

Character Building Education Management in Higher Education: Case Study at History Education Department at Universitas Ivet Jawa Tengah

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ABSTRACT : Character building is very important to be done, including in Higher education. Character building will shape the personality of country and nation. Character building in higher education is implemented in each learning and academic activity. Character building is done in each competence subject and each academic activity. Therefore Character Building Management subject is needed.

KEYWORDS: *Character building, Country and nation personality, each subject competence and academic activity, Character building management*

I. Background

In general, the education system in Indonesia is still focusing on cognitive intelligence. This could be seen from the educational institution's orientation which is still preoccupied by test, from the mid semester test, final semester test to national test. Now it's time for the policy maker, educators, parents and society to always enrich their perceptions that the success measurement is not only by measuring just academic achievement, but educational institution should always be a place to create experience of the students to build and shape advantageous character.

The implementation of character education/building in Indonesia nowadays is urgent. The depiction of society and even the education world in Indonesia could be main motivation to implement character building. Character education is deemed important to be developed considering the increasing number of student brawls and other forms of juvenile delinquency, mainly in big cities such as black mailing, violence, seniors' domination tendency to juniors, drug abuse etc. The most concerning is, the willingness to build honesty in children through Honesty Canteen in several schools, was failing and went bankrupt since the honesty is not yet established.

Education world has big responsibility to the development of the young generation and the emergence of destructive, anarchist and radicalist attitude. Based on that, all education stake holders should pay bigger attention and guidance to students in shaping their mindset and attitude which is allowed by rules and regulation. The educators have quite big roles in shaping the students' character.

If the educators stop the character building education in high school level, this is wrong opinion. Not a few students who have low self confidence who want to find self identity, but in fact are fallen out to negative things.

The high level of confidence of the lectures to their students to be able to take care of themselves well mostly is misused. Those two main things could be enough reason of the importance of lecturer's guidance to students. The character building education is urgent to be implemented to the higher education level to stabilize the nation's next generation mental to be able to own good character as well as high patriotism and nationalism.

Another thing is the emergence of the phenomena in the campus society nowadays where several people were found doing scientific work plagiarism. The ironic thing is that there is a case of educational certificate forgery and the users are mostly the next generation of educators of Indonesia. The college or higher education is the higher education administration unit which obliged to participate in shaping the nation's character. The educators of higher education are the professional

educators and scientists with their main functions of transforming, developing as well as spreading science, technology and art through education, training and dedication to society (Three Pillars of Higher Education). Professionally, higher education educators have the functions as teachers, educators and trainers so that they could develop cognitive, affective and psychomotoric aspects of the students. This could be an entry point for character education to be able to be implemented in higher education level in Indonesia. The character development is very important to be done by higher education and its stake holders to be able to be the stepping stone in holding the character education in colleges.

The objective of the character building in the bottom line is to enhance the birth of good people who have interesting personality, have ethics, simple/ casual, honest, intelligent, care and tough. The growing and developing of good character will motivate students to grow with capacity and commitment to do many best things and do anything correctly and also have life aim.

Individual with good character and tough is a person who tries to do best things to God Almighty, himself and others, environment, country, nation as well as international world in general by optimizing his own potential along with awareness, emotion and motivation. Education is not only transferring knowledge, but more than that, is how to change or shape one's character or trait to be better person, to have proficient skill, to be more polite in ethic and aesthetic, and the more important is the behavior in daily life.

The effort in building nation character since early life through education is a correct step. Character education becomes more important and strategic mainly if it is related to the challenges faced by Indonesia in preparing the next generation who will face heavier, complex and challenging problems to reach the noble ideals of Indonesia's independence.

The higher education needs to give education to build student character because good character will arouse, motivate and facilitate a person to develop good habit. That habit grows and develops based on the awareness, confidence, sensitivity and trait. Therefore the character could develop to be good habit because there is inner motivation and not outside force.

Thus, higher education especially in Educators Educational Institution which is given authority to hold professional education for teachers should be designed and integrated to yield professional teachers, with advantageous character and noble who could be role models in the society.

The implementation of the character education in higher education should be adjusted to the vision and mission of that higher education with major basic and or study program. The administration of character education in higher education should be done integrally through 3 lines, which are learning, higher education management and student activity. Character values implemented are by choosing core values which will be developed and implemented in each major or study program.

II. Problem

How is the implementation of character education in higher education?

III. Discussion

Character education is understood as an effort in implanting intelligence in thinking, appreciation in behavior form and experience in behavior according to the noble values which becomes self identity, manifested in interactions with God, oneself, others and environment. Those values are among others: honesty, independence, courtesy, social nobility, thinking intelligence including intellectual sensitivity and logical thinking.

While Hill (in Muslich, 2011) stated that *character determines someone's private thoughts and someone's action done. Good character is the inward motivation to do what is right, according to the highest standard of behaviour, in every situation.* That character education teaches the habit of way of thinking and behavior which helps individual to live and work together as the family of society and nation and help to make accountable decision. In fact, character education is an essential thing which could be the task of school, but after all is lacked of attention, thus this has caused the development of various social diseases in society. Therefore, school is not only compulsory to raise academic achievement, but also is responsible in forming good character, two things becoming integral missions which should get attention from school (Zubaedi, 2011).

Character education is moral education involving cognitive, feeling and action aspects, without these, the character education would not be effective. The application should also be done systematically and continuously and should also differentiate each other. By character education, a child could be intelligent emotionally. This is suitable to the opinion of Goleman (2007), stated that “The success of a person in society, in fact is influenced 80% by Emotional Quotient (EQ) and only 20% is determined by Intelligence (IQ). Emotional Quotient is translated as the ability to “listen” to emotional whisper and to make it as very important information source to comprehend one self and others to reach the objective (Agustian, 2006). Emotional quotient is defined as the ability to feel, understand and effectively apply emotional sensitivity as the source of human energy, information and effect (Cooper & Sawaf, 2002).

The uncontrolled emotion could make intelligent person could be a fool. Without emotional quotient people could not use their intellectual cognitive ability as the potential they have in their personality. The education approach is taken based on various literatures in psychology, sociology, philosophy and education related to values. However based on the discussion results with the educators and practical reasons in its usage in the field, those approaches have been summarized into five types of approach. Those five approaches are:

1. Inculcation approach
2. Cognitive moral development approach
3. Values analysis approach
4. Values clarification approach
5. Action learning approach (Superka, 2006)

From those five approaches above, the success of character building process of the graduates from an education institution is determined not by learning process, but is determined by the management power, meaning that the character quality of the graduates has strong dependency on the education management quality because the character building process should be integrated into various forms of education institution activities.

Character education will be manifested to the maximum if that educational institution could manage the character education process by designing education program holistically, which is: strengthening the synergy of intellectual quotient, emotional quotient and spiritual quotient.

If the three components of intelligence could be functioned synergically thus the student would be intelligent and this will strengthened the intellectual intelligence. While emotional quotient has very important role in children mental development, thus emotional effort are needed to be managed and developed well by the educators.

The character education in education institution could be effective if all stake holders in an organization understand how the brain works systematically in which each component has its own field. Therefore how a comprehensive character building is reached or not depends on when those intelligences could be synergized.

The existence of the higher education as formal education institution has two main objectives, which are building kind and intelligent being, in line with the national education concept as explained by National education system Law No. 20 Year 2003 Article 3 mentioning that “national education is functioned to develop the proficiency and shape traits as well as dignified nation civilization in educating nation life, aiming to develop students’ potentials to be faithful and obedient human to God Almighty, noble moral, healthy, knowledgable, clever, creative, independent and being the democratic and responsible citizen.” With those main objectives, the government through various elements and education institution including schools have big responsibility in designing education system in reaching the objectives which have been set perfectly. Therefore, school will be an effective place for individuals forming who later could be interacted well in their environment (Koesoema, 2010).

In order to gain the objective and function of the education, thus the education system runs in the higher education should touch three aspects, which are cognitive, affective and psychomotoric. Cognitive aspect is the aspect stressing on the ability to remember and reproduce information learned. Affective aspect stressed on the emotional, trait and value appreciation as well as acceptance and rejection level on something with policy. While psychomotoric aspect emphasizes on the ability to train and the ability to apply knowledge after both aspect aforementioned mastered and is willing to apply values considered good and leave what are considered bad.

Character building in higher education could be done by education through:

1. Personality Development Subject (PDS)

PDS is the subject instilling and building essential and universal meanings which should own by human beings as God's creation. In the higher education core curriculum, the subjects of each Department or program are classified into three groups as follow:

- a. Personality Development Subject (PDS)
- b. Basic Proficiency Subject (BPS) and
- c. Proficiency Subject (PS)

Each subject group has its own function and objective which are related to other subject groups and become a whole integrated part in the national curriculum frame of the higher education. Therefore there is no subject which is more important than others. PDS is functioned as the lecture which guide the personal basic abilities (personality) in the aspect of developing character, traits, attitude and behavior as family member, society member, citizen and God's creation.

BPS is functioned as subjects guiding the students' professional basic proficiency, as the future Indonesian bachelor who should have wide thinking insight, professional and dynamic.

PS is functioned as subjects guiding and developing certain knowledge (specialization) mastering for students as the future expert in their fields as the subject they studied. University Guidance will gave a good understand among student about their studies at University (Terhi Skaniakos, Sanna Honkimaki, Eeva Kallio, Karri Nissinen, & Paivi Tynjala, 2019).

University Guidance by Learning will gave a good results study achievement among students.

University paedadagogy gave influence about competitive competention (Gunlaugur Magnusson, Johannes Rytzler, 2019).

In the core curriculum of PDS in 2014, as the improvement of core curriculum of 2012, specifically it is explained that Personality Development Subjects have the objective to produce citizens with qualifications of:

- a. Having the soul of Pancasila, thus all decisions and actions depicting the appreciation of Pancasila values, and having high personality integrity prioritizing the national and humanity interest, as Indonesian bachelor.
- b. Fearful of God Almighty, acting and having the attitude as the religious teaching adhered, having tolerance and empathy towards other religious converts.
- c. Having comprehensive insights by using integrative approach in responding life problems, either social, economics, politics, security defense as well as cultural problems.
- d. having wide cultural insight about social life and together could participate in improving the human resource wuality as well as the natural environment and also together participating in preserving it.

1. Student Organization

An institution which has legal aspects is needed to guide the students' activities. That guiding institution refers to Ministry Law No 155/U/1998, article 1 mentioning that students organization (Ormawa) inter higher education is the counter and means of developing students to the direction of widening insight and increasing expertise as well as personality integrity to reach higher education objective.

Furthermore, the functions of students organization are mentioned as :Student representative in higher education level to load and distribute students' aspiration, set the program main rules and student activity.

- a. Student's activities executor.
- b. Developing student's self identity potentials as academic person, scientist and intellectual to be who are useful in the future.
- c. Guiding and developing nation's squads who have potentials to carry on continuity of national development.
- d. to maintain and develop science and technology based on religious norms, academic, ethics, moral and national vision.

Based on the above quotes about the definition and function of student organization, it means that through the students' organization, students could develop their self potentials through various

activities in order to develop creativity, logical thinking, leadership and community devotion, thus all could form students with characters.

2. Public holidays/ Big days Commemoration

The character shaped from the commemoration of religious holidays among others are religious, honest, responsible, sincere, healthy life style, disciplined, science loving, respectful and polite, care for environment, generous and helpful. While commemorating national holidays is aimed to develop nation's character and culture as integrated part of National education system which should be supported seriously. Building national character is building life view, objective, philosophy, secret as well as way of life of a nation. As a nation, Indonesia has already had a clear way of life. Ever since the announcement of Proclamation of Independence Indonesia and declaration of Independence as statement of independence and independence foundation, as well as enlivening Indonesian personality in wide meaning including politics, economics, social, cultural and antional personalities. Building character is really needed in giving meaning to independent life achieved by our nation for God's grace. The character forming is the building process from raw material to the molding suitable to each talent.

3. Dies Natalis

By commemorating birthday or Dies Natalis, an education institution could be improved by strengthening nation character through education revitalization, by forming generation with characters as a whole personality depicting harmony from managing Heart (honest, responsible), Thinking (intelligent), Body (healthy and clean) as well as Feeling and Wish/ Intention (care and creative). Through Dies Natalis, a person with character is a person who is aware of the communal life values, aware of oneself pluses and minuses, has proficiency and intelligent, has good habit, thinks and acts positively.

4. Visiting Museum or Study Object suitable to the Study program taken

Visiting museum or other objects in form of excursion is a learning method in which students observe directly the world as the existing fact, for example the animals, humans, plants and other things. By this excursion, students will gain knowledge from their own experiences as well as they could generalize based on their own point of views. One of the advantages of the excursion is that the excursion is rich with education values, therefore it could develop social ability, traits, and social values on students. Through this excursion also, there will be appreciation attitude towards other's work. Open museum if managed well will have multi functions as the recreational and education venue, learning media and also research venue. There are numerous type of museum like this in Indonesia. This museum is used to build students' character by growing the nationalism.

IV. Conclusion

Character education in higher education is aimed to improve the quality of administrating education and its results directing towards the character building and noble traits achievement of the students comprehensively, integratedly and balanced as the graduates' competence standard. Through character education, it is expected that students would be able to be independent in improving and using their knowledge, reviewing and internalizing character values thus they would be manifested in daily behavior. Character values applied in higher ducation is selecting core values developed in the implementation of character education, especially in each major/ study program. The implememtation of core character values is done integratedly through three ways, which are integrated in learning, major and study program administration management and in students' activities.

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