

The Role of Teachers in Overcoming Socio-Economic Gaps in Elementary School Students in Makassar City

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Abstract

This research aims to determine and analyze the role of teachers in overcoming social disparities for elementary school students in Makassar City. The type of research used in this research uses a qualitative approach. The research results show that the role of teachers is in overcoming socio-economic disparities for elementary school students. This problem of socio-economic inequality causes a lot of bullying to occur at the elementary school education unit level today. This condition becomes urgent when this problem causes bullying to occur in elementary schools. Therefore, teachers need to carry out discussion and lecture processes regarding bullying at school by instilling religious values and character in students as well as teaching ethics, and designing or creating prevention programs that contain messages to students not to bully, especially because of the economic disparities that exist in schools. Apart from that, an elementary school teacher should be an example or role model who always guides students so that they adapt to other friends because teachers do not only deliver learning material, but a teacher also need to have a role in instilling a sense of caring and a sense of kinship among students, so that the problem of social inequality can be minimized in the classroom. The occurrence of socio-economic disparities can be caused by several factors, namely income level, education, and employment, where most parents' jobs are as laborers and traders.

Keywords: *Elementary School Students, Social Disparities, Socio-Economics, The role of Teachers.*

INTRODUCTION

Education is a conscious effort directed at students to become human beings with strong, complete personalities and high morals. Specifically, with education, students can actively develop their potential to have religious spiritual strength, self-control, personality, intelligence, noble morals, and skills needed by themselves, society, nation, and state. So that quality human resources can be created. Education greatly influences the process of social change for an individual in society and ultimately education will be able to build the nation and state in this era of globalization (Bhughe, 2022).

Based on the facts, people who go to school will have a higher social status in society than people who do not go to school or have a higher education. In the era of globalization, science and technology are developing so rapidly. The economy experiences changing ups and downs that are difficult to predict. In relation to the socialization of students, students who come to school certainly have different backgrounds, with these differences requiring students to always learn to recognize and appreciate the culture that occurs in the school environment. For example, students who are at home rarely socialize, at home because their parents rarely come home or their parents have a lot of

activities outside the home, or even their parents always accompany them every day, once students are at school it will certainly be different from at home, students have to behave differently than at home. Both with fellow students and with teachers which results in a relationship of interaction between people (Nurhaini, 2011).

Student socialization is a process of student learning at school regarding the formation of attitudes, behavior, communication, and social values between fellow students and community groups within the school environment. The development of modern society requires that some educational tasks be carried out by institutions called schools, although this does not mean taking over the responsibility of parents and society. School is a place to gain insight and knowledge, as well as a tool to achieve a bright future. Schools are relied upon as an effective place to climb the social ladder. Through school, people hope to improve their lives both economically, culturally, and in their position in the social hierarchy. School education aims to prepare students to enter society. In the minds of the school education community, there is a myth that everyone has the same opportunities at all levels (Wachidah & Wulandari, 2014).

Social inequality is a condition of social imbalance that exists in society which creates differences. through schools is a real picture of the conditions of society in disadvantaged areas and far from urban centers (Setiadi & Kolip, 2011). The problem of social inequality is a mismatch between elements of the people which endangers the lives of social groups. So it can be concluded that social inequality is a difference that occurs in real social life and is a problem for some people (Hidayat, 2017).

Social inequality in this area is greatly influenced by demographic, economic, and educational factors themselves. Demographic factors are seen in the population in the young pyramid. Economic factors are clearly illustrated by the unequal distribution of the economy in Indonesia, where the rich are getting richer, and the poor are getting poorer, while the educational factor itself includes subjects and objects. According to Wachidah and Fitria, Eka Wulandari (2014), socioeconomic disparities through schools are a real picture of the conditions of society in disadvantaged areas and far from urban centers.

A student arrives at school using his or her personality and bringing the culture of their respective environment using an exclusive style that depends on their social status. That way, they will make friends with people from the social group they come from. Because of this, schools cannot be separated from the culture of the social environment and can cause social inequality (Hornby & Parwell, 2019).

The problem of socio-economic inequality is a mismatch between elements of society that endangers the lives of social groups in society, especially in the school environment. So it can be concluded that socio-economic inequality is an economic difference that occurs in real social life and is a problem for some people (Alawiah, 2018).

Inequality refers to the relative standard of living across society, due to disparities between regions, namely differences in production factors and available resources. This difference causes the level of development and distribution of income in each region to vary, giving rise to a gap in welfare in the various regions (Idi, 2016). Social inequality is the existence of a difference between one human being and another in socio-economic and cultural factors. Based on social facts theory, the gap in educational quality is currently a problem in the world of education. All social classes in Indonesia can receive access to quality education.

The educational gap in schools is caused by several factors including the high cost of education. The cost of quality education is expensive, this is what we always hear from the public, so the public cannot afford it due to the low economy (Hidayat, 2017). The low quality of teachers here is that most teachers are not optimal or professional in carrying out their duties as educators.

The high number of bullying cases in schools is due to socio-economic influences. Socialization is a learning process that guides children towards the development of their social personality so that they can become responsible and effective members of society. Children's social development is greatly influenced by the process of parental treatment and guidance towards children in introducing various aspects of social life or norms of social life. The guiding process carried out by parents is called the socialization process. The socialization process can take place through social groups formed from their family, playmates, school environment, work environment, and the surrounding community (Nurdin, 2019). In this opinion, the school environment is one of the places for the socialization process of students, which is made into a system and consists of subsystems that are interconnected with other subsystems, meaning that the school is related to other subsystems, including parents of students, the community in the school environment, and so forth. This subsystem will allow communication to occur and achieve the desired goals of the socialization process through communication with other members of society.

Even so, communication leads to a communication process, it is not free from influencing factors. In this case, Abdullah Idi stated that two factors influence the socialization process, the example of parents and the social environment. Parental examples will greatly influence a child's behavior. Children will tend to have good manners in acting, speak kind words, and be disciplined in everything. This happens to a child who will look in the mirror/see the behavior of their parents in their daily lives. In fact, the saying goes, the fruit does not fall far from the tree. This shows that parental behavior will require the possibility of being imitated by their children.

METHODS

Based on the type of problem in the research title, the researcher used qualitative research. The research approach used in this research is descriptive. The descriptive method is a method that uses research into

the problems being researched through extensive and in-depth data and information mining. This research was conducted at SD Inpres Parang. The data that the author used to compile this research came from informants, namely key people. The role of key people in research is the main thing because the help and information they provide is the researcher's main capital in obtaining data and research materials. The key people the researcher refers to are the principal, homeroom teacher, parents, and students.

The focus of this research is on the socio-economic conditions of students' parents and also the role of teachers in elementary schools. In this research, the author used two data sources, namely primary data and secondary data. The data that is the primary data source in this research is from the principal, homeroom teacher, and students of SD Inpres Parang, Makassar City. In this research, documentation, and questionnaires are secondary data sources. The instrument used in this research is an instrument in the form of a questionnaire. To obtain data that can be accounted for and is in accordance with the research objectives to be achieved, appropriate data collection techniques are needed. In this research, the techniques used are questionnaire techniques, documentation techniques, and interview techniques. The data analysis technique used in this research is qualitative descriptive data analysis, which explains, describes, and interprets research results using word and sentence arrangements as answers to the problems studied.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Description of the Socioeconomic Status of Students' Parents

Socioeconomic status is a person's position or position in society, socioeconomic status is a description of the condition of a person or a society from a socio-economic perspective, the description such as level of education, income, and so on. Adequate parental income will support children's growth and development because parents can provide for all children's needs, both primary and secondary. We can classify socio-economic status into three levels, namely high, medium, and low socio-economic status. Socioeconomic status is formed from the status a person holds in society, both in terms of economics, education, and heredity. The socio-economic status of the parents of class IV students at SD Inpres Parang, Makassar City tends to be medium and low socio-

economic status, as the results of observations showed that from the results of research observations that the author obtained, the majority of parents of class IV students at SD Inpres Parang, Makassar City work as laborers and traders (observation results 19 December 2023).

From the results of the observations above, it shows that the socio-economic status of the parents of class IIb students at SD Inpres Parang, Makassar City is classified as medium socio-economic status because the majority of the student's parents work as entrepreneurs, laborers, and traders, while the rest are civil servants and entrepreneurs, as per the results of the questionnaire from informants. that is:

Table 1. Percentage of Parents' Job Types

No	Interval	Frequency	Percentage	Criteria
1	>81,25% - 100%	2	10	High
2	>62,50% - 81,25%	4	20	Middle
3	>43,75% - 62,50%	11	55	Low
4	>25% - 43,75%	3	15	Very low
Total		20	100	

As seen in Table 1 above, 10% of students, or 2 students have parents who work at high criteria, 20% of students, or 4 students have parents who work at middle criteria, 55% of students, or 11 students have parents who work is at low criteria, and 15% of students or 3 students have parents who work at very low criteria. From the percentage above it can be said that 55% of students or 11 students have parents who work in the low criteria.

Factors Affecting Socioeconomic Status

1. Income

Income can be defined as wages, salaries, profits, rent, and any other stream of income received. However, another way to look at the generation of sources of income is in the form of workers' compensation, social security, pensions, interests or dividends, royalties, receivables, allowances, or other benefits from government, society, or family financial assistance. Income can be seen in two terms, namely absolute and absolute. Absolute income is a person's income which is only measured in one variable, namely money. Meanwhile, relative income is income seen

from two variables, namely money and time. Income is a measure that is generally used to measure a person's socio-economic status because it is relatively easy to know. Income is very important in a family to meet needs, both now and in the future. This is the basis for parents of class IIIb students at SD Inpres Parang, Makassar City, not being too consumptive so that they can save the income they generate for future needs. As the results of interviews from student parents said "My income is around 2 million per month, I use it as best as possible to fulfill my daily life. Essentially, this is for basic needs and I will save the rest for immediate needs later" (Afif, 19 December 2023).

From the results of the interview above, it can be concluded that parents with low incomes focus on fulfilling urgent needs and save the rest from fulfilling their primary needs. In contrast to parents with higher incomes, they can fulfill their primary needs and also fulfill their secondary and even tertiary needs. As the results of an interview with one informant said "When it comes to income, it is certain that basic needs are met first but there are also other needs that must be met and if there is any leftover to save" (Sarah, 19 December 2023).

2. Education

Education is an important thing because it not only determines a role as a means of supporting work but also as a tool that can elevate a person's status within the scope of society. As the results of an interview with one informant said "The higher a person's education, the more likely he is to get a job and the more he will be appreciated and even respected because he is considered to have broader insight" (Syarifuddin, 20 December 2023).

The interview above shows that when someone has a high education, it will be easier to get a job and someone will be more respected if they have a high education because they are considered to have broad insight. A person's educational attainment can also be considered as an achievement in his life which is reflected in his degrees and values. Education encourages to get a job which will increase family income. Those who have a bachelor's, master's, or even doctor's degree will increasingly have the opportunity to earn a greater income where they work, in contrast to those who do not have a degree or even have not attended school, who will be punished financially. A high level of education is associated with better economic and psychological outcomes.

3. Work

Varied work is one component of a person's socio-economic status, consisting of income, educational attainment, and level of position in the world of work. A person's employment status corresponds to the level of education or degree they have. With a high employment status and high education, one will also get an improvement in one's socio-economic status. This is in accordance with the results of interviews with informants who said "If a person's education is higher then his job will be better too" (Raihan, 26 Juni 2019).

Job status is an indicator to gain recognition of social status in society which will describe job characteristics where there are abilities and emotional and psychological control that will place demands on the job. There are some of the most prestigious jobs according to the opinion of the general public who were surveyed and ranked, including doctors, lawyers, engineers, and entrepreneurs. These jobs are grouped into the classification of high socioeconomic status. Meanwhile, jobs with lower rankings are food waiters, maids, parking attendants, waiters, and dishwashers. Undervalued work is also significantly underpaid, physically exhausting, or even dangerous, and provides less autonomy.

CONCLUSION

A conclusion in this research, namely, that there is unequal treatment or forms of inequality that occur in schools, so those who play an important role in preventing this are the school, especially teachers. The role of teachers is to minimize or prevent problems of socioeconomic inequality in schools. There is social interaction between teachers and students or using a person-to-person approach to students. In this aspect, teachers must carry out social interactions between teachers and students, because teachers always interact with their students. Teachers use a personal approach towards students so that teachers can find out the causes and effects of bullying. As well as building effective communication between teachers and students so that students are open to telling stories to the teacher. There is a discussion and lecture process regarding bullying at school by instilling religious values and character in students as well as teaching ethics between fellow students and students, students, and teachers. And give an educational warning to students who bully. Design or create a prevention

program that contains a message to students not to bully because this behavior is not accepted at school and the school has created a policy regarding this matter. Schools or teachers also assist students who receive unequal treatment through physical and non-physical assistance to victims of bullying. Teachers or schools also use media as a tool to support the prevention of bullying or provide education or stimulus to all students, whether they are victims or those who carry out bullying so that there is an educational emphasis on students.

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