords: learning by love, character building, primary education

1. Introduction

Some argue that teaching is just a giving something to student, such as knowledge and experience. Furthermore, people argue that teaching is just a profession that teacher must be a professional person when they teach in the class. Finally, there is one goal that student can reach the best achievement. The teacher doesn't need to think about how student can reach the best achievement. And teacher will receive the money in the end of their work.

In the other side, teaching is more than the teaching. Teaching is something that teacher need to think about how student can reach the best achievement without think about the money. Teaching is a dedication for education world. Teaching is more than a giving knowledge or experience, but teaching is something which can make student understands about everything, such as character. This has to begin from early childhood education (in this article focus in the first level student of primary education).

To make student understand about everything, teacher can use an instructional approach which is called "the learning by love". In the learning by love, teacher has to teach with love (touch student's heart). In addition, teacher has to be a good model for student. So, with this instructional approach,

characters of student (Indonesian society character) can be built, and off course it can increase the student achievement.

2. Characteristic of The First Level Student in Primary Education

Myrtle B McGraw from Briarcliff College said that, "it is not possible to pinpoint any particular ideologies or theories that have given rise to the present interest in early childhood development. The forces were many: they were complex" (Smart & Smart, 1973). This opinion is more or less states that it is impossible to show some facts ideologies and theories that have been given to reveal the interest of early childhood development. They are so complex. That's why forces make it difficult to be revealed. This shows that children's world is something that exciting and full of mystery but need special attention.

Biechler & Snowman (1993) said that, preschool children are those aged 3-6 years old (cited by Soemantri Patmonodewo, 2000). One form of preschool education is kindergarten (*Taman Kanak-kanak*). In Indonesia, most children attend preschool kindergarten program at the age 4-6 years old. Furthermore, early childhood in Indonesia is 0-6 years. Even though early childhood in Indonesia is 0-6 years, NAEYC said that early childhood is 0-8 years. That's why the first level student in

primary education is called as early childhood too, because it's in 7 years old. So, the first level student in primary education has the different characteristic with the other student in the higher level. They are in playing period. In addition, Piaget said that they are in period of pre operational concrete. Sri Rumini, et.al (1993) told that children are in playing period and have some unique characteristics, such as egocentric, centralized, irreversible, and the static directional thinking. So that the child is developing normal and positive, then treat them in accordance with the stage of development and its characteristics, such as not turning them away from their playing period.

By Mayke S Tedjasaputra (2005), playing is place for children to experience a variety of experiences such as emotions, happy, sad, excited, disappointed, proud, angry, etc. Children will feel happy when playing, and the kids learned a lot of things other than experiences. Playing with the word "play" is fun. It is also why children are so unique and fun.

The role and purpose of playing was different. Follows are some classical and modern theories about the purpose and role of play cited by Mayke S Tedjasaputra (2005):

Classic Theories

Theories	Founder	Purpose of Playing
Surplus-energy	Schiller-Spencer	Expend the excess energy
Recreation	Lazarus	Restore power
Recapitulation	Hall	Raises ancestors instinct
Practical	Gross	Refine instinct

Modern Theories

Theories	Role of Playing
Psychoanalytic	Overcome the traumatic experiences, coping the frustration
Cognitive-Piaget	Practice and consolidate concepts and skills previously learned
Cognitive-Vygotsky	Promote abstract thinking; learning and connecting with ZPD; self-regulation
Cognitive-Bruner/Sutton-Smith	Bring the flexibility of behavior and thought; imagination and narrative
Singer	Adjust the speed of stimulation from within and outside

Others Theories

Arousal Modulation	Keep the children awake at optimal levels by increasing the stimulations
Bateson	Advance the ability to

	understand the different levels of meaning
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With the playing activities, children will be found meaningful lessons. As said by DePorter and Hernacki (2003), there are three learning style, are auditory (learning by hearing), visual (learning by seeing), and kinesthetic (learning by move, work, and touching). Playing activities can summarize the three of learning style. Whatever of children learning style, children can take the knowledge by playing.

Nasution (2003) has different opinion from DePorter and Hernacki (2003). Nasution said that learning style is a consistent way of students in capturing stimulation and information, how to remember, think, and solve problems. And this learning style is divided into three, are field dependence-field independence (there were influenced by environment and there were not influenced by environment), impulsive-reflective (one that taking decisions quickly without thinking about in deeply and one that considering all alternatives before making a decision in a situation that has no easy solution), perceptive/receptive-systematic/intuitive (there's who filtering incoming information and the relationships among attention and there's who more attention to detail or detail information and does not attempt to round or information relate to one another; there's who tries to look at the structure of a problem and working systematically with data or information to solve a problem and there's who directly bring up a specific answer without using the information in a systematic).

Although the two opinions above are different, however, they are learning style, and all learning styles are covered in play activities. With different learning style, children can still learn together in play activities. So basically, a period of play, which is one of the characteristic of children, can be used as a means of stimulating growth and development of children with different learning style.

But, everything which has been done is not good if teacher just teach. Teacher has to teach with love and accommodate the children learning style to get the best result in primary education (the first level student).

3. Learning by Love for Character Building

Character is the quality or mental power or moral power, individual moral values, or conduct of life which is as motor special personal and different to another person (Furqon Hidayatullah, 2010). In addition, Agbenyega (2011) said that character is the way of life which is developed from value and conviction, and isn't the universal thing.

The value and conviction are developed from the history. *Kamus Besar Bahasa Indonesia* by W.J.S. Poerwadarminta (2007) said that value is the important thing for humanity. Because of that, the character is based on the living space contamination and sliced with culture. For the example, Indonesia society character which is moralist, smart, and spiritualist, is bequeathed from ancestors and appropriate with Indonesian cultural which is very plurality. The character will be built from the early age.

To build the children character is not like to turn the palm of hand. There is a hard work from everyone, such as institution of education. Agbenyega (2011) told that an institution which has a certain quality must have the high instructional program and must have the high teacher quality too. He said that the instructional program has to refer: naturally learning, holistic learning, and understanding (not knowing). In addition, he adds that the high teacher quality is teacher who:

- Have the knowledge about student
- Can apply the pedagogy instructional strategy
- Understand the curriculum and assessment
- Combine the culture and knowledge (including science and the others)
- Do the “self reflective practice”
- Always think a positive thing (especially about student)
- Don’t unable to concentrate the children with the worse classroom space
- Use the knowledge of God (teach with love, touch student’s heart)

The learning by love is the instructional approach with the knowledge of God which will bring to character building (especially the first level student in primary education). The learning by love refers the naturally learning, the holistic learning, and understanding (not knowing). We will see what the main of learning by love:

3.1. Teacher makes the joyful learning to increase the student achievement

The first level student in primary education is in transition period from kindergarten to primary education. Teacher must know this characteristic, and must do the best when they teach in the classroom. Teacher can apply the joyful learning to increase the student achievement. With the joyful learning, there is so many aspects which are can develop for student.

For the example, one activity can develop many aspects of student (including the character building). To make the joyful learning in the classroom, teacher has to teach with love to make student happy. She/he teaches with her/his heart

and touches student’s heart. Let’s see this illustration:

“One day in one classroom, a teacher was teaching about how the rainbow can rise. Teacher didn’t just explain how the rainbow can rise, but she/he invited the student to the nice game. There was small project, which must been done by student in classroom. In this small project, student made the experiment about how the rainbow can rise. Teacher joined in this project and diffused to student. When teacher diffused to student in the project, there was no gap between student and teacher. With this situation, teacher had to do sincerely. So that, student would enjoy in the classroom when they learned. In addition, this situation can develop the other aspects (including the character). Student can learn from the situation, and they can learn from the teacher and their friends. It meant that teacher and their friend was the good model for them.”

The illustration said that the learning by love can refer the joyful learning which can increase the student achievement.

3.2. Teacher has to teach with love (touch student’s heart)

Everyone in the world likes to give love and receive the love. Love is one of important things in the world. So, everybody will look for the love. And children (student) will do it too because they need love (including the first level student in primary education). If teacher teach with love and touch student’s heart, student will enjoy in instructional process and the end of this process is: student reach the achievement. Let’s see this illustration:

“A teacher from the village, move to the city and teach in there. He teaches in a female adolescence school. Every student has bad character, and makes no body teacher want to teach them. The first day when he teaches, no one student notices her. They are busy with their selves without give attention to their teacher. This situation is happened for one week. After one week, the teacher said to his wife that he will stop. His wife said that he may not do that. He has to change his intention. It means that he has to teach without think about the salary, but has to teach with love. He has to love his student with touch their heart. At the end of this story, he does his wife advice, and he get what he want. He has been a model for his

student, and he can increase his student achievement.”

The illustration said that with the learning by love, teacher has to teach with love and touch student’s heart. So that, teacher can help student to increase their achievement.

3.3. Teacher must have three characters of Indonesian society character (smart, moralist, and spiritualist)

Teaching the first level student of primary education is most easy when teacher uses their heart, and student will be most easy to take what teacher gives. Indonesia society has the unique characters from the ancestor long time ago. The characters must be developed by Indonesia society. There are three characters which is developed by Indonesia society, such as smart, moralist, and spiritualist. In addition, with three characters of Indonesian society people (smart, moralist, and spiritualist), teacher can be a model for student in the school and student can imitate it. Teacher has to show the example from her/his activities for student.

4. Conclusion

In summary, the learning by love can be used for character building in the first level student of primary education. The learning by love refers the naturally learning, the holistic learning, and understanding (not knowing). In addition, the learning by love has the mains: 1) teacher makes the joyful learning to increase the student achievement; 2) teacher has to teach with love (touch student’s heart); and 3) teacher must have three characters of Indonesian society character (smart, moralist, and spiritualist).

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