



The Role of Christian Religious Education Teachers in Forming Student Character at Inpres Endomen Elementary School, Yahukimo Regency

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Abstract

The Role of Christian Religious Education Teachers in Shaping Students' Character has a strategic role in developing students' character at the Endomen Presidential Elementary School, Yahukimo Regency, Papua Mountains Province, which is in line with Christian values. In the world of education, character is one of the fundamental aspects that must be instilled in students to produce a moral and spiritual generation. This journal examines how the role of Christian Religious Education (PAK) teachers as educators, role models, and spiritual leaders can shape the character of students at the Endomen Presidential Elementary School, Yahukimo Regency. (PAK) teachers use a holistic education approach not only to teach religious knowledge but also to instill values such as love, justice, loyalty, and forgiveness in their students. This study uses a qualitative descriptive approach using data obtained from observation, interviews, and library research. The results of the study indicate that the active participation of the Role of Christian Religious Education (PAK) teachers in learning, exemplary in everyday life, at the Endomen Presidential Elementary School, Yahukimo Regency, Papua Mountains Province.



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INTRODUCTION

The role of Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency plays a strategic role in shaping the morals and character of the nation, particularly in the context of building student character at Inpres Endomen Elementary School, which is becoming increasingly complex in the modern era. One of the fundamental aspects of education is character building, aiming to develop individuals who are intellectually excellent but also possess moral and spiritual integrity. In the context of the role of Christian Religious Education teachers, it is crucial for them to instill Christian values in students to shape their character. The CRE teacher's role goes beyond being an educator; they must also be a living example who can provide a concrete model for applying these values in daily life. Character building has become even more critical in the face of

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the challenges posed by globalization, technological advances, and the moral crisis affecting the younger generation.

Although digital technology brings significant benefits to the learning process, it also presents a major challenge in character building for students. Children and teenagers are often exposed to news and content that does not support their moral development, resulting in a need for guidance from educators, particularly religious teachers. CRE teachers have the responsibility to bridge academic learning with the moral development of students, helping to build a generation that is not only academically excellent but also grounded in Christian values such as love, justice, and forgiveness.

In this context, Christian religious education serves as a strategic means for teaching Christian values through a holistic approach. CRE teachers play the role of agents of change, not just by imparting religious knowledge but also by shaping students' characters by instilling universal and essential values. Religious education must encompass spiritual experiences that shape the whole character of students, covering moral, spiritual, and social aspects. Character education in CRE is not just about teaching values; it also focuses on developing the skills of students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency to apply these values in real life.

For example, through learning activities such as group discussions, short plays based on Bible stories, and service projects, students are challenged to understand and internalize values such as love, humility, and loyalty. This approach allows students to deeply and continuously internalize Christian values. However, the role of CRE teachers in character development at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency faces several challenges. One of the main challenges is that most students do not pay attention to religious education due to the influence of secular culture, which tends to neglect spiritual values. Additionally, the availability of appropriate teaching methods and the teacher's ability to adapt to the students' needs at Inpres Endomen Elementary School is another crucial factor affecting the effectiveness of character education. Engaging religious education tailored to the local context of Endomen can increase students' interest in the subject and play a significant role in shaping their character.

METHOD

In writing this journal, the researcher uses a qualitative descriptive approach to study the role of Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers in character formation at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province. This approach was chosen to provide an in-depth description of how CRE teachers carry out their roles in shaping students' character at Inpres Endomen Elementary School based on Christian values. The researcher gathers theoretical information from various data sources related to the topic, such as books, journals, articles, internet sources, scholarly reports, and references from the school as teaching materials that are credible in academic circles.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

The role of Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers carries a significant responsibility in shaping the character of students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency, Papua Pegunungan Province. One of the primary roles of a CRE teacher is to be an example for students in living out Christian values. Character is not only shaped by the teaching of values but also by the role model provided by the teacher as an authoritative figure. As a role model, the CRE teacher must demonstrate in their daily life examples of behavior that align with Christian teachings, such as love, forgiveness, and justice. This modeling is one of the most effective ways to internalize religious values in students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School.

Christian Religious Education is not only about doctrinal teaching but, more importantly, about applying those teachings in real actions that can be observed by the students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School. The students at Inpres Endomen Elementary tend to imitate what they see more than what they hear. Therefore, the role of the CRE teacher must always uphold the integrity of their life and behavior. If the CRE teacher is teaching Christian values such as love, honesty, and forgiveness, they must also be able to demonstrate these values in their daily interactions with students, fellow teachers, and school staff. For example, if a teacher shows patience and love to a student who is struggling, the students at Inpres Endomen Elementary will see the teacher as a living example of how they should behave in similar situations.

The role model provided by the teacher in character education has a profound impact, considering that the role of the CRE teacher is not only to teach religious knowledge but also to change the lives of students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School by teaching them how to live according to Christian faith principles. A teacher who demonstrates Christian values in their behavior will be more successful in shaping students' character because they provide a living example that can be accepted by the students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School, Papua Pegunungan Province.

Discussion

The role of Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers plays a significant part in shaping the character of students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency, Papua Pegunungan. One of the main roles of a CRE teacher is to serve as a role model for students in living out Christian values. Character is not only shaped by teaching values, but also by the example set by the teacher as an authoritative figure. As a role model, the CRE teacher must demonstrate in their daily life examples of behavior that align with Christian teachings, such as love, forgiveness, and justice. This modeling is one of the most effective ways to instill religious values in students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School.

Christian Religious Education should not only focus on teaching the Bible but, more importantly, on how students can apply these values in their daily lives. This requires CRE teachers to have a deep understanding of how to integrate the theory and practice of religious values into their teaching. In the context of character formation, teaching Christian values should begin with an introduction to God, His unlimited love, and the moral teachings in the Bible that lead to the development of good character. Integrating Christian values into the learning process helps students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School understand their greater purpose in life and leads to better self-development. Values such as forgiveness, humility, honesty, and service to others are important aspects that need to be taught in every learning session at Inpres Endomen Elementary School.

Teaching Christian values in CRE must involve methods that are engaging and relevant to students' everyday lives at Inpres Endomen Elementary School. The role of the CRE teacher can incorporate various methods such as case studies, role-playing, or group discussions to facilitate students' understanding of the application of Christian values. For example, when teaching about love, the teacher can use Bible stories that show how Jesus loved everyone, regardless of background or social status.

Then, students at Inpres Endomen Elementary can discuss how they can implement love in their lives, whether at home, at school, or in the community. For example, when teaching about forgiveness, the teacher can use the story of Jesus forgiving those who wronged Him and invite students to reflect on how they can forgive a friend who has hurt them. This way, students not only learn moral values theoretically but also see the relevance of these values in their own lives.

Teaching Christian values also requires a contextual approach, which is teaching that is not only based on scripture but also takes into account the social, cultural, and personal context of the students. This is important because Christian values such as love, forgiveness, and humility must be understood and accepted by students within their real-life context. Teaching that neglects the students' life context at Inpres Endomen Elementary School will likely become a theory that is irrelevant to their everyday lives. For example, when teaching about love, the CRE teacher must show how love can be applied in concrete situations that students face.

Amid the social and cultural challenges faced by the younger generation, such as promiscuity, violence, and discrimination, CRE teachers must help students see how Christian love can be the solution to these issues. This teaching can be done through case studies, where students are invited to analyze situations they may face in their daily lives and then discuss how to apply love in dealing with these problems. In this way, students not only learn about love theoretically but can see how this value is relevant and applicable in their lives at Inpres Endomen Elementary.

An experiential approach to teaching Christian values is also highly effective. One way to involve students at Inpres Endomen Elementary in Christian religious education is by engaging them in actions that reflect Christian values. For example, the CRE teacher can organize social activities, such as visiting orphanages or hospitals, where students can directly experience giving love to those in need. Experiences like this not only teach the value of love but also develop empathy and social concern among students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency.

Furthermore, self-reflection is also an important component of teaching Christian values. After engaging in such activities, the teacher can invite students to reflect and discuss how they felt after showing love and what they learned from the experience. This approach helps students not only understand Christian values cognitively but also internalize them into their feelings and actions.

In this context, experience becomes a powerful tool in shaping students' character because they can directly see and feel the benefits of living according to Christian teachings.

Challenges and Solutions in Enhancing the Role of CRE Teachers in Character Formation at Inpres Endomen Elementary School

The role of CRE teachers in character formation at Inpres Endomen Elementary School faces various challenges. One of the biggest challenges is the influence of the external environment, which often contradicts the Christian values taught by teachers. In the digital era, students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School are exposed to a wide variety of information, both positive and negative, through social media and the internet. This can influence the way students think and act, often in contradiction to the religious teachings they receive at school. Therefore, CRE teachers must be able to guide students in navigating these challenges by providing appropriate guidance on how to filter the information they receive and how to live according to the values they learn in Christian religion.

The Important and Strategic Role of CRE Teachers in Character Formation

The role of the CRE teacher is not only to convey religious knowledge but also to serve as a role model who demonstrates Christian values in daily life. Through good teaching and the right approach, CRE teachers can help students understand and internalize Christian values that lead to the formation of strong character and noble morals. However, the challenges in character formation are becoming more complex with the negative influence of the social environment and the digital world. Therefore, the role of the CRE teacher must be supported by cooperation between teachers, parents, and the community to create a generation that is not only academically excellent but also has character aligned with Christian values.

CONCLUSION

From the material presented, it can be concluded that the role of Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers in shaping the character of students at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency is crucial in character formation, particularly in instilling Christian values that form the moral and spiritual foundation of students. As educators, role models, and spiritual guides, the role of CRE teachers is not only to deliver educational content but also to provide real-life examples in daily life. Through a holistic teaching approach, CRE teachers contribute to integrating values such as love, honesty, responsibility, and forgiveness into students' behavior at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency.

The research presented in the journal indicates that the character development of students through the role of CRE teachers is influenced by several factors, including pedagogical skills, the teacher's role model, and the relevance of teaching methods to students' needs. Teachers who are able to create a conducive and inspiring learning environment can foster students' character, making them not only academically excellent but also morally and spiritually strong. In conclusion, the success of character formation in students greatly depends on the active role of CRE teachers as agents of value transformation in education at Inpres Endomen Elementary School in Yahukimo Regency, Papua Province.

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