

PARENTAL ACCOMPANYING IN LEARNING MATHEMATICS IN THE FAMILY ENVIRONMENT (DO PARENTAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHILDREN)

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ABSTRACT Parents play an important role in supporting and providing learning to their children throughout their lives. This role is not just about helping with household chores or ensuring school attendance but needs to be followed up by giving more attention to children. Migrant workers are people who move within or between countries for work purposes. This can be a temporary or permanent migration. In this case, specifically for female migrant workers, female migrant workers are an important part of the global workforce who are often faced with complex challenges related to their duties and roles as mothers. This article aims to present the results of community service which focuses on the importance of assisting children while studying, especially assisting children in learning mathematics. Time management for female worker migrants, especially in balancing economic income with the quality of children's education. Through a series of community service activities, we explore effective child learning assistance strategies and their benefits for children. The results of community service show that female migrant workers as parents face various challenges in assisting their children while studying, such as children having difficulty understanding mathematical concepts and negative perceptions regarding mathematics as a subject that is difficult to learn. Through a solution-oriented approach, we identify several solutions that can help them balance work and motherhood. These strategies include: (1) parents can adjust learning methods and provide lots of practice; (2) parents can provide a pleasant experience; (3) parents can divide their time to study mathematics with their children in between daily activities; and (4) parents can learn together by looking for learning resources that can help their children.

Keywords: *Learning, Female Migrant Workers, Mentoring, Mathematics.*

1. INTRODUCTION

Parents play an important role in supporting the provision of learning to their children throughout their lives. This role goes beyond helping with household chores or ensuring school attendance. Parents are the parties who are fully responsible for their children. Whether a child is successful or not, of course, there is the role of parents who educate and raise them from childhood to adulthood. Parents need to involve themselves in their children's learning as a form of responsibility. However, sometimes parents still don't understand what role they should take in supporting or facilitating their child's learning. This causes many parents to hand over the educational process completely to teachers at school (Education et al., nd). Apart from that, the conditions for educational development are very dynamic and accompanied by changing conditions of development around children. Likewise with other conditions that do not allow face-to-face learning to occur. Here are some key ways parents can provide an environment that encourages a love of learning:

(1) Early childhood development:

- a. Create a stimulating environment; create stimulation; creating stimulation filled with age-appropriate toys, books, and activities that encourage exploration, curiosity, and problem-solving skills (Astuti et al., 2021).
- b. Positive interactions: engage in positive interactions with children through conversation, stories, singing, and playing games. This builds language skills, social development, and strong parent-child bonds (Wang et al., 2022).
- c. Model the value of learning: show children that parents value learning by reading alone and engaging in enjoyable hobbies, and parents can learn new skills and express curiosity about the world around them (Gross et al., 2020).

(2) School age support

- a. Create a study routine: establish a consistent routine for completing homework, setting aside dedicated time with minimal disruption (Chophel & Choeda, 2021).
- b. Active and encouraging listening: be an active listener when children talk about school. Ask questions, express their interest in learning, and celebrate their accomplishments, big or small (Loughlin-Presnal & Bierman, 2017).
- c. Building strong relationships with teachers: Keep open communication with teachers to understand their progress, learning styles, and any areas where they may need additional support (Chatzinikola, 2021).

(3) Developing a Love of Learning

- a. Make learning fun: connect learning to real-life experiences. Visit museums, and libraries, or participate in educational activities outside of school to make learning fun and interesting (Packer, 2006).
- b. Encourage exploration and curiosity: supporting children's natural curiosity by answering their questions carefully, encouraging them to research topics that interest them, and providing opportunities to experiment and learn from mistakes (Jirout, 2020).
- c. Help children develop good study habits such as time management, organization, and effective note-taking skills (KC, 2022).

(4) Additional considerations

- a. Customized support: the level and type of support will vary depending on the child's age, learning style, and individual needs (Li, 2024).
- b. Increase effort: increasing the value of effort, persistence, and growth mindset (Haynes et al., 2016).
- c. Creating a safe space for learning: Creating a safe space for learning: making the home a safe space for learning where mistakes are seen as opportunities to grow, and children feel comfortable asking questions without judgment (Nurhayati et al., 2023).

By being actively involved in their children's education, parents can play a significant role in shaping their child's love of learning, academic success, and overall development. As a reminder support from parents is a value that can help motivate children throughout their learning journey.

Therefore, parents need to be able to provide accompanying activities to their children while studying. In this case, this service activity is aimed at providing information to parents regarding the importance of accompanying children while studying. This mentoring activity focuses on parents who have migrant worker status in Malaysia.

As we know, referring to data from the Indonesian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, currently, there are at least 2.7 million Indonesian migrant workers in Malaysia. Half of that number came and worked without official documents. The existence of this phenomenon certainly means that this number may include immigrant workers who are married couples or already have families. Of course, with the diverse conditions and busyness of migrant workers in carrying out their activities, information is still needed that can help them understand the need for education in the family. Thus, through this service activity aimed at

migrant families in Malaysia, we can provide adequate information regarding the importance of accompanying our children when studying, especially in mathematics lessons.

Migrant Workers

Migrant workers are people who move within or between countries for work purposes. This can be a temporary or permanent migration. Migrant employees can be professionals, seasonal workers, or part-time workers. The choice to become a migrant worker is due to (1) economic opportunities, seeking better wages and job opportunities that are not available in the country of origin; (2) political instability or conflict in this case fleeing violence or political chaos in the country of origin; (3) family reunification, joining family members who have migrated for work (Malokani et al., 2022). The presence of migrant workers certainly has a social and economic impact, namely by providing benefits to host countries: migrant workers fill labor shortages in important sectors such as agriculture, construction, and health care (Ruhs, 2010). In this case, migrant workers contribute to economic growth and send them back to their home countries, boosting their economies (Azam, 2015).

The next challenge for host countries is the flow of migrant workers, which can put pressure on social services and infrastructure in host countries. In this case, concerns arise about competition for jobs or cultural integration. Benefits of sending countries, sending countries to which migrant workers are sent back can be a significant source of income for families and communities in their countries of origin. This can contribute to reducing poverty and increasing living standards. Apart from that, the existence of migrant workers has its challenging conditions, namely (1) the emergence of brain waste from skilled workers, which affects the development of sending countries; (2) exploitation and abuse, where migrant workers can be vulnerable to exploitation, unfair labor practices, and even human trafficking; (3) poor working conditions, long hours, low wages, and unsafe work environments; (4) social isolation and discrimination, migrant workers face social isolation, discrimination, and language barriers in the host country; (5) separation from family, migration often involves separation from family, which can have negative emotional and psychological effects (Hamid, 2020).

The important role of migration workers, of course, needs to be balanced with the importance of protecting the rights of migration employees, this can be demonstrated by (1) international law: international conventions exist to protect the rights of migrant workers,

ensure fair treatment and decent working conditions; (2) ethical considerations: companies and governments in host countries have an ethical responsibility to ensure fair treatment of migrant workers; (3) protecting the rights of migrant workers is very important to achieve sustainable development goals related to poverty reduction and decent work.

The government must, of course, pay attention to the existence of migrant workers because the country's foreign exchange earners need certainty and guaranteed conditions while they are in another country. So the things that need to be paid attention to in order to improve the situation of migrant workers are (1) stronger regulations by implementing and enforcing stricter regulations to prevent exploitation and ensure fair working conditions; (2) promote ethical hiring practices by encouraging ethical hiring practices that are transparent and protect workers' rights; (3) integration programs by developing integration programs to help migrant workers adapt to the language and culture of the host country; (4) supporting migrant worker organizations by supporting the formation and activities of migrant worker organizations that defend their rights.

Therefore, the government needs to care and pay attention to the presence of migrant workers so that it can protect the rights of migrant workers while they are struggling in other countries. Of course, the presence of migrant workers creates a global labor market that is fairer and benefits both sending and receiving countries.

Understanding Mathematics

Understanding mathematics is a multi-faceted concept that goes beyond simply memorizing formulas or performing calculations. This is a deeper level of understanding that makes it possible to have (1) Conceptualize by grasping the core ideas and principles behind mathematical concepts, this involves understanding the “why” behind formulas and how they relate to each other, using mathematical knowledge and skills to solving problems in various contexts (Sahidin et al., 2019). This could involve real-world situations, scientific surveys, or even other areas of mathematics; (2) Analytical skills by dividing problems into smaller components, identifying patterns, and understanding the relationship between different mathematical elements (Siskawati et al., 2023); (3) Logical reasoning uses logical reasons to conclude, justify solutions, and explain thought processes. This involves critical thinking skills and the ability to identify errors (Pamungkas & Masduki, 2022) ; (4) Communicate mathematically by expressing mathematical ideas effectively using symbols, diagrams, and clear language. These forms include written communication, explanations,

and even mathematical proofs (Qohar & Fazira, 2022) ; (5) Solving problems is by approaching challenges strategically, developing creative solutions, and persevering through difficulties. Mathematics is a powerful tool for developing problem-solving skills that apply to various aspects of life (Bakar et al., 2021) ; (6) Developing mathematical understanding with mathematical understanding is not an innate ability, but a skill that can be developed through practice and effective learning methods (A Popoola, 2014) .

Here are some key aspects that contribute to development by building a strong foundation in basic mathematical concepts such as number meaning, operations, and geometry essential for future learning.

- (1) **Active Learning:** Participating in active learning strategies such as problem-solving activities, projects, and discussions promotes a deeper understanding compared to passive memory.
- (2) **Connecting Concept:** Making connections between different math concepts and real-world applications helps strengthen understanding and promotes long-term retention.
- (3) **Visualization:** Using visual aids, diagrams, and manipulatives (physical objects used to learn mathematics) can improve understanding of abstract concepts.
- (4) **Metacognition:** Developing meta-cognition, or “thinking about thinking,” allows students to monitor their learning process, identify areas of difficulty, and adjust their learning strategies accordingly.
- (5) **The importance of mathematical understanding:** Mathematical understanding is not just about doing well in math class. It equips you with valuable skills that will benefit you throughout your life:
- (6) **Critical thinking and problem-solving:** The ability to analyze information, argue logically and solve problems effectively is essential in many areas and aspects of life.
- (7) **Analytical Skills:** Mathematics refines your analytical skills, enabling you to solve complex situations, identify patterns, and make sound decisions based on evidence. In today's data-driven world, understanding and interpreting quantitative information is critical to informed decision-making, both personally and professionally.
- (8) **Creativity and Innovation:** Mathematics can stimulate creativity and innovative thinking as you explore new problems and develop new solutions. The problem-solving and logical thinking skills driven by mathematics can be applied to a variety of disciplines and contribute to a lifelong love of learning.

Developing a strong foundation in mathematical understanding can unlock skills that empower a person to succeed in academics, career, and life in general.

Mathematical Perspective for Children

Childhood is a critical period for brain development, and mathematics is an important subject that lays the foundation for many important skills. This is why math is important for young people:

- (1) **Build cognitive abilities;** Mathematical activities stimulate a variety of cognitive skills that are important for overall learning. This includes:
 - a. **Problem-solving and mathematics** encourage children to think logically, analyze situations, and develop strategies to solve problems (Nurhalisa et al., 2022);
 - b. **Understanding and Logic:** Mathematical concepts such as pruning, patterning, and classification help children develop reasoning and critical thinking skills (Sutama et al., 2022);
 - c. **Spatial awareness:** math activities involving shapes, sizes, and positions help children develop spatial awareness, which is important for tasks such as reading, writing, and navigating their environment (Critten et al., 2018);
 - d. **Memory skill:** math activities can help improve memory skills as children learn and remember number sequences, patterns, and basic math facts (Fischer et al., 2020) .
- (2) **Language development:** Math vocabulary such as “big,” “small,” “more,” “less,” “first,” “last,” and basic number names all contribute to a child's language development. Counting and organizing activities encourage children to use these words and build communication skills.
- (3) **Early Literacy Skills:** Exposure to mathematical concepts such as patterns, sequences, and shapes can lay the foundation for early literacy skills. This skill is very important for successful reading and writing later.
- (4) **Self-confidence and self-esteem:** Completing math activities and mastering new concepts can increase a child's self-confidence and self-confidence. This feeling of accomplishment motivates them to continue learning and overcoming new challenges.
- (5) **Foundation for Future Math Learning:** Early mathematics experiences provide a strong foundation for future mathematics learning in school. Children who develop positive associations with math concepts at an early age are more likely to succeed in math at higher levels.

Learning mathematics in early childhood does not need to be formal, because:

- (1) Mathematics is everywhere: Learning mathematics can occur naturally through everyday experiences. Counting toys, arranging objects by color or size, singing songs with numbers, and playing simple board games all incorporate basic mathematical concepts (Wulansari & Dwiyanti, 2021);
- (2) Make it fun and interesting: Use games, songs, stories, and manipulative (physical objects used to learn mathematics) to make learning mathematics fun and interesting for young people (Hidayatulloh et al., 2020);
- (3) Focus on exploration and discovery: Encourage exploration and discovery in mathematics. Let children experiment with arranging, counting, and measuring in playful ways (Kyriazis et al., 2009).

Integrating math concepts into daily activities and promoting a love of learning, parents, and caregivers can help young children develop a strong foundation in mathematics that benefits them throughout their academic journey and life in general.

The Importance of Supporting Mathematics Learning

The important things regarding assistance in learning mathematics are based on mathematics as a tool for other subjects (disciplines that accompany it). In this context, it refers to the idea that mathematics serves as a basic tool that enhances understanding and problem-solving in other scientific disciplines. Concepts in other fields, such as physics, chemistry, economics, engineering, and computer science, rely heavily on mathematical concepts and models. A strong foundation in mathematics makes it possible to understand quantitative relationships and analyze complex systems in mathematics. Furthermore, in today's data-driven world, mathematical skills are essential for analyzing and interpreting data in various fields. From scientific research to social sciences and business, being able to work with data, identify trends, and make conclusions based on evidence requires mathematical skills. Logic and problem-solving, analytical, and problem-solving skills refined through mathematics are valuable assets in many disciplines. Mathematics teaches us to approach challenges logically, break down problems into smaller components, and develop effective solutions, a set of skills that is applicable in a variety of fields.

2. METHODS

The 3rd international community service activities in Malaysia were carried out online in collaboration with LSM Sharing, with the target audience being female migrant workers in Malaysia. The targets for community service were collected at the Indonesian Embassy in Malaysia during the activity. The resource persons provided material according to their field regarding parental assistance in Learning Mathematics in the family environment (Figure 3.1). The material is presented simply so that it can be easily understood and hopefully implemented by the participants. Next, the participants were allowed to ask questions regarding the material presented.



Figure 3.1. Presentation of PKM Material by Resource Persons



Figure 3.2 International Community Empowerment Venue

In the context of community service to help female migrant workers as parents in their efforts to assist children when studying, especially in mathematics lessons. In this activity, several methods are used in its implementation, namely:

1. Parental Assistance Workshop: Holding an interactive and focused workshop on assisting parents in teaching mathematics in the family environment. These workshops can involve group discussions, case studies, and practical training sessions to help them develop the skills to accompany children as they learn effectively.
2. Participatory Approach: Adopt a participatory approach where female migrant workers as parents are actively involved in designing community service programs and activities. This ensures that the programs presented truly meet their needs and preferences.
3. Use of Technology: Leverage technology such as mobile apps or online platforms to provide easy access to time management resources, training schedules, and other related

information. This enables female migrant workers to access information and support whenever and wherever they are.

4. Collaboration with Related Organizations and Institutions: Collaborate with non-governmental organizations, government institutions, and educational institutions to organize events or programs that support the implementation of parental assistance. This could include joint training, seminars, or mentoring programs.
5. Establishment of Support Groups: Establish support groups or online forums that enable female migrant workers as parents to share experiences and strategies and support each other in time management and other challenges they face.
6. Evaluation and Feedback: Conduct evaluations of programs that have been implemented and obtain feedback from participants to evaluate the success and effectiveness of the program. This makes it possible to make improvements and adjustments to increase its positive impact.

By combining these various methods, community service can provide sustainable and holistic support for female migrant workers, in this case as parents, in assisting children in the learning process, especially in mathematics lessons.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In general, the findings of this community service program were successful in providing information to migrant workers, especially parents, in enlightening them about the importance of assisting their sons and daughters while studying, especially introducing them to mathematics and providing assistance from an early age.

How to introduce mathematics to children:

- (1) Counting. Encourage children to count objects around them such as toys, fruit, or shoes.
- (2) Pattern. Introduce children to number patterns, shapes, or colors to practice reasoning skills
- (3) Measurement. Teach children to measure objects around them using simple measuring tools
- (4) Form. Help children recognize and differentiate various geometric shapes

Benefits of teaching mathematics in the family:

- (1) Improve numeracy skills

Children who are introduced to mathematics from an early age will be more skilled at calculating and solving mathematical problems

(2) Develop logical thinking patterns

Learning mathematics can train children to think systematically, and analytically, and find the right solution

(3) Build self-confidence

Success in learning mathematics can increase children's self-confidence and motivate them to continue learning

Fun activities to learn math:

(1) Play puzzles

Kids can practice matching shapes, sizes, and patterns in puzzle games

(2) Cooking together

Children can be involved in cooking activities by teaching the concepts of measurement and calculation

(3) Decorating the cake

Cake decorating can be a means of learning shapes, patterns, and calculations.

The role of parents in teaching mathematics

(1) Create a positive atmosphere

Parents can build children's positive perceptions of mathematics

(2) Engage in learning

Parents can participate in their children's mathematics learning activities

(3) Provide emotional support

Parents can provide motivation and appreciation for their child's progress

4. CONCLUSIONS

Challenges and solutions in teaching mathematics :

(1) Child's difficulties. Children may have difficulty understanding mathematical concepts, and parents can adjust learning methods and provide lots of practice.

(2) Negative perception. Parents need to change children's negative perceptions of mathematics by providing a pleasant learning experience

(3) Lack of time. Parents can divide their time to study mathematics with their children in between daily activities

- (4) Limitations knowledge. Parents can study with their children or look for learning resources that can help them

The positive impact of learning mathematics from an early age:

- (1) Critical thinking ability

Children will be used to thinking logically, analytically, and creatively in solving problems

- (2) Future Success

Strong math skills can support a child's achievement in many areas of life

- (3) Academic readiness

Good mathematical understanding from an early age will prepare children for future mathematics learning

Thus, teaching mathematics from an early age in the family is very important for developing children's logical thinking, problem-solving, and self-confidence.

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