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Education Trends for Future Society

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IMPLEMENTATION OF DEMOCRATIC NURTURE IN UPHOLDING LEARNERS’ LEARNING AUTONOMY

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Abstract

Learners’ autonomy particularly in learning needs to be guided thoroughly. Pattern of nurturing children will affect children’s character. Democratic nurture refers to pattern of that gives space for children to let them arguing, develop their skills and competence. The role of teachers in such nurture acts as a controller for students particularly in the process of their activities. Some of feasible pattern that might be done by teachers, as ways of democratic nurture are first, teachers act as facilitator. Second, teachers provide space for freedom, third, teachers control the students, teachers do the things hand in hand with the students, teachers listen to students’ arguments, and teachers provide space for students not to be dependent to parents. This study is the results of theoretical framework, and aims to provide a framework in upholding students’ learning autonomy as seen from patterns of democratic nurture done by teachers.

Keywords: democratic nurture, learning autonomy

INTRODUCTION

Adolescents are categorized as group of people who have lack of persistence in this globalized world. This is due to the period seeking the real identity. Therefore, adolescence period is the most important period in developing someone’s autonomy. On the contrary, this particular situation has different condition with the reality. Much of society’s behavior reflects society’s behavior that leads to lack of autonomy. This phenomenon can be seen from several cases happened to adolescents such as juvenile delinquency, drugs, alcohol, emotional reaction, etc. Such cases imply that they are not able to control emotion and being responsible for themselves. This lack of autonomy also appears in the process of learning. In addition, it also occurs to students’ behavior like cheating, and studying at the end of the semester only. Such acts reflect that a student is low efficacious, and he/she is not responsible for them. Children’s autonomy is on the responsibility of parents, and school as the second environment is the responsible for students’ learning autonomy.

Nurturing is one of the ways to keep children continuously as a responsibility for parents and children. Parents at home and teachers at schools should equip themselves with appropriate knowledge. Not only do parents and teachers teach their children’s knowledge but also they need to further understand their children’s characteristics. In fact, pattern of nurturing children in Indonesia seems to be worse. It can be seen from several cases done by teachers to students. As a result, it traumatizes children so they feel inconvenient at schools.

Growing autonomy in particular learning autonomy can be done by applying appropriate pattern of nurture. One possible pattern is democratic nurture. Pattern of democratic nurture enables parents and children to cooperate hand in hand in their society. In addition, democratic nurture may result in autonomous learners, controllable, friendly, and eager to challenge. It can be applied through formal education at schools. This article is the explanation of conceptual framework for implementing democratic nurture in upholding learners’ autonomy.

DISCUSSION

Learning Autonomy

Learners’ autonomy is highly related to our daily life in particular solving problems in our society. This is the determiner whether or not one is bad or good. It also can be applied to the educational field. As such, students are asked to learn autonomously and not dependent to others. Students’ learning autonomy needs to be applied to train active and participative learning in developing everyone whom not dependent to teacher and classmates (Martinis Yamin, 2008:

203-204). In autonomous learning, students are free to decide, plan, and discuss their learning on the basis of academic goals. It means that students are responsible for their success in learning activities.

An autonomous student does not mean free from his/her friends and teachers when learning, but he/she is able to show such autonomy in learning. The most important thing for autonomous learning is to see students' development and skills improved autonomously. In autonomous learning, students will try to learn the subject independently, and when he/she find difficulties, he/she discusses it with teacher (Rusman, 2010: 355).

Learning autonomy is one possible answer to students in learning. Autonomous learners have specific characteristics, and are different from their friends. Some of their characteristics are: (1) they understand what they want to achieve in their learning; (2) they decide their learning sources; (3) they are able to develop their skills needed to solve problems (Rusman, 2010, 366).

Characteristics of Students' Learning Autonomy

Learning autonomy refers to a possible act that can be applied in learning. Students with such characteristics are different from their friends at school. The characteristics are (1) they understand what they want to achieve in their learning; (2) they decide their learning sources; (3) they can develop their skills to solve problems. Students' attitude that has been autonomous in learning is also different from their friends. Some of the characteristics are (1) independent, (2) self-confident, (3) discipline, (4) have responsibility, (5) acts inactively, (6) control themselves (Kana & Endang, 2009: 10-11).

Ways to Uphold Student' Learning Autonomy

Learning autonomy definitely should be trained. This takes parents and teachers' role. It is teacher's task to (1) help students in upholding their autonomy, (2) share learning experience which may grow happiness in student's mind (HarisMujiman, 2011:8). It also can be formed in other ways such as (1) teacher should be able to plan activities well, (2) planning learning activities and its tasks based on students' characteristics, (3) teacher should enrich his/herself continuously in applying autonomous learning, (4) facilities and learning sources should be appropriate.

Triggering autonomous learning for students is not easy. It takes parents' and teachers role in its process. Pattern of parents' nurture as well as teacher play the role in shaping students' character. Implementation of the right nurture plays the role on how student's future.

Pattern of Nurturing Children

Parenting is a form or structure, the system in maintaining, caring for, educating and guiding children to start small. Parenting is given by parents to form the personality of the child. Pattern fosters parent is a pattern of behavior that apply to children and are relatively consistent over time. Children in terms of both negative and positive aspects can feel these behavior patterns. Parenting intention is to educate and nurture the child, taking care to eat, drink, clothes, and his success in the first period to adulthood. With this frame in mind, it can be understood that parenting question is leadership, guidance, committed against children related to the interests of his life (Nilam Widyarini, 2009: 65).

In general, Baumrind categorize parenting into three types, namely: 1) Authoritarian parenting; 2) permissive parenting; 3) authoritative parenting. Three types of parenting is similar to the type of parenting by Hurlock, namely: 1) the authoritarian parenting; 2) permissive parenting; 3) The democratic parenting.

Authoritarian Parenting Type

Most types of authoritarian parenting adopted by parents who come from authoritarian parenting are also the days of their childhood or by parents who refuse his presence. Authoritarian

parenting or authoritarian parenting style is restrictive and punitive urging teens to follow the guidance of parents. Authoritarian parenting tend not to think about what will happen in the future, always set a standard that is absolutely determined unilaterally and should be followed, usually followed by threats. Although children with this authoritarian parenting competence and responsibilities fairly, but most tend to withdraw socially, less spontaneous and seemed less confident.

Authoritarian parenting type is also often found in the upbringing of teachers to students. Style teacher thus further highlight the role of the teacher as the authority and control student activity entirely in the classroom and outside the classroom. Students are not given space to fully develop their competence and creativity. The implementation of the type of authoritarian parenting is limited to rules that must be obeyed by students, whether it is in the process of learning in the classroom and in everyday activities outside of the learning process. Students with a type of authoritarian parenting is indeed obey rules, more disciplined but less has a strong confidence that the attitude of students' independence less visible.

Permissive Parenting

In contrast to the authoritarian parenting, permissive parenting pemanja or this is the opposite of authoritarian parenting. Everything is precisely centered on the child's interests. Parents do not control their behavior in accordance with the developmental needs of the child's personality. Parents or care that was never reprimanded or dare not rebuke the child's behavior even though the child's behavior has gone too far or outside the boundaries of reasonableness. In such conditions sometimes seem not to disappoint the child or child's determined not to cry. Although children with parenting tend to be more energetic and responsive than in children with authoritarian parenting styles, but they seem not socially mature (spoiled), impulsive, selfishness, and lack of confidence (whiny). Even into adulthood, when they have to live with their partner even got married, comforting habits are difficult to be eliminated, and they demand a partner or any person that is the primary environment for treating her like a parent or parenting used to serve and spoil. But parents like this type of parenting is usually warm, so often favored by children.

With the type of permissive parenting that teachers toward their students were also encountered in reality in schools. Teachers give special treatment to children without any pressure at all. Special treatment is meant here is the treatment gives more freedom to the students. Not infrequently found in the field that many students who violate the rules either in the learning process or in the process of socializing in the school environment, but never reprimanded by the teacher concerned.

Democratic Parenting

Authoritative parenting is parenting that encourage adolescent democracy-free but still imposes limits and control their actions. In general, these parenting styles applied by parents who accept the presence of a child with a vengeance and have a view or insight into the life of the future clearly. They not only think about the present, but to understand that of the future must be based on the actions of the present. They realize and appreciate the continuity of the child's personality development throughout life. Parenting is a higher priority than the interests of the child self-interest (Surbakti, 2009: 31-36).

Dare to reprimand the child when the child misbehaves. They exert their child's behavior in accordance with the needs of children in order to have the attitude, knowledge and skills that will underlie the child to form the personality and life in the days to come. Reciprocal verbal communication can take place freely, and parents are warm and are encouraging teens. Thus it can be said that children with this type of authoritative parenting tend to be more independent, assertive against yourself, have the ability of introspection and self-controlled, easy to cooperate

with others in synergy and friendly towards others that cause them easy to hang out with friends peers as well as with people who are more mature.

Function of Democratic Parenting

Democratic parenting style is characterized by the recognition of parents of the child's ability; the child is given the opportunity to not always depend on the parents. Fewer parents give freedom to the child to choose what is best for them, children with a hearing, to be involved in the talks, especially concerning the life of the child. Children are given the opportunity to develop its internal controls so that little by little practice to be responsible to you.

In contrast to the type of authoritarian parenting and permissive parenting is a democratic type has characteristics that emphasizes the needs of children but still control it. The characteristics of democratic upbringing among other things: 1) children's freedom is not absolute; 2) respect with understanding; 3) rational explanation to that should and should not; 4) being responsive to the needs of children; 5) parents always provide opportunities for children to creativity (Fathi, 2010: 52-53). Judging from the characteristics parenting fully democratic give flexibility to students to be able to develop according to their respective capabilities, teachers remain to facilitate what is needed by the students but did not hesitate to control them.

Actions of teachers on democratic parenting is parenting that is to be rational, always takes action on the ratio or thoughts openly. Teachers who apply democratic parenting will understand how the character of each student so as not to engage in excessive or beyond the capabilities of the students. Teachers will give students the freedom to choose and act in the learning process, and approach to students is warm. The positive effects of parenting, students will be a child who trust others, dare to express their opinions and to learn to be independent.

Parenting democratic states that parents are always in dialogue with their children, give and take, always listen to the complaints and the opinion of their children in the act always gives the reason to the children, encourages children to help each other and act objectively, firm but warm and understanding (Tarmudji, 2001). Parents who are always attentive to the democratic development of the child and not just able to give advice and suggestions but also willing to listen to the complaints of children related to her problems.

The attitude of teachers to apply democratic parenting students have created their dialogical communication between children and parents as well as their warmth that makes students feel accepted by their parents so that there is linkage feeling. Pertatutan feeling on students and teachers was formed because basically democratic parenting students are given freedom, but also required to be able to control yourself and be responsible.

Parenting Democratic Development in Learning Activities

Teachers have the same role with the parents when caring for the students in the school. Application of parenting teachers to students will also affect how the personality development of students in the school. The personality development of students is one of them visits of student learning independence. There are several things that can be applied by teachers as the embodiment of democratic parenting to their students. Here are some things that can be done by teachers to train students' independent learning in schools through the implementation of democratic parenting.

Teacher as facilitator in the classroom

Master said as a facilitator in the classroom does not mean the teacher as the lead in the class. Teachers act as facilitators to control the learning activities in the classroom rather than as someone who provides all the learning needs of their students. Students are not many explanations given by teachers but given stimulus by the teacher, then the learning process of students fully act independently without the help of the explanation by the teacher. An attitude that can be implemented through the teachers to establish democratic parenting students'

independent learning, one of them by giving students the learning method that requires students be able to solve the problem. Stimulus by the teacher through the cases that require the student to finish can help the formation of an independent character. This is where the teacher is said to be a facilitator in the classroom, even though the overall when the learning process of students fully master class but not out of context or theme because it has been determined in advance by the teacher at the beginning of learning.

Teachers give freedom to the students

Freedom of students means that students are given the widest possible opportunity to develop her potential. Students are given the opportunity to ask questions about things that have not been understood by the students, especially in the learning process in the classroom and related difficulty of the material that has not been understood by the students. In addition to the freedom to inquire, students are also given the freedom to make choices in the learning process in the classroom. Students are entitled determining who study groups, who class president and who become peer tutors in the classroom. Their freedom in the process of student activities will provide the opportunity for students to develop their potential without fear or distress. Freedom, students are not fully controlled by the teacher activities, is given to students. Teachers have the authority to control the activities in conveying his opinion, are not fully aware of all views expressed by students is taken for granted by teachers.

Teacher controls the behavior and activities of students in school

Supervision of teachers in each of the student's behavior is not confined to the learning process in the classroom, but in any student activities outside the classroom is also the responsibility of a teacher. In a democratic parenting student is given the freedom to act, but that does not mean the students are free to do anything without the supervision of a teacher. Independent learning is not focused on the activities of students in the learning process but also in the actions outside of the learning process. How students interact with peers, teachers and the students' interaction with the environment is still the scrutiny also by teachers. Judging from the concept of parenting democratic way teachers control the behavior of students with a smooth demeanor, with a warm attitude and approach to students. When students are less appropriate action is not frontally teachers blame the students, but with the approach and gave sense. Through such a way that the teacher allows students to be able to act independently, this is because students feel have a responsibility for what he did.

Teachers communicate with students

Communication is a key in interaction with fellow human beings. Such interactions must also indispensable in relation between teachers and students. Why say that communication is a key in the process of interaction between teachers and students? This is certainly related to the context of the increasing bond between teachers and students, especially in the learning process in the classroom. Communications were established between teacher and students will impact the smooth process of learning. In creating an atmosphere of self-learning, communication established by the teacher to the students through several learning methods and media are given by the teacher to help students understand the things that are expected by the teacher at the end of the lesson.

Teachers instill a sense of mutual help in the learning process

Cooperation in the learning process can be seen as positive and negative. An attitude of mutual cooperation will be called as a negative attitude if it is applied when the test or tests take place. The application here is the attitude of mutual cooperation in the application of learning activities focused on learning involves group activities. Term mutual learning process means that all the components in a class have the same responsibilities to work together for the smooth process of learning. Cultivating an attitude of mutual cooperation is one of the democratic patterns to introduce the mutual respect and help each other. It is not only applied by fellow students, but

teachers should also be involved in this case. For instance, teachers also participate in the activities of the working group discussions or activities that take place in the classroom. Although the teacher is a facilitator but the teachers have to accompany the students and also help an individual or a group of students who have difficulty when having a group discussion. The ability of how student understand the material and the learning styles of one student to another student in the class of course vary with the attitude adopted together then there will be a balance between students who have more skill and lack ability of understanding the material. Those students who are faster in receiving materials can help students who are slow to accept the material in the presence of co-operation in the group or in solving problems.

Teachers listen to students' opinions

Everyone has the right to have opinions or aspirations and the right to pass it on to others. Unlike the case with the students in the school, students have the opportunity to express an opinion on something included in the learning process in the classroom. Democratic pattern in this case is the key planting democratic attitude of the students by giving them the opportunity to make choices and criticisms over something. Teachers who instill democratic pattern does not hinder the students give their opinions regarding criticism or learning that takes place or give criticism of the attitude of the teacher. Democratic teachers will always listen to students' opinions without punishment when they pass something at variance with the opinion of teachers. Open attitude, dare to express or to criticize when something in the learning process will make it easier for students to have a sense of self study. Students have flexibility in determining learning styles, learning methods that are suitable with their ability and teachers should be a good listener to them. With an open attitude and relieved to hear their opinion, it will provide and foster a comfort self-confidence for students.

Teachers give students the opportunity to not depend on parents

School is a second home for students, teachers are parents for students. This is what should be understood when implanted and democratic pattern applied to the students. Family or parental role is paramount in determining attitudes and achievement of student learning outcomes. Basically, a student who lived with their parents or family will interact more with their teachers when they get out of control. This is what makes many students she imagined the role of parents in every aspect of their daily included in the study. Teachers should be able to transfer the student's dependence on their parents to provide activities that require students to learn independence. For example, when teachers want to give homework, it should be as much as possible involve parents in the process. Students are given the widest possible opportunity to develop the skills and creativity to do the homework from the teacher independently.

CONCLUSIONS

From the previous description it can be concluded that the pattern of teachers to students has a very important role. Democratic pattern is one type of pattern that can be implemented by a teacher in improving attitudes on students learning independence. In this type of democratic pattern, students are given the freedom and flexibility in determining the attitude, ask, act, and develop their creativity without any restriction. The teacher's role in parenting is to provide guidance and supervision to the students on the action taken. There are several ways that can be done by teachers in implementing democratic pattern type to students at the school, among others; the teacher acts as a facilitator in the classroom, the teacher gives freedom to the students, teachers control the behavior and activities of students in the school, teachers always establish good communication with students, teachers implement the solidarity of the people on students during the learning process, teachers listen to students' opinions, and teachers provide opportunities for students to be independent of their parents.

The impact of the type of democratic pattern applied by this teacher will shape the character of the students' independent learning. Warm attitude and is open to students will make students

feel comfortable and have a close relationship with teachers, with their proximity to facilitate the students to develop their creativity without feeling awkward and being more independent.

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