Introduction to the Social Environment in Early Childhood

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Article Info	Abstract
	Introduction to the environment and social aspects in early childhood is an essential factor in shaping children's character and social skills. The family, as the first social environment, played a primary role in teaching fundamental values such as togetherness, affection, and responsibility. This study aimed to describe the scope of introducing social sciences to early childhood. The research method used was a literature study, involving the analysis of journals and related literature. The results showed that the family served as a vital foundation in children's social development through the formation of basic values and the teaching of social roles. Children were also introduced to self-identity, emotions, and their responsibilities in daily life. Early Childhood Education (ECE) played a strategic role in integrating this understanding into educational programs, which did not solely focus on academic aspects but also emphasized character building. Through comprehensive and systematic introduction, children could grow into independent, empathetic, and responsible individuals, ready to face a harmonious social life in the future.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Getting to know a child's environment and social life is an important aspect in a child's growth and development. In the early stages of life, children begin to recognize and interact with the environment around them, including the people in it. It is a process that helps them understand the world and their place in it. Children's environmental and social recognition is a continuous and complex process, which requires support from parents, educators and society. By providing a supportive environment and teaching relevant skills, children can grow into well-adapted individuals who play an active role in society. The environment itself can include the child's closest environment, for example his family, school environment, the natural environment around him, and the child's social environment. With this introduction to the environment, children can express themselves well, that is, children are able to inspire the knowledge they have by observing things around them and then children are able to express and explore themselves well.

The surrounding environment for early childhood is a key for children to socialize with each other or children to communicate with each other, because with the surrounding environment, children learn a lot and are directly involved, both with nature and with all the environment around them so that children can gain real learning and life experience. In this era, there are many misunderstandings between parents who want their children to be smart, even though smart itself is not only from reading, writing and arithmetic, but smart is the method or role of parents, especially teachers, in inviting children to learn. with fun things, namely by introducing children to the environment around them, as stated above, namely self-exploration of the child himself through what the child has observed from the environment around him.

Acceptance of the environment and other positive experiences during social activities are basic capital that is very important for a successful and enjoyable life in the future. Children are

nurtured in childhood and they will reap the fruits in adulthood. However, we all know that social skills must be learned, and early in life, children learn from the people closest to them, in this case, their parents. That's why, apart from guiding and teaching children how to socialize appropriately, parents are also required to be good models for their children. Why not, young children who like to imitate will copy everything their parents do, including the way they interact with their environment.

It is true that the role of parents in developing children's social skills is that apart from giving children trust and opportunities, parents are also expected to provide reinforcement by providing incentives or rewards if children behave positively. The aim of this research is to describe the scope of introducing social sciences for early childhood.

2. RESEARCH METHOD

The research method used in the journal collection study is a data collection technique by conducting a review study of literature reports and notes that are related to the problem being solved.

This research comes from the results of journal research; therefore, this research consists of identifying theories, discoveries and information about the research topic being analyzed, namely the scope of introducing social sciences to early childhood.

3. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The family as the first social environment is a very important basis in children's social development, because the family is the first place where children learn about social relationships, interactions and basic life values. Introducing the roles and duties of family members, such as father, mother, and siblings, gives children an understanding of the social structure that exists in their family. Children begin to understand that each family member has a certain role, for example the father as the head of the family who works to meet their needs, the mother as the caregiver and manager of the household, and siblings with whom they can play and share. Apart from that, children also learn that in a family, each individual depends on each other to carry out daily life.

The importance of togetherness, love and mutual help in the family are also values taught from an early age. Children learn that relationships between family members must be based on love and mutual help. For example, children will see how parents support each other in facing life's challenges or how they work together to care for the household and meet family needs. Teaching about togetherness teaches children to collaborate and pay attention to the needs of others, as well as feel the importance of their role in maintaining household harmony.

Apart from that, the family is the first place to teach basic values which greatly influence the development of a child's character. Values such as sharing, apologizing, and respecting parents are simple but very important examples that can be introduced in everyday life. Children learn to share toys or food with siblings or friends, which teaches them the importance of giving and receiving. Additionally, children also learn how to apologize when they make mistakes, which teaches them to take responsibility for their actions and repair damaged relationships. Respecting parents, such as listening to advice or helping with simple household chores, also helps children understand the importance of respect for other people, especially older people. Thus, through a family environment full of love and moral values, children will grow into individuals who are empathetic, caring, and able to have harmonious social relationships in society.

After family, self-identity and personal development are the next important aspects in the introduction of social sciences in early childhood. Children begin to form an understanding of who they are through the influence of family, friends, and school environments. At this stage, introducing your identity is a very important first step. Children are taught to know their name, age, address and daily habits. Basic knowledge about who they are, where they live, and what they like helps children build a stronger sense of self-confidence. In addition, understanding daily habits also teaches children about routines that can provide structure in their lives, such as times for eating, sleeping, playing, and studying.

Another thing that needs to be considered is to help children recognize their emotions and how to express them positively. At an early age, children begin to experience various feelings, such as happy, angry, sad, or disappointed. Teaching children to recognize these emotions and giving them the tools to express them in a healthy and positive way is essential. For example, children are taught to say "I feel angry" rather than carrying out unwanted actions such as hitting or screaming. Through this technique, children learn how to control their emotions and communicate more effectively with others, which will benefit their future social relationships.

Then, forming a sense of self-confidence and independence is also part of a child's personal development. When children learn to recognize their strengths and abilities, they will feel more confident. Everyday activities, such as tidying up toys, helping parents, or completing simple tasks, give children opportunities to demonstrate their responsibility. Through these small accomplishments, children feel valued and have more confidence in their abilities. Teaching independence from an early age helps children to be better prepared to face challenges and adapt to new situations. With a strong foundation of self-identity and the ability to recognize and express their emotions in a positive way, children will grow into more independent, confident individuals and ready to face their social lives.

After introducing the concept of self-identity and personal development, the next step in forming a child's character is an understanding of rights, obligations and responsibilities. At an early age, it is very important to introduce children to the fact that they have basic rights that must be respected and protected. These rights include the right to play, learn and receive love. Children must understand that they deserve time to play and interact with their friends, which is important for social and emotional development. Apart from that, children also have the right to learn, get a good education, and love from their parents and the surrounding environment. By introducing these rights, children will feel respected and begin to understand the importance of each individual's rights, both their own rights and the rights of others.

However, an introduction to children's rights is incomplete without introducing the obligations they must also carry out. Simple obligations such as tidying up toys, helping parents, and maintaining personal hygiene are part of the moral education process that teaches children to be responsible for their actions. When children are taught to tidy up their toys after playing, they learn that every action has a consequence, and they have a role in maintaining cleanliness and order. Helping parents with household chores also gives children a sense of responsibility towards their family and the importance of cooperation. In addition, maintaining personal hygiene, such as washing hands before eating or brushing teeth, teaches children to care about their own health, and develops positive habits that will be useful in the future.

Finally, introducing children to responsibility, both towards themselves and others, is very important in shaping their character. Children need to understand that they are responsible for the choices they make, both in terms of their actions and their words. This responsibility also involves caring for others around them, such as maintaining good relationships with friends, respecting parents, and helping others when needed. In this way, children learn that they are not only individuals who have rights, but also part of society who have obligations and responsibilities towards others. Through a thorough understanding of rights, obligations and responsibilities, children can grow into individuals who are wise, caring and able to interact well in society.

The introduction of basic concepts in social sciences in early childhood is very relevant and important in Early Childhood Education (PAUD). At this stage, PAUD acts as an educational environment that provides the basics of character formation and social understanding which are important for children's development. PAUD does not only focus on academic aspects, but also on forming attitudes, social values and life skills that can form children who are independent, empathetic and responsible. PAUD has a very important role in integrating understanding of rights, obligations and responsibilities, as well as introducing in-depth social concepts from an early age. This allows children to build a strong foundation in interacting with other people, respecting the rights of others, and understanding the importance of working together in social life. Through this approach, PAUD not only prepares children to participate in social life

positively, but also develops healthy and empathetic characters that will contribute to their future social development.

4. CONCLUSION

Introduction to basic concepts in social sciences at an early age is very crucial for the formation of children's character and social skills. Through PAUD, children are introduced to important values such as family roles, self-identity, rights, obligations and responsibilities which will shape them into independent, empathetic and responsible individuals. PAUD not only teaches academic knowledge, but also instills moral values, social interaction skills, and an understanding of their role in society. With a strong foundation from an early age, children will be better prepared to face a harmonious social life and develop into wise and caring members of society.

5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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