

Building Parental Awareness of Children's Education Expenses in the Indonesian Community in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

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ABSTRAK

Kegiatan pengabdian kepada masyarakat Indonesia yang bertempat di Sekolah Indonesia Kuala Lumpur (SIKL) bertujuan untuk membangun kesadaran masyarakat Indonesia terhadap pendidikan di komunitas Indonesia di Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Fokus kegiatan ini adalah peran yang dimainkan oleh orang tua dalam mendukung pendidikan anak-anak. Melalui serangkaian kegiatan sosialisasi pendidikan, seperti seminar, lokakarya, dan pertemuan kelompok, upaya dilakukan untuk meningkatkan pemahaman tentang pentingnya pendidikan dan tanggung jawab orang tua dalam menjaga kewajiban biaya pendidikan terhadap anak. Metode pelaksanaan kegiatan melibatkan kolaborasi antara pihak sekolah SIKL, pemerintah, dan organisasi masyarakat, dengan tujuan untuk menciptakan lingkungan yang mendukung pertumbuhan dan perkembangan anak-anak diaspora Indonesia di Malaysia. Hasil kegiatan ini diharapkan dapat memberikan kontribusi positif dalam memperkuat peran orang tua dalam mendukung pendidikan anak-anak, serta meningkatkan akses mereka terhadap pendidikan yang berkualitas. Dengan demikian, kegiatan pengabdian kepada masyarakat ini menjadi langkah konkret dalam mewujudkan visi pendidikan yang inklusif dan berkelanjutan bagi komunitas Indonesia di Kuala Lumpur.

ABSTRACT

Service activities for the Indonesian community taking place at the Kuala Lumpur Indonesian School (SIKL) aim to build Indonesian people's awareness of education in the Indonesian community in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The focus of this activity is the role played by parents in supporting children's education. Through a series of educational outreach activities, such as seminars, workshops and group meetings, efforts are made to increase understanding of the importance of education and the responsibility of parents in maintaining their children's educational costs. The method of implementing activities involves collaboration between SIKL schools, the government and community organizations, with the aim of creating an environment that supports the growth and development of Indonesian diaspora children in Malaysia. It is hoped that the results of this activity can make a positive contribution in strengthening the role of parents in supporting children's education, as well as increasing their access to quality education. Thus, this community service activity is a concrete step in realizing the vision of inclusive and sustainable education for the Indonesian community in Kuala Lumpur.

INTRODUCTION

Education is the key to unlocking a bright future for every individual. However, the success of education is not solely the responsibility of schools and governments. Parents also play a crucial role in supporting and ensuring that children have full access to quality education. In order to achieve this, socialization of educational needs and parents' obligations towards children's maintenance is an important foundation (Rasyid, 2015).

Socialization of educational needs is not just an effort to raise awareness, but also a tangible step to ensure that every child has the right to receive adequate education. Through this socialization, society can understand that education is not a burden, but a long-term investment that will bring significant benefits to individual development and national progress. By disseminating information about the importance of education, both formally and informally, society can understand that every child has the same right to learn and develop. This socialization can also help address various challenges, such as school dropout rates, lack of access to education, and families' financial inability to provide for educational needs (Fajari et al., 2022).

In addition to realizing the importance of education, parents also have a duty to ensure that their children receive sufficient maintenance to support their education process. Child maintenance is not limited to meeting basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, but also includes educational expenses, including school fees, books, uniforms, and other learning needs (Karimuddin, 2019). Parents have a moral and legal responsibility to provide child maintenance according to their abilities. This includes sacrificing time, energy, and financial resources so that children can access education without obstacles (Mansari & Devi, 2019). In the context of socializing educational needs, parents also play a role as agents of change that strengthen awareness of the importance of education within families and communities.

Education is not just an academic process that takes place within the classroom, but it is a foundation that builds a solid groundwork for every individual's future. However, amidst the diversity and challenges faced by the Indonesian diaspora in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ensuring that every child has access to quality education becomes a task that requires the involvement of the entire community. In this context, the role of parents is not just a companion in the journey of their children's education, but it becomes a crucial pillar in supporting the continuity of education.

Behind the bustling metropolis of Kuala Lumpur, there is a diverse Indonesian community, with different cultural, social, and economic backgrounds. Despite being abroad, the desire to provide the best education for children remains a top priority for many Indonesian families there. However, in different and sometimes challenging realities, efforts to raise awareness of the importance of education and the role of parents in supporting children's maintenance become an essence that must be fought together.

In this article, the author will delve deeper into the social and educational dynamics of the Indonesian community in Kuala Lumpur, as well as the significance of the role of parents in strengthening the educational foundation of children. By understanding the role played by parents in supporting children's education, it will be possible to design more effective strategies to increase educational awareness and create a supportive environment for the growth and development of Indonesian children in Malaysia.

METHOD

There are several suitable methods for educational socialization activities, depending on the target audience, the objectives of socialization, and the available resources. Seminars and Social Campaigns (Susanto et al., 2019) are the methods that the author used for educational socialization in community service activities at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur (SIKL) in Malaysia.

Conducting seminars and workshops on relevant educational topics can be an effective way to disseminate information and build awareness. Interactive discussions and exchange of ideas among participants can enhance their understanding of the importance of education. Organizing socialization activities in schools and colleges can help convey messages about the importance of education directly to students, parents, and educators. Through social campaigns, both online and offline, information about education can be disseminated to the wider community. These campaigns can utilize posters, leaflets, short videos, and other visual content to capture attention and build awareness. Leveraging social media to conduct information campaigns about the importance of education can reach a wide audience. Engaging content, including infographics, short videos, and hashtag campaigns, can be used to enhance awareness and inspire action. The selection of appropriate socialization methods will depend on the specific context and objectives of the activity. Combining several methods above can also provide more effective results in disseminating information and building awareness of the importance of education (Rusli, T. S., & Boari, Yoseb; Amelia, D. A. 2024).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Education is not only the responsibility of schools and the government (Sirait, 2017), but also a crucial role for parents in supporting their children's learning process (Erica, 2022). Amidst the Indonesian community in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, efforts to raise awareness about the importance of education and the role of parents in providing for their children's needs are becoming increasingly urgent. Through educational socialization in the environment of the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur, parents can be empowered to play an active role in supporting their children's education.

Parents have a primary role in ensuring children's maintenance, including educational expenses because parents' maintenance obligations towards children are similar to husbands' maintenance obligations towards wives (Karimuddin, K., Abbas, S., Sarong, A. H., & Afrizal, 2021); (Karimuddin Abdullah Lawang, 2014). In addition to providing basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter, parents are also responsible for ensuring that their children have access to quality education. This includes school fees, books, uniforms, and other learning needs.

Child education is one of the most important aspects in shaping the future of individuals and society. However, economic and social realities often place parents in the midst of challenges to ensure their children have access to quality education. The concept of the obligation of children's educational expenses forms the basis that regulates parents' responsibility in providing the necessary resources for their children's education. In this discussion, we will delve deeper into this concept from various perspectives, covering moral, social, and legal aspects, as well as its implications and impacts in the modern context.

Parental Moral and Social Responsibilities

Parents' moral responsibility to finance their children's education is a cornerstone in the concept of children's educational expense obligations. Education is not only a right but also a very important need for every child. Parents have a moral responsibility to provide a supportive environment for the development and growth of their children, including ensuring their access to quality education. This reflects family values that emphasize the importance of investing in the future of children as one of the top priorities (Daradjat, 1999).

In addition to moral responsibility, parents also have a social responsibility to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to receive decent education. Quality education not only benefits individuals but also society as a whole. Parents act as agents of change in ensuring that education is considered an important investment for the social and economic progress of a country. Therefore, through their social responsibility, parents play a very important role in ensuring equal access to education for all children in society (Aw, 2016).

In many jurisdictions, the concept of children's educational expense obligations is also regulated in family or education laws (Mansari & Devi, 2019). For example, in some countries, parents may be required to pay school fees and living expenses for their children until they reach a certain age or complete higher education. This reflects legal recognition of the importance of education as a fundamental right of every child, as well as parents' responsibility to ensure this right is fulfilled.

Implications and Impacts of Children's Educational Expense Obligations

The implementation of the concept of children's educational expense obligations has broad implications in various aspects of life. Economically, it can be a financial burden for some families, especially in countries with education systems that require high costs. However, on the other hand, investing in children's education is considered a long-term investment that can yield high returns in the form of increased skills, improved social mobility, and positive contributions to the overall economy (Asror, 2022).

From a social perspective, the concept of children's educational expense obligations plays a crucial role in combating social and economic inequalities. By ensuring equal access to education, this concept can help reduce disparities in educational opportunities and outcomes among different social groups. Thus, the concept of children's educational expense obligations reflects a deep commitment from parents, society, and the government to ensure that every child has an equal opportunity to receive quality education. This is a crucial foundation in ensuring that education remains a sustainable investment for the future of individuals and society as a whole (Amanda, 2022).

Discussion

Education Context in the Indonesian Community in Kuala Lumpur

In the context of the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur, parents are not only required to provide financial support but also to support their children's education process at home. They can assist their children with homework, monitor study time, and participate in school activities such as parent-teacher meetings and other school events. As part of the Indonesian diaspora, many families living in Kuala Lumpur have children attending Indonesian schools scattered around the city. However, challenges in maintaining children's education sustainability still exist, including awareness of the importance of education and the role of parents in supporting

it. Therefore, educational socialization activities in the school environment are key to building awareness and parental involvement.

Education at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur reflects the unique dynamics and challenges faced by the Indonesian diaspora community in Malaysia. These schools serve as important centers in preserving the cultural identity and education of Indonesian children living abroad. When entering the premises of the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur, we are greeted with an atmosphere full of enthusiasm and warmth. Despite being in a different country, these schools strive to create a familiar environment and uphold Indonesian cultural values. From the presence of national anthems, national symbols, to cultural events, the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur endeavors to maintain the nation's identity.



Figure 1. Welcome Address at the International Community Service Program at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur

However, behind that warmth and enthusiasm, there are also challenges that need to be overcome. One of them is adapting the curriculum and teaching methods to the different standards of Malaysian education. The Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur must be able to strike a balance between maintaining the Indonesian national curriculum and meeting local education requirements. This requires close collaboration between the school, teachers, and parents to ensure that the education provided remains relevant and of high quality. Additionally, another challenge lies in language instruction. Although Indonesian is the primary medium of instruction in these schools, many students also need to learn English and Malay to follow the Malaysian national curriculum. Therefore, the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur must have strong language programs to ensure that students can communicate fluently in various contexts.



Figure 2. Discussion on Education Challenges in the International Community Service Program at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur

Amidst all these challenges, the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur is also a place where the relationship between the Indonesian community in Malaysia can flourish. Parents, teachers, and students support each other and form a solid community. Parent-teacher meetings, extracurricular activities, and social events provide opportunities for community members to share experiences and strengthen bonds. Overall, the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur is more than just an educational institution. They are centers of social, cultural, and educational activities for the Indonesian diaspora community in Malaysia. Through education, these schools play a crucial role in preserving the nation's identity and preparing the younger generation to face increasingly complex future challenges.

Building Awareness Through Educational Socialization

Amidst the diversity and dynamics of the Indonesian diaspora life in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, efforts to raise awareness of the importance of education have become an urgent need. One effective way to achieve this is through educational socialization in the school environment, especially Indonesian schools in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.



Figure 3. Participants of the International Community Service Program at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur

Educational socialization within the school environment serves as an effective platform for building awareness of the importance of education and the role of parents in supporting it. Various activities can be organized, such as seminars, workshops, and group discussions, which address topics related to education and the role of parents. Additionally, schools can also utilize social media and school newspapers to disseminate information and educate parents about educational issues. Educational socialization at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur is not just an effort to disseminate information about the curriculum or educational programs, but also a means to build awareness of the values of education and the role of parents in supporting it. In this context, educational socialization involves various activities, such as seminars, workshops, parent-teacher meetings, and extracurricular activities, aimed at enhancing parents' understanding and active participation in their children's education.



Figure 4. Community as the Target of the International Community Service Program at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur

Through seminars and workshops, parents and educators have the opportunity to discuss relevant educational issues, such as effective teaching strategies, the role of technology in education, or the importance of character building. These discussions help strengthen a shared understanding of educational goals and how parents can actively contribute to them.

Additionally, parent-teacher meetings serve as vital platforms for conveying information about children's development, school policies, and how parents can contribute to supporting their children's learning process. These meetings also provide an opportunity for parents to voice their input and concerns regarding their children's education, thus fostering a strong partnership between the school and families.



Figure 5. Discussion with Students in the International Community Service Program at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur

Extracurricular activities such as book clubs, art activities, or health programs can also be used as means to convey educational messages to students and parents. Through these activities, students can learn in a fun and interactive manner, while parents can directly engage in their children's activities, thus strengthening family bonds and awareness of the importance of education. Overall, educational socialization at the Indonesian School Kuala Lumpur is a collaborative effort between the school, parents, and educators to build awareness of the importance of education within the Indonesian diaspora community. By actively involving all parties, it is hoped that an environment supportive of the optimal growth and development of children can be created, advancing the vision of inclusive and sustainable education for the community.

CONCLUSION

Based on the above presentation, it can be concluded that the community service activities carried out to build awareness of education in the Indonesian community in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, demonstrate the importance of collaboration between schools, parents, government, and community organizations in creating an inclusive and sustainable educational environment. Through various socialization activities, such as seminars, workshops, and parent-teacher meetings, as well as involving extracurricular activities and communities, efforts have been made to raise awareness of the importance of education and the role of parents in supporting it. These activities have successfully strengthened the bond between schools and families, as well as increased parental participation in their children's education. Parent-teacher meetings serve as vital platforms for conveying information and discussing relevant educational issues, while extracurricular activities provide opportunities for students and parents to learn and actively participate. Thus, these community service activities not only provide direct benefits in enhancing parents' understanding and participation in their children's education but also have long-term impacts in building a strong foundation for the education of Indonesian diaspora children in Malaysia. By continuing to

strengthen cooperation among all stakeholders, it is hoped that an educational environment supportive of the optimal growth and development of children can continue to be created, advancing the vision of inclusive and sustainable education for the community.

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