

Is Guidance and Counselling Services Necessary in Elementary Schools? Literature Study of the Urgency of Guidance and Counselling in Elementary Schools

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ABSTRACT

The implementation of education is not spared from various problems that arise. As educational institutions, schools play an essential role in preventing and overcoming academic issues that may occur. Guidance and counseling are components that can be a way and help in solving these problems. This study aims to explain the role of guidance and counseling services and the urgency of their implementation in elementary schools. The research method used in this study is a literature study with data collection techniques through various research journals, books, online articles, encyclopedias, and other relevant and needed sources in this research which is then systematically compiled until data is collected and obtained. Based on the data and information that researchers have accepted, the researcher concluded that guidance and counseling services in elementary schools always need to be carried out by every class teacher considering their significant role and benefits to the development of students not only academically but also their attitudes and character to support their careers in the future. Therefore, class teachers must understand the concept of guidance and counseling services so that their implementation in elementary schools can be carried out optimally without significant obstacles.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Education is essential for human development. Not only adding knowledge and insight but also helping students develop attitudes, character, and maturity so that later they can help them make decisions, act, and achieve their goals. To achieve this, schools have a significant role in achieving student

competencies. In the process, education is not spared from problems arising from multiple things. Nowadays, the times are growing, and issues in the world of education are increasingly diverse. To solve these various problems, Guidance and Counselling are the elements or components that can be tasked with solving these problems.

Guidance and Counselling is a help service for students, either individuals or groups, in helping their personal development, learning, and socializing abilities and in planning future student careers through various services according to their needs. Guidance and Counselling should be essential to run at all levels of education, including in elementary school so that the attitude and character of students can be maintained from an early age and help them in various forms of academic affairs. The importance of counseling guidance in elementary schools is also based on the many cases of delinquency and criminality committed by elementary school children and the problems that inhibit their development in academic, personal, and social relationships [1].

The presence of counselors in schools can reduce the duties of teachers [2]. They state that counselors turn out to be very helpful to teachers in terms of the following:

1. Develop and expand teachers' views on practical issues related to their profession as teachers.
2. Develop the teacher's insight that his emotional state will affect the teaching and learning process.
3. Develop a more positive attitude to make the student learning process more effective.
4. They are overcoming problems encountered by teachers in carrying out their duties.

Counselors and teachers are critical teams in educational activities. Both can support each other in creating a more effective learning process. Therefore, guidance and counseling activities cannot be separated from school activities [3]. With guidance and Counselling in elementary schools, it is hoped that it can be a preventive step so that students from an early age can avoid problematic behaviors that may occur in the process towards maturity and corrective actions to help students solve a problem are facing.

There are often some misconceptions about guidance and counseling services. Many argue that guidance and counseling

only focus on overcoming students who have problems or misbehavior in school. Still, in addition to that, guidance and Counselling can also be a place for students to help develop in all aspects ranging from academics, attitudes, character, social abilities, and talent specialization that can help in the achievement of students' careers later. To achieve all kinds of aspects and goals, it would be terrific if students could be directed since they are in elementary school so that all their development can be maximally fulfilled and achieved.

Education is essential in human life because it helps to improve the community's quality of life and standard of living and fosters awareness of practical and critical thinking in solving problems [4]. Along with the times, students' issues are very diverse, especially in elementary schools. Currently, there are many behaviors of students at the age of elementary school or still classified as these children that can hinder them from developing their potential and building their character [1].

Based on the above background, the author will try to discuss "Is Guidance and Counselling Services Necessary in Elementary Schools? Literature Study of the Urgency of Guidance and Counselling in Elementary Schools".

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Definition of Guidance and Counselling

2.1 Definition of Guidance

Guidance is not a direction/goal determined by the guide, not a compulsion of views on someone, nor a decision-making intended for a person. However, the mentor helps to make a choice, but it does not mean that the guide himself chooses; the one who is guided must establish and determine his attitude [1]. Guidance is the help given to individuals in making wise choices and adjustments [5]. The assistance is based on democratic principles which are the duty and right of each individual to choose their way of life as long as it does

not interfere with the rights of others. The ability to choose is not derived (inherited), but must be developed." [6]. Meanwhile, based on Article 27 of Government Regulation No. 29/90 states that: "Guidance is the assistance given to students for them to find a person, become acquainted with their surroundings, and plan for the future."

The researcher concluded that guidance is providing assistance based on the above understanding. They are provided by the supervisor systematically and continuously to individuals or groups that aim to solve a thing or thing so that their person can develop and become better in the future.

2.2 Definition of Counselling

The definition of counseling proposed by Natawidjaja in Sukardi is: "Counselling is a type of service provided as part of the guidance process. Counseling can be defined as a two-way street in which one person (the counselor) seeks to assist the other (the client) in coming to terms with himself concerning the problems he will face in the future." [7]. Meanwhile, according to ASCA (American School Counsellor Association) states that: "counseling is a confidential face-to-face relationship, full of attitudes of acceptance and providing opportunities from the counselor to the client, the counselor uses his knowledge and skills to help his client overcome his problems."

Based on the above understanding, the researcher concluded that Counselling is the provision of services by the counselor face-to-face with the client to help the client understand himself so that the problem experienced by the individual can be appropriately resolved.

2.3 Guidance and Counselling

Guidance and Counselling is a service that assists students, individually and in groups, to become independent and develop optimally in personal, social, learning, and career guidance through

various services and support activities based on applicable norms [5]. Guidance and Counselling provide assistance that counselors do to a client or student so that clients can understand themselves, make decisions, understand their potential, know how to develop their potential, and have the nature of responsibility for the decisions they make themselves [8]. Formally, the position of guidance and counseling in the Indonesian education system is outlined in Law No. 20/2003 concerning the national education system and its government regulations, while matters about primary education, including elementary schools, are addressed explicitly in PP No. 28/1999 concerning essential education chapter X in article 25 paragraph 1 [1].

Based on the above understanding, researchers can conclude that guidance and Counselling is an efforts to assist individuals or groups in overcoming a problem that occurs and facilitate the individual or group to achieve development and maturity to anticipate and prevent problems.

3. METHODS

This research uses the literature study method, namely through various data collection activities through many reading sources, such as books, articles, journals, and multiple encyclopedias, to support research so that conclusions can be drawn based on the data been collected in this study. Snyder said the literature study method aims to collect and draw substance from previous research and analyze various views from experts [9]. The data collection technique used in this study is through different reading results from sources such as journals, articles, books, books, and documents related to this research.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Purpose of Guidance and Counselling

According to the Ministry of National Education (in the Signs for the Implementation of Guidance and Counselling in the Formal Education Pathway), the

purpose of counseling services is so that students can:

1. Planning activities for completing studies, career development, and future life.
2. Developing all potential and strengths to the greatest extent possible.
3. Adjusting to the educational, community, and work environments.
4. Overcoming study obstacles and difficulties, adjusting to the educational environment, society, and work environment [10].

Meanwhile, The overall goal of guidance and counseling services is to assist individuals in developing themselves optimally based on their stage of development and predisposition (such as basic abilities and talents), various existing backgrounds (such as family background, education, socioeconomic status), and positive demands of their environment [6].

Benefits of Guidance and Counselling

Haryatri explained that there are several benefits of guidance and Counselling [1], including:

1. Counseling guidance will make us feel better, happier, calm, and comfortable because counseling guidance helps us to accept every side that is inside us.
2. Counselling guidance also helps reduce and even eliminate the level of stress and depression that we experience because we are allowed to find the source of the stress and are also helped to find the best way to solve the unresolved problem.
3. Counseling guidance helps us to be able to understand and accept ourselves and others so that it will promote effective relationships with others and be able to make peace with ourselves.
4. Personal development will increase positively due to counseling guidance.

The Urgency of Guidance and Counselling in Primary Schools

Unlike the secondary and upper education levels, there are still no guidance and counseling teachers at the elementary school level. Therefore, the class teacher will carry out all forms of guidance and counseling services to anticipate and prevent all problems early so that learning activities run smoothly. In addition, providing guidance and counselling services in elementary schools can help instill character values in students as early as possible to support the achievement of student learning achievement optimally without any significant problems and obstacles.

Sometimes, implementing guidance and counseling services in elementary schools is still not carried out optimally. This can happen considering that the class teacher carries out all forms of obligations and tasks in the classroom, starting from delivering and explaining all learning materials (other than Religion and Health Lessons), planning and preparing all forms of learning and class administration such as syllabuses, lesson plans, semester programs, and annual programs, as well as the implementation of assessments or evaluations.

Prayitno explained that the obstacles in implementing guidance and counseling services in elementary schools are the ability of class teachers who are followed by facilities and infrastructure, time, will, and cooperation, and funds and support from the principal, so there is a need for understanding for class teachers as implementers in the process of implementing guidance and counseling in elementary schools [6]. Meanwhile, according to Barus and Hastuti, the obstacles to the task of class teachers in the development of guidance and counseling programs in elementary schools are as follows [11]:

1. Counselors (guidance and counseling professionals) are not present in elementary schools.
2. Inability, time, and resources to develop programs.
3. Misconceptions about Counselling and guidance.

4. The lack of an easy and practical program development model to guide classroom teachers in developing their elementary school guidance and counseling programs.
5. Absence of means for class teachers to implement traditional guidance services that include guidance materials and are equipped with practical, ready-to-use, and simple-to-use presentation media.

Guidance and Counselling are essential components of education in improving educational quality, particularly in Indonesia. To realize this, it is necessary to have the cooperation of all relevant parties supported by the professionalism of educators so that education is not only limited to the transfer of learning materials but also with a concentration on students' affective and psychomotor aspects. Elementary school teachers are also always required to understand and understand the concept of guidance and counselling in schools considering that class teachers are responsible

for implementing guidance and counseling services in elementary schools.

5. CONCLUSION

Based on this research, it can be concluded that the implementation and provision of guidance and counseling services in elementary schools is crucial which is solely not only to follow up on students who are delinquent or problematic but also to anticipate and prevent the emergence of problematic behaviors and attitudes of students from an early age through various embedding of concepts, character values and providing services according to their needs. Providing guidance and counseling services to learners in primary schools can also assist them in planning their future careers and aspirations based on their interests and potential. Therefore, as a class teacher, you must always understand and have insight into guidance and Counselling so that the implementation and delivery of services to students can be optimally distributed.

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