

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. The role of teachers in strengthening student's character

The role of teachers in strengthening student character refers to the responsibility of educators to intentionally guide, shape, and nurture students' moral values, attitudes, and behaviors alongside academic development. Character education involves the cultivation of core virtues such as honesty, responsibility, respect, discipline, empathy, and integrity. In this context, teachers are not only transmitters of knowledge but also moral agents who influence how students think, act, and interact within their social environment. Through daily interactions, classroom management, and instructional practices, teachers contribute significantly to the formation of students' character.

Furthermore, strengthening student character requires teachers to serve as role models who demonstrate positive values in their words and actions. Students often learn more from what teachers do than from what they say. When teachers consistently show fairness, patience, respect, and accountability, students are more likely to internalize these values. In addition, teachers can integrate character-building elements into lesson plans, collaborative activities, discussions, and problem-solving tasks, thereby connecting academic learning with ethical reflection and social responsibility.

Moreover, the teacher's role in character development extends beyond the classroom to fostering a positive and supportive school climate. By encouraging cooperation, promoting inclusivity, and addressing negative behaviors such as bullying or discrimination, teachers help create an environment where students feel safe and valued. This supportive atmosphere strengthens students' emotional intelligence, self-discipline, and sense of responsibility. Therefore, the role of teachers in strengthening student character is essential in shaping not only academically competent individuals but also morally responsible and socially aware citizens.

B. Bullying prevention efforts at SMP Negeri 5 Ulunoyo in the 2022/2023 academic year

Efforts to prevent bullying at SMP Negeri 5 Ulunoyo in the 2022/2023 academic year refer to a series of planned and systematic actions taken by the school community to reduce, control, and eliminate bullying behavior among students. Bullying prevention involves creating policies, programs, and daily practices that promote respect, empathy, and positive peer relationships. These efforts aim to ensure that students feel safe, protected, and supported within the school environment. Prevention is not only about responding to incidents but also about building awareness and fostering a culture that rejects violence and intimidation.

In practice, bullying prevention efforts may include the implementation of school rules and anti-bullying policies, character education programs, counseling services, and collaboration between teachers, students, and parents. Teachers play a key role in identifying early signs of bullying, guiding students toward constructive conflict resolution, and reinforcing positive values such as tolerance and responsibility. Schools may also organize seminars, classroom discussions, and campaigns to educate students about the negative impacts of bullying on victims, perpetrators, and the wider school community.

Furthermore, effective bullying prevention requires a supportive and inclusive school climate. This includes strengthening communication between school staff and students, encouraging peer support systems, and ensuring consistent supervision in school areas where bullying is likely to occur. By promoting cooperation, mutual respect, and accountability, SMP Negeri 5 Ulunoyo can create an environment that discourages aggressive behavior and supports students' social and emotional development. Therefore, bullying prevention efforts represent a comprehensive strategy to safeguard student well-being and promote harmonious relationships within the school.