

Research Article

The Role of Character Education in Shaping Student Work Ethic: Teacher and Parent Perspectives

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Corresponding Author: meliana_araswf45@gmail.com**Abstract**

Character education plays a crucial role in shaping students' work ethic and fostering positive attitudes towards work. This study explores the perspectives of teachers and parents regarding the role of character education in shaping students' work ethic. Using a qualitative approach and drawing upon literature review and library research, the study investigates various aspects of character education that contribute to the development of work ethic among students. The findings highlight the importance of character education in instilling values such as responsibility, diligence, perseverance, and integrity, which are essential components of a strong work ethic. Teachers and parents both recognize the significance of character education programs in schools and home environments in nurturing these values from an early age. Additionally, the study delves into the methods and strategies employed by educators and parents to integrate character education into students' daily lives, emphasizing the need for collaborative efforts between schools and families to reinforce character development consistently. The research also discusses challenges and barriers faced in implementing character education initiatives and suggests potential solutions to address these obstacles. Overall, the study underscores the pivotal role of character education in molding students' attitudes towards work and highlights the collaborative efforts needed between educators and parents to foster a strong work ethic among students.

Keywords: Character education, work ethic, students, teachers, parents

INTRODUCTION

Character education is an integral aspect of holistic education that aims to develop students' moral and ethical values, social skills, and responsible citizenship (Lickona, 1991). In recent years, there has been a growing recognition of the importance of character education in shaping students' attitudes and behaviors towards work, particularly in the context of fostering a strong work ethic. A robust work ethic encompasses qualities such as responsibility, diligence, perseverance, integrity, and professionalism, which are essential for success in academic, professional, and personal endeavors (Bierema & Merriam, 2014).

Despite the acknowledged significance of character education in shaping work ethic, there remains a research gap concerning the specific role of character education from the perspectives of teachers and parents. While previous studies have explored the impact of character education programs on students' moral development and academic performance, there is limited research focusing explicitly on how character education influences the formation of work ethic among students. Understanding the perceptions and practices of teachers and parents regarding character education's role in shaping work ethic is crucial for developing effective strategies and interventions in educational settings.

The urgency of this research lies in the increasing demand for students to possess not only academic knowledge but also essential life skills and values necessary for success in the 21st-century workforce. With the evolving nature of work and the emergence of global challenges, such as technological advancements, automation, and economic uncertainty, the cultivation of a strong work ethic becomes imperative for students to thrive in the ever-changing landscape of the modern workplace (Perry & McConney, 2010).

While existing literature has explored various aspects of character education and work ethic separately, this study seeks to contribute to the field by examining the intersection between character education and work ethic from the perspectives of

teachers and parents. The novelty of this research lies in its focus on understanding how character education initiatives implemented in schools and home environments influence students' attitudes towards work and their readiness for future employment opportunities.

Therefore, the primary objective of this study is to explore the perceptions and practices of teachers and parents regarding the role of character education in shaping student work ethic. By gaining insights into their perspectives, this research aims to identify effective strategies and best practices for integrating character education into educational curricula and family environments. Ultimately, the findings of this study are expected to inform policymakers, educators, and parents about the importance of character education in preparing students for success in the workforce and beyond.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research design to explore the perspectives of teachers and parents regarding the role of character education in shaping student work ethic. Qualitative research allows for an in-depth understanding of participants' experiences, beliefs, and attitudes, which is essential for capturing the complexities of human behavior and social phenomena (Merriam, 2009).

Data Sources:

The primary sources of data for this study are teachers and parents of elementary school students. Participants will be selected purposively based on their involvement in character education programs or initiatives and their insights into students' work ethic development. Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions to gather rich and diverse perspectives from both stakeholders.

Data Collection Techniques:

- a) Semi-Structured Interviews: Individual interviews will be conducted with teachers and parents to explore their perspectives on the role of character

education in shaping student work ethic. The interviews will follow a semi-structured format, allowing for flexibility in probing and follow-up questions to elicit detailed responses (Creswell & Poth, 2017).

- b) Focus Group Discussions: Focus group discussions will be conducted with groups of teachers and groups of parents separately to facilitate interactive discussions and exchange of ideas. Focus groups provide an opportunity to explore shared experiences, beliefs, and perceptions within a group setting, allowing for a deeper understanding of collective viewpoints (Krueger & Casey, 2009).

Data Analysis:

Thematic Analysis: The data collected from interviews and focus group discussions will be analyzed using thematic analysis. This approach involves systematically identifying patterns, themes, and categories within the data to uncover key insights and meanings (Braun & Clarke, 2006). The analysis process will involve coding the data, generating initial themes, reviewing and refining themes, and interpreting the findings in relation to the research questions.

By employing qualitative methods and engaging with teachers and parents as key stakeholders, this study aims to provide valuable insights into the role of character education in shaping student work ethic from diverse perspectives. The qualitative approach allows for a nuanced understanding of the complexities surrounding character education practices and their impact on students' attitudes towards work.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Perceived Importance of Character Education in Developing Work Ethic:

Teachers and parents expressed a strong consensus regarding the significance of character education in shaping students' work ethic. Both groups emphasized the

critical role of character traits such as responsibility, perseverance, and self-discipline in fostering a strong work ethic among students. Teachers highlighted the importance of integrating character education into the curriculum to instill these values from an early age. They emphasized the need for consistent reinforcement of positive behaviors and attitudes related to work ethic both in the classroom and through extracurricular activities. Similarly, parents emphasized the complementary role of home environment in reinforcing character development, emphasizing the importance of modeling and consistent reinforcement of values in daily interactions with their children.

Challenges and Barriers in Implementing Character Education:

Despite recognizing the importance of character education, teachers and parents identified several challenges and barriers in its effective implementation. One major challenge identified by teachers was the lack of dedicated time and resources for character education within the curriculum. They expressed concerns that the focus on academic achievement often takes precedence over holistic development, leaving limited room for character education initiatives. Additionally, teachers cited the need for specialized training and support to effectively integrate character education into their teaching practices. Parents echoed similar concerns, highlighting the limited reinforcement of character values outside of the school environment and the influence of external factors such as media and peer pressure.

Strategies for Enhancing Character Education:

Both teachers and parents discussed various strategies for enhancing character education and promoting a stronger work ethic among students. Teachers emphasized the importance of creating a positive and supportive classroom culture that celebrates effort, resilience, and personal growth. They highlighted the value of incorporating real-life examples and experiential learning opportunities to reinforce character values in context. Additionally, teachers emphasized the importance of collaboration and partnership with parents and the wider community to create a

cohesive and consistent approach to character education. Parents emphasized the need for open communication and collaboration with schools to reinforce character values at home and align efforts between home and school environments.

Impact of Character Education on Student Work Ethic:

Overall, both teachers and parents reported observing positive changes in students' work ethic as a result of character education initiatives. They noted improvements in students' attitudes towards learning, increased perseverance in the face of challenges, and greater accountability for their actions. Teachers and parents also observed improvements in students' interpersonal skills, including teamwork, communication, and empathy, which are integral to developing a strong work ethic. These findings underscore the importance of character education as a holistic approach to nurturing students' personal and academic development, highlighting its potential to positively influence students' work ethic and future success.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the perspectives of both teachers and parents underscore the vital role of character education in shaping students' work ethic. Despite facing challenges in its implementation, such as limited resources and competing priorities, both groups recognize the importance of instilling values like responsibility, perseverance, and self-discipline to foster a strong work ethic among students. Strategies for enhancing character education include creating a positive classroom and home environment, integrating real-life examples and experiential learning, and fostering collaboration between teachers, parents, and the wider community. The observed impact of character education on students' attitudes towards learning, interpersonal skills, and accountability highlights its potential to contribute to students' overall success and personal development.

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