

PRACTICE-BASED ARTICLES



Strengthening character education through *Pramuka*: A perspective from the Indonesian Scouting movement

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ABSTRACT

Character education is one of the main priorities in improving the quality of education in Indonesia, particularly at the elementary school level. Extracurricular activities, such as *Pramuka* (scouting movement), effectively instill student character values. This study examines the implementation of character education through scouting extracurricular activities at SD Negeri Lamklat and its impact on students' character development. The findings indicate that scouting activities, such as camping, leadership training, and social initiatives, effectively instill values such as discipline, responsibility, cooperation, leadership, and patriotism. These activities also shape students' attitudes and behaviors aligned with Pancasila values. Furthermore, scouting provides a platform for students to develop social and interpersonal skills, helping them become better individuals. Thus, scouting activities play a strategic role in shaping a morally responsible and ethical young generation.

KEYWORDS

Character education; scouting activities; elementary school; leadership development; Pancasila values

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1. Introduction

Character education is an essential aspect of the education process in Indonesia. As part of the effort to create a generation that is academically intelligent and possesses strong moral values, character education must be implemented from an early age (Fauziah et al., 2019). At the elementary school level, character education is crucial in shaping a child's personality, which should be responsible but also empathetic, disciplined, and patriotic. Therefore, various efforts have been made to integrate character education into school teaching and learning activities (Komariah et al., 2021). Character education is essential within Indonesia's education system to create a generation with strong moral values alongside academic intelligence. At the elementary school level, character education is necessary to build responsible, empathetic, disciplined, and patriotic personalities in children.

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One practical approach to implementing character education is through extracurricular activities (Solehah et al., 2022). Extracurricular activities allow students to develop their potential outside of academic activities (Hui et al., 2021). Furthermore, extracurricular activities play a vital role in educating students to foster responsibility, leadership, teamwork, and discipline (Nasir et al., 2020). Among the various extracurricular activities in schools, scouting is one of the most famous and has great potential in shaping students' character (Hidayah et al., 2023).

As a guiding organization, scouting has long been part of Indonesia's education system. This organization teaches practical skills like survival in the wild and instills moral and social values (Dulatip et al., 2020). Through various activities conducted in scouting, students are taught to prioritize cooperation, respect, and responsibility for their duties and obligations (Nadifa et al., 2023). Activities such as camping, leadership training, and community service positively impact students' character development.

Additionally, scouting extracurricular activities can be an effective means of instilling Pancasila's values. As the foundation of the state, Pancasila contains noble values that are highly relevant in community and national life (Meiana & Minsih, 2023; Sarbaini, 2025; Widyatama, 2025). These values, such as cooperation, discipline, responsibility, and nationalism, align with the goals of character education. Through scouting activities, students not only learn the theory of Pancasila but also practice these values in their daily lives (Triningsih, 2019).

Although scouting activities are widely implemented at SD Negeri Lamklat, not all schools can fully maximize the potential of scouting as a tool for character education. This is due to various factors, such as time constraints, limited resources, and uneven understanding of the importance of character education through extracurricular activities. Therefore, more systematic and structured efforts are needed to implement scouting activities as part of character education in elementary schools.

This community service examines how character education through scouting extracurricular activities can be implemented at SD Negeri Lamklat. Through this service, a better understanding of the role of scouting in shaping students' character and the challenges and obstacles faced in its implementation is expected. The results of this service are anticipated to contribute positively to the development of character education at the elementary school level, mainly through scouting extracurricular activities.

2. Research methods

This service uses a qualitative approach with a case study design to examine the implementation of character education through scouting extracurricular activities at SD Negeri Lamklat. The qualitative approach was chosen because it allows researchers to

delve deeply into the phenomenon and understand the perspectives of educational actors, such as teachers, scouting instructors, and students (Syafitri & Listyaningsih, 2023). This service focuses on understanding how scouting activities influence the formation of students' character at the school.

The subjects of this service consist of students, instructors, and teachers at SD Negeri Lamklat who participate in scouting extracurricular activities. Sample selection was done purposively, selecting schools that successfully implemented scouting activities and have experience integrating character education. This service also involved direct observations of scouting extracurricular activities held at these schools.

Data collection techniques included in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and documentation. Interviews were conducted with teachers, scouting instructors, and several students to explore their views on implementing scouting activities in character formation. The participatory observation was conducted to observe how scouting activities are carried out and how students interact. Documentation enriched the data, such as scouting activity notes and extracurricular activity reports.

The collected data were analyzed using thematic analysis, identifying the main themes from interviews, observations, and documentation. The analysis process was inductive, organizing the data into relevant categories and drawing conclusions based on existing patterns.

3. Results

Based on interviews with teachers, scouting instructors, and direct observations of scouting extracurricular activities at SD Negeri Lamklat, it was found that scouting activities positively impact the formation of students' character. Activities carried out in scouting, such as camping, leadership training, and social activities, successfully instilled desired character values such as discipline, responsibility, teamwork, and concern for the environment.

From interviews with scouting instructors, it was known that scouting activities focus on developing social attitudes and leadership. The instructors stated that through leadership training and group activities, students learn to cooperate, respect one another, and lead with responsibility. Additionally, the periodic camping activities provide opportunities for students to enhance their problem-solving skills, adapt to the environment, and maintain team cohesion.

Observations also showed that students actively involved in scouting activities displayed positive changes in their daily behaviors. They became more disciplined in following rules, more responsible in completing tasks, and demonstrated empathy toward peers and the environment. Some students even stated that scouting activities inspired them to become better individuals and more caring toward others (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Character building in *Pramuka* activities

4. Discussion

Scouting extracurricular activities in schools has proven effective in instilling character education values. One of the primary values emphasized in scouting activities is discipline. Discipline in adhering to schedules, following rules, and taking responsibility for assigned tasks is a value that is continuously emphasized in every scouting activity (Fitri et al., 2020). Students involved in these activities become more accustomed to routines and good time management, which are crucial in school life and beyond.

In addition to discipline, the value of responsibility is also highly emphasized in scouting activities. Through tasks such as being a group leader, students learn to take responsibility for the success or failure of the team (Nurmalia et al., 2022). This experience shapes students' character into individuals concerned not only with themselves but also with the success of others. They understand that responsibility is not just about oneself but also about others and the surrounding environment.

Cooperation is another value that is emphasized in scouting activities. During camping or group training activities, students face tasks requiring teamwork. Through this process, students learn to help each other, listen to others' opinions, and prioritize the common good (Nadifa et al., 2023). These values align with the goals of character education to form individuals with empathy and care for others.

Moreover, social activities in scouting also help students become more concerned with society. Social service, community service, and environmental activities teach students the importance of contributing to others. Through these activities, students are

taught to become independent individuals and be part of a caring and responsible society.

Overall, scouting activities can be successful in implementing character education. Despite some challenges, such as time constraints and limited resources, the positive impact of these activities on students' character development is evident. Therefore, it is important to continue to develop and optimize scouting extracurricular activities as part of the character education efforts at SD Negeri Lamklat.

5. Conclusion

Based on the implementation of extracurricular scouting activities at SD Negeri Lamklat, these activities play a crucial role in the implementation of character education. Through various activities carried out in scouting, students not only gain technical skills but also internalize character values that are essential in daily life, such as discipline, responsibility, teamwork, leadership, and concern for the environment.

Scouting has proven effective in shaping students' social and emotional attitudes. Camping activities, leadership training, and social service provide direct experiences for students to apply the values of Pancasila and other positive character traits. Scouting instructors also play an important role in guiding students to nurture these values through attentive and persuasive approaches.

Disclosure statement

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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