

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SINCE PRESCHOOL CHILDREN

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Abstract

Anak sejak lahir sampai berusia 3 tahun merupakan massa terpenting dalam rentang kehidupan seorang anak, karena pada masa ini pertumbuhan otak tengah mengalami lonjakan pertumbuhan yang sangat pesat. Massa usia dini merupakan massa yang sangat penting sehingga upaya-upaya pendidikan sudah mulai dilakukan oleh orang tua, guru, pengasuh dan orang-orang dewasa yang ada disekitar anak.

Pendidikan pada usia dini merupakan upaya-upaya pendidikan yang dilakukan untuk mengembangkan berbagai macam potensi yang dimiliki oleh anak, seperti : aspek fisik, kognitif, bahasa, motorik, moral, disiplin sosial/emosional, konsep diri, seni dan nilai-nilai agama islam. Anak usia dini adalah individu yang berbeda, unik, dan memiliki karakteristik tersendiri sesuai dengan tahapan usianya. Oleh karenanya upaya-upaya pengembangan yang dilakukan hendaknya tidak membuat anak kehilangan massa bermainnya. Bermain merupakan suatu kegiatan yang menyenangkan bagi anak, melalui bermain anak memperoleh kesempatan untuk bereksplorasi, menemukan, mengekspresikan perasaannya dan berkreasi melalui bermain dapat membuat anak mengenal dirinya dengan siapa anak bertempat tinggal serta lingkungan tempat dimanat anak hidup.

Jumlah anak usia dini di Indonesia berjumlah 28.912.400 anak dengan jumlah masjid sebanyak 193.893 buah, maka jika setiap masjid dihimbau untuk menyelenggarakan pendidikan anak usia dini diharapkan 30 tahun mendatang Indonesia akan mendapatkan pemimpin yang berkualitas dari sisi agama islam, arif, bijaksana, bermoral, jujur, cerdas, dan santun, dengan demikian perlu kerjasama antara pembuat kebijakan pendidikan untuk anak usia dini dikementrian Pendidikan Nasional dan Kebudayaan serta kementrian Agama.

Kata Kunci : *Pendidikan anak usia dini, keiompok bermain, bermain didalam ruangan dan di luar ruangan, masjid dan agama islam*

INTRODUCTION

The great state is inseparable to the role of religion, family and education field. What will happen for a state if its society have no religion and feel no qualified education? Thus education field is one of the developments of a state. Education runs through some steps, i.e. steps in children period, and then increase into teenager and adult and then into the older adult. Preschool education had by a child can begin by education through formal and informal line. Formal line is through Elementary School, Junior High School and Senior High School of which have equal level. Meanwhile informal for children can be had through Preschool Children Education, e.g.: in Play Group, Kindergarten School, Teaching Park of Al-Quran/TPA, and the similar kinds. Preschool children education if kindly managed from level of policy establishment, in this matter government to the level of Social Assembly thus Indonesia in the next thirty years will gain qualified human resources. Children who currently are 3 years old, in the next thirty years will have been 33 years old and hopefully would be worthwhile child to

the state and country. In addition the amount of preschool children in 33 provinces in Indonesia totalled 28,912,400 children having age of 0-6 years old.¹

The government of Indonesia since 1990s has had attention to preschool children by the existence of Governmental Regulation Number 27 on preschool education. By more development of preschool children education, thus in September 17th 2009, government stated Regulation of Minister of National Education of Republic of Indonesia Number 58 of 2009 on Education Standard of Preschool established by Minister of National Education and Culture – General Directory of Management of Elementary School and Middle School – Directorate of Construction of Kindergarten School and Elementary School.

In order to make smart of a state life, education currently is a need for human to move forward, thus education is inseparable necessities from human life. Level of education begun from childhood until adulthood; it teaches various kinds of knowledge on science, sociology, religion, moral, capability in sewing field, building construction, farm, fishery, woods, forestry, teaching iqro, dancing, singing, reading poetry, et cetera.

Children are not merely given knowledge on science, sociology, politic, culture, et cetera. However from the beginning they needs to be taught balance life in order they are not merely smart in science, however they also needs emotional ability. Those which meant as balance is from the initial age they have been given knowledge on the good fundamentals of religion, health life pattern from food diet, regular sport, politeness, care to animal, trees, et cetera. If it had been grown since initial time, thus children will have this life peacefully, full of tender, have mutual regard, positively think to whatever, et cetera.

METHOD

The approach of this study is qualitative and descriptive. Meanwhile the informants in this research were:

1. Headmaster, represents school conducting Islamic religion based preschool children education.
2. School administrator, as administrator that daily works in school and comprehends on the important meaning of Islam religion to teach since initial age, by reason it has big influence to the comprehension of children towards Islam religion.
3. Mosque holder represents mosque conducting preschool children education.
4. Educator represents the teachers who teach preschool children.
5. Education Watcher of Preschool Children to gain comprehension on the important meaning of play for the development of preschool children.
6. The Head Association of Educators and Educator Staff of Preschool Children Education of Indonesia/HIMPAUDI – Branch Sleman Regency – Yogyakarta Special Region represents the leadership of HIMPAUDI in central level.

The scope of this study was limited to the initial aged 2-4 years old and follow the activity if Play Group of which is one of activity programs in mosque in religious educational field.

DISCUSSION

Preschool Children Education is children education for age of 0 – 6 years olds needs to conduct in level of family to stimulate creativity, innovation, discipline to do responsibly, be able to socialize, can manage their emotion since initial age in order can have mutual sharing,

¹ *Angka Partisipasi Kasar/APK PAUD Nasional Tahun 2010/2011* (Jakarta: Institution of Research and Development of Statistical Center for Education – Minister of National Education). p.1.

mutual regard towards peer's willingness and give input of moral and ethical aspect, and also give education according to their respective belief. In addition, preschool children education very determines the successfulness of children's quality in their adulthood. The interpretation of preschool children education is a construction effort purposed to children since their birth until the age of six years old of which conducted through the providing of educational stimulation to help physical and psychical development and growth of children to have preparation in entering higher level education.²

The necessities of growth and development of children includes the nutrients, health and education is a unity need to consider since the child has been in preschool age. The result of current research shows 50% development of intelligence of children happens during the age of 0-4 years old, thus in the case of children have lack of nutrient, lack of consideration about their health and education thus the development of their intelligence is not good also. In addition during this period, it begins by the creation of faith fundamentals and belief, and also the creation of trait/ character.

Preschool children education has been discussed since the century 17th, e.g.: Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, a Switzerland educational expert of lived in 1747-1827 who developed theory of Audio Visual Memory/AVM, i.e. the children can direct their hearing, can use their visual ability properly and children can use their memory properly.

In the step of preschool children, playing is an activity conducted based on contentment and can consider the last result. This activity is conducted voluntarily, without any force from anyone. For children, playing is an activity conducted by willingness, instead of they should fulfil the purpose or aim of other person. Children also consider playing as non-target activity. They can leave the playing activity wherever they will. Thus, playing is very important for the children by reason it helps children's development and growth. Preschool children have excessive energy and support the children conduct activity thus they are set free from pressured feeling. It is also in playing activity children response and study certain roles in life; e.g. the role of physician, army, sales, cleaning service, singer, rhyme reader, philatelist and cooperate with group. During they play, the children gain experience to develop the Islamic aspects/values, physical/motoric, cognitive, linguistic, socio-emotional, and art. The creation of good habits, e.g.: discipline, good manners, et cetera is introduced through enjoyable ways.

Playing for preschool children gives individual contribution in every aspect of children development. It is proven by educational figures, i.e. Deborah Burnett Strother has opinion that playing is a transformational medium, the guide of experience and comprehension. For all of student, playing is a way to assimilate the knowledge and comprehension towards this world and also playing is an essential necessity to the children, and also playing is a crucial innate activity for growth. The activity of playing in preschool age is a very important seeds for the development of children in their entire life. Through playing a children can learn various kinds of things in the next life. Playing also gives contribution to the development of children in all of fields. The children are stimulated on their sense, learn how to use their muscle, coordinate the motion, and gain new competence.³ In addition through playing, children learn on concepts of faith, syariat, and praying, mathematic, science, art and creativity, language, social, et cetera.

The first initial life of children is in familial environment and family is a main media to the quality of human resource. Then, preschool student can follow education in formal line, e.g. Kindergarten School/Raudhatul Athfal, informal line, e.g. Children Caring Centre, Play Group, and other equal kind, and informal line, e.g. through familial education and environment.

² *Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini* (Jakarta: Department of National Education, 2003), p. 6.

³ Diane E. Papalia, Sally Wendkos Olds, Ruth Duskin Feldman, *Human Development* (Eight Edition, New York: McGraw-Hill Higher Education, 2001), p. 93.

Preschool children have age average age of 0-6 years old and mentioned as golden age; there are many extraordinary changes if observed from the neonatal until they are children. Infant since in maternal womb received the supply of oxygen, nutrient of food, blood circulation, process of excretion and regulation of temperature still depends on mother. During they were being born, infant should conduct these some things by certain effort and the post of birth demands the infant to be self-reliance. Thus, it seems the emergence of reflects of which are the basic of responsiveness towards stimulus, the emergence of charge which will develop into the communicative competence and children have been developed their physic thus they created proportional body, able to walk, jump, run, and able to handle applicator and pencil properly, able to communicate with other person by using verbal language, able to comprehend the emotion felt by other person based on body language shown.

During the period of golden age, children need the exact stimulus to achieve the perfect maturity by reason at this period it can also mentioned as critical period by reason it very influence the successfulness of the next period. In the case of at this critical period it have no exact stimulus in the shape of training or process of learning, thus it is expected children will have difficulties during their next development period.

According to Freud, the preschool period should be given strong basic in order they are avoided from personal or emotional disorder. Freud also stated that disorders had in adulthood can be referred back the cause by looking for the life during their childhood. For example: person who is verbally aggressive, often become angry and curse, in fact at preschool period they have no satisfaction towards their necessities. Such was the case Erikson also stated that children who had no love and did not gained satisfaction from their necessities will have failures to develop trust on other person. Meanwhile Piaget stated that the initial period of human development is an exact time to introduce various simple concepts as the basic for developing the more complex reasoning method in initial step of development.

Development of 0-3 years old according to a survey conducted in USA, development pattern of infants' physic since the birth until the age of 12 months/ 1 year following certain pattern in particularly those having relationship with the body height and weight.

At the age of 3 years, it seems the motoric development is better by being competence to stand on a leg, build minaret from 10 cubes and linguistic competence is gradually better by vocabulary achieves 1,000 words and also 80% of phrase has been sufficiently easy. Such was the case to the cognitive competence of children also increase, herein the children conduct problem solving, ideas conveying, et cetera.

The children of who since preschool age followed the program of Play Group in mosque will properly comprehend on the religion, by reason since they are infants, they had been known environment of mosque and observe daily activity conducted by adults in mosque. The meaning of Play Group is one of shapes of informal educational line preschool education that give educational service to the children at the age of 2-6 years old, to help development and growth of children, in order they will be ready to enter the next level education.⁴ Play Group prioritize the activity of playing while studying, thus the principles of education in Play Group are:

1. Every child is unique; they grow and develop from their competence, necessities, willingness, experience and background of different familial background.
2. The children at the age of 2-6 years old are the children who like to play. For them, playing

⁴ *Petunjuk Teknis Penyelenggaraan Kelompok Bermain* (Jakarta: Directorate of Construction of Preschool Children Education of General Director of Preschool Children Education, Nonformal and Informal – Minister of National Education, 2011), p. 2

is a learning method. Thus, playing activity should be able to facilitate the variety of learning method in pleasant atmosphere, voluntarily and tenderly by use the condition of surrounding environment.

3. Educator who has task in activity of playing is the educator who has willingness and competence in teaching, comprehending children, full of love and warmth, and also would like to play with children.

Play Group currently has become one of necessities to the couple of young parents who both of them work, either both of them are unemployed. By reason the medium and prerequisite to build Play Group has had standard from the government. The providing moral instruction through playing, singing, storytelling, and recreation is suited to the level and necessity of children development, e.g.: introduction of religious values, learn to pray and prayers, introduction of praying sites through instrument or direct visit to location, and introduction of social environment. During the preschool it has been able to explain simply on 10 angels, i.e.:

1. Angle Jibril has duty to convey divine revelation.
2. Angle Mikail has duty to distribute livelihood.
3. Angle Munkar has duty to keep the grave.
4. Angle Nankir has duty to keep the grave.
5. Angle Rakib has duty to record good deeds.
6. Angle Atid has duty to record bad deeds.
7. Angle Izrail has duty to withdraw the soul.
8. Angle Israfil has duty to blow last trumpet.
9. Angle Malik has duty to keep the grave.
10. Angle Ridwan has duty to keep the heaven.

The explanation on these 10 angles is accompanied by singing, playing, and example of which is easy to comprehend by preschool children and will always be remembered until the adulthood.

There are various kinds of activity in Play Group, one of them is functional play, e.g.: Sandra J. Stone in her book, *Playing: A Kid's Curriculum* explains that functional play is a play played by children for the first time, thus the children gain their first experience, children freely express appropriately to their feeling and also said as manipulative game wherein the children develop sensoric-motoric of children with or without any object. For example score out paper with colour pencil. Piaget assumed functional play with practical play. In addition, functional play is mentioned by exploratory play; wherein children explore their environment by interact. If every Play Group in mosque can conduct functional playing activity, hopeful the childhood will have been had by positive matters for the development of a child.

Such was the case, thus Play Group existing in mosque environment is an activity having practical values of which means play is used as media to increase certain competence and capability on the children and behave as a bridge for children of formal and informal learning. Golden age is the beginning of development of intelligence in the self of preschool children, also the necessity to grow and develop of children includes nutrient, health, and education is a unity needs to consider since preschool age. The result of current research shows 50% of development of children intelligence happens at the age of 0-4 years old, thus if

the children lack of their nutrient, lack of care on health, education and social relationship, thus development of their intelligence will be better.

The role of Islam religion in family is very important, if since preschool, the children have begin to be taught in family on important meaning of value and norm in religion. Through simple things in home wherein parent teach children to always conduct 5 time prays, inform that all things on this world are creation of Allah, inform to preschool children that all of work we do always begun by sentence Bismillahaahir Rahmaanir Rahiim whose meaning is very important, i.e. By pronouncing the name of Allah the Mighty Tender and Gentle.⁵ Parent has taught that Allah care and lovely to His people, if they always remember to Allah, all of problem could be solved if we pray begging for His instruction. In addition parent teach to say thank you if there is anybody help or give something to us, teach to ask other person if needs some help, teach to give equal human, visit siblings or friend at the time they ill or had calamity. It is also accustomed since preschool to say Alhamdulillah after having meals, finishing task, success to be a winner, et cetera. This word should be often read by reason there is a great secret inside and all of things are conducted by pleasant atmosphere for the children and there is no force element, thus Preschool Children Education can be a playing site to educate children.

Time of twenty four hours in a day; used by children, for example: six hours in a day to be in Play Group, thus during the rest of time children will be in house along with his family. Family to preschool children is a site to gain love, religious education, norms, values, responsibility, et cetera. It also begins from family to implement education by shape of force, strengthen, award and social punishment of which is necessary to develop since preschool children in order to be able to develop creativity, sensibility, and willingness to the children's self. Thus, hopefully a family comprising of father, mother, children and siblings are the first persons who can teach the children in order the children who comprehend the life of human, animal and plants as creation of God. In the case of from the house has learned how to take care of his lovely pet, plant tress since the seeds until fruitful and flowery, the preschool children indirectly will comprehend all process of life from a long process to gain good result. All of these are conducted through process to gain the best result there is certainly time to be successful and unsuccessful. In the case of this matter has been gown up since preschool, by the will of Allah, will respect the result of a process and spirit to teach, discipline, precise time is a part of their life since preschool age.

Introducing human life cycles from the beginning of infant, children, teenagers, adult, into elder people, if was given long life will be an infant anymore because they needs the help of grandson/granddaughter of which formerly they had took care, thus there is a love feeling to elder people. If since the preschool period parent has been accustomed to take care of their son/daughter and did not give them to the babysitter, hopeful if the parent has been old, thus older person will be accustomed that their children directly help and take care as the attendant. Thus if all of problem of older persons is given to babysitter, there is a reply law appropriately to the tenets implemented by their parent during they were preschool children. It is through the very long and consuming initial time from the parent to attend the children during the process of learning of these values. It can emerge no personality disorder to children, thus the children will grow into the people who has health physic, psychic, and spirit. It is similar, if children since preschool has been given greeting by adult, thus if the children will have been adult, they will give greeting to the children they face. The children will seem as polite and friendly, and also would to chat with the people they face. It is said in Anas RA, that he passed through children and then say greeting to them; and said: "Rasulullah SAW always conducts such a thing".

⁵ A.Nazri Adlany, Hanafie Tamam, A.Faruq Nasution, *Al Quran Terjemahan Indonesia* (Edition Twentieth, Jakarta: P.T.Sari Agung, 2005), p. 1.

(Story of Bukhari and Muslim).⁶

The families of which have comprehend on the important meaning of preschool religious education because this period is the golden age for children, thus the programs of Preschool Children Education has been mostly created in level of Social Assembly can give concrete example on the way to stimulate development of children to the parent in religious education in familial environment. Children in following education in Preschool Children Education will have competence developed, e.g.: communicating competence, associating competence, competence to convey opinion, competence to know surrounding environment they live in, school and so on, self-reliance, development of religious moral and ethic. In every activity of learning is also based on the instruction of Al-Quran and Hadits.

The activities for preschool children can be conducted in mosque environment continuously. One of them is through the program Play Group, Education Park of Al Quran/TPQ, Kindergarten Al Quran/TKA, Muslim Children Care Park/TAAM, Construction of Mosque based Muslim Children/BAMBIM, et cetera. At the beginning of activity for preschool children it is conducted in one of the veranda or mosque hall, mushala and small mosque. However in next development it is conducted in other place and even by creating separated buildings, by reason the more amounts of students. As self-enduring informal education institution, development of Play Group become more self-reliance and can have private building beyond mosque.

The elements of management existing in Play Group are:

1. Curriculum directed to Regulation of Minister of National Education of Republic of Indonesia Number 58 of 2009 on Standard Education of Preschool Children established by Minister of National Education – General Directory of Management of Basic and Middle Education – Directorate of Construction of Kindergarten and Elementary School.
2. Educators should have sufficient knowledge in Al Qur'an and religious domain.
3. The students.

In Indonesia there are mosques totalled 193,893 mosques = 30.084% small mosque = 388,375 mosques = 60.25% and mushalla totalled 62,234 mosques = 9.656%. Total of amount is 644,502 mosques.⁷ Thus if mosque, small mosque and mushalla locates in Village/Subdistrict in 33 Province in Indonesia can be used by Islam community continuously and continually, thus it can increase quality of life includes preschool religious education, health, education, cooperation, mutual help and social prayers.

The role of mosque in development of preschool children needs to consider, moreover the inhabitants of Indosia mostly have Islam religion and there are 193,893 mosques spread in 33 provinces in Indonesia. It is imaginable that in the next thirty years, Indonesia will gain a qualified generation in religious, art, music, social science and other knowledge. Mosque includes one of shapes of social service to society having Islam religious. The social service includes:

1. Strengthening and repair the functionality of family and individual appropriately to the role they have;
2. Conducting new institution in socialization, development and assistance (of which formerly was the role of main family however nowadays it has been no more);
3. Developing the shapes of institution in order to create new activities considered as important for individuals, families and groups in complex rural society.

⁶ Muslich Shabir, *Terjemahan Riyadhus Shalihin II* (Semarang: PT. Karya Toha Putra Semarang, 2004), p. 8.

⁷ *Pedoman Pembinaan Kemasjidan* (Jakarta: Directorate of Religious Concern Director and Construction of Syariah – Department of Religion, 2008), p. 1.

Thus, religious education needs to be given since preschool children through Play Group created in mosque. In the case it is managed properly it is an activity having practical value. It means playing is used as media to increase certain ability and competence on the children and behave as mediation for children to formally and informally study of which will lead the children become discipline, cleanly live, tidily, precise, honest, and honour, grateful, sincere if conducting something, smart, controlled to express emotion and moral. Thus Islam religious education is received since preschool can be implemented in adulthood.

CONCLUSION

In Indonesia, preschool children by age of 0-6 years old are totalled 28,912,400 children by total of mosque of 193,893 mosques spread all over in 144 islands. Hopefully in the next thirty years old, the children given religious education since preschool period will be more comprehend about the meaning of life appropriately to the tenets of religion. Thus in the case they would be a leader, they can be a wise, fair, and has high values and moral and also consider on the prosperity of his society.

It is necessary to widen the service range of Preschool Children Education in particularly in level of Moslem society and give the education field in preschool underlined by Al-Qur'an education through Education Park of Al-Qur'an, Moslem Children Caring Park, and Mosque Based Moslem Children Construction. These programs can use the medium and prerequisite in mosque and musholla. Learning activity based on the instruction of Al-Qur'an and Hadits, as well as through playing, children learn on concept of belief, syariah, and prayings, mathematic, science, art and creativity, linguistic, social, et cetera. The educator also introduces good habits, religious and formal values in every opportunity as long as the children are in the institution pleasantly.

Thus, program of religious basic education since preschool has been considered the emotional intelligence and also development of spiritual intelligence, through development of competence in conducting shalat praying, development of competence to memorize Juz Amma (short epistle) and development of competence to memorize daily prayer.

Thus, it needs cooperation between the Minister of Religion and Minister of National Education and Culture in educational field of preschool children. By reason of the next thirty years old current children will have been preschool children, they will be Indonesian human resources who have ability to lead, precise, and have mutual regard, attention, learn to care, good hearer, have great social spirit, discipline, obedient in conducting religious instruction, good manner, moralized and have mutual regards.

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