

THE URGENCY OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Dianti Candra Septianti
PG PAUD STKIP Modern Ngawi, Indonesia

Corresponding Author: dianty.chandrasedianty@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

This research examines the urgency of parental involvement in the administration of early childhood education (ECE). It was found that parental participation is very important to support student development, shape positive behavior, and enhance adaptation skills to globalization. Although the role of parents is often considered trivial, its impact on a child's character is very significant. Research shows that parental involvement can be realized through various activities with teachers, both at home and at school, to optimize children's development. However, there are issues in the relationship between parents and schools, where many parents tend to fully entrust the education process to teachers without understanding their child's abilities. This research emphasizes the importance of positive communication and collaboration between parents and schools to create a supportive learning environment. Through the literature review method, the author presents various research findings that show parental involvement contributes to children's academic success and character development. The conclusion of this research is that the role of parents in education is very multifaceted and crucial. Active involvement from parents can help create a comfortable and collaborative learning environment, as well as support the development of children's independence. Increased awareness and efforts from both parties are necessary to ensure the continuity of education between home and school. Further research is recommended to explore other factors influencing parental involvement in children's education.

Keywords: Early Childhood Education, Parental Involvement, Student Development

INTRODUCTION

Research shows that parental participation in the educational process at school plays a crucial role in supporting students in their learning. This involvement also contributes to the formation of positive behavior towards the school, teachers, and their environment, as well as enhancing students' ability to adapt to the impacts of globalization (Rahman, 2014). The role of parents in the education process may seem trivial at first glance. However, if we reflect more deeply, we will realize how important this is, as it can significantly impact the child's character in the future. The formation of a child's personality is influenced by various environmental elements, including the family environment, school, and society. Among these three, the family environment is the most influential because it provides opportunities for interaction and mutual influence (Samsudin, 2019). Parents are the first line of defense in stimulating all aspects of a child's development from birth. When children start entering the world of education, teachers become the second party that stimulates development in schools in a programmed manner. Teachers are directly involved in the learning process in the classroom, playing

a vital role in enhancing the quality of their students. The success of the educational process greatly depends on the role of the teacher and also the cooperation with the students' parents at home. Moreover, parents become the most influential component in creating a quality educational process and outcome, considering that children spend more time at home than at school.

Based on the above facts, several issues related to parental involvement in the implementation of education in early childhood education units were found. The researchers identified several problems, namely that parents leave all child development processes to teachers at school. Parents put too much pressure on teachers at school to ensure their children succeed academically without understanding the extent of their children's abilities. Such parental behavior certainly does not reflect a good reciprocal relationship between the school as the facilitator of education and the parents as the primary stakeholders in the child's growth and development.

Based on the facts and issues above, the researcher hopes for a good two-way relationship between the school and parents with the involvement of parents in the learning process at the Early Childhood Education Institution. The purpose of parental involvement in the learning process includes parenting activities and communicating the extent of the child's developmental progress through a communication book. The facts of the problem and the above hopes encourage the researcher to conduct a literature study titled *The Urgency of Parental Involvement in the Implementation of Early Childhood Education*.

STUDY LITERATURE

In this section, the author can review the literature relevant to the research problem. Developing a child's independence, parents must act as companions by establishing positive communication, one of which is by giving advice. Parents should also play the role of motivators by giving rewards for their children's achievements. In addition, parents can play the role of facilitators, helping children practice independence and providing learning tools used in educational activities (Dewi & Widyasari, 2022). According to (Diadha, 2015) Parental involvement in children's education can be realized through various activities conducted together with teachers, both at home and at school. The goal is to optimize the child's development and education, which in turn will benefit both the child and the school program. This is very important to ensure continuity between education at home and at school. To realize parental involvement, awareness and effort are needed from both parties, namely parents and the school. Parents tend to be more actively involved if the school creates a comfortable atmosphere for them.

Five subjects showed varying levels of involvement. However, at the policy level, none of the five subjects showed involvement. On the other hand, they show forms of collaboration and connection. The factor of parental self-confidence and the availability of time and energy also play an important role (Retnaningtya & Paramitha, 2015). According to (Nopiyanti, Husin, & Empowerment, 2021) Parents have played a role in their children's education, but out of the four types of involvement, three of them show

that they are truly engaged by providing protection, support, and supervision to their children both at home and at school. Meanwhile, another form of involvement, namely the collaboration between parents and schools, shows participation, but there is still a lack of enthusiasm from parents in volunteer activities and the practice of reading prayers before and after studying. Therefore, it is important for parents to increase their awareness and concern in supporting their child's learning process and collaborating with playgroups through activities such as volunteering and parenting programs.

Many parents of students believe that their families can function as an effective team in facing various life challenges. They have also successfully utilized all available protective factors to overcome difficult situations or potential risks. Additionally, parents have been active in supporting and providing facilities for the life and growth of their children (Anjani & Mashudi, 2024).

The conclusion from the discussion above is that the role of parents is crucial in developing children's independence and education. Parents function as companions who establish positive communication, provide advice, and act as motivators by giving rewards for their children's achievements. In addition, they also play the role of facilitators by providing learning resources that support the learning process. Parental involvement in children's education can be realized through various activities with teachers, both at home and at school, aimed at optimizing children's development. Although there is variation in the level of parental involvement, it is important to create a comfortable atmosphere so that parents are more actively engaged. Awareness and efforts from both parents and schools are essential to ensure the continuity of education between home and school. Thus, raising parents' awareness and concern for their children's education, as well as collaborating with the school, is very important to support children's success in learning and overcoming life's challenges.

METHOD

In this section, the author uses the literature study method. Literature study is a series of activities related to the methodology of collecting library data, including reading, taking notes, and managing research materials (Salma, 2023). Another definition, literature study is searching for theoretical references relevant to a specific case or problem. These references can be found from various sources such as books, articles, research reports, and online websites. The final result of this literature study is a collection of references related to the urgency of parental involvement in Early Childhood Education.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

In this section, the author can present the research results from various literature studies that the author encountered in the following table:

Table 1. Table Numbering

No	Author	Title	Result
1	Diadha, 2015	Parental Involvement in Early Childhood Education in Kindergarten	Parental involvement in children's education is carried out through activities with teachers at home and school. The goal is to optimize the child's development and support the school's programs. The continuity between education at home and school is very important. This involvement requires awareness and effort from both parties, with parents being more active if the school creates a comfortable atmosphere.
2	Apriliyanti, Hanurawan, & Sobri, 2021)	Parental Involvement in the Implementation of the Noble Values of Ki Hadjar Dewantara's Character Education	Parental participation includes: parent associations, open communication between parents and teachers, home visits, scheduling parents to teach in the classroom, and supporting children at home.
3	Dewi & Widyasari, 2022	Parental Involvement in Developing the Independence Character of Young Children	To develop a child's independence, parents need to act as companions by establishing positive communication and providing advice. They also function as motivators by rewarding the child's achievements. Additionally, parents can become facilitators by helping the child practice independence and providing the necessary learning tools for educational activities.
4	Retnaningtya & Paramitha, 2015	Parental Involvement in Education at TKAnak Ceria	Five subjects showed variation in levels of engagement, but none were involved at the policy level. On the contrary, they demonstrate collaboration and connection. Furthermore, parents' self-confidence as well as the availability of time and energy also play an important role in that involvement.

5	Nopiyanti, Husin, & Empowerment, 2021	Parental Involvement in Children's Education in Playgroups	Parents play an important role in children's education through three types of involvement: protection, support, and supervision. However, collaboration with schools is still lacking, especially in volunteer activities and prayer habits. Therefore, parents need to increase their awareness and concern to support their children's learning process and collaborate through volunteer activities and parenting programs.
6	Anjani & Mashudi, 2024	Parental Involvement in Early Childhood Education: Perspectives of Parents and Teachers	Parents of students believe that families can function as an effective team in facing life's challenges. They use protective factors to overcome difficult situations and risks, and actively support and provide facilities for the life and growth of their children.
7	Novrinda, Kurniah, & Yulidesni, 2017	The role of parents in early childhood education viewed from the educational background	The role of parents in early childhood education at RA Al-Huda shows positive results based on their educational background. The participation of parents with elementary school education is 70%, junior high school graduates 72.5%, high school graduates 75%, and college graduates 77.5%. This shows that the higher the level of education of the parents, the better their role in supporting their children's education.

Discussion

Parental involvement in children's education plays a crucial role in creating a supportive and positive learning environment. With various forms of participation, parents not only play a role in their child's academic success but also contribute to the formation of good character and values. To achieve a maximum level of engagement, awareness and effort from both parties, parents and schools, are needed to create a comfortable and collaborative atmosphere. Overall, the role of parents in developing children's independence is very multifaceted. By establishing positive communication, providing motivation, and functioning as facilitators, parents can create an environment

that supports the development of children's independence. Variations in the level of involvement indicate that collaboration remains important even if it is not at the policy level, while parental self-confidence and resource availability are determining factors in that involvement.

Parental involvement in children's education through protection, support, and supervision is crucial for academic success and personal development. Although challenges in collaboration with schools still exist, increased awareness and parental participation in school activities can strengthen that relationship. Moreover, the belief of parents that the family can function as an effective team adds a positive dimension to supporting the child's learning process. By utilizing protective factors and providing the necessary facilities, parents can help their children face life's challenges more effectively.

This research shows that the role of parents in early childhood education is greatly influenced by their educational background. An increase in the parents' level of education is directly related to an increase in their participation in supporting their children's education. Therefore, it is important for parents to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills in order to contribute maximally to the development of their children. Further research is also recommended to explore other factors that may influence parental involvement in children's education.

CONCLUSION

Parental involvement in children's education plays a very important role in creating a positive and supportive learning environment. Through various forms of participation, parents not only contribute to their child's academic success but also to the formation of good character and values. To achieve optimal engagement, awareness and collaborative efforts from both parents and schools are needed to create a comfortable atmosphere. The role of parents in developing children's independence is multifaceted, including positive communication, motivation, and functioning as facilitators. Variations in the level of involvement indicate that collaboration remains important, even if it is not always at the policy level. Self-confidence and the availability of parental resources are also determining factors in their involvement.

The educational background of parents has been proven to affect their level of participation. The increase in parental education is directly related to the increase in support for children's education. Therefore, it is important for parents to continuously enhance their knowledge and skills in order to provide maximum contributions to their children's development. Further research is recommended to explore other factors that may influence parental involvement in children's education.

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