

## ANALYSIS OF PARENTS' STRATEGIES IN BUILDING THE CHARACTER OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS

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### Abstract

This study aims to analyze parents' strategies in shaping the character of elementary school students in Kayen Village, Ngodong Sub-district. The researchers used a descriptive qualitative design. This study involved 12 parents with children aged 7-12 years, selected through a simple random sampling technique. Data collection was conducted through an online questionnaire with 10 open-ended questions, covering aspects of parent-child interaction, values taught, rules applied, supervision of children's socialization, and provision of motivation and praise. Data were analyzed using descriptive qualitative techniques, including calculating and classifying respondents' answers and interpreting results. The results showed that 40% of parents focus on teaching discipline and responsibility, 30% teach moral and ethical values, 20% instil particular values, and 10% overcome children's mistakes and negative behaviour. Strategies implemented at home include applying moral and ethical values (24%), teaching discipline and responsibility (36%), wise use of technology and social media (20%), monitoring children's social interactions (16%), and giving praise and rewards (4%). In conclusion, parents implemented various strategies to shape their children's character, emphasizing discipline, responsibility, and moral and ethical values. However, strategies must be refined to address the challenges identified and maximize future character-building effectiveness.

**Keywords:** *Parents' Strategies, Elementary School, Children's Character*

### Introduction

In contemporary education, the significance of character development among elementary school students has gained increasing attention due to the rising prevalence of behavioural issues observed in school environments. Character education instills honesty, responsibility, and empathy and is pivotal in shaping students' future behaviour and academic success. However, recent studies reveal that character issues, including dishonesty, bullying, and disrespect, are becoming more common among young students (Smith et al., 2021). These problems often reflect deficiencies in the approaches to cultivating positive character traits at home and in educational settings. To address these challenges, it is crucial to examine the role of parental strategies in fostering good character among elementary school students.

Students' complexities of character issues necessitate a multi-dimensional approach for effective resolution. Behavioural problems in elementary school students often manifest due to various factors, including inadequate guidance and inconsistent disciplinary practices at home. Research by Johnson and Lee (2022) highlights that gaps influence a significant proportion of elementary students displaying problematic behaviours in parental supervision and support. For instance, children exhibiting behavioural problems such as aggression or dishonesty often come from environments where parental guidance is either inconsistent or absent. In addressing these issues, experts stress the importance of comprehensive interventions encompassing individual and systemic approaches.

To tackle behavioural issues in students, solutions must collectively address the child, the family, and the school environment. At the child's level, interventions such as counseling and mentorship programs are designed to address and modify negative behaviours. These approaches often include structured systems of rewards and support, like the Positive Behavioural Interventions and Supports (PBIS) framework, which has been shown to improve behavioural outcomes in schools (White & Williams, 2023). Such frameworks emphasize the need for structured reinforcement and support to foster desirable behaviours among students.

Family-based solutions are equally critical in addressing character development. The role of the family extends beyond mere supervision; it involves active participation in character education through modelling positive behaviour and maintaining consistent disciplinary practices. Research supports this view, indicating that children exposed to consistent and positive parental behaviour are likelier to develop similar traits (Brown & Davis, 2024). Family interventions, such as parenting workshops and counseling, can enhance parental practices and child behaviour, underscoring the importance of a supportive home environment in character development.

School-based solutions also play a crucial role in reinforcing character education. Schools integrating character education into their curricula and collaborating with parents to create a supportive learning environment have demonstrated positive student behaviour outcomes. Educational strategies that involve training teachers on effective character-building techniques and fostering a school culture that promotes respect and responsibility are essential. Research conducted by Green and Clark (2022) suggests that schools with robust character education programs and parental involvement see significant improvements in student behaviour and academic performance.

The role of parents in shaping their children's character cannot be overstated. Parents become the first school for children (Apriyanti, 2021) (Mitasari & Apriyanti, 2021). Parents significantly influence their children's behaviour through involvement in their educational and social activities, modelling ethical behaviour, and implementing consistent disciplinary practices. The impact of parental involvement on character development is well-documented, with studies indicating that children whose parents are actively engaged in their lives demonstrate better behaviour and academic outcomes (Miller & Johnson, 2024).

Modelling behaviour is a potent tool in character education. Children often emulate their parents' actions, making it essential for parents to model the values they wish to instill in their children. According to Anderson and Lee (2023), children learn by example, and parents who consistently demonstrate honesty, kindness, and responsibility are powerful models for their children. This behaviour modelling helps reinforce the values parents seek to instil, contributing to the development of positive character traits in their children. Disciplinary practices are another critical component of character development. Consistent and fair disciplinary practices help children understand the consequences of their actions and develop self-discipline. Research by Williams and Brown (2024) shows that children who experience clear and consistent rules, combined with appropriate reinforcement and consequences, are better equipped to internalize positive behaviour.

In conclusion, the strategies employed by parents in shaping their children's character are vital to the overall development of elementary school students. By examining the interplay between parental involvement, modelling of behaviour, and disciplinary practices, this research aims to explore how these strategies can be optimized to foster positive character traits in children. Integrating home and school efforts in character education is essential for creating a supportive environment that promotes the development of strong, positive character traits among students.

## **Method**

This research is descriptive qualitative. Data was collected using an online questionnaire through Google Forms to all parents of elementary school students in Ngodong, Kayen village as subjects. The researcher conducted this research in July 2024. There were 10 open-ended questions in the questionnaire. This research was conducted on 12 parents with children aged 7-12. The parents selected as subjects have similarities in education, not further education. Some people do not continue their education to the college level because of economic limitations, environmental influences, or their own choices. The subjects were selected using a

simple random sampling technique. The questionnaire had five main questions: interaction between parents and children, what values parents teach, what rules are taught, supervising children’s socialization, and giving motivation and praise to children. Once the data were collected, the following procedures were used to analyze them: exchanging and counting the respondents’ answers in Google Forms, classifying the answers, discussing the results, and drawing conclusions.

## Findings

### The Role of Parents in Shaping Student Character

Based on the questionnaire results, parents’ role in shaping student character can be seen in various aspects, such as moral values, ethics, discipline, and responsibility. The results of the questionnaire are summarized below:

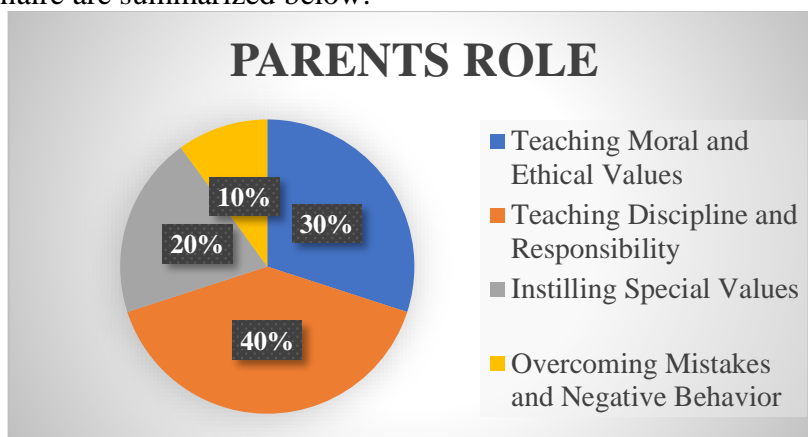


Figure 1: Parents’ Role

As described in Diagram 1, 40% of parents teach discipline and responsibility to their children. Moral and ethical values are taught by 30% of parents, while 20% instil particular values. The remaining 10% of parents focus on addressing their children’s mistakes and negative behaviours.

### Strategies Implemented at Home

Strategies employed by parents at home to shape their children’s character include various methods, such as applying moral values, teaching discipline, wise use of technology, and monitoring children’s socialization. The results of the questionnaire related to these strategies are summarized below:

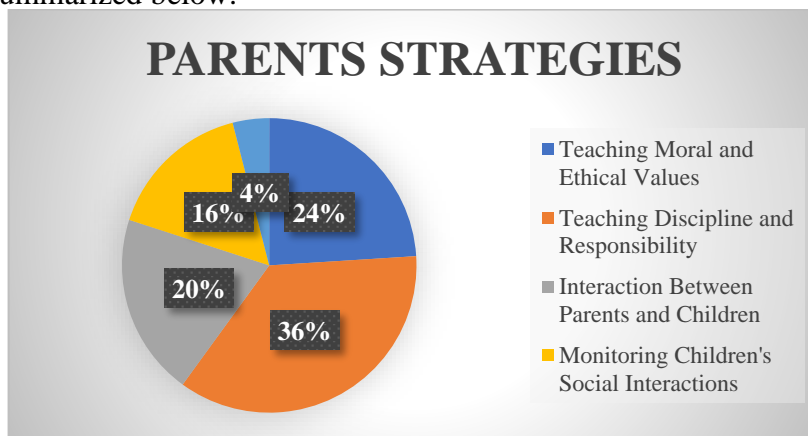


Figure 2: Parents Strategies

In Diagram 2, 36% of parents implemented teaching discipline and responsibility at home. 24% of parents focus on applying moral and ethical values, while 20% utilize technology

and social media wisely. A total of 16% of parents supervise their children's socialization, and 4% give praise and rewards as motivation.

## **Discussions**

### **The Role of Parents in Shaping Student Character**

Parents' role in shaping students' character is foundational, as they are the primary influencers in their children's lives from a young age. Beyond just meeting the physical needs of their children, parents are tasked with the vital responsibility of imparting moral and ethical values that will guide their children throughout their lives. This involves instilling fundamental values such as politeness, commitment, honesty, and discipline, all essential to developing a well-rounded character. Parents play an active role by exemplifying these values in their daily interactions, teaching their children through lived examples. For instance, simple actions like encouraging children to greet people they encounter or demonstrating good manners can significantly impact how children perceive and practice respect towards others. This practice is crucial in embedding the foundational elements of character development.

Moreover, religious practices and teachings are also instrumental in this process. Parents often engage their children in religious activities such as communal prayers, fulfilling spiritual obligations and reinforcing values like discipline and responsibility. These practices help children internalize moral principles and incorporate them into their daily lives, thus strengthening their character. The involvement in religious practices also ensures that children are consistently reminded of the importance of spirituality and politeness towards others.

Another critical aspect of parental influence is the teaching of discipline and responsibility. By establishing clear and consistent rules at home, parents set expectations and boundaries that children learn to respect. This not only helps in instilling a sense of responsibility but also in fostering discipline. Assigning regular chores and consistently enforcing rules enables children to understand the importance of following through on commitments and adhering to set guidelines. Through these practices, parents help their children develop a strong sense of responsibility and discipline, which are critical components of a well-rounded character. In summary, the role of parents in character formation is multifaceted, encompassing the teaching of fundamental values, spiritual guidance, and the enforcement of discipline and responsibility. Through consistent and active involvement, parents lay the foundation for their children's moral and ethical development, shaping them into responsible and respectful individuals.

Setting a structured daily routine that balances study, play, and rest is an effective way for parents to instil discipline in their children. Incorporating tasks like completing schoolwork on time and assigning household chores, such as washing dishes after meals, helps children learn time management and develop a sense of responsibility. By following a consistent routine, children come to appreciate the value of time and the importance of fulfilling their duties regularly.

Another crucial aspect of parenting is addressing children's mistakes and undesirable behaviours with care. When children err, parents should provide guidance and advice thoughtfully, helping them understand their mistakes without feeling judged or pressured. This approach, which focuses on giving understanding rather than criticism, aids children in learning from their errors and developing better decision-making skills in the future.

Good communication between parents and children is vital to ensure children feel supported and understood, especially when they encounter challenges or make mistakes. Through open dialogue, children are more likely to express their concerns and seek advice, creating a supportive environment that fosters trust and mutual respect. This open communication allows parents to listen to their children's perspectives and offer constructive advice, which is crucial for their emotional and psychological development.

In addition to communication, parents must supervise their children's social interactions to ensure positive influences surround them. This includes monitoring their friendships and setting clear boundaries regarding technology and social media use. Parents can guide parents towards making healthy choices and avoiding negative influences by staying vigilant about their children's associations and daily behaviour.

In summary, the role of parents in shaping their children's discipline, communication, and social behaviour is multifaceted. By establishing structured routines, addressing mistakes with understanding, maintaining open communication, and supervising social interactions, parents lay a strong foundation for their children's overall development.

Guiding children on the appropriate use of technology is a crucial aspect of parenting, as it helps ensure they do not engage in harmful or risky online behaviours. Parents must actively monitor their children's online activities to ensure that they use technology productively and responsibly. This involves setting boundaries on the types of content they consume and limiting their time spent on social media. Such measures help children understand the importance of using technology wisely and prevent exposure to inappropriate or harmful content.

Another critical aspect of character development is the use of praise and rewards. Recognizing and appreciating a child's efforts and achievements can significantly boost their self-confidence and motivation. Praise can take many forms, from verbal encouragement to small rewards acknowledging the child's good behaviour. By consistently reinforcing positive actions through praise, parents can strengthen the emotional bond with their child and create a nurturing environment that encourages the development of good character traits.

Giving praise reinforces desirable behaviour and plays a vital role in fostering a supportive atmosphere where children feel valued and appreciated. This positive reinforcement encourages them to continue behaving well and builds their self-esteem, making them more likely to engage in constructive activities and interactions. By consistently acknowledging and rewarding good behaviour, parents help children develop a strong sense of self-worth and a commitment to ethical and responsible conduct.

In summary, parents' role in shaping their children's character is multifaceted and extends beyond merely providing for their basic needs. It involves setting clear guidelines, offering appropriate guidance on technology use, monitoring social interactions, and consistently praising and rewarding positive behaviour. Through these efforts, parents can help their children grow into individuals of integrity, responsibility, and resilience, well-prepared to navigate life's challenges with confidence and moral clarity.

### **Strategies Implemented at Home**

Parents employ a blend of methods at home to shape their children's character positively. These methods include instilling moral and ethical values, teaching discipline and responsibility, managing technology use wisely, offering social guidance, and giving praise and rewards. Each technique is crucial in nurturing responsible and well-rounded individuals.

Instilling moral and ethical values involves various approaches at home. Parents serve as role models by demonstrating these values in daily life, such as displaying courteous behaviour and teaching respect. This hands-on approach helps children understand the practical application of abstract values, making them more tangible and relatable. Additionally, parents engage in conversations with their children about the significance of these values, guiding them on appropriate behaviour and providing advice when mistakes occur. This reinforces the values and encourages children to internalize them, integrating these principles into their decision-making processes.

Teaching discipline and responsibility often includes setting clear and consistent rules at home. Establishing a balanced daily routine for learning, play, and rest helps children grasp the importance of time management and responsibility. Parents instil discipline by assigning

regular chores and maintaining firm boundaries, emphasizing the value of consistency and meeting expectations.

In conclusion, the holistic approach parents take in implementing these strategies at home significantly impacts the development of their children's character. By modelling behaviour, engaging in meaningful discussions, establishing structured routines, and providing positive reinforcement, parents play a vital role in shaping their children into ethical, disciplined, and responsible individuals equipped to navigate life's complexities.

Parents play a vital role in teaching responsibility and overseeing their children's use of technology and social interactions. Parents effectively instil a sense of responsibility in their children by assigning simple household tasks like making the bed or washing dishes. These chores teach children the value of time and the importance of fulfilling daily duties, gradually instilling an appreciation for contributing to household responsibilities.

Another crucial aspect of parenting is guiding children in responsible technology usage. Parents educate their children on using technology responsibly by setting screen time limits and monitoring online activities to ensure their exposure to safe content. Encouraging educational apps and websites that promote character development transforms technology into a positive developmental tool, empowering children to make informed decisions about their online conduct.

Supervising children's social interactions is equally important. Parents monitor their children's friendships to ensure positive influences surround them and establish clear social boundaries, guiding them towards healthy relationships. This oversight plays a significant role in shaping a child's character and fostering solid social skills.

In conclusion, parents actively contribute to their children's character development by assigning responsibilities, guiding technology use, and supervising social interactions. These strategies help children mature into responsible, disciplined, and socially conscious individuals, better equipped to navigate life's challenges.

Parents have a crucial role in guiding their children towards positive character development by emphasizing the importance of choosing good friends and understanding the impact of negative influences. This guidance helps children make intelligent decisions within their social circles, steering clear of influences that could hinder their character growth. Offering praise and rewards is a critical element of this parenting approach, serving as tools to enhance self-confidence and reinforce positive behaviour. These rewards, whether through verbal praise, small gifts, or other forms of support, express gratitude for the child's efforts and accomplishments, strengthening the emotional connection between parent and child and fostering a nurturing environment for character development.

Nevertheless, implementing these character-building techniques often presents challenges, like managing children's time, controlling social media usage, and addressing negative behaviours. Parents need to approach these hurdles thoughtfully and consistently to ensure the efficacy of their methods. Effective communication and adaptability are essential in overcoming these obstacles, enabling parents to adjust their approaches to meet the current needs and circumstances.

In conclusion, parents employ various strategies to shape their children's character, including imparting moral values, teaching discipline and accountability, guiding technology use, monitoring relationships, and offering praise and rewards. By addressing challenges with a considerate approach, parents can successfully apply these strategies, ensuring that their children develop into individuals of integrity and responsibility, equipped to navigate life's obstacles.

## **Conclusion**

Based on the study's results, it can be concluded that the role of parents in shaping the character of elementary school students is crucial and multidimensional. Parents are responsible for fulfilling children's physical needs and instilling moral and ethical values that will shape children's personalities into adulthood. Parents' strategies at home include various methods, such as teaching discipline and responsibility, applying moral and ethical values, using technology and social media wisely, monitoring children's social interactions, and giving praise and rewards. This approach involves setting a direct example, engaging in religious activities, applying clear and consistent rules, and building good communication with children.

Although parents face various challenges in implementing character-building strategies, such as time management, reducing social media use, and addressing negative behaviours, they continue to address these thoughtfully and consistently. Supervising their children's use of technology and selecting friends to hang out with are also essential aspects of the strategies implemented. Overall, this study shows that through various complementary strategies and the right approach, parents play a vital role in ensuring their children grow up to be individuals of integrity responsibility and prepared to face life's challenges. By facing challenges wisely, parents can ensure that character-building strategies are implemented effectively and children can develop well.

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