

GROWING AKHLAQL KARIMAH AS CHARACTER EDUCATION TO THE CHILDREN THROUGH “OMAR AND HANA” CARTOON FILM SERIES

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Abstract

In the millennium era the development of high technology give many negative and positive impacts. One of the negative impact of high-tech is the degradation of moral value because of over using social media as a new trend. People prefer interact with their friends in the social media than friends around them. Character education or called akhlaqul karimah in Islam is very important knowing by children as young generation, so that they will have good personality when they grow up in the future. To grow good attitude or akhlaq, parents or teacher should teach it as early age as possible to the children. They play important roles in this kind of education. The characteristics of children are begin to think symbolically and as good imitators start from two years old. The cartoon film “Omar and Hana” series is a suitable media for children because it has and nice picture to attract their attention and completed with song and nice lyrics related to akhlaq to make them more joyful while watching. It is as one method to make them gain the information and message from it. The characters of this film play good models as good muslims in terms of act, talk, and behave in the daily life. By repeating to play the film to be watched, it will make them memorize and imitate easily. So that, it will grow akhlaqul karimah to the children as character education since early age until they are adult by memorizing and imitating what they have looked from the cartoon film by guidance from parents and teachers.

keywords:Akhlaqul karimah, children, media.

Introduction

In the millennium era education takes an important role in every part of our life. Through science and knowledge we can broaden our mind, make something impossible become possible, and also change the civilization from time to time. A hundred years ago different from nowadays because of the changes of knowledge itself. High technology developed very fast and change our life. It starts from the invention of telephone, lamp, airplane, television, computer, printer, refrigerator, fan, air conditioner, washing machine, and now we can use handphone with global network as our tools to communicate and do anything else only using our fingers.

Technology makes our live easier than before. In the past time we did our journey abroad only by ship and it took a long time, but nowadays we can do a flight with airplane and it takes a short time to our destination. In the past time we could not call someone by seeing their face, but now we can make video calls using android phone, so that we can hear the voice and see the face altogether in the same time. We can do anything through our fingers using mobile phone. In the past time we could know news from the television with black and white colour and only available one channel, but nowadays we can see, hear, and know any news or film using a hi-tech television with global network across nation and also with all the consequence of bad and negative impacts of it.

Furthermore, there are many negative impacts of technology if we cannot manage it, but we as parents or teachers should sort out or minimize that. One of them is the decreased of moral value and a sense of social sensitiveness. It happens to the teenagers and adults who are really like to use social media even to the children. As we know nowadays we can see social media fever and it become a new hobby and habit. Anytime and everywhere we can online and go to our social media. It is really ironic, when children as young generation get contagious this virus. When someone focus on their mobile phone, anything they can do there. They are less to care to the people around them. They prefer to talk with their friends in their social media. Internet network give them unlimited services. They can see, brows, search, or find whatever they want. The degradation of this moral value of children make some parents worry.

Children as young generation and the future of a country should be educated in the early childhood. We as parents or teacher should educate them with positive

values of technology in the millennium era. Therefore, either parents or teacher should be a good model for their children or students because it can give a great impact to the attitude of the children by seeing and analyzing the model without ordered. They should use their mobile phone wisely in every situation. In this case, children will learn how to manage themselves, tools they used, and information they got. Not only that, parents or teacher should educate them with a good character education. It is actually is to make the human resources of this country to be characterized, good mindset, good personality, tough, hardworking, and have conception of nation. It is aimed to make young generation of this country ready to face the future challenge, either internal challenge or external challenge like the condition today.

Moreover, education itself include a very large aspect. There are general knowledge and religion knowledge. As parents, we want to teach our children with both of them. One of the way to do it by choosing a school that facilitate more Islamic lesson. Nowadays, there are many Islamic schools which taught religion knowledge instead of general knowledge only. Most parents in a big city prefer to send their children to the Islamic school, so that they get plus values especially in building the character of the children based on religion.

In order to anticipate the decreasing of moral value, Islamic school offered different style of learning at school. Besides, study general knowledge students also study religion knowledge more. They read Al-Quran, study *hadist* about what prophet Muhammad SAW said and ordered for all muslims, study *aqidah* about attitude and character what muslims should do, study *fiqih* about the way to do something for instance how to take *wudhu* and pray, and they also study Arabic about how to listen, speak, read and write in Arabic language. Religion thought to be able to become a foundation for someone to guide them to the right path and always remember God everywhere and everytime.

In Islam character education become the main point to be educated in early childhood and for all muslims, it is called akhlaqul karimah. As muslims know Rasulullah Muhammad SAW sent by Allah to be a messenger to improve upon the bad attitude of human being at that time and so is nowadays. The first thing that Rasulullah teach before teaching about "*tauhid*" (Allah is the only God). How important akhlaqul karimah in Islam, so that Allah give a special level of a person who has it. Rasulullah

said that, “There is nothing make the scale of someone heavier in the judgement day than good attitude (akhlaqul karimah), and someone who has good attitude will reach a level of fasting and praying (HR. At Thirmidzi). Someone who has akhlaqul karimah stated in his heart to be always do something good, such as respect, love, and never hurt each other. Akhlaq bring someone to the higher level in Islam.

Furthermore, let us see and focus to the positive impacts of high technology. For instance, we can open our eyes through the world by our mobile phone or cable TV network. There are so many educated programs especially for children. It can be a tool to educate them to learn something new and positive.

However, it needs parents or teachers’ participation to guide, teach and facilitate them with a suitable and useful media. These medias could motivate the children to imitate and do something good. As we know children like to sing, play, listen a story, or watch a cartoon film. In conclusion children like to do anything which is interesting.

Moreover, talking about cartoon film that every children like, there is an Islamic cartoon film showed a good picture with nice characters which is always teach good characters based on Islamic values. This cartoon film also full of music, so that children like to imitate lyrics of the songs. The title of this cartoon film series is “Omar and Hana”. This cartoon film series let the children know Allah, Rasulullah and his taught. Teach how to act as a good muslim in the daily life. It is simple but interesting and many Islamic values to build good character with songs which is easy to be sung.

Character Education

Islam is a perfect religion, it teaches and managed all things in every aspect of our daily life. Islam managed the relationship between God and human being (*Hablumminallah*), and human being between human being (*Hablumminannas*). It also manage all aspects of human life such as how to pray, how to act, how to respects parents, how to educate children, etc.

Furthermore, we should know what is education and character. As stated above education based on Law National Education System No. 20/2003 is a realized and planned effort to make teaching and learning process circumstances, so that the learner actively developed their capability and get the power of spirituality, emotional self control, personality, cleverness, good character, and skill that is needed for themselves and society. Education based on Indonesian dictionary is a process or the way to

educate to change attitude or manner of someone or a group of people in order to make them mature by educating and training. Character education can be defined as the value of education, character education, moral education, character education, which aims to develop the ability of learners to provide good decision, maintaining what is good, and realize that kindness in everyday life with a vengeance ¹.

Moreover, character education is the way to teach children how to have good attitude or to act good, respect others, obey parents or teacher, love each other and this act should manage well in their mind, so that they can keep this attitude until they are adult and belongs to the society. Through education someone can change something bad of their behavior to be good. Character education is a national movement creating schools that foster ethical, responsible and caring young people by modelling and teaching good character through emphasis on universal values that we all share. It is the intentional, proactive effort by schools, districts and states to educate their students important core ethical values such as caring, honesty, fairness, responsibility and respect for self and others. ²

In Islam, akhlaqul karimah as character education that was brought by our prophet Muhammad SAW become the first thing to be taught before *tauhid* (Allah is the only God). In the *jahiliyah* time (the time before prophet Muhammad was born) he had to correct the attitude of people which had no rules and limitation in their life. He is the best model of akhlaqul karimah. In Allah's sight he is a human being with the best akhlaq.

Rasulullah said:

إِنَّمَا بُعِثْتُ لِأَتَمِّمَ صَالِحَ الْأَخْلَاقِ

“I was sent to make perfect good akhlaq”.

كَانَ خُلْفَهُ الْقُرْآنَ

“Akhlaq of Rasulullah is Al-Qur'an.”

¹Metta Santi Tupari. “The Implementation of Character Education Through Java Language’s Puja to Reinforce the Character of Nation.” *Vidyotamma Sanatana International Journal of Hindu Science and Religious Studies* 1, No. 1, (2017): 63.

²Aynur Pala. “The Need For Character Education.” *International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanity Studies* 3, No. 2, (2011): 25.

Prophet Muhammad SAW also said:

عَنْ أَبِي الدَّرْدَاءِ قَالَ سَمِعْتُ النَّبِيَّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ يَقُولُ مَا مِنْ شَيْءٍ يُوضَعُ فِي الْمِيزَانِ أَنْقَلُ مِنْ حُسْنِ الْخُلُقِ وَإِنَّ صَاحِبَ حُسْنِ الْخُلُقِ لَيَبْلُغُ بِهِ دَرَجَةَ صَاحِبِ الصَّوْمِ وَالصَّلَاةِ

The meaning: “A muslim who has a good character (akhlaqul karimah) reach the level of someone who is fasting and praying on Allah’s sight. The level of akhlaq in Islam will make the scale of a muslim heavier in the judgement day and it is as the way to heaven”.

Rasulullah SAW teach us to be always do something good as Allah ordered to all muslim even to the non muslim. We have to keep our attitude good anytime and everywhere to grow good character or akhlaqul karimah in our mind, say, and manner so that Allah SWT will bless our life. If you do good to parents, teacher, friends, brother/sister, children, and everyone, it means you do good to yourself, but if you do something bad to others it means you do bad to yourself”. There are many ways related to communication ethics in Islam to show good akhlaq, especially when doing communication with the family member or between parents and children, such as; *qaulan karima* (sweet words), *qaulan sadida* (true words), *qaulan ma’rufa* (nice words), *qaulan baligha* (effective words), *qaulan layyina* (gentle words) and *qaulan maisuna* (proper words).³

Thus, character education or akhlaqul karimah in Islam will guide us to the right path to be always think, say, and act positively. Good character should be taught as early age as possible to the children. Parents have important role to manage their manner. The first and the best education is at home and it should be supported by their environment such as school and social life. If they have strong character that they get from home especially based on the Rasulullah taught and Allah’s command, they will be strong even they are enter the society whatever the condition. We as muslim should imitate our prophet in every aspect of life how to behave, think, say, and act in our daily life to reach Allah’s blessing.

Children Psychologically

Children period is an exciting period because it is full of fun, joy, happiness, even sadness. It cannot turn back when someone become adult. Children’ memory will

³Aynur Pala. “The Need For Character Education. International Journal of Social Sciences and Humanity Studies” 3, No. 2, (2011): 25.

still in their mind strongly until they are adult. There is golden age in the children period. It is the right time to parents to teach them something positive. It is a common informal observation that children are good imitators.⁴

Teach them about character education or akhlaqul karimah to make good character and personality. Children' mind easy to memorize what their parents say and ordered. They are also easy to imitate what their parents and people around them do. Therefore, parents should be a good model for their children. Don't forget to introduce them to our prophet Rasulullah Muhammad SAW as the best figure with the best akhlaqul karimah as the messenger of Allah to correct our akhlaq as muslim. We have to try to imitate and do his *sunnah* in every aspects of life. He had brought us from the darkness to the lightness. In Allah's sight he had the best akhlaq and it is based on Quran. If parents educate children with character education, it will become a good habit until they grow up.

Based on Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development suggests that children move through four different stages of mental development. His theory focuses not only on understanding how children acquire knowledge, but also on understanding the nature of intelligence. Piaget's stages are:⁵

1. Sensorimotor stage: birth to 2 years
2. Preoperational stage: ages 2 to 7
3. Concrete operational stage: ages 7 to 11
4. Formal operational stage: ages 12 and up

Piaget believed that children take an active role in the learning process, acting much like little scientists as they perform experiments, make observations, and learn about the world. As kids interact with the world around them, they continually add new knowledge, build upon existing knowledge, and adapt previously held ideas to accommodate new information. As the limitation of children age in this discussion the suitable age are The Preoperational Stage (age 2-7 years). Major Characteristics and Developmental Changes:

⁴ Marfuah Tri Sanityastuti, Yani Tri Wijayanti, Alip Kunandar, "Pola Komunikasi Keluarga dalam Membangun Akhlaqul karimah. "Channel 3, No. 2, (2015): 118.

⁵Kendra Cherry, *The 4 Stages Cognitive Development*. <https://www.verywellmind.com>, (diakses pada Oktober 9 2018).

1. Children begin to think symbolically and learn to use words and pictures to represent objects.
2. Children at this stage tend to be egocentric and struggle to see things from the perspective of others.
3. While they are getting better with language and thinking, they still tend to think about things in very concrete terms.

Children become much more skilled at pretend play during this stage of development, yet still think very concretely about the world around them. At this stage, kids learn through pretend play but still struggle with logic and taking the point of view of other people. They also often struggle with understanding the idea of constancy.

While children are still very concrete and literal in their thinking at this point in development, they become much more adept at using logic. The egocentrism of the previous stage begins to disappear as kids become better at thinking about how other people might view a situation. While thinking becomes much more logical during the concrete operational state, it can also be very rigid. Kids at this point in development tend to struggle with abstract and hypothetical concepts. During this stage, children also become less egocentric and begin to think about how other people might think and feel. Kids in the concrete operational stage also begin to understand that their thoughts are unique to them and that not everyone else necessarily shares their thoughts, feelings, and opinions. Piaget's theory of cognitive development helped add to our understanding of children's intellectual growth. It also stressed that children were not merely passive recipients of knowledge. Instead, kids are constantly investigating and experimenting as they build their understanding of how the world works.

Another theory from a muslim expert of psychology is Imam Al-Ghazali. He stated that The Psychological Module of his theory focuses on self-development process to purify soul and behavior of humans. This concept is important to Muslims because it encompasses faith as life guidance, religious practice as rituals that cannot be performed and sharia law as rules that should be obeyed. These three components are believed to be the solutions to attain good characters as ethics in life⁶. Based on Imam Al-Ghazali, we should teach something good and throw away something bad. Remind them that

⁶ Nor Hasliza bt Faris, Noor Azniza bt Ishak, Fatimah Zaily bt Ahmad Ramli, "Psychological Intervention Effect by Imam Al-Ghazali", *IOSR Journal of Humanities And Social Sciences (IOSR_JHSS)* 21, Issue 12, Ver. 7, (2016): 23.

akhlaqul karimah is important in our daily life as a muslim in terms of act, talk, and behave.

Growing good attitude to the children is easy but also difficult. It is easy because children easy to imitate whatever around them. It is difficult because they are also easy to forget the information they have got. It is parents and teachers' duties to always remind and give them good example of akhlaqul karimah as character education as early age as possible.

Children Learning Through Media

It will be easier if we teach them with media to attract their attention. Let us discuss the suitable media to the children to teach character education, so that it is able to grow their akhlaqul karimah through the media that is used. Media facilitate the learner to enhance their mind in memorizing, thinking, listening, and speaking, especially audio visual media.

Media can be a component of active learning strategies. For example, student video projects can be a powerful learning experience. The use of media to enhance teaching and learning complements traditional approaches to learning. Effective instruction builds bridges between students' knowledge and the learning objectives of the course. Using media engages students to master concept. Media complements instructor-led learning by encouraging students to listen to music, read print materials, or watching a documentary or movie clip. The primary advantage of this approach is that the instructor takes on the role of a facilitator who helps students interpret what they are listening to, reading or seeing.

Teaching children is easy but also difficult. By media especially cartoon film, children will be easier gain the message of the film. Animated cartoon doubles information storage in the brain. Information in an animated cartoon film is coded verbally and visually which is more likely to be remembered than abstract information that students receive by exclusive listening to teachers' instruction in classical classroom. Watching cartoon pictures allows the two hemispheres of the brain to fully work, and because they are embedded with facilitating tools such as music, sound, colorful attributes, cartoon films would be meaningful learning material that need less comprehension skills and keep the classroom manageable and orderly. Cartoons,

usually, attract students' attention and don't allow learners to get released out of the learning context, as they include satisfying tools and comic speeches. In this respect, cartoon as an audio visual learning material can make valuable contribution of immediate understanding that doesn't require higher cognitive skills⁷.

Furthermore, there is a cartoon film that suitable to be taught to the muslim children to grow akhlaqul karimah as character education in the millennium era. The title of the cartoon is "Omar and Hana". It is a muslim cartoon film. There are many characters in this film, but the main character are father, mother, and their kids Omar and Hana. The parents in this film teach to do something good as character education to be a good muslim. They also become good model for their kids such as: talk politely, respect others, greet with *assalamualaikum* (muslim greeting), and wearing head cover for woman. The pictures are bright, attractive, and interesting. It is full of character education as muslim to build their akhlaqul karimah. It is also completed with song in every series to make enjoy the listeners especially children. The lyrics of the song are really meaningful. It is repetitive show, repeat the word, phrase, and sentences in the lyrics, so that make the children as the listeners easy to memorize the song and the meaning of it. The music is easy listening, so that the children will feel happy and joyful when singing it. The children enthusiastic to watch while singing the song. The voice in the cartoon film is clearly enough to be understood. There is different theme in every series such as *Alhamdulillah, Respect to the Older People, Assalamualaikum, Helping Each Other, Let's be Honest, Doing good Allah will love , etc.*

Thus, the use of sound and music effects and how they are presented in animated cartoon adds to cartoon film's qualifications as an instrument of teaching. It increases students' ability to analyze and interpret information, because the sound supports the image and event in an animated film.⁸

Animated cartoons encompass live actions that are integrated with music, voice-overs and texts that all support language learners' vocabulary acquisition. The sound and music effect would deepen students' understanding of meaning and content, as it facilitates learners' ability to recall information and analyze it.

⁷Nimer Abuzahra, Mohammed Abdel Hakim Farrah, Sarah Zalloum, "Using Cartoon in Language Classroom from a Constructivist Point of View". *Arab World English Journal (AWEJ) Special Issue on CALL PAPER 3*, (2016): 238.

⁸Ibid., 126.

Mother As the First School

In Islam mother as the first school to their kids. *Al-Ummu madrasah al-ula*. Children are able to know everything from their parents especially mother. She taught her children how to eat, walk, read, write, act, and anything until they are adult. Sense of mothers are always teach something good to their children. Good manner or akhlaq also become the main point to grow the children with nice personality since in the early age. After they can socialize with their society and environment, it should be supported with the school as a place they study. Teachers have to take an important role to teach akhlaq to their students. There many ways to make children learn about akhlaqul karimah. One of it through media cartoon film series “Omar and Hana” that must be liked by the children. Also parents or teachers should be a good model for them. Here are some songs of “Omar and Hana” cartoon film series:

Assalamualaikum
Walaikumsalam (and peace be upon you by Allah)
Selamatsejahtera (safe and joyful)
Kepada Mama Papa (to mother and father)
Assalamualaikum (peace be upon you by Allah)
Walaikumsalam (and peace be upon you by Allah)
Selamat sejahtera(safe and joyful)
Kepada ustadz Muza (to ustaz Musa)
Marilah semua (let's all)
Mari ucapkan salam (let's say greeting)
Sayangi semua(love all)
Nanti Allah sayang (Allah will love too)

That song is a simple song with easy listening music. The lyric also easy to remember by children. It is completed by attractive and interesting picture. The characters of the this film (Omar, Hana, and their parents) showed how to greet everybody around them. It is talking about greeting each other as muslims. Assalamualaikum is greeting in Islam means peace upon you by Allah and it has to be answered walaikumsalam. The message of the song above is Assalamualaikum will become habit to the children in the daily life, through that song children will be easy to memorize. Rasulullah said whoever greet Assalamualiakum first will get love and bless from Allah. It's a kind of a good character.

Berbaik Allah Suka (Doing good Allah will love)

Omar dan Hana (Omar and Hana)

Mari kesana (let's go there)

Kita mencaribajubersama(let's find out clothe together)

Berbaik Allah suka (doing good, Allah will love)

Omar pilihbaju paling cantikuntuk Hana (Omar choose the most beautiful dress for Hana)

Hana pilihbaju paling bajuterbaikuntuk Omar (Hana choose the best clothe for Omar)

Omar dan Hana marilah kesana (Omar and Hana let's go there) 2x

Berbaik Allah suka (doing good Allah will love)

The lyric of this song ask us to be always nice to everybody especially to our brother and sister. Here, parents give an example and ask their children to always live in harmony. There are many ways to do something good such as, choose the best clothe to our brother or sister when we have shopping together. It will make closer relationship between them. The message of this song is we have to be good as muslim in term of act, talk and behave in the daily life. Allah loves everybody who has good akhlaq and this song guide the children to do that.

Jom.Jujur (Let's be Honest)

Mintamaaf Mama, I saya yang buat (I'm sorry Mother, I did)

Tapi Mama, Hana taksengaja (but Mother, Hana did unintentionally)

Tidakmengapa Hana (no matter Hana)

Mama maafkan (Mama I'm sorry)

Bagusnya Omar (how nice Omar)

Bagusnya Hana (how nice Hana)

Jujur sama-sama (be honest together)

Jujur dengan semua (be honest to all)

Jujurlah senantiasa (always be honest)

Nabi Muhammad, orang yang jujur (prophet Muhammad is an honest man)

Ramah dan percaya (friendly and truthfull)

Bila jujur, Allah saying kita (if we are honest, Allah will love us)

Alhamdulillah (all praises to Allah)

The song above ask the listener to be an honest person. The example given by the character of Omar and Hana are clearly enough. They are honest to say what they have done to their mother and she immediately forgive their mistake as the appreciation of their honesty. This lyric of the song also mention prophet Muhammad is an honest man. He is the best model of a muslim who has a good akhlaqul karimah. That's why Allah really love him, and we are as muslim should imitate him to reach blessing from

Allah. Through this song children are easy to gain the message that they have to be honest in their daily life.

The message of the songs above are asking the listeners to do something good based on Islam taught as represented by our prophet Muhammad SAW the messenger of Allah. He is the best model of someone who has good akhlaqul karimah. Those songs in “Omar and Hana” cartoon film are delivered character education to the children. If the children gain the message well, it can grow their good character.

Those songs played repeatedly in this cartoon series. Children who watch this will memorize it easily while singing that. They will also easy to imitate what the characters in that film do while watching it by guidance from parents and teachers routinely.

Conclusion

Millenium era is a digital era because technology develop fast to help human being easy to do their work. High technology make us feel the world in our hand. There is no limitation through time and place. We can gain information easily from internet network. However, there are many negative impacts beside the positive impact. One of it is the degradation of moral value people who really follow the development of high technology. They prefer to interact with their friends in the social media than friends around them, and they less care each other. So, that’s why we as parents or teachers or part of this country who really care about education should grow and teach young generation with character education and close them with religion to always remember Allah. It will make the degradation of moral value decrease.

Islam really take first attention to character education as we know akhlaqul karimah. As our prophet sent by Allah to make perfect akhlaq of human being. He also asked us to be always do good in every aspect of life. Children as young generation have special characteristic to be taught about character education or akhlaq. Children’ mind are easy to memorize and imitate something but also easy to forget something too. There are many ways to grow their akhlaqul karimah in this millennium era. One of the method that parents or teacher can use is media. It make the children easy learning and getting the information from it. One the suitable media is cartoon film based on Islamic taught. It is “Omar and Hana” cartoon film series. This cartoon has an attractive pictures, nice characters, easy listening song and lyrics. They will feel happy and enjoy

when singing these songs and capture what message inside it. The characters of this film, Omar and Hana and also their parents always give example how to be good muslims in the daily life in terms of act, talk, and behave.

Moreover, they also sing meaningful songs related to what our prophet taught and what Allah ordered and forbid to grow their akhlaqul karimah as character education in Islam. By repeating to play the film to be watched, it will make them memorize and imitate easily. So that, it will grow akhlaqul karimah to the children as character education since early age until they are adult by memorizing and imitating what they have looked from the cartoon film by guidance from parents and teachers. So that, young generation of muslim as the future of this nation and Islam know about akhlaq as early age as possible. Then, when they are grow up, they really have a strong foundation of akhlaq as character education in Islam.

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