THE EFFECT OF PARENTS’ LEVEL OF EDUCATION ON STUDENTS’ SOCIAL INTERCOURSE ATTITUDE

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Abstract
The objective of this study is to know the effect of parents level education on students’ social intercourse attitude. This study was conducted in Barru in the province of South Sulawesi in Indonesia. The participants of this study are 55 students. The data were collected using questionnaire and by observation and interview. The analysis of the data employs simple regression pattern. It reveals that the parents’ level education does not affect on the students’ social intercourse attitude. It means that whether the parents’ level education high or low, it does not give effect. This study can serve as the basis for Guidance and Counselling teachers and the vice class to give the students assistance in terms of how to behave well in the school and for the family to keep giving assistance to the students as well.

Keyword: education, educational level, attitude, social intercourse.

INTRODUCTION
Education in a broader definition deals with the whole process of life and is an integration between individual and environment in the formal, non formal, and informal contexts. Education has the important role in determining the development and the quality of individuals particularly the mental development and the characteristic.

In building the attitude, mental, and character, it is not only the responsibility of the formal education or school because it has time limitation to interact and communicate with the students. Family and parents in this case also hold the important role because children spend more times to socialize and hang out with the family and the society. Therefore, family is the first and main centre of education. Family is even the one that places the personality building in the children because the process of education of children is actually started in the family.

Parents hold the important role and are very influential for their children education because they have the big responsibility for the children’s life and education. The responsibility of education that parents and children should know are taking care and raising up the children, protecting and guaranteeing the children physically and mentally, educating them with broad knowledge and skill that are beneficial for the children’s life to make them happy in the world and in the hereafter.

Parents should continuously develop the awareness of the responsibility of educating the children. They need to be provided with modern educational theory that is appropriate with the development of the era. Therefore, the level and the quality of educational material given to children can be used to face the environment that always changes.

To do so, parents as the first and main educators for children should definitely improve their knowledge and skill. In relation to the responsibility, the parents’ education can affect on the way they educate their children, such as the ability in giving information about how to take an action toward a case. Parents’ educational background affects on the perspective they have in raising up and educating their children.
In a complex society, the level of education of parents are different one another. There are parents who pursue education only until elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, or even higher education. From the different educational levels, it affects on the technique or the way parents approach their children because it is such a parameter to measure the ability of the parents in educating.

Parents that have lower educational level will give education and raise up their children in an ordinary way without identifying the children’s character first. Based on the background above, then the present study is conducted to provide an overview of the effect of parents’ level education on social intercourse attitude of students.

Definition of Educational Level
To discuss what educational level means, we have to see that it consists of two words which are level and education. The definition of level in the Indonesian Language Dictionary (2003:1197) is “stage, position, degree, and class level.”

In terms of education, some of us know what it means. Yet, when education is defined in the certain scope, then there will be many definitions about it.

In the simple definition, education is oftenly defined as a continuous effort to do learning process or a process of knowledge transfer between the educators and the students.

As explained by Langeveld as quoted by Hasbullah in the book of Dasar-Dasar Ilmu Pendidikan (2003:2), education is every effort or a protection that is given to children that are going to be educated till they get matured. It means that education is an effort of helping children in order that they gain enough ability of doing tasks by themselves in their life.

According to Tardif as quoted by Dalyono in the book of Psikologi Pendidikan (2009:5), it is stated that in the broader context, education can be defined as a process in which people gain knowledge, understanding, and the way of behaving based on the needs by using certain method.

The simple definition of education according to Indonesian Language Dictionary as quoted by Damsar in the book of Pengantar Sosiologi Pendidikan (2001:9) is a process of changing the attitude and the behaviour of a person or a group of people for the purpose of making them matured through teaching and training.

Education in the society definitely has the important position either in character building, intelligence improvement, and interaction skill in facing the change of the era and the life dynamics. Additionally, education as according to Mudyaharjo in the book of Filsafat Ilmu Pendidikan (2001:45) is the whole things in life that affect on the development of a person.

Based on the definitions of level and education as explained above, then it can be concluded that level of education is the stage taken as the process of maturing person through teaching and training. According to the Constitution of Indonesian Republic no. 20 year 2003 about the national education system article 14 (2006:13), it is stated that “the formal education stage consists of elementary school, high school, and higher education.”

Definition of Social Intercourse Attitude
a. Definition of Attitude
An individual’s attitude is always related to certain things or objects and is closed. Therefore, the manifestation of attitude cannot be seen directly. It can only be defined through
the closed attitude. Besides, attitude also deals with social life which means the attitude of people can adapt to others’. Attitude leads us to a perspective that we can act based on what we express.

The attitude of a person will give such a colour to someone’s behaviour. By knowing a person’s attitude, it will be easy to know or predict what kind of response a person is going to give when given a stimulus.

According to Rusmi in the book of Ilmu Prilaku M.A. 104 (2000:218), it is stated that mental and nerve conditions as prepared and controlled based on an experience give such a dynamic and are directed based on an individual’s response to all the related objects or situation.

According to Ahmad in the book of Psikologi Sosial (2007:148), attitude is the thing that determines the nature of a person’s character now and in the future. This statement reflects that attitude determines the character of an individual.

According to Abraham in the book of Mengupas Kepribadian Anda (2009:49), attitude is the sense of faith, feeling, and tendency that are relatively stable in a person when facing something or someone.

Based on the statements, we can conclude that attitude is the orientation of faith, feeling, and tendency toward an object that determines an individual’s character now and in the future that is related to the surrounding.

b. Definition of Social Intercourse

As social creatures, a human cannot separate from other humans because they cannot fill everything all by themselves. Hence, they need to do socialization one another. Social intercourse has a big influence in building personality of a person. It reflects the personality of a person either in the positive or negative social intercourse. Positive social intercourse can be seen in the cooperation among the individuals or groups for the positive purpose; while the negative social intercourse is always related to free social intercourse.

According to Ahmadi and Uhbiyati in the book of Ilmu Pendidikan (1991:1), it is stated that social intercourse is the direct contact between one individual and other individuals or between educators and students.

c. Factors affecting Social Intercourse

The age of senior high school is the age of teenagers which is very critical. It is the age of fighting for letting a person out of the dependency on her/his parents and fighting for reaching the independency in order that they can be accepted as adult.

METHOD

This study employs quantitative approach. It was conducted in a senior high school in Barru in the province of South Sulawesi Indonesia. The participants involved in this study consist of 55 students. The data were collected through observation, interview, and questionnaire. The analysis of the data employs simple regression pattern.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The result of the study reveals that the pattern of social intercourse of the students is in the form of group. The groups are made because not all students can accept the difference one another. Therefore, they make the groups based on their own characteristics.

The result of the study also reveals that the students’ parents control their social intercourse either in school or in the social life. Every new friends they bring home, their parents would investigate them such as asking where they are from and their parents’ names. Yet, there are some other students who are given a freedom by their parents to do their social intercourse with whomever. They are under no control by their parents. It can be said that they are given a trust to build their social relationship. How they act upon it, their parents do not pay attention. If the students have a problem with their friends, that they are free to decide an action to solve the problems. Parents do a control only on helping the students choosing their friends.

In terms of parents’ educational level, it does not have effect on the students’ social intercourse attitude. It means that either the parents’ educational level is high or low, it does not give effect on how they control over the students’ social intercourse attitude.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This study sees the effect of parents’ level of education on the students’ social intercourse attitude in a senior high school in Barru. Most of the students are given a trust by their parents to build their social relationship with their friends and surrounding. Parents only give control on helping the students choose their friends. In terms of the pattern of the social intercourse that the students make, they make groups based on their character because most of the students cannot accept the differences among them.

This study suggests that Guidance and Counselling teachers should keep helping the students in building their attitude in order that they can become well-behaved students. For parents, it is expected that parents can help the students in making social intercourse with their surrounding in the social life.

REFERENCES