Character Education's Impact On Student Personality: Curriculum And School Practices Review

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Abstract

The development of a student's personality is a crucial aspect of their educational journey, laying the foundation for their future success and well-being. Character education has been recognized as a vital component of this process, aiming to cultivate values, attitudes, and behaviors essential for personal and social growth. This review examines the role of character

education in shaping student personality, focusing on both curriculum and school practices. The study discusses theoretical frameworks underpinning character education, including the significance of values, moral development, and social-emotional learning. It explores curriculum design and implementation, highlighting challenges and opportunities in integrating character education into existing curricula. Additionally, the review investigates the role of school practices, emphasizing the involvement of teachers, parents, and the broader school community. Strategies such as character-based lesson plans, extracurricular activities, and community service projects are examined. Findings suggest that character education significantly influences student personality development, particularly in fostering values, empathy, and social responsibility. The study underscores the importance of a collaborative approach among educators, parents, and the school community for effective implementation. Implications include the need for schools to prioritize character education in their curricula and practices. The study concludes by emphasizing the potential of character education to positively impact student personality and overall well-being, advocating for continued research and development to inform best practices in this field.

Keywords: *Character Education, Student, personality, curriculum*

Character encompasses the amalgamation of traits that define an individual, entwining both physical attributes and innate human tendencies that shape interactions with others. Education serves as a conduit for molding behavior, with the primary goal of guiding individuals toward mature moral and attitudinal development. Heraclitus, as cited in Ariatama et al., famously proclaimed, "Character is destiny," underscoring the profound impact character exerts on future outcomes. Essentially, one's destiny is intricately woven with the fabric of their character. Building upon this notion, character education emerges as a pivotal step in this interpretative journey, aimed at scrutinizing and comprehending behavior through established societal norms.[1]

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[1]   Ariatama, S., Prayoga, A., Sopha, F. Z. A., Anggraini, M. S., & Handayani, W. (2022). Penanaman Pendidikan Karakter Dalam Mengembangkan Warga Negara Pada Era Generasi Milenial. *De Cive : Jurnal Penelitian Pendidikan Pancasila Dan Kewarganegaraan*, 2(2), 52–60. https://doi.org/10.56393/decive.v2i2.513

Despite its recognized importance, the impact of character education on student personality development has not been sufficiently explored.[2] Previous research has primarily focused on cognitive and academic outcomes, often overlooking the integral role of character education in fostering moral and social competencies. There is a notable gap in understanding how character education is effectively integrated into school curricula and practices, and how it can be optimized to address contemporary challenges faced by students, especially in the context of rapid technological and societal changes.

This research aims to fill this gap by examining the role of character education in shaping student personality from the dual perspectives of curriculum and school practice. [3] Specifically, it seeks to complement, refine, and challenge existing findings by providing a comprehensive review of both theoretical and practical dimensions of character education. By doing so, the study aims to offer a nuanced understanding of how character education can be effectively implemented to foster positive personality traits and moral development.

The central hypothesis of this research is that character education significantly contributes to the development of student personality, enhancing values, empathy, and social responsibility. It posits that a well-structured character education curriculum, supported by active school practices and community involvement, can lead to substantial improvements in students' moral and social development. This hypothesis will be tested through an extensive review of existing literature, focusing on the integration of character education into school curricula and the practical strategies employed by schools.

In the intricate tapestry of character formation, genetics and environmental factors share the stage with a crucial player: an

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[2]   Suprayitno, A., & Wahyudi, W. (2022). *Pendidikan Karakter Di Era Milenial.* Deepublish.
[3]   Lickona, T. (2022). Character Matters (Persoalan Karakter): Bagaimana Membantu Anak Mengembangkan Penilaian Yang Baik, Integritas, Dan Kebajikan Penting Lainnya. Bumi Aksara.

individual's self-perception and their interactions within the social milieu, spanning from familial dynamics to the broader community ethos. This multifaceted perspective finds resonance in the insights of Ariatama et al., who argue that in today's interconnected global landscape, individuals grapple with the task of delineating and prioritizing their character values, deeply intertwined with their unique personalities.

Echoing this sentiment, Dradjat points to the swift march of technology as a significant catalyst in the erosion of students' values and morals. This phenomenon is particularly poignant within the millennial cohort, a demographic delineated and scrutinized by American historians William Strauss and Neil Howe, known as Generation Y. Their meticulous examination of this cohort forecasts the burgeoning influence of technology in shaping not just daily routines but also core societal norms. [4]

Amidst the backdrop of globalization, technology emerges as a double-edged sword, indispensable for maintaining competitiveness yet wielding a profound impact on moral compasses. The socio-cultural milieu, therefore, emerges as a crucible in which the moral fabric of the millennial generation faces tests and trials, potentially leading to a decline in moral rectitude.[5]

In response to these pressing concerns, the author undertook a comprehensive literature review, delving into the efficacy of character education in molding the personalities of children within the millennial era. This inquiry seeks not only to understand the challenges besetting the current generation but also to explore proactive measures that harness character education as a potent tool for navigating the complexities of contemporary societal landscapes.

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[4]   Rofiq, M., Anam, K., & Nursikin, M. (2022). Strategi Pengembangan Pendidikan Nilai Pada Generasi Milenial. *AKSELERASI: Jurnal Ilmiah Nasional*, *4*(2), 1–9. https://doi.org/10.54783/jin.v4i2.542

[5]   Simalungun, M. U., Nainggolan, R., Sitinjak, W., Damanik, J., Hutapea, N., Ambarita, L. M., Naldo, R. A. C., Sitinjak, H., Purba, M. S., Ukur, J., Hermes, C. D., Gultom, S., & Sitinjak, I. Y. (2022). Implementasi Pendidikan Karakter Mahasiswa di Lingkungan Universitas dan di Masyarakat. *Community Development Journal : Jurnal Pengabdian Masyarakat*, *3*(3), 1804–1808. https://doi.org/10.31004/cdj.v3i3.8682

METHOD

The methodology utilized in this article is a literature review. This entails the implementation of systematic, explicit, and reproducible research methods, which involve the identification, evaluation, and synthesis of research findings and theoretical endeavors. The stages of this research include the identification of articles that match the specified title keywords, subsequent analysis of research journals, and collection of data and information from various sources, such as books, journals, and notes. Once this data has been obtained from a number of articles from reputable journals, which have been indexed by Google Scholar in relation to the specified search terms of "education, character, and personalities," the next step is to analyze and synthesize the data.[6]
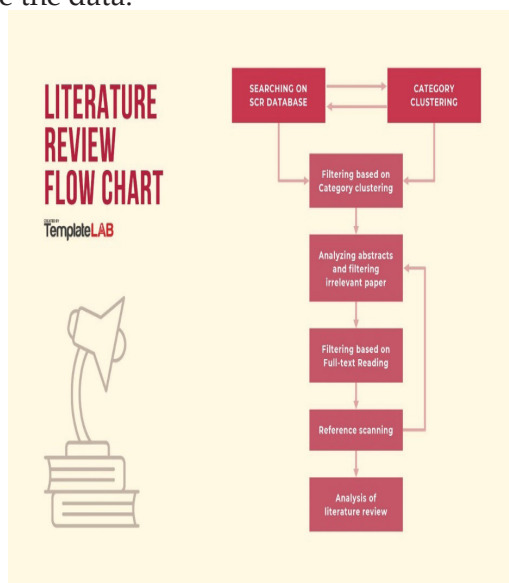

Figure 1. Literature Review Method

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[6] Safitri, A., Kabiba, K., Nasir, N., & Nurlina, N. (2020). Manajemen Pembelajaran bagi Anak Usia Dini dalam Meningkatkan Kualitas Pembelajaran. *Jurnal Obsesi : Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini*, *5*(2), 1209–1220. https://doi.org/10.31004/obsesi.v5i2.811

The selection of keywords—"education," "character," and "personalities"—is critical to the research objectives. The keyword "education" is chosen to encompass all educational practices and frameworks within schools. "Character" is selected to focus on the specific aspect of education that pertains to moral and ethical development. "Personalities" is included to ensure that the research captures the broader implications of character education on student development. These keywords are relevant as they directly align with the research aim to explore how educational practices and curricula influence student personality development.

Besides Google Scholar, other databases will be used to ensure wider coverage and comprehensive data collection such as PubMed for accessing a wide range of research in the fields of psychology and behavioral sciences. JSTOR and PsycINFO also used in this method. Using multiple databases ensures that the literature review encompasses diverse perspectives and findings from various disciplines related to education and character development.

The importance of using reputable and peer-reviewed journals cannot be overstated. Peer-reviewed journals ensure the quality and credibility of the research data collected. Articles published in these journals have undergone rigorous review by experts in the field, which helps to verify the validity and reliability of the findings. This is crucial for constructing a robust and trustworthy literature review, as it minimizes the risk of bias and enhances the accuracy of the conclusions drawn.

RESULT & DISCUSSION

The Millennial Generation

The millennial generation, alternatively dubbed as Generation Y by the scholarly framework of William Strauss and Neil Howe, exhibits a nuanced understanding of societal dynamics. Seen as vital contributors to national and state resilience, this cohort presents a dual-edged dynamic. On one hand, they excel in fostering collaborative endeavors and nurturing robust interpersonal bonds.

On the other hand, their embrace of modernity often translates into a preference for instant gratification, coupled with a reluctance to engage in processes requiring prolonged effort. This inclination towards immediacy is significantly fueled by the omnipresence of technology, a phenomenon highlighted by Sormin & Dewias pivotal in shaping societal life stages. [7]

Moreover, the impact of parental guidance on child development cannot be overstated. The family environment serves as a crucible wherein children navigate complex emotions, ranging from guilt when exposed to violence or transgressions, to the potential pitfalls of overindulgence when provided with excessive care and attention. Therefore, parents play a pivotal role in fostering a balanced upbringing, one that blends nurturing care with instructive guidance, as emphasized by Luthfiyah et al.[8]

In this intricate dance of personality formation, parents emerge as central orchestrators. Collaborating with educators, they pave the way for children to cultivate self-reliance amidst the ever-evolving landscape of contemporary childhood. By fostering environments conducive to autonomy and resilience, parents equip their children with the tools necessary to navigate the multifaceted challenges and opportunities inherent in the modern world.

Modern era with technology

The modern era has witnessed a notable shift in children's behavior patterns, characterized by a perceived inability to control their actions and heightened levels of selfishness. This phenomenon can be attributed, in part, to the accelerated pace of technological advancement, which has introduced a plethora of gaming options accessible through mobile devices like Android.

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[7] Sormin, Y., & Dewi, D. A. (2022). "Menginternalisasi Nilai-Nilai Pancasila Pada Generasi Milenial Untuk Menumpas Gerakan Intoleransi Menuju Indonesia Maju." 9885–9892.,. *Jurnal Pendidikan Tambusai, 6(2),*. https://doi.org/10.31004/jptam.v6i2.3986.

[8] Luthfiyah, R., Hidayat, A., & Choirunniam, M. (2020). Implementasi Pendidikan Karakter pada Generasi Islam Milenial. *TARBAWI, 9*(1), 59–82. https://doi.org/10.36781/tarbawi.v9i1.3109

The advent of such gaming experiences has indirectly influenced the evolution of traditional games. Games incorporating elements reminiscent of the past have, in some cases, been able to foster a sense of engagement and a willingness to contribute to their surrounding environment, whereas games lacking such elements have been shown to lack this ability.

The advent of a multitude of adverse or beneficial effects capable of modifying attitudes in individuals is an unanticipated consequence of technological advancement that cannot be planned. Humans endowed with reason and intellect are confronted with a plethora of meaningful choices in accordance with their desired objectives. In light of the aforementioned concerns, character education represents a primary hope guiding individuals, and it is aspired that individuals will be able to instill positive value systems into their lives.

The advancement of technology cannot be halted, but the cultivation of character in children should not be eliminated. Consequently, it is vital to instill personality traits and character values in individuals at an early age. The state bears responsibility for upholding noble values as a reflection of national character. Through formal educational institutions, educators have an obligation to foster character development in their students with the aim of fostering independent individuals and cultivating a strong moral compass.[9]

Character Education

Developed countries often encounter difficulties in maintaining national character, with the influence of foreign culture (in this case, the developed countries) having the effect of eroding the values that the country itself possesses. The current generation is confronted with the challenge of a lack of embeddedness and with the demand of technological advances that teach this generation to assume that

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[9] Pattiasina, P. J., Aswita, D., Fuadi, T. M., Noviyanti, A., & Pratiwi, E. Y. R. (2022). "Paradigma Baru Pendidikan Karakter Era Inovasi Disrptif Dan Implementasi Praktisnya Di Era Society 5.0." *Jurnal Pendidikan Dan Konseling (JPDK), 4(5), 2446–2454.2.* https://doi.org/ https://doi.org/10.31004/jpdk.v4i5.6984

the culture and noble values of their country are less sophisticated than they actually are. Furthermore, the accessibility and influence of developed countries is considerable, leading to the westernization of new generation.

It is imperative that individuals recognize their identity through cultural practice and cultural application. In the absence of awareness, it is all too easy to be influenced by external cultures (those of developed countries) that are already enmeshed in the globalized landscape. In this context, there is a plethora of information that is deviant and impervious to the rapid flow of globalization. Consequently, cultural values become a belief system that is prioritized in education. [10]

As posited by L. Getuk, the cultivation of self-identity and an awareness of one's cultural roots can serve to improve the quality of younger individuals from various life categories and can mitigate cultural issues and the manifestation of national characteristics. Additionally, Rahman posited that character education represents an effort to shape the next generation of a nation.[11] The generation in question is that of children who have been instilled with good rules and virtuous values.

Consequently, an approach or method is required to rebuild both internal and external motivation for children. Character education has been implemented at all levels of education, including elementary, junior high, high school, and university environments. The expectation placed on students, namely that they should be responsive and have good intellectual habits and good character traits aligned with the objectives of character education, is considerable. Asyanti also posits that character education in higher education is necessary to reinforce the character formed in previous school years.[12] The character education in schools can be defined as the

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[10] Anggriani, N. M. (2022). *"Pendidikan Karakter Berlandaskan Nilai-Nilai Budaya Pada Generasi Millenial,."* https://doi.org/https://doi.org/https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.31237/osf.io/qs2bm

[11] Rahman, F. (2022). Nilai-Nilai Pendidikan Karakter Dalam Program Interprofessional Education (IPE). *Jurnal Suluh Pendidikan, 10*(1), 7–12. https://doi.org/10.36655/jsp.v10i1.639

[12] Heri Rahmatsyah Putra, & Armi, F. R. (2022). Komunikasi Guru Pendidikan Agama Dalam Membentuk Karakter Siswa. *AT-TA'DIB: JURNAL ILMIAH PRODI PENDIDIKAN AGAMA ISLAM*, 136–147. https://doi.org/10.47498/tadib.v13i2.634

comprehension, care, and practice of virtue. Consequently, education is based on cultivating, understanding, and caring for these values.

The overarching aim of character education within the framework of national culture is to imbue students with a deep understanding and appreciation of cultural values and national identity. Central to this endeavor is the cultivation of a sense of personal agency, wherein students are encouraged to assume accountability for the decisions they make, thus fostering a robust sense of self-assurance. Through this holistic approach, students not only enhance their ability to actively engage in societal endeavors but also develop a heightened awareness of their roles as integral members of the social fabric.

Prior research underscores the integral role of cultural and national character values in shaping educational paradigms. While these values may not always be explicitly addressed as standalone subjects, they permeate various facets of the educational landscape, from curricular content to the establishment of school ethos. As a result, educators and educational institutions harness the rich tapestry of national culture and character education, weaving these values seamlessly into curriculum frameworks and learning materials to enrich the educational experience of students.

Pancasila and National values

Pancasila serves as the fundamental tenet of the Indonesian state. It serves as a guidepost for Indonesian citizens to navigate the intricacies of nation and state life. In the context of the contemporary millennial era, the millennial generation bears a pivotal role in discerning and integrating the myriad cultural influences that shape the Indonesian landscape. The millennial generation acts as a cultural filter, with a goal of maintaining the values of Pancasila while embracing the positive influences of external cultures. This approach ensures that the younger generation is not influenced by negative external forces that may have a detrimental impact on the future of the Indonesian nation. The millennial generation is viewed as the

nation's future leaders and is therefore held to a higher standard of cultural stewardship.

Pancasila serves as the foundation for the regulations that apply in Indonesia. One of Pancasila's roles in Indonesian society is to foster positive values and behaviors that contribute to the growth of nationalist spirit and morals aligned with traditional Indonesian values. Additionally, Pancasila serves as a reference point for the development and dissemination of science and technology, while also acting as a safeguard against negative influences from abroad .[13] As a result of scientific and technological advances and the influence of global culture, the values espoused by Pancasila have begun to lose relevance. In accordance with the views of Anggriani, the proper application of Pancasila values has the potential to serve as a cultural filter for incoming influences.

In addition, Utami posit that the application of Pancasila values in daily life is consistent with respective religious and spiritual beliefs, respecting diversity in religion, ethnicity, and race. Furthermore, these values facilitate assistance to friends in need and prioritize deliberation in decision-making.[14]

As the description found from the results of the thoughts presented related to the value of Pancasila with the millennial generation, it is necessary to implement Pancasila education since self. By planting and cultivating the values of Pancasila within each millennial generation in life, Pancasila as the basis of the state becomes a character that has a positive influence on the progress and development of the nation.

The cultivation of character in young individuals demands a holistic approach, encompassing moral reasoning and experiential learning in real-world contexts. Within educational settings, character education is intricately woven into curriculum frameworks, aiming

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[13] Rofiq, M., Anam, K., & Nursikin, M. (2022). Strategi Pengembangan Pendidikan Nilai Pada Generasi Milenial. *AKSELERASI: Jurnal Ilmiah Nasional*, 4(2), 1–9. https://doi.org/10.54783/jin.v4i2.542

[14] Utami, Pri. "Implementasi Nilai-Nilai Pancasila Dalam Pembentukan Karakter SDM Milenial Yang Unggul Di SMKN 6 Kota Tangerang Selatan." *Jurnal Abdimas Peradaban* 5, no. 1 (February 29, 2024): 9–13. https://doi.org/10.54783/ap.v5i1.32.

to instill essential values such as religious devotion, discipline, autonomy, and responsibility, thus constructing a foundational hierarchy of virtues. To be truly effective, character education must extend beyond the confines of the classroom, encompassing roles and activities within familial, scholastic, and communal spheres.

Character Educational

Drawing from the research of Mundilart, character education embodies a diverse array of traits that collectively shape an individual's character, albeit not in a uniform manner.[15] Similarly, Pentianasari et al. assert that the success of character education hinges on nurturing noble morals and fostering exemplary personalities among the younger generation.[16] They contend that the formative years of elementary school students are profoundly influenced by familial and environmental dynamics, with digital technologies playing a significant role in shaping personal development trajectories. Moreover, the pivotal roles of parents, educators, and positive peer influences further mold student character.

In light of these insights, it becomes evident that schools and educators occupy pivotal positions in the character development landscape. Guiding students through the process of character education, bolstered by the constructive use of digital media as an educational tool, becomes imperative in nurturing virtuous qualities. Moreover, an analysis of the article underscores the importance of reinvigorating collaborative efforts among the key stakeholders of education: teachers, families, and communities. Leveraging technology in this endeavor holds promise, provided it is harnessed in alignment with noble values. By seamlessly integrating cultural heritage into the educational journey, children not only cultivate a sense of national pride but also forge deeper connections with their

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[15]   Idris, M. A., & Suroto. (2022). Problematika Pembentukan Karakter di Lembaga Pendidikan Dayah. *AT-TA'DIB: JURNAL ILMIAH PRODI PENDIDIKAN AGAMA ISLAM*, 186–200. https://doi.org/10.47498/tadib.v13i2.673

[16]   Pentianasari, S., Amalia, F. D., Martati, B., & Fithri, N. A. (2022). Penguatan Pendidikan Karakter Pada Siswa Sekolah Dasar Melalui Pemanfaatan Literasi Digital. *Jurnal PGSD*, *8*(1), 58–72. https://doi.org/10.32534/jps.v8i1.2958

own identity and values.

Manullang et al. underscore the pivotal role of character education within the educational landscape, highlighting its indispensability in today's national education system.[17] They emphasize the imperative for individuals to prioritize character education, recognizing its significance not only for their own future well-being but also for the betterment of society at large. The authors draw attention to the concerning trend of declining moral values among children, particularly in the face of rapid technological advancements, emphasizing the need for a nuanced understanding of the impact of globalization on current generations.

From the insights gleaned from the authors' assertions, several key lessons emerge. Firstly, there is a pressing need for parents to model appropriate behavior in their daily lives, serving as exemplary figures for their children. Secondly, the home environment assumes paramount importance as the foundational unit for instilling attitudes that will shape the next generation. Children's character development is deeply influenced by their spiritual and social upbringing, and avenues for character education extend beyond formal schooling to include familial and community-based education initiatives.[18]

Furthermore, character education plays a crucial role in promoting ethical leadership and civic engagement. By encouraging critical thinking, moral reasoning, and social responsibility, it empowers students to become active participants in their communities and agents of positive change. They are more inclined to uphold ethical standards, advocate for justice, and contribute to the common good, thus strengthening the fabric of society as a whole.

However, while the benefits of character education are well-established, there is still much to learn about the most effective strategies and approaches for implementation. Continued research

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[17] Lovianna Manullang, Martina Simamora, Kiran Giovany Sitompul, Lisabeth Sitompul, Leo Situmorang, & Damayanti Nababan. (2022). Pembentukan Karakter Generasi Milenial: Upaya Mendidik dan Mendewasakan. *Jurnal Pendidikan Sosial Dan Humaniora*, *1*(4), 61–71. https://doi.org/10.35931/pediaqu.v1i4.33

[18] Dirsa, A., Batubara, A. K. S., Jalal, N. M., Rahmawati, R., Risan, R., Priyantoro, T., Aji, S. P., P., & E. Y. R., & Hasriani, G. *Pendidikan Karakter*, 2022.

and development in this area are essential to inform best practices and optimize outcomes. This includes exploring innovative instructional methods, assessing the impact of different interventions, and identifying factors that influence the effectiveness of character education programs.

Moreover, ongoing research can help address emerging challenges and adapt character education to meet the evolving needs of students in today's rapidly changing world. This includes addressing issues such as the influence of technology on moral development, cultural diversity, and the integration of character education across diverse educational settings.

In conclusion, emphasizing the potential of character education to positively impact student personality and overall well-being highlights its importance in promoting moral and ethical development. Continued research and development in this area are essential to inform best practices, enhance program effectiveness, and address emerging challenges, ultimately empowering students to lead fulfilling and responsible lives.

Parents

Central to the discourse is the pivotal role parents play as the primary architects of their child's character. Before children are exposed to external sources of education, parents serve as their initial educators, guiding them through the formative years of their lives. The family unit acts as a microcosm of societal interactions, with children naturally emulating behaviors observed within their familial environment. As such, the family's influence becomes instrumental in shaping a child's character and personality, often serving as the primary foundation upon which further educational endeavors are built.

Despite the efforts of formal education systems, the authors suggest that schools alone have not been entirely effective in molding children's moral and behavioral development. Therefore, family interactions and values assume greater significance in shaping a child's character. Parents, in particular, hold a pivotal role in this

process, as children frequently mirror their parents' behaviors and attitudes.

In response to these challenges, the authors advocate for the integration of character values into the educational curriculum, particularly through the implementation of an independent curriculum. This approach involves the incorporation of differentiated learning techniques and initiatives such as the Pancasila Student Profile Strengthening Project. By prioritizing character formation alongside academic proficiency, this curriculum aims to nurture creativity and innovation among students, thus upholding the nation's esteemed character values. Leveraging technology and advancements of the millennial era, this initiative seeks to adapt to the evolving educational landscape while preserving the core values essential for national progress.

Emphasizing the potential of character education to positively impact student personality and overall well-being underscores the significance of integrating moral and ethical principles into the educational framework. Character education goes beyond academic instruction, aiming to cultivate virtues such as honesty, empathy, responsibility, and resilience. By instilling these values, character education equips students with essential life skills that contribute to their personal growth, social interactions, and long-term success.

Research has consistently shown that students who receive comprehensive character education demonstrate improved behavior, better decision-making abilities, and greater academic achievement. They are more likely to exhibit prosocial behaviors, such as cooperation, kindness, and respect for others, leading to a more positive school climate and enhanced interpersonal relationships. Moreover, character education fosters emotional intelligence, helping students manage stress, cope with challenges, and develop healthy coping mechanisms.

CONCLUSION

This literature review research yielded results and discussions that answered the formulated problem. The formation of children's personalities in the millennial era is of great importance. This is best achieved through the implementation of effective character education. Character education instills in children a series of moral values that are essential for navigating the complexities of life, including integrity, empathy, honesty, responsibility, and cooperation, among others. The challenges of shaping children's personalities are becoming increasingly complex due to the influence of technology and social media. Therefore, it is imperative that character education be carried out with due consideration of the developments in technology and social media. Furthermore, it is imperative to address environmental issues and advocate for social justice and equality. Additionally, it is crucial to enhance financial literacy and cultivate effective money management skills. Furthermore, it is essential to cultivate effective communication skills to foster positive relationships and promote teamwork. Moreover, it is vital to maintain motivation and enhance productivity by setting realistic goals and creating action plans. character education plays a significant role in shaping student personality, particularly in the development of values, empathy, and social responsibility. The study also highlights the importance of a collaborative approach between teachers, parents, and the school community in implementing character education effectively. The need for schools to prioritize character education in their curriculum and practice. The study concludes by emphasizing the potential of character education to positively impact student personality and overall well-being, and the importance of continued research and development in this area to inform best practices in character education.

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