



## **Analysis of Social Environment in Forming the Character of Elementary School Students**

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### **ABSTRACT**

*The social environment plays a crucial role in the process of forming student character. A conducive social environment can have a positive impact on students' moral and ethical development. Qualitative research is a research method that focuses on in-depth understanding of complex phenomena in real contexts. This approach is often used to answer complex questions and explore experiences, perceptions and meanings contained in them. The subjects of this research were 2 teachers, namely Class IV and Class V teachers. Qualitative data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data. obtained from observations, interviews, field notes and documentation studies, organizing data into synthesis, compiling patterns, choosing what is important and what will be studied and making conclusions so that they are easy to understand. The research results show that social interaction, the role of the family, and the impact of the community environment around the school at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School are key elements in shaping students' character and moral values. Interactions that occur inside and outside the school environment provide opportunities for students to broaden their horizons about values such as cooperation, empathy, and social responsibility. The role of the family as a model and supporter in the formation of positive attitudes and ethical values also provides a strong foundation for students' personal development.*

**Keywords:** Analysis, Social Environment, Student Character

### **1. Introduction**

The formation of student character is an important aspect in the world of education that determines the quality of the nation's next generation. Character education does not only focus on academic achievement, but also on developing moral and ethical values that will form individuals with integrity and responsibility (Handayani et al, 2021) (Mertika et al, 2018). In the current era of globalization, challenges in character formation are increasingly complex along with the increasingly rapid development of technology and information (Sartika & Dedy, 2023). Therefore, it is important to understand the factors that influence the formation of student character, one of which is the social environment (Mulianti & Sulisworo, 2023).

The social environment plays a crucial role in the process of forming students' character (Zulela et al, 2022). A conducive social environment can have a positive impact on students' moral and ethical development (Thomas et al, 2022). On the other hand, an unsupportive environment can be an obstacle in forming good character (Lubaba & Alfiansyah, 2022). The social environment includes family, school and the community around students (Ahmad et al, 2022) (Hermanto et al, 2019). These three elements interact with each other and have a significant influence on student character development. The family as the smallest social unit has a major role in providing moral and ethical foundations to students. Parents

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and other family members function as role models who are first seen and followed by students (Hermansyah et al, 2021). Parenting patterns, communication and interactions within the family greatly influence the formation of student character. Apart from family, schools also have an important role in developing students' character (Wandari, 2023) (Nikmah & Rondli, 2023). Teachers and other educational staff not only act as instructors, but also as mentors and motivators who can have a positive influence on students' attitudes and behavior (Fahrozy et al, 2023). The community around students also contributes to character formation. Interaction with peers, neighbors and other community members can enrich students' social experiences and help them internalize the moral values taught at home and school (Amaruddin et al, 2020). By understanding the role of the social environment in forming students' character, it is hoped that effective strategies can be found to create an environment that supports good character development (Gampu et al, 2022) (Gunawan et al, 2020). This research aims to analyze how various elements of the social environment influence student character formation, as well as provide recommendations for optimizing the role of the social environment in character education.

Initial observations carried out at Nganganaumala 1 Elementary School showed variations in the character formation of students which were visible in their daily behavior. Some students show a polite, disciplined attitude and have a high level of responsibility, while others seem to pay less attention to these values. In interactions with teachers and peers, some students appear to be able to work together well and respect the rules, while others show behavior that tends to be defiant or indifferent. Factors that may influence these differences include family background, the quality of interactions at school, and the influence of the community environment. This observation is the basis for conducting a more in-depth analysis of the role of the social environment in forming the character of students at the school.

The problems faced in forming the character of students at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School include various aspects related to their social environment. One of the main problems is the lack of involvement of parents in the character education process of their students. Many parents are busy with work or other activities and therefore do not have enough time and attention to provide the necessary moral and ethical guidance. Apart from that, there are also problems related to social interaction at school, such as the lack of support from teachers in instilling character values and the school environment which may not always be conducive to students' moral development. These factors cause a gap between expected values and students' actual behavior in everyday life.

Another gap that appears in the character formation of students at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School is the influence of the community environment which is not always positive. A community environment that is less supportive, such as negative behavior from peers or the influence of media that is not educational, can hinder the process of forming the desired character. The lack of community activities that focus on developing character and ethics is also one of the factors causing this gap. Therefore, collaborative efforts are needed between families, schools and communities to overcome problems and gaps in student character formation, so as to create a social environment that is more supportive of good character development at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School. The aim of this research is to analyze the influence of the social environment on the formation of student character at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School.

## 2. Methods

Qualitative research is a research method that focuses on in-depth understanding of complex phenomena in real contexts (Oktarina & Nisa, 2021). This approach is often used to answer complex questions and explore the experiences, perceptions and meanings contained therein (Kamar et al, 2020). In qualitative research, data is collected through techniques such as in-depth interviews, participant observation, and document analysis, which allow researchers to explore various points of view and understand the social, cultural, or historical context that influences the phenomenon being studied (Nurizka & Rahim, 2020). The subjects of this research were 2 teachers, namely Class IV and Class V teachers. Observations were used to understand the changes that occurred in students at certain times. Interviews involve conversations between researchers and interviewees, which aim to gather deeper information regarding the problem under study. Documentation at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School examines real world conditions during the learning process by utilizing natural materials as learning resources.

Data collection instruments are tools used to measure the data to be collected. This data collection instrument is basically inseparable from the data collection method (Shinta & Ain, 2021). The data collection method is interviews, the instrument is an open/unstructured interview guide (Rohmawati & Hangestiningsih, 2019). If the data collection method is observation, then the instrument is in the form of open/unstructured observation/observation guides (Kezia, 2021). Likewise, the data collection method is documentation, so the instrument is library format or document format (Tikho & Gunansyah, 2021).

Qualitative data analysis is the process of systematically searching and compiling data obtained from observations, interviews, field notes and documentation studies, organizing data into synthesis, compiling patterns, choosing what is important and what will be studied and making conclusions so that they are easy to understand (Achadah et al. al, 2022). The steps in analyzing data are as follows: 1) Data reduction means summarizing, selecting the main things, focusing on important things, throwing away unnecessary things. Data reduction is in accordance with the problem that the author will research, thus reducing the data will provide a clearer picture and make it easier for researchers to collect data; 2) The reduced data is presented or displayed in a form that is easy to understand. In qualitative research, data presentation can be done in the form of brief descriptions, sections on relationships between categories and the like; and 3) Conclusions will be followed by evidence obtained when the researcher was in the field. Data verification is intended to determine the final data and the entire analysis stage process, so that all problems are in accordance with the data categories.

## 3. Findings and Discussions

### 3.1 Findings

Analysis of the social environment in shaping the character of elementary school students is an important study in understanding how external factors influence the development of children's values and attitudes. The social environment includes interactions with family, peers, teachers and the surrounding community. The family as the first social unit plays a very important role in forming a child's character through the values taught from an early age. Apart from that, relationships with peers at school also play a significant role, because through social interactions children learn about cooperation, empathy and

various social norms. The influence of teachers as authority figures in schools helps shape discipline, responsibility and respect for students. Thus, a positive and supportive social environment is very important in forming good character in elementary school students. Results of research on Social Environmental Analysis in Shaping the Character of Elementary School Students along with explanations:

### **The Influence of Social Interaction on the Formation of Moral Values**

Research shows that social interactions between students and peers, teachers and school staff have a significant influence on the formation of moral values. Interactions that occur in the school environment, such as collaboration in groups, class discussions, and extracurricular activities, can help students understand the importance of values such as honesty, responsibility, and respect. Teachers also act as models of positive behavior adopted by students. This is like the interview of the Class IV teacher at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School who said that:

*"Social interactions between students in my class greatly influence the formation of students' moral values. Through group work and collaborative activities, students learn values such as cooperation, tolerance and empathy. They also learn to respect differences and resolve conflicts peacefully."*

The moral values most visibly developed through social interactions in fourth grade include honesty, responsibility, and respect. Students learn to be responsible for their assignments, honest in communication, and respectful of their teachers and classmates. This is also reinforced by an interview with the fifth grade teacher at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School who said that:

*"I facilitate positive social interactions by creating an inclusive and safe learning environment. I also organize various group activities that promote cooperation and mutual understanding. In addition, I model a positive attitude and facilitate discussions that help students understand the importance of moral values."*

Social interaction plays an important role in the formation of students' moral values at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School. Through interactions with peers, teachers and the surrounding environment, students learn to understand the norms and values that apply in society. In the school context, teachers often serve as role models who demonstrate good attitudes and behavior, while peers provide an environment in which students can test and reinforce these values. Group discussions, games, and other collaborative activities help students develop empathy, honesty, responsibility, and cooperation, which are the foundations of strong moral values.

### **The Role of the Family in Shaping Student Attitudes and Behavior**

Family is the first and main social environment that influences student character. This research highlights how parenting styles, communication within the family, and emotional support play a role in shaping students' attitudes and behavior at school. Families that set positive examples, support children's education, and are active in school activities tend to have children with strong and positive characters. This is like the interview of the Class IV teacher at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School who said that:

*"Yes, the difference is quite visible. Students who receive full attention and support from their families are usually more confident, have good ethics, and are able to interact with their friends well. Conversely, students who don't get enough attention often show a lack of discipline and have difficulty interacting."*

The role of the family is very important in shaping the attitudes and behavior of students at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School. The family is the first and main environment for children to learn about moral and social values. Parents as the main role models have a big influence on children's character development. Through daily interactions, communication, and supervision, parents can instill discipline, responsibility, and respect in their children. This was also reinforced by an interview with the fifth grade teacher at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School who said that:

*"I always try to maintain good communication with parents through regular meetings, class WhatsApp groups, and student progress reports. I also encourage parents to get involved in school activities and provide input and support to their children at home."*

Emotional support from family also helps children feel safe and confident, which in turn influences their academic performance and social behavior at school. Apart from that, families also play a role in supporting the formal education that students receive at school. Parental involvement in school activities, such as parent meetings, extracurricular activities, and homework supervision, can increase students' learning motivation. By providing encouragement and guidance, families can help children overcome the academic and social challenges they face. Supportive families create a conducive environment for learning, so that students at Nganganaumala 1 Elementary School can develop into individuals with strong character and positive behavior.

### **The Impact of the Community Environment Around the School on Character Formation**

The community environment around the school, including peers outside school, neighbors, and community leaders, also contributes to the formation of student character. This research found that communities that have a culture of mutual cooperation, tolerance and mutual respect can strengthen these values in students. Community activities that involve students, such as social and religious activities, provide opportunities for students to learn and practice positive values. This is like the interview of the Class IV teacher at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School who said that:

*"Teachers can discuss programs or community activities that students participate in and their impact on the formation of values such as cooperation, responsibility and discipline."*

The community environment around the school has an important role in forming the character of students at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School. Daily life in a community which is filled with various social, cultural and religious activities has a significant influence on the values absorbed by children. Interactions between students and community members, such as neighbors, traders and community leaders, help them understand and adopt the norms and behavior that apply in the environment. For example, involvement in mutual cooperation activities and religious events strengthens the values of togetherness, caring and tolerance in students. This was also reinforced by an interview with the fifth grade teacher at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School who said that:

*"Teachers can explain how students' interactions with the surrounding environment influence their behavior, both positive and negative, as well as concrete examples of this influence."*



The role of parents and family in the community is also very crucial. Parents who are active in school and community activities tend to instill positive values in their children. The presence of parents in school activities, such as parent-student meetings and extracurricular activities, provides real examples for students about the importance of participation and social responsibility. Thus, values such as discipline, hard work and respect can be instilled more effectively through direct examples from parents and family.

A community that has a culture of reading and learning also contributes positively to the formation of student character at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School. Access to a community library or literacy activities organized by the community can encourage students' interest in reading and learning outside of school hours. Students who grow up in an environment that values education will tend to have a positive attitude towards learning and self-development. This helps shape the character of students who are diligent, enthusiastic and have high curiosity. However, it cannot be denied that a less conducive community environment can also have negative impacts. For example, communities with high crime rates or a lack of role models from community leaders can negatively influence student behavior. Therefore, it is important for schools and related parties to work together to create a safe environment and support the development of students' positive character. Through collaboration between schools, families and communities, Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School can become an ideal place for developing the character of students with integrity and responsibility.

### 3.2 Discussions

Social interaction at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School plays an important role in shaping students' moral values. Through interactions with peers, teachers, and school staff, students learn to understand the importance of cooperation, empathy, and respect for differences. These interactions also help them develop an awareness of values such as honesty, tolerance, and responsibility, which form the basis of strong moral character throughout their lives. Apart from interactions within the school environment, social interactions outside the school also play an important role. Through extracurricular activities, visits to important places in the community, and participation in social events, students at State Elementary School 1 Nganganaumala learn to appreciate differences, respect local culture, and establish positive relationships with the surrounding community. This not only enriches their experience, but also deepens their understanding of the moral values upheld in Society.

The family has an irreplaceable role in shaping the attitudes and behavior of students at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School. Through parenting, values, and examples provided by parents, students learn about social norms, ethics, and obligations. Families also provide a strong moral foundation, strengthening students' character development in terms of integrity, respect and deep self-discipline. Apart from being the main supporters in academic learning, families at Nganganaumala 1 State Elementary School also play a role in providing emotional and moral support to students. Open communication between parents and children is a strong foundation for building a positive attitude towards learning and maintaining a balance between personal and academic life. This not only creates a stable environment for student development, but also reinforces values such as respect for education and personal responsibility.

The community environment around Nganganaumala 1 Elementary School plays an important role in shaping student character. Their interactions with people who live around the school, such as community leaders, social workers, or

volunteers, provide opportunities for students to broaden their understanding of local values, appreciate cultural diversity, and develop a sense of social engagement. This environment also provides practical examples of how to apply values such as mutual cooperation, loyalty to the community, and a sense of responsibility towards the surrounding environment. The community environment around Nganganaumala 1 Elementary School provides opportunities for students to learn about social responsibility and caring for the environment. Through environmental cleanup programs, participation in social activities, and initiatives to improve the quality of life around them, students learn to become active and responsible citizens. This creates an environment that supports lifelong learning, where students not only learn in the classroom, but also through practical experiences that strengthen their character values.

#### 4. Conclusion

Overall, this research can be concluded that social interaction, the role of the family, and the impact of the community environment around the school at SD Negeri 1 Nganganaumala are key elements in shaping students' character and moral values. Interactions that occur inside and outside the school environment provide opportunities for students to broaden their horizons about values such as cooperation, empathy, and social responsibility. The role of the family as a model and supporter in the formation of positive attitudes and ethical values also provides a strong foundation for students' personal development. Meanwhile, an active and participating community environment enriches students' learning experiences with values such as mutual cooperation and concern for the environment. By combining all these factors, SD Negeri 1 Nganganaumala creates a holistic educational environment, supporting students in building strong character and sustainable moral values in student life.

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