Modern Homeschooling Trends: An Alternative to Children's Education in the Flexible Era

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Abstract

This study explores the growing trend of modern homeschooling as an alternative educational option in the flexible era. Homeschooling offers a personalized approach to learning, allowing parents to tailor the curriculum and teaching methods to suit their child's individual needs, interests, and learning pace. This research examines the motivations behind parents' decisions to choose homeschooling, the learning processes involved, the challenges faced, and the potential impacts on children's development. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation from parents, children, and educators involved in homeschooling practices. The findings highlight the advantages of homeschooling, such as flexibility in learning schedules, personalized education, and the development of independence and critical thinking skills in children. However, challenges like limited resources, time management, and social development were also identified. The study concludes that while homeschooling presents numerous benefits, it requires careful planning, adequate resources, and support from the broader community to be fully effective.

Keywords: Homeschooling, Modern Education, Flexible Learning, Child Development, Personalized Learning, Educational Alternatives.

INTRODUCTION

Education is a fundamental aspect in the formation of individual character and abilities, as well as determining the progress of a nation. Along with the progress of the times, the traditional education system that relies on formal schools is beginning to be faced with various challenges, both in terms of teaching quality, gaps in access to education, and the suitability of methods with technological developments and individual needs. In this context, the emergence of educational alternatives such as homeschooling (homeschooling) has become an increasingly popular choice among parents who want to provide a more personalized and adaptive learning experience for their children.[1]

Homeschooling is not a new concept. For a long time, some families have chosen this path to provide education to their children, for a variety of reasons, ranging from the special needs of the child, the desire to be more involved in the educational process, to dissatisfaction with the formal education system that is considered inadequate.[2] However, in this fast-paced digital era, homeschooling is increasingly relevant thanks to technological advancements that allow easier access to various educational resources. With the internet, digital devices, and online learning platforms, parents can now take advantage of technology to create a more dynamic, fun, and child-friendly learning experience.[3]

In an era of increasing emphasis on flexibility and personalization, homeschooling offers many advantages, such as a curriculum that can be tailored to the child's pace and learning interests, more intensive and focused teaching, and the opportunity to develop practical skills that are relevant to the real world.[4] In addition, with homeschooling, children can also learn in a more conducive environment, which can reduce the academic and social pressures often encountered in traditional schools.[5]

Nevertheless, despite having a lot of potential, homeschooling is not without challenges. Parents who choose homeschooling must be prepared with a great commitment, both in terms of time, effort, and resources. Managing children's learning at home requires careful planning, the availability of quality educational materials, and the ability to create an engaging and effective learning environment. In addition, the child's social aspect also needs to be considered, as they may lack interaction with peers that can affect their social skills.[6]

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[1] Ningsih, A. G. (2019, February). Homeschooling Primagama Palembang in the Era of the Industrial Revolution 4.0. In *PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PGRI PALEMBANG.*

[2] Naufal, A. (2015). Homeschooling: A New Paradigm of Islamic Education in Indonesia. *Tawazun: Journal of Islamic Education*, *8*(1), 27-48.

[3] Rantikasari, R. New Paradigm of Family-Based Education Model (Homeschcooling). *Rayah Al-Islam*, *5*(01), 151-170.

[4] Maria Widya Wanti and Didit Darmawan, "The Influence of School Culture on the Character of Junior High School Students," n.d.

[5] Saputra, A. (2024). THE ROLE OF PARENTS IN THE HOME SCHOOLING LEARNING PROCESS. *Journal of Intellectuals and* Scholars, *1*(6), 2204-2210.

[6] Giawa, H. N., & Sianipar, D. (2018). The Use of the Homeschooling Model in PAK Learning at PKBM Wesley Pelita Bangsa School (WPBS). *Shanan Journal*, *2*(2), 91-105.

As the homeschooling community grows and more platforms support homeschooling, these challenges can be addressed in more innovative and collaborative ways. In this context, the role of technology and access to information is very important to support the success of homeschooling.

This study aims to examine the trends of modern homeschooling as a flexible and personalized educational alternative, identify the factors influencing parents' decision to choose homeschooling, and explore the challenges and opportunities faced in its implementation. By discussing these aspects, it is hoped that this research can provide a clearer picture of how homeschooling can be a relevant choice in the education system that increasingly leads to learning based on flexibility and independence. In addition, this research will also uncover the long-term impact of homeschooling on children's academic, social, and emotional development, as well as provide recommendations for parents and policymakers in facing future educational challenges.

Through a deeper understanding of the concepts, benefits, and challenges faced by parents and children in undergoing homeschooling, it is hoped that the community can gain a more comprehensive perspective regarding the successes and obstacles that may arise. Thus, homeschooling is not only seen as an exclusive educational alternative, but also as one of the options that can be considered in supporting the development of children's education in this increasingly dynamic era.[7]

In addition, this study also aims to provide insight to educators, policymakers, and education practitioners about the potential of homeschooling in creating an education system that is more inclusive and adaptive to individual needs, without ruling out the social aspects and emotional development of children. In the midst of the growing concept of education that prioritizes diversity of approaches, homeschooling can be one way to create more meaningful learning, facilitate children's character development, and optimize their potential according to their interests and talents.[8]

Thus, it is hoped that through a broader understanding of homeschooling, people can be wiser in choosing the type of education that suits the needs of children, while considering the advantages and challenges that exist. The proper implementation of homeschooling can open up opportunities for every child to learn in a more creative and effective way, as well as provide parents with the opportunity to be more involved in the educational process, create a more personalized learning environment, and support children's holistic development in the face of increasingly complex global challenges.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach to explore in depth the phenomenon of modern homeschooling as an alternative to education in the flexible era. This approach was chosen because it allows researchers to understand and analyze the phenomenon of homeschooling in more depth through the perspectives of the parents,

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[7] Wanti and Darmawan, "The Influence of School Culture on the Character of Junior High School Students."

[8] Rahmawati, F. (2018). The Tendency of Shifting Islamic Religious Education in Indonesia in the Era of Disruption. *TADRIS: Journal of Islamic Education*, *13*(2), 244-257.

children, and educators involved. This study aims to describe in detail the practice of homeschooling, the factors that influence it, and the challenges and opportunities that exist in its implementation.[9]

1. **Location and Research Subject**

     This research will be carried out in several locations that have active homeschooling communities, both in urban and rural areas. The research subjects consisted of:

     a. Parents who choose homeschooling as an educational option for their children.

     b. Children who participate in homeschooling programs.

     c. Homeschooling educators or facilitators who play a role in accompanying children in the learning process at home.

2. **Data Collection Techniques**

     To obtain in-depth and comprehensive data, several data collection techniques are used as follows:[10]

     a. In-depth Interview: Interviews will be conducted with parents, children, and educators to explore their experiences related to homeschooling. This interview aims to get information about the motivations, processes, and benefits and challenges faced in homeschooling.

     b. Participatory Observation: The researcher will directly observe the learning activities carried out in the homeschooling setting to understand more concretely the dynamics that occur in the learning process.

     c. Documentation: Data collection in the form of documents or learning materials used in homeschooling, such as curriculum, teaching materials, and child development reports, which can provide an overview of the quality of education received by children.

3. **Data Analysis**

     The collected data will be analyzed using thematic analysis techniques. This analysis process involves several steps:[11]

     a. Data organization: Groups data obtained from interviews, observations, and documentation into specific categories relevant to the research focus.

     b. Data encoding: Marking data based on specific themes that emerge, such as the factors that encourage parents to choose homeschooling, the challenges faced in implementation, and the impact felt by children.

     c. Interpretation and meaning: Researchers will dig into the meaning of the encoded data, and connect it with theories related to education, child development, and homeschooling to draw in-depth conclusions.

4. **Data Validity**

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[9] Mappasere, S. A., & Suyuti, N. (2019). Definition of qualitative approach research. *Social Research Methods*, *33*.

[10] Mappasere, S. A., & Suyuti, N. (2019). Definition of qualitative approach research. *Social Research Methods*, *33*.

[11] Sulistiyo, U. (2023). *Qualitative research methods*. PT Salim Media Indonesia.

To ensure the validity and credibility of the data, this study will use the source triangulation technique. This triangulation is carried out by comparing information obtained from various sources, such as interviews with parents, children, and educators, as well as data obtained through direct observation. In addition, the researcher will also conduct member checking, which is asking for reconfirmation from the informant regarding the results of the interview or findings obtained to ensure the accuracy of the information.

5. Research Ethics

This research will be carried out by paying attention to the ethical principles of research, including:[12]

a. Informant Consent: Each informant will be given an explanation of the purpose and procedure of the research and will be asked to provide informed *consent*.

b. Data Confidentiality: The identity of the informant will be kept confidential, and all data obtained will be used for research purposes only.

c. Transparency: The researcher will ensure that the entire research process is conducted with transparency, honesty, and without any conflict of interest.

With this applied method, it is hoped that the research can provide a clear and in-depth picture of the modern homeschooling trend, as well as its implications for the development of children's education in an increasingly flexible and dynamic era.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the results of research on the trend of modern homeschooling as an alternative to children's education in the flexible era will be presented and discussed comprehensively. The results of this research were obtained through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation analysis conducted on the research subjects, namely parents, children, and educators involved in the homeschooling program.

1. Reasons Why Parents Choose Homeschooling

One of the main findings in this study is the motivation of parents in choosing homeschooling as an alternative to children's education. Based on interviews, some of the reasons underlying this decision include:[13]

a. More Personalized Educational Needs: Many parents feel that the formal education system is incapable of giving their children enough individualized attention. Homeschooling is considered a solution to provide a learning experience that is more tailored to children's abilities and interests.

b. Time Flexibility: Parents who have erratic schedules or jobs that require high mobility choose homeschooling because it can manage learning time according to the family's daily activities.

c. Quality of Education: Some parents choose homeschooling because they feel they can provide a better quality education by choosing more relevant materials and a

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[12] Sujarweni, V. W. (2014). Research methodology. *Yogyakarta: Pustaka Baru Perss*, *74*.

[13] Yulianingsih, E. (2023). Homeschooling: Strengthening Students' Academic and Social Skills. *At-Tarbiyah Journal of Education, Culture and Islam*, *5*(1), 40-51.

curriculum that can be tailored to the needs of the child, especially for children with special needs or certain talents.

d. Avoidance of Negative Influences in the School Environment: Some parents also choose homeschooling to avoid negative influences that may exist in the school environment, such as bullying or social influences that are not in accordance with the values applied in the family.

2. **The Learning Process in Homeschooling**

   The results of observations show that the learning process in homeschooling is very diverse and can be adjusted to the conditions of each family. Some important findings related to the learning process include:[14]

   a. Flexible Learning Methods: Parents and educators in homeschooling tend to use more flexible and child-oriented learning methods. For example, the use of project-based learning, outdoor activities (field trips), and the use of digital technology in learning.

   b. Tailored Curriculum: In homeschooling, the curriculum can be designed more openly, with a focus on developing practical skills and critical thinking skills. Some families choose to adapt the curriculum from a variety of sources, including international homeschooling, to provide a wider variety in learning materials.

   c. Use of Technology: Technology plays an important role in homeschooling learning. Various e-learning platforms, educational applications, and other digital resources are used to support the teaching and learning process, allowing children to learn independently but remain structured.

3. **Challenges in the Implementation of Homeschooling**

   Although homeschooling offers a variety of advantages, the challenges faced by parents and children in implementing it are quite significant. Some of the key challenges identified in this study include:[15]

   a. Limited Time and Resources: Parents who work full-time often struggle to put together a consistent schedule and learning materials. In addition, not all families have access to adequate educational resources, such as quality teaching materials or well-equipped learning facilities.

   b. Children's Social Engagement: Although homeschooling provides flexibility in learning, children who study at home sometimes experience limitations in interacting with peers. This can have an impact on the development of their social skills.

   c. Parenting Skills as Educators: Not all parents have an adequate educational background to teach their children. Despite their good intentions, the challenges of developing effective learning methods and managing children's academic development remain obstacles.

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[14] SHABRINA, A. A. (2017). *Learning style of homeschooling students distance learning program (Descriptive study of homeschooling in Surabaya)* (Doctoral dissertation, Airlangga University).

[15] Naimah, T. (2019). The Concept and Application of Homeschooling in Islamic Family Education. *Islamadina: Journal of Islamic Thought*, *20*(2), 177-190.

4. The Impact of Homeschooling on Child Development

The results of the study also show that homeschooling has a significant positive impact on child development, although this impact is highly dependent on the implementation carried out. Some of the positive impacts identified include:[16]

a. Increased Independence: Children who attend homeschooling tend to be more independent in learning. They learn to manage time, plan tasks, and solve problems independently. This contributes to the development of a more resilient and confident character.

b. Balanced Social Skills Development: Although homeschooling children tend to have less interaction with peers, many of them are involved in a supportive and active homeschooling community. Some families also make sure their child is involved in extracurricular activities outside the home, such as sports or the arts, which can enrich their social skills.

c. Improved Learning Quality: Children who study at home are often able to complete material faster and with a deeper understanding, as they are not hampered by a uniform class tempo. This allows them to explore broader and more in-depth topics as per their interests.

5. Homeschooling Opportunities and Prospects in the Future

The trend of homeschooling points to a positive outlook for the future. With the development of technology and information, and the more open public understanding of the benefits of homeschooling, more and more families are considering this education as a viable option. In addition, the support of the growing homeschooling community, as well as more supportive regulations in some countries, will further reinforce this trend.[17]

However, to optimize the benefits of homeschooling, it is necessary to increase support in the form of training for parents as educators, the provision of more affordable and quality educational resources, and attention to children's social and emotional development in the context of homeschooling.

This research reveals that homeschooling can be an effective alternative to meet children's educational needs, as long as it is implemented properly and adjusted to the characteristics of each child and the abilities of parents. Despite the challenges in its implementation, such as limited resources and children's social engagement, homeschooling provides many advantages in terms of flexibility, personalization of learning, and the development of children's character. Therefore, it is important for parents and other stakeholders to pay attention to these aspects in maximizing the potential of homeschooling as a relevant educational solution in the modern era.

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[16] Fakiha, I., & Ahmadi, A. K. (2020). Homeschooling as an alternative education in the modern era. *Publicio: Scientific Journal of Politics, Policy and Society*, *2*(2), 23-33.

[17] Muslimat, A. (2017). Home Schooling as an Alternative Education of the Teaching-Learning Process in Education. *Journal of Gender and Child Studies*, *7*(01), 93-102.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research that has been conducted, it can be concluded that modern homeschooling is an alternative to education that is increasingly developing and provides great opportunities in answering educational challenges in this flexible era. Homeschooling provides flexibility in setting time, curriculum, and learning methods that can be adjusted to the individual needs and characteristics of children. Parents who choose homeschooling have various reasons, ranging from the desire to pay more attention to their child's development, flexibility of time, to avoiding the negative influences of the formal school environment.

However, despite its various advantages, homeschooling also faces challenges, such as limitations on parents' time, resources, and skills in managing a child's education. In addition, the social development of children who study at home also needs to be considered so that they can still interact with their peers and develop balanced social skills.

The positive impact of homeschooling on child development, such as increased independence, critical thinking skills, and better character development, suggests that homeschooling can support the achievement of children's maximum potential. For this reason, it is important for parents to continue to improve their skills in educating their children and get the right support, both from the homeschooling community and the educational resources available.

Overall, modern homeschooling can be an effective educational option if implemented properly and tailored to the child's needs and adequate support. Therefore, homeschooling needs to be considered as a viable alternative in the context of future education, taking into account all existing potentials and challenges.

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