



## Building stronger futures: Educational awareness for quality families in Ibul Village, West Bangka Regency

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### Abstract

Family is the first environment that determines the quality of children's education. Quality family guidance and counseling are needed to support the goals of national education as stated in the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003. Therefore, this counseling aims to raise family awareness of the importance of education for children in Ibul Village, Simpang Teritip District, West Bangka Regency. The method used in this community service program involves mentoring and counseling techniques. The results obtained from this community service program include a growing awareness among parents and prospective parents regarding the importance of their role and the tasks and functions of the family. The eight family functions explained in this activity broaden the community's insight into improving the quality of education, both morally and intellectually. The evaluation results show an increase in parental awareness of the importance of communication and educational guidance for children.

**Keywords:** Quality family; Counselling; Education

## *Membangun masa depan yang lebih kuat: Kesadaran pendidikan untuk keluarga berkualitas di Desa Ibul, Kabupaten Bangka Barat*

### Abstrak

Keluarga merupakan lingkungan pertama yang akan menentukan kualitas pendidikan anak. Pendampingan dan penyuluhan keluarga yang berkualitas sangat dibutuhkan untuk mendukung tujuan pendidikan nasional seperti yang tertuang dalam UU Sisdiknas No. 20 tahun 2003. Oleh karena itu, penyuluhan ini bertujuan untuk menumbuhkan kesadaran keluarga akan pentingnya pendidikan bagi anak di Desa Ibul, Kecamatan Simpang Teritip, Kabupaten Bangka Barat. Metode yang digunakan dalam pengabdian masyarakat ini adalah dengan menggunakan teknik pendampingan dan penyuluhan. Hasil yang diperoleh dari program pengabdian masyarakat ini adalah tumbuhnya kesadaran orang tua dan calon orang tua akan pentingnya peran keluarga serta tugas dan fungsi keluarga yang harus dijalankan. Delapan fungsi keluarga yang dijelaskan dalam kegiatan ini membuka wawasan masyarakat untuk meningkatkan kualitas pendidikan, baik secara moral maupun intelektual. Hasil evaluasi menunjukkan peningkatan kesadaran orang tua terhadap pentingnya komunikasi dan pendampingan pendidikan bagi anak.

**Kata Kunci:** Keluarga berkualitas; Konseling; Pendidikan

Contributions to  
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### Article History

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# 1. Introduction

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Forming a quality family is a responsibility for all Indonesians, as stated in Law No. 52 of 2009 concerning Population Development and Family Development (Hasanah et al., 2022; Lusyana et al., 2022). However, various problems within families are prevalent in contemporary society. One significant issue is the lack of awareness regarding the importance of education. Furthermore, some individuals underestimate the value of schooling (Nader et al., 1982; Wati & Sahid, 2022). This underestimation of education impacts the quality of a family, particularly in terms of educational development.

The family serves as the primary influence in shaping a child's character. Before formal education in schools and other institutions, families are responsible for instilling positive values and developing good character. Parents are crucial in providing informal education, which includes soft skills that significantly contribute to a child's character development (Davis-Kean et al., 2021; Lanjekar et al., 2022; Permanasari, 2020; Vaipoulou et al., 2021). This influence extends beyond academics to encompass areas such as finance, politics, and health (Hidayati et al., 2023).

Moreover, education is fundamental in shaping future generations. The still-low level of educational awareness among parents and children in various regions raises concerns about its potential negative impact on early childhood character development. In line with this, Hidayatullah notes that many students spend considerable time on gadgets and online games. A worrying trend is their involvement in deviant groups, such as delinquent gangs, drug use, and premarital sexual activity (Carson & Janssen, 2012; Crone & Konijn, 2018; Ko et al., 2012; Korhonen, 2021; McArthur et al., 2021).

In 2022, Ibul Village, Simpang Teritip Sub-District, Central Bangka, had a population of 2,974 people residing in 847 households, representing a 2.48% increase from the previous year. Among the total population and households, approximately 2,000 individuals fall within the 18-56 year active working age group. Additionally, a consequence of the lack of educational awareness is the rising unemployment rate, which, in turn, contributes to increased divorce rates. Therefore, drawing upon the definition adapted by BKKBN, a quality family is characterized by being healthy, progressive, and broad-minded. Consequently, fostering education is crucial for developing all the characteristics of a prosperous family. This community service program aims to raise awareness within the Ibul Village, West Bangka Regency community regarding the importance of education in establishing a quality family. Specifically, this program seeks to enhance community understanding of the significance of schooling and education in creating well-informed families capable of effectively addressing challenges.

Considering the issues and existing literature, providing guidance and counseling on family awareness regarding the importance of education is a key solution. This counseling and mentoring are also expected to contribute to reducing divorce and unemployment rates. This aligns with the fundamental objectives of education as outlined in the National Education System Law No. 20 of 2003, which states that the purpose of education is to enrich the nation's life, cultivate a religious society, uphold diversity, foster democracy and dignity, advance civilization, and promote the physical and mental well-being of humanity. Therefore, this community service program is conducted to establish a platform for increasing public awareness about the critical role of education, as it influences all aspects of life.

## 2. Method

This community service activity adopted the concept of solutions, with a focus on efforts to establish quality families in Ibul Village, West Bangka Regency (Figure 1). The activity employed counseling and mentoring methods, carried out in three stages. The first stage, the preparation stage, involved program planning, the preparation of counseling and mentoring materials, and the technical preparation for implementing the activities at the Ibul Village Office, West Bangka Regency. The second stage, the implementation stage, comprised two main activities: counseling and mentoring. Group counseling sessions were held to provide 30 participants with an understanding and knowledge of quality families, and individual mentoring was carried out to help participants apply the concept of quality families in their daily lives. The third and final stage, the evaluation stage, was conducted in October 2023, and aimed to measure the achievement of the program objectives and gather feedback from participants.

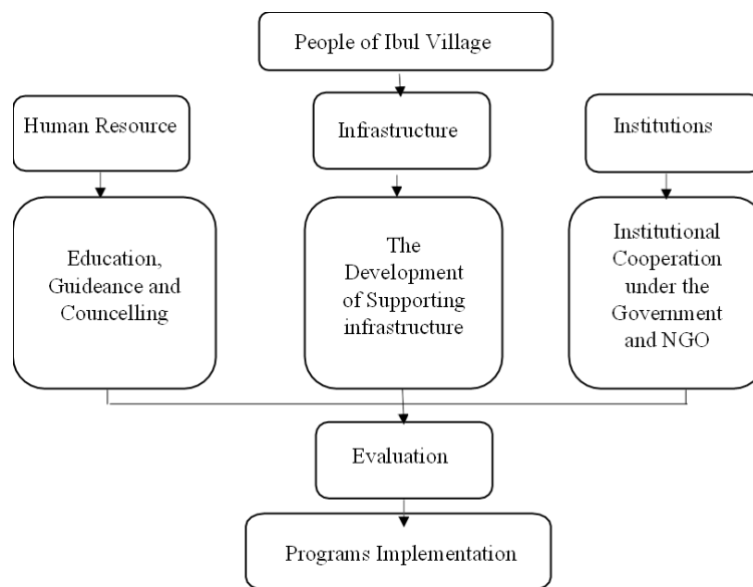


Figure 1. The implementation of service solution concept

## 3. Results and Discussion

### 3.1. Preparation stage

The initial stage of this community service program involved conducting a survey and analysis of the potential opportunities and challenges in its implementation. Additionally, a request for assistance related to quality family development was submitted by the local Village Head to the Office of Women's Empowerment, Child Protection, Civil Registry and Family Planning (DP3CSKB), and Muhammadiyah University of Bangka Belitung.

Following this, discussions were held to determine the primary target group for the mentoring and counseling activities, which was identified as adults. The basic framework for the mentoring and counseling activities, along with plans for distributing informational materials and disseminating activity information on social media, were also established during this preparation phase. Furthermore, brief interviews were conducted with community representatives to gather their perspectives on education.

This step increased the service team's confidence in their ability to effectively provide counseling and assistance to families in the village.

### 3.2. Implementation stage

The next stage involved the implementation of the quality family counseling and mentoring program, aimed at raising awareness of the importance of education. This program involved multiple stakeholders and required significant human, financial, and time resources. The counseling and mentoring program was conducted in two sessions, featuring four resource persons: three from the education sector and one from DP3CSKB. These service activities took place on October 13 and 20, 2022.

The first day of the program focused on families with less than 20 years of marriage. Core activities included a session led by a resource person from DP3CSKB, Indah Yuniarti, S.Kom, on quality family resilience (Figure 2).



Figure 2. A lecture from DP3CSKB about quality family

Lectures were also delivered by three lecturers from Muhammadiyah University of Bangka Belitung, focusing on the role of education in family life and quality family resilience. Key topics included prioritizing children's education, the importance of character education, and the fundamental role of education in building a quality family (Figure 3).



Figure 3. A lecture about the role of education in family life

During the counseling sessions, the presenters outlined eight key roles and functions of the family. These roles, aligned with national government initiatives, emphasize the impact of parents' physical contact on children (Covington et al., 2021; Diniz et al., 2021;

Komariah & Nihayah, 2023; Simanjutak et al., 2022; Tsoraya et al., 2022). The eight roles and functions of the family are as follows:

- a. Religious Function: The family is expected to set a positive example in religious observance. Religious education is considered essential for building children's character, particularly in the current era where character education is a priority (Komariah & Nihayah, 2023; Simanjutak et al., 2022; Tsoraya et al., 2022).
- b. Socio-cultural Function: Families are expected to model appropriate speech and behavior, demonstrating customs and ethical conduct in social interactions. Children learn social behavior primarily through their parents' examples (Hossain et al., 2019; Wong, 2024).
- c. Function of Love: This function aims to cultivate harmony within the family, including relationships between parents and children, and between spouses. A harmonious family environment fosters a sense of comfort, serving as a foundation for developing children's character through loving and affectionate parenting (Covington et al., 2021; Diniz et al., 2021).
- d. Protection Function: This role establishes a sense of security within the family. Parents are responsible for ensuring that children feel safe and comfortable at home. A lack of this protective function can contribute to children seeking security and happiness outside the home, and can be a factor in cases of external violence. Disharmonious family relationships can also compromise this protective function (Liu et al., 2018; Try et al., 2022; Wang et al., 2023).
- e. Reproductive Function: This function includes guidance on family planning, such as appropriate spacing between children and determining an ideal family size. It also emphasizes ensuring that all children receive equal love and care. Short intervals between births can increase the risk of health problems, such as anemia (Burton, 2022; Kaltsas et al., 2023).
- f. Function of Socialization and Education: The family is the child's first educational environment. Activities such as parents assisting children with their studies have a significant impact on children's cognitive development, particularly during critical periods like pandemics (Simanjutak et al., 2022; Tsoraya et al., 2022).
- g. Economic Function: Economic stability is crucial for families. Adequate family income can mitigate various risks, including stunting. While financial literacy is a common challenge (Clauß et al., 2022; Suratno et al., 2021), the economic security of the community in Ibul Village is generally at the upper-middle level.
- h. Function of Environmental Development: Similar to the social function, this emphasizes the family's role in promoting environmental sustainability. This includes fostering an awareness of the importance of preserving the natural environment for the well-being of future generations (Esposito et al., 2017; Menardo et al., 2017).

By understanding and fulfilling these eight functions, families in Ibul Village can improve their overall quality of life, encompassing both moral and intellectual development. On the second day, the program focused on families with more established marriages (over 25 years). Activities included a review of the material presented on the first day, emphasizing the importance of character education and the



fundamental principles of education in building a quality family. The session also assessed the community's understanding of character education and its role in fostering quality families, to raise awareness about the importance of education in Ibul Village.

### 3.3. Evaluation stage

The evaluation stage aimed to assess the program's effectiveness in achieving its objectives. Participants were asked questions about their plans, based on the information and materials presented during the implementation stage. The evaluation results indicated an increased understanding of the importance of children's education, with improved communication with children identified as a key outcome. The following are examples of participant feedback:

"After this, I will improve communication with my children. It's usually very difficult to talk to them" (Resident 1).

"I don't usually spend much time helping my children with their studies, but after this, I will try to be more involved and pay more attention to their education" (Resident 2).

The findings from these interviews suggest that the program can gradually increase parents' awareness of the importance of education (Balaj et al., 2021). It is our hope that the negative findings from past research, such as the link between education and low morale among young people in Nigeria (Caldwell, 1979), will not be replicated. This is because education plays a vital role in various aspects of life, as outlined above. Continued counseling and support are essential to reinforce these positive changes and to assist the government in achieving the goals outlined in the National Education System Law, including improving the quality of life, fostering a religious and inclusive society, promoting democracy and dignity, and advancing the overall well-being of the population.

## 4. Conclusion

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This community service program in Ibul Village, Simpang Teritip District, West Bangka Regency, effectively highlighted the importance of education in forming quality families. The program successfully deepened understanding of family functions and roles and involved various stakeholders in delivering relevant materials on character education and parental responsibilities. The explanation of the eight family functions broadened the community's perspective on enhancing both the moral and intellectual dimensions of education. Notably, the evaluation results indicate that the program increased parental awareness of the importance of communication and providing educational support to their children. It is expected that this program will continue to support the government's objectives of improving community well-being and fostering a religious, democratic, and prosperous society.

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## Author Contribution

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Activity implementation: AH, AS, H; Article preparation: H; Analysis of service impact: AH, AS, H; Presentation of service results: H; Article revision: H.

## Conflict of Interest

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All authors declare that there are no financial or non-financial conflicts of interest associated with this article.

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