



Empowerment in Education: Collaboration Between Schools, Families, and Communities

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ABSTRACT

Community empowerment in the education sector has become an important focus internationally to improve the quality and access of education for all individuals. A collaborative approach involving schools, families, and communities is an effective strategy for facing educational challenges. The role of society in the academic context is considered essential, goes beyond the boundaries of the classroom, and plays a vital role in supporting the educational process. Community empowerment refers to providing individuals and community groups the capacity to participate actively in the educational process. Collaboration between schools, families, and communities highlights the importance of viewing education as a shared responsibility. Family involvement in education significantly impacts children's academic development and achievement. Collaboration also involves the involvement of local communities as a valuable resource in supporting education. However, challenges such as gaps in the participation of parents from low economic backgrounds or minority groups require special efforts. Effective coordination and communication between various stakeholders are vital in planning and evaluating collaboration. A holistic and sustainable approach is needed to strengthen partnerships between schools, families, and communities to create an inclusive educational environment and stimulate students' holistic growth.

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INTRODUCTON

Community empowerment in the education sector is an important focus recognized internationally, as noted by UNESCO (2015) and various studies (Nugraha et al., 2023). This effort aims to improve the quality of education and expand access to education for all individuals, in line with findings by Simamora, Zahra, et al. (2024). Addressing the intricacies of educational obstacles, a cooperative strategy that includes schools, families, and communities is viewed as an effective method, as Pattiran et al. (2024) explained. The importance of collaboration between these three entities is to create an inclusive educational environment, support continuous learning, and improve the quality of education (Iskandar, 2024; Fadilah, 2024; Siswanto et al., 2024); the role of society in the educational context is seen as an essential part of a broad view of education as a process that goes beyond the boundaries of the classroom, also involving families and society (Solissa et al., 2024; Sihaloho et al., 2024). This underlines education as a joint endeavor that requires the participation of various stakeholders, with the community playing an essential role in supporting the educational process (Simamora, Jannah et al., 2024; Rizki et al., 2024). In this case, community empowerment refers to providing individuals and community groups the capacity to participate actively in the

educational process as students, educators, and partners in academic development (Ikhsan, 2024; Normina, 2016; Fallah et al., 2024).

This collaborative approach between schools, families, and communities highlights the importance of viewing education as a shared responsibility (Purnama et al., 2024). Schools are no longer seen as isolated entities but as part of a broad network involving families and communities, enabling the exchange of resources, knowledge, and experience to improve educational effectiveness (Zohriah, Torismayanti, et al., 2024). Family involvement in education significantly impacts children's academic development and achievement and is associated with better learning outcomes and student well-being (Iskandar, 2024; Marzuki et al., 2024; Lastri et al., 2024). Therefore, building strong partnerships between schools and families is an essential step in improving the quality of education (Pattiran et al., 2024), which can be achieved through various initiatives such as regular meetings between teachers and parents, involving parents in school decision-making, and providing support for parents to support children's learning at home (Andrekiy et al., 2024; Zohriah, Syamsudin, et al., 2024).

Collaboration also includes community involvement (Pattiran et al., 2024). Local communities can be a valuable resource in supporting education (Nadiyah et al., 2023) and offering programs and services that improve the accessibility and quality of education (Sunarto, 2023). NGOs, religious organizations, and other community institutions can provide financial assistance, assistance, or empowerment programs for needy students and families (Fachruddin, 2006). Communities also offer opportunities for students to develop social, leadership, and citizenship skills and feel connected to the community in which they live (Arifin et al., 2023; Sunaryati et al., 2023; Latief, 2014). Through cross-cultural collaboration, students can learn to understand different perspectives, resolve conflicts, and build mutually beneficial relationships with people from other cultures (David et al., 2023). This collaborative approach faces challenges, including gaps in the involvement of parents from lower economic backgrounds or minority groups. Factors such as busy work, limited resources, or lack of access to information often influence parental involvement, requiring extraordinary efforts to overcome them and ensure equal opportunities for all parents in their children's education (Amelia, 2023; Salmah et al., 2020; Riyana & Subuatningsih, 2023). Therefore, special efforts are needed to overcome these obstacles and ensure that all parents have the same opportunity to be involved in their children's education (Alfikri et al., 2022). Effective coordination and communication between various stakeholders are vital for planning and evaluating cooperation; ineffective communication can hinder progress and cause disputes (Parjaman, 2023; Ramdani et al., 2020; Puspita, 2018). In addressing these challenges, stakeholders must adopt a holistic and sustainable approach involving a long-term commitment to strengthening partnerships between schools, families, and communities. It includes identifying and addressing potential barriers to creating an inclusive educational environment and stimulating students' holistic growth (Dacholfany, 2024; Wilfridus, 2023; Sari & Haris, 2023).

1. The Role Of Schools In Community Empowerment

a. Becoming A Forum for Various Community Activities That Support Education

Education is crucial in forming a solid foundation for a society's social, economic, and cultural progress. As formal educational institutions, schools facilitate learning and develop society's full potential (Fadilah, 2024). It goes beyond the role of just a place for individual learning because schools also become a forum for various community activities that support the educational process (Simamora, Zahra, et al., 2024). Schools create inclusive environments where multiple groups and individuals can actively participate by providing space for extracurricular activities such as science clubs, choir, theater, and sports (Simamora Jannah et al., 2024). This diversity of activities helps develop specific skills and promotes collaboration, leadership, and other social skills (Solissa et al., 2024). In addition, schools function as resource centers for the community regarding knowledge, skills, and information (Iskandar, 2024). Through training programs and workshops, schools can empower people with practical skills

valuable in everyday life and the job market (Nugraha et al., 2023). Concrete examples are entrepreneurship training or technical skills courses that can help improve society's economic and social capabilities (Simamora, Zahra, et al., 2024).

Collaboration between schools, government, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector also significantly contributes to producing innovative programs that support community empowerment (Pattiran et al., 2024). to education for children from low-income families or job training programs jointly organized by local schools and companies (Siswanto et al., 2024). Schools also play an essential role in increasing awareness of social and environmental issues (Sunarto, 2023). Through a holistic curriculum, schools can help form a generation that cares and is responsible for the surrounding environment (Sunaryati et al., 2023). Educational programs about sustainability, environmental preservation, and social responsibility are integral to the school learning experience (David et al., 2023). The role of schools in community empowerment involves capacity building and local leadership (Wilfridus, 2023). Through training and professional development programs, schools can help improve the quality and competence of community leaders, including teachers, school principals, and other community members (Sunandi et al., 2020). By strengthening this capacity, communities can be more effective in formulating and implementing sustainable development strategies (Sajidin et al., 2023). it shows that education not only plays a role as a provider of knowledge but also as a catalyst for social change and sustainable community development.

b. Parent Involvement Through Meetings, Workshops, or Other Activities

Parental participation in the child's education process is essential in forming close collaboration between educational institutions and families and strengthening connections between schools and society (Pattiran et al., 2024). Schools are responsible for mobilizing and facilitating parents' active involvement in their children's learning through various methods, such as meetings, workshops, and other activities (Andrekiy et al., 2024). Schools can implement the primary strategy by holding regular meetings between parents and teachers (Pattiran et al., 2024). This meeting allows teachers to periodically provide parents with the latest information about children's academic progress and development (Purnama et al., 2024). On the other hand, parents can provide additional information about the child's conditions and environment at home, which can influence learning (Zohriah, Syamsudin, et al., 2024). This exchange of information facilitates close collaboration between schools and families in supporting children's growth and development (Sajidin et al., 2023). Regular meetings, workshops, and training also effectively involve parents in learning (Adnan et al., 2024). Workshops allow parents to understand the learning methods applied at school and support strategies that can be used at home (Sajidin et al., 2023). For example, workshops on reading techniques with children can better understand the importance of literacy and provide parents with practical skills to support children's literacy learning at home.

Collaboration between schools and families in joint activities, such as book-making projects, can also strengthen parental involvement in children's education (Zohriah, Torismayanti et al., 2024). These activities enhance the relationship between parents and children while positively contributing to children's academic and social development (Andrekiy et al., 2024). It should be noted that parental involvement in children's education directly benefits children and has broad implications for society (Latri et al., 2024). Parents involved in their children's education tend to care more about the development of education in the community (Zohriah, Syamsudin, et al., 2024). Parental involvement can improve the education system and strengthen relations between schools and society (Pattiran et al., 2024).

However, several challenges must be overcome in involving parents in the learning process (Alfikri et al., 2022). One of them is the busyness of parents in daily life, which may hinder their participation in school activities (Riyana & Subuatningsih, 2023). To overcome these challenges, schools must provide various timing and format options for meetings or other activities to fit parents' schedules and preferences (Andrekiy et al., 2024). Effective

communication between schools and parents is also essential (Ramdani et al., 2020). Schools must provide communication channels that are easily accessible to parents, such as via email, text messages, or particular applications (Ramdani et al., 2020). Good communication will ensure that parents remain informed about their children's progress at school and can provide the necessary input or support (Puspita, 2018). Parental involvement in children's education can also positively impact society (Alfikri et al., 2022). Parents involved in their children's education tend to be more aware of educational issues and more active in supporting improvements to the education system at the local or national level (Riyana & Subuatningsih, 2023). Parental involvement can drive broader social change (Alfikri et al., 2022).

c. Integrating Local Culture in the Curriculum and Extracurricular Activities

The role of schools in community empowerment can be strengthened by integrating local culture and community values into the curriculum and extracurricular activities. This integration reflects the efforts of educational institutions to enrich students' learning experiences by considering the cultural context and values around them (Rizki et al., 2024). Curriculum adjustments are an essential approach to integrating local culture and community values. In this context, curriculum revision urgently needs to reflect the rich culture and values around the school (Siswanto et al., 2024). Learning materials can be adapted to local traditions, folklore, or ethics highly upheld in the local community so that students can understand and appreciate their cultural heritage (Iskandar, 2024). In the context of extracurricular activities, schools can organize various activities based on local traditions or community values. For example, traditional arts performances, cultural performances, or religious activities can be part of extracurricular activities that provide students with a direct experience of cultural diversity and the values of local communities (Sunaryati et al., 2023). By integrating local culture and community values in the curriculum and extracurricular activities, schools can provide students with more relevant and meaningful learning experiences while strengthening cultural identity (Marzuki et al., 2024).

Integration of local culture and community values can be done through cross-subject learning. In this case, teachers can work together to integrate cultural elements and community values in the various subjects taught (Lastri et al., 2024). For example, in history lessons, teachers can discuss historical events relevant to local culture or community values. In contrast, in art lessons, teachers can introduce students to traditional works of art from local communities (Sajidin et al., 2023). This cross-subject integration allows students to gain a more thorough understanding of cultural diversity and societal values. Collaboration between schools and various stakeholders, including teachers, students, parents, and local communities, is crucial in integrating local culture and community values. This collaboration ensures that integration is carried out holistically and according to community expectations and needs (Fadilah, 2024). Active participation from various parties strengthens the connection between the school and the community and supports the shared commitment to safeguard and preserve cultural heritage and community values (Normina, 2016). Education can promote intercultural dialogue, build harmonious relationships, and strengthen social cohesion (Latief, 2014).

Integrating local culture and community values in education aims to enrich students' learning experiences and build awareness of the importance of maintaining and preserving cultural heritage (Ikhsan, 2024). Through collaboration between schools, families, and communities, education can contribute to developing a more inclusive and sustainable society (Arifin et al., 2023). Integrating local culture and community values in education has a broad and profound impact on the formation of students' character and identity and the development of society.

2. The Role Of The Family In Community Empowerment

a. Supporting Learning at Home Through Involvement in Children's Learning Activities

The role of the family in community empowerment is vital in strengthening the foundations of children's education and supporting learning at home, which is important because the family's active involvement in children's learning activities is critical in supporting children's academic and social development. When families are directly involved in learning at home, they provide positive role models, facilitate a supportive learning environment, and strengthen emotional relationships with children (Misbah, 2018). Numerous studies highlight the importance of family involvement in home learning and its impact on children's academic achievement and social development. A study proved that parents' active participation in children's learning activities can increase learning motivation, optimize academic potential, and strengthen relationships between family members (Taufiq et al., 2020). Family involvement also impacts children's self-perception and self-esteem, which are essential in building an empowered society (Rohmana & Haris, 2019).

In the context of community empowerment, the role of the family in supporting learning at home also has implications for increasing human capacity. By providing ongoing support in children's education, families not only help individuals develop personally but also form a strong foundation for the progress of society (Misbah, 2018). Children educated in a supportive environment have a more significant opportunity to reach their full potential, which can contribute to developing inclusive and sustainable societies. Not only that, family involvement in learning at home can also help overcome educational disparities. By providing consistent and targeted support to children, families can help reduce disparities in educational access and outcomes between different societal groups (Rohmana & Haris, 2019). Family involvement provides benefits not only at the individual level but also at the community level. However, the challenges in carrying out this role must be addressed. Various factors can influence a family's ability to support learning at home, including the availability of resources, the education level of parents, and the time pressure they may face (Misbah, 2018). Therefore, the government and related institutions need to provide the necessary support and resources for families to fulfill their role in supporting learning at home.

One way to increase family involvement is through programs and policies encouraging collaboration between schools, families, and communities (Taufiq et al., 2020). By facilitating effective communication and cooperation between various stakeholders, both at local and national levels, a supportive environment for children's learning can be created. Providing training and support for parents in understanding the importance of their role in their children's education is also essential in increasing family involvement (Rohmana & Haris, 2019). In the context of globalization and technological advances, the role of families in learning at home can also be strengthened through digital resources. With internet access and other information technology, families can access various learning resources and participate in learning activities with children online (Misbah, 2018). The role of the family in empowering society through education is essential for individual development and the progress of civilization. Therefore, efforts to strengthen family involvement in learning at home must continue to be encouraged and supported by various related parties.

b. Become a School Partner in Supporting Children's Academic and Non-Academic Development

The role of the family in empowering society through education is vital, especially in the context of being a school partner in supporting children's holistic development. The contributions made by families as school partners have broad implications for forming individuals who have potential and can compete in society, which aligns with the school-family-community partnership theory, which emphasizes the importance of collaboration between various parties in supporting the educational process (Pattiran et al., 2024). A critical aspect of the family's role as a school partner is supporting children's academic development. Families are responsible for providing consistent and targeted support for the development of children's learning abilities. Active family involvement in learning at home, including supervision of

learning activities and helping children with school assignments, can positively impact children's academic achievement (Marzuki et al., 2024). Families also have an important role in fostering positive attitudes and values essential for developing children's character, such as integrity, discipline, and cooperation.

In the context of non-academic development, the role of the family as a school partner is no less critical. Apart from supporting the development of social skills, families are also responsible for facilitating activities outside of school that support the development of children's interests and talents (Sajidin et al., 2023). Families can help children discover hidden potential and develop themselves holistically through these various activities. Technological advances also open up new opportunities for families as school partners. With internet access and digital platforms, communication between schools and families can become more accessible and efficient (Andrekiy et al., 2024). Families can get real-time information about their child's development, access additional educational resources, and participate in school activities online. It allows families to remain involved in their children's education, even if limited by time and distance constraints.

However, implementing the family's role as school partners can be challenging. Challenges such as limited time, resources, and knowledge often become obstacles to meeting given expectations (Alfikri et al., 2022). Therefore, schools must adopt an inclusive approach and consider each family's needs and limitations. The role of the family as a school partner has a significant impact on community empowerment through education. Families create a holistic and sustainable learning environment for children by actively supporting children's academic and non-academic development. It aligns with efforts to build strong partnerships between schools, families, and communities to achieve common goals regarding children's education. Therefore, becoming a school partner is a responsibility and an opportunity for families to be directly involved in the children's education process (Pattiran et al., 2024).

c. Activating the Parent Community to Share Experiences and Knowledge in Supporting Children's Education

The role of families in community empowerment highlights the importance of active family involvement in supporting children's education. One effective strategy in this case is to activate the parent community to share experiences and knowledge in supporting children's educational development. This concept emphasizes the importance of collaboration between parents in a community environment to support each other and improve the quality of children's education. Activating the parent community reflects an approach involving direct parent participation in children's education. It is done by organizing regular meetings, discussion groups, or other activities that allow parents to interact, share experiences, and exchange knowledge about their children's education. In a broader concept, education is a shared responsibility between schools, families, and society (Purnama et al., 2024). Schools are no longer viewed as isolated entities but as part of a more comprehensive network involving the active participation of parents and the community (Zohriah, Torismayanti, et al., 2024). Collaboration between these three parties allows the exchange of resources, knowledge, and experience, thereby increasing educational effectiveness (Sajidin et al., 2023). A critical aspect of this collaborative approach is the role of families in supporting children's education (Iskandar, 2024). Parents significantly impact children's academic development and achievement (Marzuki et al., 2024), and involvement in education is associated with improved learning outcomes and student well-being (Latri et al., 2024). Building strong partnerships between schools and families is an essential step in improving the quality of education (Pattiran et al., 2024).

However, collaboration is not only limited to the relationship between schools and families but also involves the community (Pattiran et al., 2024). Local communities can be a valuable resource in supporting education (Nadiya et al., 2023) by offering various programs and services that improve the accessibility and quality of education (Sunarto, 2023). NGOs, religious organizations, and other community institutions can provide financial assistance,

assistance, or empowerment programs for needy students and families (Fachruddin, 2006). The community is also a place for students to develop the social, leadership, and citizenship skills necessary for success in life (Latief, 2014). The approach of involving the parent community reflects the concept of parent learning communities, emphasizing collaborative learning between parents (Epstein, 2011). It creates a supportive environment where parents can share ideas, experiences, and resources to increase understanding about supporting their child's education. Parents not only receive information from schools but also learn from collective experiences and knowledge within the community. In the parent community, sharing experiences is one of the main aspects of supporting children's education. Parents have valuable expertise in educating children, both the challenges they face and the strategies they use to overcome these problems. By sharing experiences, parents can provide inspiration, solutions, and emotional support to fellow parents experiencing similar situations. It creates a sense of solidarity and togetherness within the parent community, improving the quality of support for children's education.

Sharing experiences is also an essential element in activating the parent community. Parents know teaching methods, effective learning strategies, and available educational resources. By sharing knowledge, parents can provide information, tips, and suggestions to fellow parents to help improve educational practices at home. It also opens opportunities to access various resources and information community members may have yet to learn. Apart from direct benefits for parents, activating parent communities also has a broader positive impact on empowering society through education. By actively involving parents in their children's education process, the parent community can become a potent agent of change in improving the quality of education at the local level so that it can collaborate with schools, educational institutions, and other related parties to identify problems, design solutions and encourage positive changes in the education system.

The parent community can also advocate for children's education at the community level and even at a broader level. By uniting as a community, parents have the collective power to advocate for policies and programs that support their children's education and fight for their rights as parents. It creates a supportive environment for children to grow and develop optimally and strengthens parental involvement in efforts to build an inclusive and sustainable society. However, to effectively activate parent communities, support and cooperation from various parties are needed, including schools, government agencies, and civil society organizations that can provide the necessary resources, facilities, and guidance to help parents start and maintain community continuity. An inclusive and sensitive approach to community members' diverse needs and interests is essential to ensure maximum participation.

3. The Role of The Community In Community Empowerment

Society is a rich resource to support education. The role of the community in community empowerment includes:

a. Providing Access to Resources and Experiences Not Available at School

Community empowerment is a crucial principle in sustainable social and economic development. This concept recognizes that access to resources, knowledge, and experience is the primary key to improving the quality of life of individuals and groups in society. In the educational context, the role of the community in providing access to resources and experiences that are not available in the school environment becomes very significant. As stated by several researchers (UNESCO, 2015; Nugraha et al., 2023; Simamora, Zahra, et al., 2024; Pattiran et al., 2024), a collaborative approach between schools, families, and communities can improve quality and accessibility—education for all individuals.

Extracurricular activities organized by various community organizations, such as sports clubs, arts groups, or charities, are a clear example of community contributions in enriching the educational experience. Students can develop skills and interests that must be fully

accommodated in the standard school curriculum (Fallah et al., 2024; Iskandar, 2024). It shows that education is not only limited to formal knowledge transfer but also involves experiential learning that can increase students' understanding of the world around them. Mentors and role models from the community can be crucial in guiding individuals in career development and personal interests. Experienced professionals and practitioners in a particular industry or academic field offer more profound insight than what formal school education can provide (Normina, 2016; Fadilah, 2024). These interactions with mentors allow individuals to expand social networks and better understand the practical application of knowledge.

The role of the community in providing access to non-formal resources is also vital. Community libraries, training centers, and volunteer programs offer opportunities for individuals to learn through practical experiences in broader, more real contexts than can often be simulated in classroom settings (Siswanto et al., 2024; Zohriah, Torismayanti et al., 2024). Through these resources, students can access literature and information that may not be available in the school library and get the opportunity to apply knowledge in real-world situations. In the era of globalization and the information and communication technology (ICT) revolution, the role of society in integrating ICT into the learning process has also become crucial. Community-organized ICT training programs can help individuals acquire digital skills essential for participating in the knowledge-based global economy (Pattiran et al., 2024; Rizki et al., 2024). It shows that society can contribute to preparing students for success in the local job market and the global arena. Given society's significant contribution to enriching education, it is clear that collaborative efforts between schools, families, and communities improve education access and quality and better prepare individuals to face future challenges. Therefore, community empowerment in the context of education should be a priority in the national development agenda to improve the community's quality of life.

b. Supporting Informal Education Programs Outside the School Environment

Community empowerment through support for informal education is one of the main pillars of inclusive and sustainable social and economic development. This concept emphasizes the importance of strengthening the capacity and independence of individuals and groups in a community by providing access to educational resources outside the formal school structure. In this context, informal education plays a vital role in learning outside the traditional academic environment, both in conventional and non-formal settings. It provides opportunities for community members to access knowledge and skills relevant to their needs (UNESCO, 2015). Communities have great potential in organizing and supporting informal education initiatives, which include various activities such as skills training programs, workshops, seminars, and group discussions. The existence of community learning centers, for example, shows how communities can play an active role in supporting informal education by organizing skills courses and personal development training. These centers function not only as a place to gather and learn but also as a forum for increasing the knowledge and skills of community members in various fields (Nugraha et al., 2023).

Participation in various education-focused volunteer programs shows a direct contribution to facilitating learning and strengthening social solidarity among community members. This volunteer program includes activities such as teaching in remote communities and mentoring for children or youth who need additional guidance, all of which aim to expand access to learning for all levels of society (Simamora, Zahra, et al., 2024). In the era of digitalization, the use of information and communication technology (ICT) by society to support informal education is becoming increasingly important. Community-organized online courses, webinars, and online learning platforms enable broader and more democratic access to learning, accommodating the diverse learning needs of community members without being limited by geographic or time factors (Pattiran et al., 2024). This technology, therefore, acts as a tool that strengthens informal learning and expands its reach to all members of society.

The importance of advocacy and promotion of awareness by the public about the benefits of informal education cannot be underestimated. Through outreach campaigns and public events, communities can play a crucial role in educating community members about the opportunities available through informal education. The community acts as an agent of change that strengthens the culture of learning and self-development in society, motivating active participation in learning activities outside of school (Siswanto et al., 2024). Community involvement in supporting informal education is crucial to community empowerment efforts. Through this initiative, the community can significantly improve access and quality of education for all community members. As part of sustainable human development efforts, the development and strengthening of informal education must continue to be encouraged, with the community acting as the central pillar in supporting and facilitating this learning process.

c. Be A Role Model and Inspiration for Children in Developing Their Potential

Community empowerment through education and children's character building is fundamental to building a solid foundation for future generations. This concept, recognized internationally (UNESCO, 2015), emphasizes the importance of collaboration between schools, families, and communities in creating an inclusive and supportive educational environment (Nugraha et al., 2023). In this context, society is a source of inspiration and role models who can motivate children to develop their potential optimally (Simamora, Zahra, et al., 2024). Social cognitive theory in psychology explains that individuals learn and grow through observing, imitating, and modeling the behavior of others who are considered role models (Bandura, 1977). It shows that children tend to mimic the behavior, values, and norms of community members who are considered role models. Therefore, society needs to provide positive and constructive examples in everyday life to help form children's character and behavior (Pattiran et al., 2024). Furthermore, active participation in community activities provides opportunities for children to learn from hands-on experiences and develop social and leadership skills. This experience is significant in helping children understand the value of cooperation, empathy, and social responsibility, essential in developing mature character and personality (Siswanto et al., 2024).

In today's digital era, society's role in providing role models and inspiration for children also includes the wise use of social media and digital technology. Social media and online platforms offer access to various sources of inspiration and learning, but society needs to guide children in accessing appropriate and constructive content (Iskandar, 2024). It requires cooperation between parents, educators, and community members in monitoring and providing educational content and promoting positive values and behavior. The role of society as role models and inspirations is not only limited to direct influence in everyday life but also involves creating a supportive environment for children's growth and development. It includes providing informal education facilities, support for extracurricular activities, and organizing training programs that strengthen children's skills and talents (Fadilah, 2024).

Empowerment in the context of children's education requires a holistic approach involving contributions from all members of society. Through providing positive role models, supporting participation in community activities, and responsible use of digital technology, society can play a vital role in helping children develop their full potential. It will shape children's character and abilities and prepare them to become responsible and productive world citizens.

4. Effective Collaboration Strategies

So that collaboration between schools, families, and communities can be effective, a planned and coordinated strategy is needed, including:

a. Building Open and Transparent Communication Among All Stakeholders

A planned and coordinated strategy is needed for collaboration between schools, families, and communities to be effective. One key factor in ensuring the effectiveness of this collaboration is building open and transparent communication among all relevant parties. Effective communication allows all parties to share information, expectations, and concerns and work together to create an educational environment that supports and inspires students. The importance of open and transparent communication in collaboration between schools, families, and communities cannot be overstated. Good communication helps identify and address issues that students may face both in the school environment and at home. It also allows for sharing resources and strategies that can support student learning. Effective communication can establish a shared understanding of educational goals and the best ways to achieve them. Strategies for building open and transparent communication involve several essential steps:

- First, schools must develop clear communication policies establishing how and when information is shared with families and communities. These policies should include various communication channels, such as face-to-face meetings, written reports, email, and social media, to ensure that all relevant parties can access information conveniently.
- Second, it is essential to establish clear expectations regarding the roles and responsibilities of each party in supporting student education, including understanding the best ways for families to contribute to the learning process and how communities can provide additional support, such as resources or extracurricular activities.
- Third, schools should actively seek feedback from families and communities to improve communication and collaboration practices, which can be done through surveys, focus groups, or community meetings. This feedback is invaluable in assessing the effectiveness of existing communication strategies and identifying areas for improvement.
- Fourth, training and professional development in effective communication for teachers and school staff are crucial. This training can help build strong communication skills and understanding of interacting with families and communities. It can also include strategies for overcoming communication barriers, such as language or cultural differences.
- Fifth, it is important to celebrate successes and acknowledge the contributions of all parties in supporting student education, including award ceremonies or coverage in school and community media. Recognizing the joint efforts in supporting student education can strengthen the relationships between schools, families, and communities and motivate ongoing collaboration.

In implementing these strategies, it is essential to remember that effective communication takes all parties' time, patience, and commitment. There is no instant solution to building strong relationships between schools, families, and communities, but effective collaboration can be achieved through collective effort and continuous communication. A more inclusive, supportive, and inspiring educational environment can be created for all students by prioritizing open and transparent communication.

b. Identify and Utilize the Strengths and Resources of Each Party

Effective collaboration between schools, families, and communities is critical in creating an environment conducive to and enriching student learning. To achieve this goal, identify and utilize the strengths and resources of each party. This strategic approach maximizes potential and enables suitable solutions to various educational challenges. Identifying strengths and resources requires a deep understanding of the capacities and abilities held by schools, families, and communities. Schools have access to professional educators, curriculum, and learning facilities. Families bring a profound understanding of students' needs, strengths, and weaknesses. Meanwhile, communities can offer support through resources, such as access to cultural institutions, social organizations, and business opportunities that can enrich children's educational experiences. Combining all these resources can create a solid and adaptive educational ecosystem.

The first step in this strategy is to inventory strengths and resources available. Schools can start by holding meetings with representatives from families and community members to discuss and document the various resources and strengths each party brings. This process should be inclusive and participatory, ensuring all voices are heard and respected. Once the strengths and resources are identified, the next step is to design strategies to utilize them effectively, which may involve developing programs or activities designed to leverage specific expertise from community members or integrating community resources into the school curriculum. For example, suppose a community has several artists or science experts who can be invited to conduct workshops or seminars for students. In that case, it can enrich learning with new experiences and perspectives. Establishing strong coordination and communication mechanisms between schools, families, and communities is also essential, allowing for smooth information exchange and ensuring that joint initiatives are carried out with good coordination. Digital platforms, such as school websites or social media, can facilitate this communication and regular meetings between representatives from each party to discuss progress and challenges.

Facing challenges is also an integral part of this process. Not all resources will fit every need, and there may be differences of opinion on how those resources should be used. Constructive solutions can be found through open dialogue and negotiation, focusing on the common goal of supporting student success. Continuous evaluation of the effectiveness of implemented strategies is crucial. This evaluation should involve gathering feedback from students, parents, teachers, and community members about the activities' impact. This information can be used to adjust existing strategies and identify new areas for collaboration. Finally, recognition and appreciation of the contributions of each party are crucial to maintaining motivation and commitment to collaboration. They can take the form of awards, coverage in local media, or special events celebrating the successes achieved together. Through a planned and coordinated approach to identifying and utilizing the strengths and resources of each party, collaboration between schools, families, and communities can be a highly effective tool in improving the quality of education, benefits students in terms of learning outcomes, strengthening community bonds, and builds a solid foundation for future education.

c. Developing Sustainable and Locally Relevant Programs

Collaboration between schools, families, and communities is crucial in establishing a solid and responsive educational ecosystem. For this collaboration to yield significant and sustainable positive impacts, it is essential to develop programs that are not only locally relevant but also sustainable and adaptable over time. Such programs, tailored to the specific needs of the community and supported by local resources, can significantly enhance engagement and commitment from all involved parties, ensuring that educational initiatives have profound and lasting impacts.

The process of developing sustainable and locally relevant programs requires a structured and reflective approach, encompassing several key stages. The first stage is needs assessment, where a thorough understanding of the local community's educational requirements, challenges, and resources is established. This stage involves gathering input from all stakeholders—schools, families, and community members—to ensure that the program addresses the most pressing issues and leverages available resources effectively.

Following the needs assessment, strategic planning becomes the next critical stage. This involves setting clear objectives, determining the necessary resources, and designing the program framework to ensure it aligns with the identified needs and priorities. Strategic planning must consider the long-term viability of the program, ensuring that it can be maintained and scaled as needed over time. This planning phase should also include strategies for engaging stakeholders continuously, maintaining their involvement and commitment to the program's success.

The next stage is implementation, where the planned programs are put into action. During this phase, it is crucial to maintain open communication channels among all stakeholders

to address any issues that arise and make necessary adjustments. Effective implementation often requires training and support for those involved, ensuring that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities and is equipped to contribute effectively.

Once the program is operational, evaluation plays a vital role in assessing its impact and effectiveness. Regular evaluation allows for the identification of areas where the program is succeeding and those where it may need improvement. This stage should involve collecting feedback from all stakeholders and analyzing data to determine whether the program is meeting its goals. Evaluations should be both formative, providing ongoing feedback that can be used to make real-time adjustments, and summative, assessing the overall success of the program at its conclusion.

Finally, ongoing adjustments are necessary to ensure that the program remains relevant and effective over time. Educational needs and community conditions are not static; they evolve, and programs must be flexible enough to adapt to these changes. This requires a commitment to continuous improvement, with stakeholders regularly reviewing and revising the program as needed to address new challenges and opportunities.

Needs assessment is the initial and crucial step in this process. It involves collecting in-depth data and information about the educational needs and challenges students, families, and communities face. Through surveys, interviews, and focus group discussions, schools can identify priority areas requiring intervention and available community resources and strengths. This assessment should encompass perspectives from various stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, and community members, to ensure that the developed programs are responsive and inclusive. Based on the results of the needs assessment, the next stage is strategic planning, which involves creating a clear vision and objectives for the program and strategies and activities to achieve them. Setting realistic and measurable goals and considering how the program will be funded and managed long-term is essential. This planning should also consider integrating the program with school curricula and other community activities to ensure suitable and resource efficiency.

Program implementation requires strong coordination between schools, families, and communities and involves carrying out planned activities and ongoing monitoring to ensure the program is on track. Effective communication among all stakeholders is crucial during this stage to ensure transparency and enable quick adjustments if there are any obstacles or challenges. Ongoing evaluation and adjustments are equally critical. The final stages involve assessing the effectiveness of the program and its impact on students and the community. Through feedback collection and data analysis, schools can identify what has worked and needs improvement. This evaluation process should be conducted regularly to ensure the program remains relevant and responsive to changing needs. Developing sustainable and locally relevant programs requires commitment and cooperation from all stakeholders. It involves investing time and resources and a commitment to continuous learning and adaptation. With a structured and participatory approach, schools, families, and communities can work together to create educational programs that improve student learning outcomes, strengthen communities, and build a solid foundation for the future.

d. Involving All Stakeholders in Decision Making and Evaluation Processes

Collaboration between schools, families, and communities is essential for creating a supportive educational environment that fosters the holistic development of students. This partnership is not merely beneficial but crucial in ensuring that students receive a well-rounded education that addresses their academic, social, and emotional needs. For such collaboration to be effective, it requires a structured and coordinated approach, where all stakeholders are actively involved in the decision-making and evaluation processes. This strategic involvement strengthens the sense of ownership and commitment among all parties, ensuring that decisions made are truly reflective of the community's educational aspirations and needs.

One of the primary benefits of involving all stakeholders in decision-making is the diversity of perspectives that are brought to the table. Schools, families, and communities each have unique insights into the challenges and opportunities within the educational system. By fostering an environment where these perspectives are freely shared and valued, the decision-making process becomes richer and more inclusive. This diversity of thought is particularly valuable in policymaking and the development of educational programs, as it allows for the consideration of a broader range of factors that might otherwise be overlooked. For instance, parents may provide insights into their children's learning habits at home, while community members might highlight local resources or challenges that impact the school environment.

Moreover, active participation from all stakeholders in decision-making helps to identify issues and challenges that may not be immediately apparent to everyone. For example, teachers might notice trends in student behavior or academic performance that parents and community members are unaware of, while parents might be more attuned to the socio-emotional challenges their children face outside of school. By bringing these observations together, stakeholders can collaboratively develop more comprehensive and effective solutions that address the diverse needs of students.

This collaborative approach also helps to build stronger relationships between schools, families, and communities. When stakeholders feel that their voices are heard and their contributions are valued, they are more likely to remain engaged and committed to the educational process. This ongoing engagement is critical in maintaining a dynamic and responsive educational environment that can adapt to changing circumstances and needs. Furthermore, the involvement of multiple stakeholders in the evaluation process ensures that educational programs are continuously assessed and improved. This iterative process allows for the timely identification of what is working well and what needs adjustment, leading to the ongoing refinement of educational strategies and programs. The first step to ensure the involvement of all stakeholders is to establish effective and inclusive communication mechanisms, which can take the form of joint committees consisting of representatives from schools, parents, and community members, regular discussion forums, or through information technology such as digital platforms to facilitate information and opinion exchange. These mechanisms ensure that all voices can be heard and considered equally. Furthermore, it is essential to establish transparent and accountable decision-making processes that clearly explain how decisions will be made, who will be affected, and how input from various parties will be integrated. This process should also allow for revisions and adjustments based on feedback and program evaluations. Educational policies and programs can continue to be adjusted to meet the evolving needs of students and the community. In involving relevant parties, it is crucial to recognize and appreciate the diversity of experiences and knowledge they bring. It means providing space for less often heard voices, such as families from low socioeconomic backgrounds or ethnic minorities, to ensure that inclusive educational programs embrace community diversity.

The evaluation process should also reflect the principle of involving all stakeholders. Practical evaluation not only measures student academic achievement but also considers other indicators such as student well-being, family involvement, and program contributions to the community. In the evaluation process, collecting and analyzing data from various sources, including direct feedback from students, families, teachers, and community members, is essential to allow schools to understand the program's impact better and identify areas needing improvement. Finally, it is necessary to ensure that evaluation results are widely shared with all relevant parties and used as the basis for reflection and future planning, to enhance transparency and accountability, and to strengthen collective commitment to improving the quality of education. Involving all stakeholders in decision-making and evaluation processes is about strengthening collaboration and ensuring that the education provided is responsive, inclusive, and sustainable. This approach requires sustained commitment and effort from all parties. Still,

the benefits—a dynamic and adaptive education system that truly serves the needs of all students—are worth striving for.

CONCLUSION

Empowering communities in education through synergistic collaboration between schools, families, and communities forms the primary foundation for building an inclusive and sustainable learning ecosystem. The integration of strengths and resources from various elements of society prepares future generations to face the challenges of the times. It enriches the learning process with diverse perspectives and experiences. Intensive collaboration between schools, families, and communities offers a holistic approach to education, transcending the traditional boundaries of formal learning and introducing students to a dynamic and interactive learning environment. Through this collaborative approach, education is no longer the exclusive domain of legal educational institutions. Still, it becomes a shared responsibility involving the entire community, enabling a learning environment rich in communal values, where knowledge and skills can be transferred across generations, strengthening social networks and deepening a sense of ownership of the learning process. Effective collaboration between schools, families, and communities allows the community to have a more excellent voice in determining the direction and content of education, thus making learning programs more relevant to local needs. By building close collaboration between schools, families, and communities, we enrich students' learning experiences and shape a generation equipped with the essential skills, knowledge, and values needed for success in an ever-changing global society. This approach supports the holistic development of students, not only in academic aspects but also in social, emotional, and physical aspects, ensuring the formation of individuals who are not only intellectually capable but also resilient, adaptive, and have a high level of social concern.

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