



Christian Education in the Family as the First Fortress in the Disruptive Era

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CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN THE FAMILY AS THE FIRST FORTRESS IN THE DISRUPTIVE ERA

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Abstract. This study aims to describe Christian education in the family through Christian education strategies in the family such as understanding the nature of the Christian family, Parental responsibilities and the role of family is the place to teach Christian value. The family is the first and foremost educational environment for children in Christianity. Related to develop of children, both physical and psychological starting from the family. This is inseparable from the role as an educator. If the family fails in education of their children, it will be very difficult for others institution outside the family to fix it. The problem that arises now is the responsibility that must be done to prepare children who care about their environment. The early study of religious values is expected to be the first stronghold for children of change. This study is expected to be an input for the world of Christian education specifically to prepare children in the era disruptive era.

Keywords: Education, Family, Christian

Introduction

The expansion of technology is one of can denied able issue today, because of it technology running together with education. Every innovation created to give easiness and positive purpose also the new way to do human activity. Especially for it has gained so many innovations within this decade. Can denied able the expansion of this technology has impact many things in society. This period are known as the disruptive era. When disturbing and changing happen among the society, include the children behavior changing is the direct impact of this technology expand.

The fact of the internet technology also has impact to the live and behavior of today generation. Children are familiar with internet. UNICEF research result together with Communication and Information Ministry has shown 98% surveyed children and teenager knows about internet and 79.5% among them are the internet user. Besides, almost all of them disagree with pornography content in internet. But mostly children and teenager has been exposed by pornography content, especially when pop up coincidently in vulgar broadcast¹. This fact show the role of parent very important to help children use internet positively.

The purposed of this study is to describe childcare solution at disruptive era by the religion value for children education. This issue are important to facilitated and answer challenge at this disruptive era.

Current studies have many shows parents act to their children at disruptive era. Masyari Ulinuhha researches how we are protect the children from negative content of internet². Eva Fahriantini research about parent's role in surveillances children on Blackberry Messenger usage at Al Azhar Syifa

¹ https://kominfo.go.id/index.php/content/detail/3834/Siaran+Pers+No.+17-PIH-KOMINFO-2-2014+tentang+Riset+Kominfo+dan+UNICEF+Mengenai+Perilaku+Anak+dan+Remaja+Dalam+Menggunakan+Internet+/0/siaran_pers

² Masyari Ulinuhha, *Melindungi Anak dari Konten Negatif Internet - Studi terhadap Peramban Web Khususnya Anak*, Jurnal Sawwa Volume 8 Nomor 2, Samarinda, 2013,halaman 341-360.

Budi Samarinda³. Sulidar Fitri research about positive and negative impact of social usage of children's social changing behavior⁴. *Behavior Based Consultant* one of consult department written how to recognized children behavior while use the internet at home also the save steps of internet usage to minimize the negative effect of children⁵. Education and cultural ministry on 2016 has published pocket book about how to introduce internet to children according their age by pay attention to the length of usage time, content, need, and agreement with their parent how to use it⁶. The main question is how the parent's early childcare supposed to be? What kind of things that should be early known?

One thing that parent can do is how to introduce religion to children earlier. As well-known religion is the guidance for human, then to answer all of related question that happen need strategy to teach the religion value in childcare. Children need to have a good value of their religion as the early modal to face the destructive era. Because the character and identity of children cannot be instantly, takes time and good strategy from parents.

Discussion

Christian education in family is the parent's responsibilities. Because family is the first and closest environment that children have. That's why all policy that related with childcare and education must be well planned by parents. While do the Christian education with children must be done by the consciousness of the phenomenon that happen today that related with the disruptive era at family environment. Parent needs to identify and do the preventive about negative cause that might be happen.

Christian education in family at descriptive era more focuses how to give the Christian value which is correlated with the shape of children identity. Personality shapes are really important so the children have a steady foundation and not easily fickle with current situation. Several things that might be undone and comprehend by parent as below:

Comprehend the family as the Divinity community Institute

The first thing that parent should know is the comprehension the family as the divinity community institute. The correct comprehend about family based on bible will help parent to understand and how to do the responsibility to children. It is tried to find out the formulation of the family as the divinity community institute or family that based on God's determination. We will find various formulas that explain by several Christian figures Kristen.J. Verkuyl formulated family as below:

Family is the united that has been shaped between parents and children. There is diversity in unity and unity in diversity. That diversity develops in three parts there is in gap among the children. The living values that valid by the gap are: prestige and parent's love to children, respect and compassion from children to love each other among children.⁷

Melvin A. Jones said the definition of family are:

One of unity in society that exist of three parts Christian family shaped by shaped by man and women who love God and love and understand each other and united. In Christian family God are praise and worship. The children are given learning and

³ Eva Fahriantini, *Peranan Orangtua dalam Pengawasan Anak pada Penggunaan Blackberry Messenger di Al Azhar Syifa Budi Samarinda*, eJournal Ilmu Komunikasi Volume 4 Nomor 4, Semarang, 2016, halaman 44-55.

⁴ Sulidar Fitri, *Dampak Positif dan Negatif Sosial Media terhadap Perubahan Sosial Anak*, Naturalistic: Jurnal Kajian Penelitian Pendidikan dan Pembelajaran Volume 1 Nomor 2, Tasikmalaya, 2017, halaman 118-123.

⁵ Bambang Sukmanjaya, *Internet Aman*, Behavior Based Consultant, 2017.

⁶ Kementerian Pendidikan dan Kebudayaan, *Buku Saku Mendidik Anak di Era Digital*, Jakarta, 2016.

⁷ J. Verkuyl, *Etika Kristen Seksuil*, (Jakarta: BPK. Gunung Mulia, 1992), 166.

education based on holy bible. For it only the true love will happen among the member. Then Christian family will be the model family⁸.

Dr. J. L. Ch. Abineno said:

Family is the living unity between father, mother and children completely, and cannot be divorced. Family or household can't always have their own community consist of parent and children. They are still connected and live together because of God's will⁹.

Based on a few questions before can be conclude the family as the divinity community institute that state by the God's determined. Has a character that can be consider as community or exclusive unity that obey on the authority of God, where each of them give themselves in the God's compassion. God's norm here is the law that given to family, believer has written in His gospel. The bond compassion here is God's compassion from Christ. If the family didn't have character as explain before, the family cannot be saying as divinity community institute as the vessel to reveal His plan to the world. God as the family creator has a mission so the family has a bond by the faith unity and has compassion in every family relation was build. For it parents have to consider children as the family's subject, where each family member has to obey the law based on bible and parents support children in compassion to do this law in order the God's plan and compassion can shine to the world.

Parental Responsibilities

The parent's main and first responsibility as the children's teacher is such a burden and need strong understanding and commitment. This responsibilities start from the born day until grown up and children will get married. God that has planned marriage has state the family morel there are the regulation that rule for the believers. In Pastoral Epistles' we can found the Christian family regulation that has been written by the apostles' to church member. The family regulation as the standard and norm that must be run in Christian household especially the parents' responsibility to children. This responsibility held by the in purpose the children will have Christian character in side them so can make a good society.

According J.Verkuyl, parent especially father has a responsibility on his wife and children needs. The word that refers to father responsibility in Greek is "trepho", this word can be translate into teaching but also "feeding"¹⁰. Even Larry Christenson in his book "Christian family" said that husband has responsibility to take care family. Husband as the family leader has a same point with Christ authority to church member. The Christ authority to church member not the human authority that has a "flesh" noun, but the God's authority and spirit based on sacrificed. This thing purposed that parent has responsible to fulfill the of family needs. Especially children needs also ready to sacrifice to those needs.

Parent not only fulfills family physically needs also responsible to well guidance children and wife for pray to God. Volkhard and Gerlinde Scheunemann in "Live before and after marriage" said that when does the household the husband is unseen Christ representative as the family leader, are the wisdom source of the father. This task are not only important but also burden¹¹. Similar thing also said by Rosemary Wellson his book "My parent divorced" that parent called to educate their children in the truth of God and give attention to their children appropriately, because there is none children want to be abandon by their parent, this is the human basic need during childhood¹². By the Christ as the priest at home gives the people to the God's community (Hebrews 2:17; 4:14; 5:10; 6:20; 8:1;9:11;10:21), then husband as the priest in family has responsibility to guide his family member to God.

⁸ Melvin A. Jones, *Keluarga Yang Berbahagia*, (Surabaya: YAKIN, tanpa tahun), 8.

⁹ J. L. Ch. Abineno, *Manusia, Suami Isteri, Perkawinan Keluarga*, (Jakarta: BPK. Gunung Mulia, 2003), 57.

¹⁰ J.Verkuyl, *Etika Kristen Seksuil*, (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 1992), 17.

¹¹ Volkhard dan Gerlinde Sceunemann, *Hidup Sebelum dan Sesudah Menikah*, (Batu Malang: YPPI Departemen Literatur, 2001), 78-79.

¹² Rosemary Wells, *Ayah Ibuku Bercerai*, (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 1991), 4.

For it parents as the teacher understand the important of responsibility to fulfill children needs and also teach and care the children in family. Parents also have to hold education and care to children will all heart to avoid from uncertain thing in the future. Parents also must be selective to choose the education and environment to support children have a good character. The other thing that parent also need to concern is Christian value and moral education program on school. The beginning of Christian value must be the main program as the children foundation to behave as the main modal as the individual and social creature. The attitude while pray, worship, act to friend as the family, also respect and obey teacher is the Christian value that must be start earlier.

The Family Is The Place To Teach Christian Value

The purpose of God is the children teach about the truth of God earlier. These things we can see from the command of God for Israel, has written in the several chapter of bible old testament, such as: Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons; Specially the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children (Deuteronomy 4:9-10). Appointing of the God's commandment for Israel's parents, makes children know about their parents' experiences with God in the pass. For it the children can teach about God and have a respect and fear of God. From the other passage God gives His command related with the children education as below: And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: (Psalm 78:1, 3-7)

The purpose of this Christian education taught to Israel so the parents can continuous the Hebrew's history which is the God's agreement with his people¹³. By this religion education then the young generations of Israel covered by the other nation surround them, which are the treat about their faith to Yahweh¹⁴.

The parents' order to educate their children is permanently the God's command valid to Israel the chosen people also the New Testament people. In the New Testament we can find the Lord Jesus' command implicitly given to parent to consider the children education. Lord Jesus said: "Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 19:14).

Next we need to centralize that Lord Jesus very serious about children education. This is real by His act when given the punishments of the incorrect purpose to those children, there is: But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh! (Matthew 18:6-7) The definition of children in Matthew 18:6-7 can be interpreted as the new Christian that still weak and poor¹⁵. But it's not totally wrong if the definition of children in here also literally

¹³ George Arthur Buttrick, *Education in The Interpreter's Dictionary of The Bible*, (New York: Abingdon Press, 1962), 29.

¹⁴ L. J. Sherril, *The Rise Of Christian Education*, (New York: Macmillan, 1944), 71.

¹⁵ Stephen Tong, *Arsitek Jiwa I, Guru Sekolah Minggu dan Guru Agama Kristen*. (Jakarta: Momentum, 2016), 18.

children. This thing can be supported by bible testified in: 1) when God also as a child needs to receive education. (Luke 2:49); 2) Timothy as the apostles of Paul is someone that taught scripture since his is a child. (II Timothy 3:15).

In Ephesians 6:4 apostles of Paul clearly explain the parents to educate their children in the taught and wisdom of God. At this verse Paul use two word to refer to taught children, they are “paideia” and “nouthesia”. Paedeia is properly education by discipline and - is education by word of mouth.¹⁶

This education is the parents’ responsible means done by God but the parents as the media¹⁷. That’s why parents has responsibilities taught religion education and the truth of God, must be have enough modal, there is the truth of God and personal experience with God. So they can teach the truth of God to children with the correct teaching. Taught the truth to children not only by words, formal education at school and church, also from several effective ways, they are:

1. Worship with Family

Family becomes the place where the God’s presence feel by children and His truth taught to them. This worshiper in family then the household can be the center of spiritual activity. By this Worshipping the family members learn how to worship and praise God. The faith and believe of parents in family spread and legacy to the children, this “spread and legacy” is very effective by the family worshipping. The family’s meeting is the change where all family members meet and worship the gospel as the praise to God, pray and listen to God’s scripture. This not means the family become small church and doesn’t need church anymore. Related with tis Oswald Vaught in his opinion, said:

Worshipping together as a family usually includes various age-groups. This means that what is said and done will differ from time to time and from family to family. A devotional in a family where most members are adults might be greatly different from one where four- or six-year-old children are present; for children too should be included in the recognition of the presence of God. These differences in age-groups and the differences in individual needs point up the necessity for encouraging private devotions. If members are left with the feeling that family devotion is sufficient, much will be lost for the development of teh individual. The time of talking to God alone and listening for his voice is too important a matter not to be emphasized even with the younger children. Worship began as a family affair. The father served as priest (Abraham, Job, etc.), and the home was a center of worship and instruction. This does not mean that the present-day home should be a "litle church".however, religious activity should be so nature intergreted into the life of the christian family that it becomes a vital process of living.¹⁸

2. Example Parental Behavior

God’s will that every believer be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16). The light here is refers to act, attitude of believers that give impact to their environment. In family parents should be a light by their act that can be as model to children. The role model of parents is the biggest experience and can impact children, so effective for the children’s education. Besides that also to build parents’ character for their children¹⁹.

At his letter apostles of Paul refers the consect of role model as the way to taught the live of church member (I Chorintiass 4:6, 16; Filipianss 3:17; 2 Tessaloniass 3:7,9; 1 Thimoty 4:12). Christian education taught the truth to children as the next generation can be a realization, if the parents’ has the truth itself and agree to teach their children as the role models. Parents’ a good role model must be a good role model that can imitated by children either in words, act, compassion and discipline.

¹⁶ D. Guthrie, J.A Motyer, A.M Stibbs, D.J Wiseman, *The New Commentary Revised*, (Leicester, England: Inter Varsity Press, 1980), 1122.

¹⁷ J. Verkuyl, *Etika Kristen Seksuil*, (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 1992), 176.

¹⁸ Laud Oswald Vaught, *Focus On The Christian Family*, (Cleveland, Tennessee: Pathway Press, 1976), 3.

¹⁹ N. Syukur Dister, *Psikologi Agama Bapak dan Ibu Sebagai Simbol Allah*, (Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia dan Yayasan Kanisius, 1983), 48.

J. Wesley, at his book said that is not enough to teach only by words, must be also with act. Do not our words cause encourage but our act is cause discourage. Is it wise to put out word and act carefully, in order to be good role model²⁰. Means parents always have an upgraded attitude. Not only be a role model in words or act but also in compassion. Jhon M. Drescher said his opinion about compassion: "Love expressed through being gentle, willing to help, and willing to advise. Love is willing to listen. Love is mutually reinforcing. Love is the right time to express faith."²¹ Parents have to always show the supporting action to every family member while face any difficulties, and ready to be a good listener if there is any family member speak their mind also able to motivated if find out there is a weak family member.

Conclusion

Taught the Christian value to children should be given earlier. This is the parents' responsibility as the main teacher in family. Taught the Christian value able to minimize the negative impact of technology expand at disruptive era. By the taught of Christian value to children hope the children can have a good manner, responsibilities also keep on remember their created, then everything they will do has a positive value and useful for them and their environment.

The taught of Christian value start from family which is the first and closest environment to children. The negative effect impact of disruptive era to children must be warned by parent. Parents have to minimize those impact based on the behavior that children shown daily. Various strategy to taught Christian education to children that can be done by parent, start from the family as the divinity community institute and parents responsibility, also make the family as the Christian value taught by worshipping and give the good role model to children in act, behavior, compassion and discipline also give compassion parenting to children that source by bible, so children always feel acceptable and respectfully at their family. Several strategies for Christian taught hopefully able to do by parents' consistently then parents can assist their children grown up as the competitive person at disruptive era.

²⁰J. Wesley Brill, *Tafsiran surat Timotius dan Titus*, (Bandung: Yayasan Kalam hidup, 1993), 41.

²¹ Jhon M. Drescher, *Melakukan Buah Roh*, (Jakarta: BPK. Gunung Mulia, 2008), 208.

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