Effective Learning Strategies in Improving Elementary School Students' Character: A Systematic Literature Review

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Abstrak

Character education plays a crucial role in shaping the quality personality of elementary school students. Effective learning strategies have been identified as a key approach to enhancing students' characters through education. These strategies help students understand and internalize the desired character values in their daily lives. This study aims to conduct a systematic literature review on effective learning strategies to enhance the characters of elementary school students. The methodology used is Systematic Literature Review (SLR), the data analysis approach is content analysis, and the database from Google Scholar or Google Scholar in the last three years (2020-2023) is analyzed. The results of this research obtained a database with the keywords "learning strategies" AND "student character" AND "elementary school students," from which 9 articles that met the inclusion criteria were selected and analyzed. The analysis concluded that adaptive, collaborative, and innovative learning strategies are key to ensuring the continuous development of students' characters. The role of teachers greatly influences the characters of elementary school students. The results of this research provide recommendations to elementary school teachers to adapt various learning strategies to effectively develop positive character traits in students for the future.

Keywords: Character education, Elementary school students, Learning strategies, Systematic literature review

Introduction

Character education has become a primary focus in the education process at elementary schools because it is considered an essential aspect in shaping students' quality personalities

(Imawan & Ismail, 2023). Good character traits, such as honesty, discipline, responsibility, cooperation, and caring, not only help students in facing various daily life situations but also provide a strong foundation for their personal development. Through character education, students are taught to become individuals with integrity, empathy, and the ability to think critically (Hatchimonji et al., 2022). Thus, character education in elementary schools aims not only to produce academically intelligent students but also students with good personalities who are ready to face future challenges.

One approach that can be used to enhance students' character through education is through effective learning strategies. Effective learning strategies can help students understand the desired character values and implement them in their daily lives (Zuliani et al., 2023). For example, a cooperative learning approach can help students learn to work together, support each other, and appreciate differing opinions. Additionally, the use of case studies or role-playing in learning can help students understand character concepts such as empathy and honesty through direct experience. By implementing effective learning strategies, schools can make a significant contribution to shaping students' strong characters and readiness to face future challenges.

Previous research has highlighted various learning strategies that can enhance students' character in elementary schools (Dirgantari & Cahyani, 2023; Islamiati & Neviyarni, 2023; Tuhuteru et al., 2023). Some studies indicate that the use of interactive and collaborative teaching methods can help students understand character values such as honesty, cooperation, and responsibility. Furthermore, research also emphasizes the importance of the teacher's role in building students' characters through student-centered learning.

However, further research is needed to explore effective learning strategies in improving students' character in elementary schools. In-depth research can provide new insights into approaches that teachers and schools can use to enhance students' characters. Therefore, this study aims to conduct a systematic literature review on effective learning strategies in improving students' character in elementary schools.

Despite the abundance of research on character education in elementary schools, there is still a lack of understanding regarding the most effective learning strategies in enhancing students' character. This study will identify and analyze the latest findings in the literature on effective learning strategies in improving students' character. Thus, this research is expected to make a new contribution to the development of character education in elementary schools.

The objective of this study is to conduct a systematic literature review on effective learning strategies in improving students' character in elementary schools. Some research questions that will be answered through this study include: What are the effective learning strategies in enhancing students' character in elementary schools? How are these learning strategies implemented in the context of character education in elementary schools? And what is the impact of implementing these learning strategies on improving students' character? This research is expected to provide

valuable insights for education practitioners in developing character education in elementary schools.

Literature Review

In the context of character learning, the evaluation of character education initiatives in schools is also an important thing to pay attention to (Nurafiati et al., 2021). The use of diverse research methodologies can help improve students' character building practices. In addition, the importance of integrating character values into the curriculum is also a major highlight in efforts to form graduates who have good character (Ariani et al., 2022). Thus, character education is proven to have a crucial role in shaping student character and creating a positive learning environment in schools.

Methodology

The methodology employed in this study utilizes the Systematic Literature Review (SLR) approach, which is a qualitative research method aimed at identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing all relevant findings to address specific research questions. This method involves systematically reviewing and analyzing various journals in a structured manner, following predetermined criteria to ensure rigor and consistency in the research process(Triandini et al., 2019).

The data used in this study is gathered through literature reviews, which involve collecting information from various sources related to the research topic. After collecting the data, a descriptive analysis is conducted to present the current facts and provide a concise explanation. The research study follows several stages, including defining the topic, identifying relevant sources through Google Scholar, selecting results based on specific criteria, compiling a synthesis matrix of the results, and concluding the review findings (Parinata & Puspaningtyas, 2022). The process of Systematic Literature Review (SLR) is outlined in Figure 1.
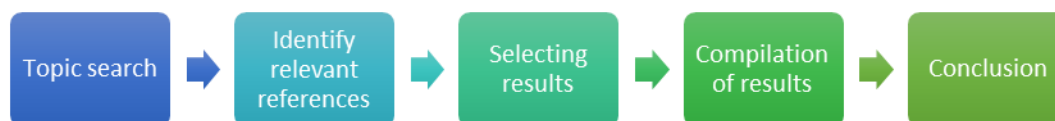

Fig. 1 Systematic Literature Review (SLR) Stages Chart

The study focused on conducting a literature review by analyzing articles published within the last 6 years (2018-2023) related to the keywords " Learning Strategies", " Students' Character" and "Elementary School Students" on Google Scholar or Google Scholar database. The search was conducted in December 2023, and relevant articles were selected based on established inclusion criteria

(1) Research articles containing keywords of learning strategies, Students' Character, and elementary school students.

(2) Publications in the last 3 years (2021-2023).

(3) Accredited by Science and Technology Index (Sinta) and cited article.

(4) Articles using English.

(5) Types of journal articles (not theses and thesis), full text, and accessible.

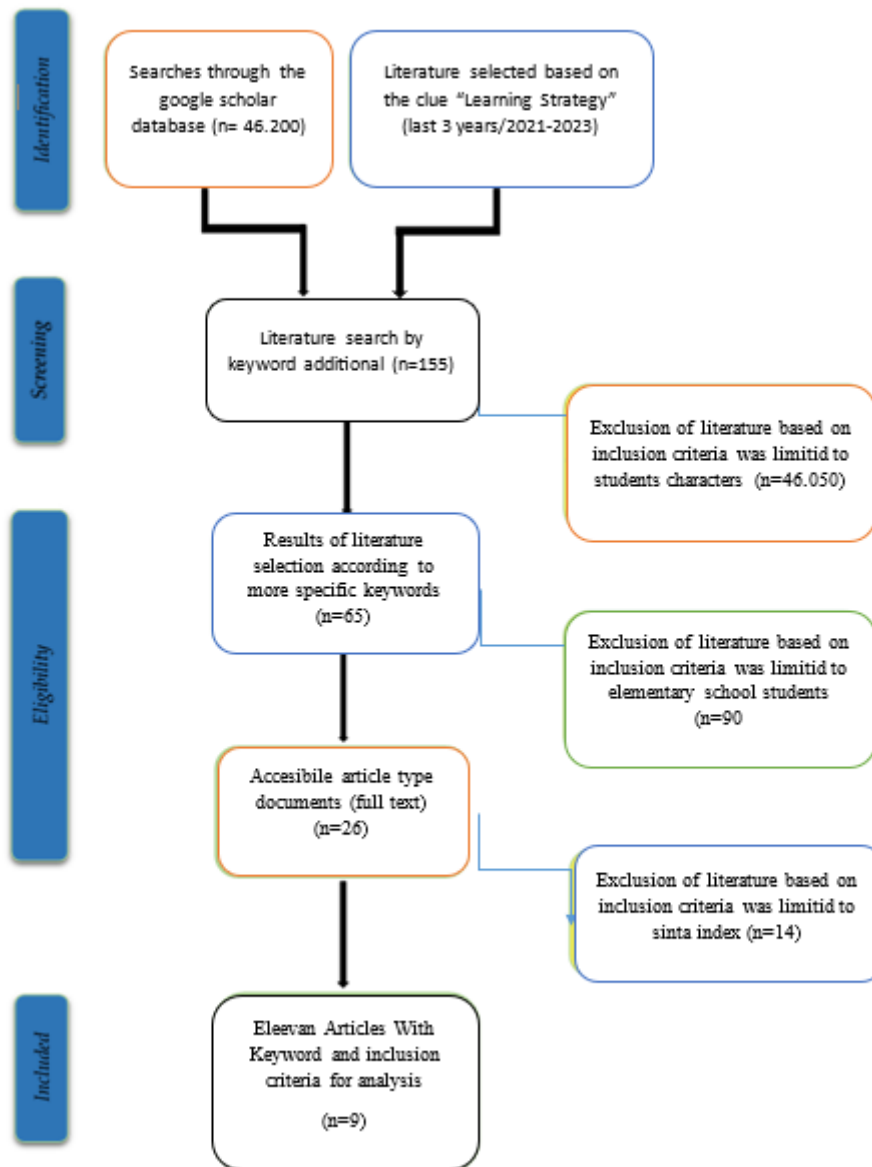The flow of the article selection process based on the inclusion criteria is shown in Figure 2 as follows.

Fig. 2 Flow of Article Selection Process

Results And Discussion

The literature review search results in the Google Scholar database aim to analyze research findings related to the keywords learning strategies, Students' Character, and elementary school students. The search process involves screening relevant articles in a timeframe ranging from 2020 to 2023 to identify key insights and trends in the chosen research field. Filtering is based on the publication criteria of articles with a minimum number of citations of 10 and articles published in national journals indexed by Sinta or international journals indexed by Scopus. Articles that are not included such as publication of proceedings, inaccessible, citations do not meet the criteria, and articles published in non-accredited journals are included in the exclusion criteria. There are 9 articles analyzed to determine the results or research findings related to the application of learning strategies for student character in elementary schools. The following results of the systematic analysis of literature review are presented in table 1.

Table 1. The results of article analysis on the Google Scholar database are related to search keywords.

No	Title/Author	Results/Findings	Journal Status	Number of Citations
1.	Strategy for Strengthening Character Education in Physical Education Learning at Makassar City Elementary Education Level (Nurafiati et al., 2021)	The study's findings underscore the important role of character education in shaping national character, the importance of evaluating character education initiatives in schools, and the value of using diverse research methodologies to improve character development practices.	Scopus Q2	17
2.	Learning Strategy of Pancasila and Citizenship Education on Students' Character Development (Julkifli et al., 2020)	Results show a positive impact on students' character development, especially in improving moral values, social skills, and overall character traits. The findings suggest that integrating character education into the curriculum can effectively contribute to shaping student character and fostering a positive learning environment.	Sinta 3	12
3.	The Analysis of Learning Strategies For Character	Research highlights the importance of adapting learning strategies to pandemic conditions and integrating	Sinta 4	22

	Development of Students During Covid-19 Pandemic (Najmuddin & Aprilianty, 2020)	character education into curricula to address the emergence of social and moral distortions during the pandemic. These findings emphasize the importance of collaborative efforts and innovative approaches in character development education during difficult times such as the Covid-19 pandemic.		
4.	Indonesian Textbook Based on Character Education Through Active Learning for the Elementary School Students (Winarni et al., 2022)	The results highlight the effectiveness of developed Indonesian textbooks containing character education through the Active Learning model in improving language skills and overall learning outcomes among fifth grade primary school students.	Sinta 2	11
5.	Teacher's Strategy in Developing Practical Values of the 5th Pancasila Precepts in Thematic Learning in Elementary School (Aldila & Rini, 2023)	The research findings suggest that by incorporating strategies into the study, teachers not only teach theoretical concepts but also demonstrate how to embody these values in everyday life, fostering a deeper understanding and appreciation of the principles of Pancasila among students.	Sinta 4	43
6.	The Development of Scientific Learning Model Based on Local Wisdom of" Piil Pesenggiri" to Improve Process Skills and Character Values of Elementary School Students (Yanti et al., 2022)	Overall, the results suggest that integrating local wisdom into the science curriculum can have a positive impact on students' learning experience, character development, and cultural awareness	Sinta 2	10
7.	Teacher's strategy for implementing multiculturalism education based on local cultural values and character building for early	These findings underscore the importance of incorporating the principles of multicultural education into early childhood teaching practices to nurture a supportive and inclusive learning environment for all students.	Scopus Q1	69

	childhood education (Suri & Chandra, 2021)		
8.	The Impact of Online Learning toward the Independence of Primary School Students During the Pandemic in Jakarta, Indonesia (Stevanus & Gita, 2022)	Online learning has a positive impact on the independence of fifth grade students in Jakarta. Collaboration is needed to improve online learning facilities during the pandemic.	Scopus Q2 11
9.	Implementing Online Integrated Character Education and Parental Engagement in Local Cultural Values Cultivation (Ariani et al., 2022)	Results from a study on character education in Kota Padang show that parental involvement, teacher performance, and barriers to online learning have a partial and simultaneous impact on the cultivation of local cultural values among sixth graders. In addition, character education research in Indonesia emphasizes the importance of integrating character values into the curriculum for elementary school teachers to produce character-educated graduates	Scopus Q2 20

From the table presented, it can be seen that character education is the main focus in student development in Indonesia. Various studies show that the integration of character education into the curriculum can have a significant positive impact on student character development (Julkifli et al., 2020). In addition, adapting learning strategies during the Covid-19 pandemic conditions is also important to ensure student character building continues to run well (Najmuddin &; Aprilianty, 2020). The results also highlight the effectiveness of character learning through active learning models and local wisdom in improving students' overall skills and grades (Winarni et al., 2022; Yanti et al., 2022).

One important aspect in building student character is the role of teachers in implementing practical values in daily learning (Aldila &; Rini, 2023). Teachers are not only teachers of theory, but also become real examples in realizing the character values taught, so that students can understand and appreciate these values more deeply. In addition, parental involvement also has a significant impact in the culture of local values among students (Ariani et al., 2022). Collaboration

between teachers, parents, and students is the main key in ensuring character education is well integrated in the school curriculum.

The importance of character education is also seen in the context of multiculturalism and character development at the early childhood education level (Suri &; Chandra, 2021). Incorporating multicultural principles into teaching practice can create an inclusive and supportive learning environment for all students. In addition, online learning has also been proven to have a positive impact on student independence during the pandemic (Stevanus &; Gita, 2022). However, barriers in online learning also need to be overcome through collaboration between various related parties.

Conclusion

Based on the summary of research conducted in the context of character education in Indonesia, it can be concluded that the integration of character education into the school curriculum has a significant positive impact on the character development of elementary school students. Adaptive, collaborative, and innovative learning strategies are key in ensuring student character building continues to run well, especially in facing challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic. The role of teachers in being a real example in realizing the character values taught, as well as parental involvement in supporting the culture of local values among students, has also proven to have a significant impact on student character building. In addition, integrating character values into the school curriculum, both through active learning models and local wisdom, can improve students' overall skills and grades.

The importance of incorporating multicultural principles into teaching practice, as well as overcoming barriers in online learning through collaboration between various related parties, is also an important aspect in building student character. Evaluation of character education initiatives in schools, as well as the use of diverse research methodologies, are also important steps in improving students' character development practices. Overall, character education has a crucial role in shaping student character and creating a positive learning environment in schools. The integration of character values into the curriculum and the implementation of appropriate learning strategies are important steps in ensuring holistic character development of students.

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