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Research Article

Improving students' environmental care character through Positive Character Camp (PCC) program

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Abstract

The background of the study is the increasing damage to the environment and the importance of the education role to develop environmental care characters for high school students. The research purpose was to explain the Positive Character Camp (PCC) program to improve the environmental care character for high school students. The program was an alternative activity to develop students' character. The research used qualitative studies to investigate students' experiences in the program. The data was collected through direct observation, interviews and field documentation and analysed with descriptive approach. The result found that the PCC program as a school project had goals, plans and management in improving student character. The process of developing students' characters is very diverse. Strengthening the environmental care character was achieved very effectively through activities to build positive characters in students. This research provided practical insights into developing environmental care characters through the school programs.

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Introduction

Environmental damage is one of the crucial global issues nowadays. It causes a quality decrease in the environment, which also caused by human error (Vonny, 2017; Zulfa et al. 2015). The anthropocentric paradigm is one of the paradigms that plays a significant role in environmental damage (Grey, 1993; Gunawan et al. 2015; Kopnina et al. 2018; Muda, 2016; Yuono, 2019). It exploited the environment as much as possible without considering sustainability (Dharmika, 2014). The way to change that paradigm is through education which can teach humans to have a concern for the environment.

Education can be defined as a process of human empowerment based on the potential that exists in them to contribute to the environment (Sagala, 2013; Tanyid, 2014). Therefore, education must be directed to develop the potential and positive character of the learner (Amir, 2013; Prihartono et al. 2019; Suhaida & Syarifah, 2019; Susilawati et al. 2020). Education can form a society to be the moralistic, excellent, civilized, dignified and modern (Amir, 2013). Education is a process to adjust human life and aims to develop the affective, cognitive and psychomotor abilities (Amir, 2013; Sari, 2019). Education can teach someone to have responsibility for what they do and willing to sacrifice

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for others (Rofi'ie, 2017; Suyanto, 2015; Warsito & Anisa, 2018). It is the nature of someone in responding to something through good action, honest, responsible, respectful of others and others values (Nurdin, 2015).

In general, a character is the inner nature of a person who differentiates from others (Timpe, 2007). Character consists of inner qualities that direct a person to do the right thing in a good, moral manner, and have qualities such as honesty and integrity (Berkowitz, 2002; Sari, 2019; Suyanto, 2015; Warsito & Anisa, 2018). The character was formed through empowerment that reveals human potentials to improve personality, soul, and body to be in harmony with nature and society (Afrizon & Dwiridal, 2017; Khamalah, 2017; Suwartini, 2017)

The character education teaches students to know things that are good for themselves and respect others, also to appreciate the environment. There are six character traits, i.e. (1) evaluative orientation, (2) obligation to collective social standards, (3) responsible to caring for others, (4) consider for other people's rights, (5) commit to being honest between individuals, and (6) think and has moral reasoning (Vessels, 2005). Students that have moral ethics can understand right and wrong actions. The characters that students need to learn are (1) to love God and all of the creation, (2) independence and responsible (3) honest, trustworthy, and wise, (4) respect and courtesy, (5) generous and cooperative, (6) self-confidence, creative and hard-working, (7) leadership and justice, (8) gentle and humble, and (9) tolerance, peace and unity (10) discipline, 11) democratic, (12) curious, (13) nationalist, (14) patriotism, (15) achiever, (16) friendly, communicative, (17) love for peace, (18) love to read, (19) care for the environment, (20) care for social (Kesuma, 2011; Umami, 2019).

The study examined the character of environmental care and social care. Forming the environmental care character on an early age becomes the main solution that needs to do to the young generation in order to have an understanding of the environment correctly and adequately (Sumarmi, 2008; Sumarmi et al. 2020). The environmental care character is one of the pillars on education recommended by UNESCO in continuous learning and needs to get special attention (Lelatobur et al. 2018; Pramana & Lasmawan, 2014)

The environmental care characters should be a habit for students to do in every environmental activity. Through habituation on student character development, coaching, learning, and school management can be implemented (Kemdikbud, 2015). Culture or habits can be seen in human behaviour. The behaviour must be obtained by studying formally and informally through following the rules.

Previous research stated that the teacher role as manager and facilitator could develop student character (Ajmain & Marzuki, 2019; Faizah, 2018; Margerison & Ravenscroft, 2020; Tafonao, 2019; Triyulianti, 2019). Parents were expected teachers in schools to be able to develop moral values and value systems in their children (Rahman, 2018). There are two forms of character building: particularly learning in the classroom and learning outside the classroom (Idris & Usman, 2019). The implementation of character building in schools can be integrated into subjects, self-development activities, and school rules (Dalimunthe, 2016; Darmanto, 2019; Judiani, 2010; Junaidi & Prasetyo, 2016). There are differences between male and female students based on three components, namely moral knowledge, moral feeling and moral action (Izzati et al. 2019). Also, pesantren(Islamic boarding school) are educational institutions that are effective to develop character in students (Anam et al. 2019; Nafisah, 2019; Setiawan, 2019).

Problem of Study

Most of the research in character building is about the moral development of students. However, this study examined the management, internalization process and effectiveness of the Positive Character Camp (PCC) program to develop environmental and social care characters in high school students. Therefore, this study investigated the following problems:

- How is the management of the Positive Character Camp (PCC) program in high school students?
- > How is the development of environmental and social care character of high school students?
- ➤ How is the effectiveness of the Positive Character Camp (PCC) program?

Method

Research Method

This study aimed to explain the Positive Character Camp (PCC) program to develop environmental and social care characters of high school students. The study was conducted using qualitative methods (Obeng, 2016; Creswell, 2012; Lodico, 2010; Zuriah, 2009; Moleong, 2005). The research process provided complex details about a phenomenon or situation which is carried out systematically and intensively through direct observation to gain knowledge about the phenomenon as it is (naturally)(Setyosari, 2016).

Participants

Participants who take part in the PCC program are first-year and second-year students, specifically from the social, science and language study programs. Furthermore, the research informants were selected using a purposive technique, which selecting people who are considered to know the information needed following the focus of the study and can be trusted to be a source of data (Moleong, 2005). The subject of this study included 10 key informants and 31 additional informants. The list of informants can be seen in table 1.

Table 1.The List of Informants

Position	Number	Detail	
The chairperson of PCC	1	Key informant	
The teachers as mentors from disciplinary team	4	Key informant	
Mata Hati team	5	Key informant	
Students of the small committee team	10	Key informant	
The first-year students of science class	4	Additional informant	
The first-year students of social class	4	Additional informant	
The first-year students of language class	4	Additional informant	
The second-year students of science class	4	Additional informant	
The second-year students of social class	4	Additional informant	
The second-year students of language class	4	Additional informant	
The foster parents/hosts (the villagers)	7	Additional informant	

Source: Observation results, 2019

Data Collection

The data was collected through observation, interviews and documentation the research informants. It collected based on events, activities, or behaviour of participants in the PCC program. The process was carried out for 4 days started on Friday, 18 October 2019 (pre-event). The 2-4 day was the process of character development. The documentation in the study was archived files and photos of PPC activities. The list of documentation data can be seen in table 2.

Table 2.The List of Documentation Data

No	Document name	Provided by	Detail	
1	School profile	School	Copied file	
2	The PCC timeline	Mata Hati team	Copied file	
3	Students' worksheet during activities	Mata Hati team	Copied file	
4	Assessment sheet	Mata Hati team	Copied file	

Source: Research analysis, 2019

Research Location

This research was conducted at school that implements the PCC program, which is SMAN 4 Malang, East Java Province, Indonesia as an annual program. This program was carried out in Bantur village, Bantur District, Malang Regency, Indonesia. Bantur village is located in the middle of the Bantur subdistrict area. It is an area of 2,243 hectares divided into five sub-areas of Krajan, Tunjungsari, Bantur Timur, Jubel and Durmo. Bantur village is bordered by Priggondani village and Rejosari village in the north, Wonorejo village and Srigonco village in the south, Sumber Majing village in the west and Tumpakerjo village in the east. The research location can be seen on the following map.

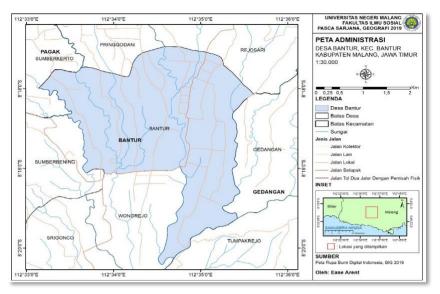


Figure 1.

Administration Map of Bantur Village

Data Analysis

The data was collected through direct observation, interview, and documentation, then analysed using the descriptive qualitative technique in 3 steps that are data reduction, data presentation and conclusion verification (Miles & Huberman, 1994). Furthermore, the information is checked for credibility.

Results

The PCC Program Management in Developing Students' Character

It has been proved that running learning activities, especially outside the school, needed a favorably management system. It included proper planning and organizing to develop students environmental care character. Based on Indonesian National Education objectives according to Law No.20 of 2003 chapter 2 article 3 said that the school activities must be developed based on students character (Kemendibud, 2003). The PCC program is a manifestation of school vision and mission and as mandatory from the National Education system. The PCC program was focused on developing students' positive character by implementing ten values. The values are religious, polite (to parents), environmental care, social care, nationalism, cooperation, confident, creative, hard-working, discipline, democratic and responsible and entrepreneurship. As the flagship program of the school, the PPC chairperson stated the stages for preparing the implementation of the program on the following table 3.

Table 3.The Interview Results Related to the Program Objectives and Plans

Informant	Interview result
(W/1.1/KP/ 16-9-2019)	Adding character building in school activities begins with our concern about the attitudes and behaviour of youngsters nowadays, especially high school teenagers who always like to be accepted as cool kids, but they are not. So, it is the reason for us to make a school activity such as PCC. We hope that through this program, our students will not experience moral degradation in themselves. Also, this program is a realization of the school vision and mission to increase students' potential in science and technology and IMTAQ (religious) which is developed in the Positive Character Camp (PCC) program.
(W/1.1/KT MH/18-10- 2019)	The objectives of the Positive Character Camp (PCC) Program include (1) creating faithful and religious people, (2) developing cooperation among students of SMAN 4 Malang, (3) caring for nature and human beings, (4) Training students to understand attitudes and responsibilities, (5) Developing sympathy and empathy for the environment and others, (6) Strengthening responsibility towards society and nationality, (7) Avoiding conflicts between teacher and student, (8) Strengthening the relationship between one student and another, (9) Strengthening social life for students of SMAN 4 Malang, (10) Developing students talents.
(W/1.1/KP/ 16-09-2019)	The PCC program was different from last year, as we collaborate with NGO Mata Hati (Heart's Eye) this year. Last year all activities in the PPC program were arranged by the teacher. We used to work together, but for several years we did not work together until now we work together again. The first steps that we take to carry out PCC activities were referred to the school vision and mission. Next, we formed the disciplinary team to have a meeting and planned to re-establish cooperation with the Mata Hati team to develop the students' character. Furthermore, preparations were made. It includes planning on departure, transportation, permits for conducting the activities, list of foster parents which homes will be the student's residence and searching for residences of teachers and Mata Hari team. The Mata Hati Team arranged the character development activities, while school only helped with a few activities. Then we have another meeting to decide whether it could be carried out in Bantur village or not. If all requirements are fulfilled, then the PCC will be implemented based on the agreement.

Based on the interview in table 1 showed that the PPC program management was a collaboration of the school disciplinary team with NGO Mata Hati. Regarding the characterbuilding activities, the tasks were distributed to Mata Hati team, some teachers as the assistant program, and a small committee of senior students and alumni. The distribution of task for PCC activities was done within two weeks before departure. The biggest consideration in assigning tasks to the small committee was to adjust to the students' ability and willingness (W/1.1/G/19-10-2019). The small committee was responsible for monitoring the PCC participants and reporting if there were PCC participants who violated rules such as drinking, smoking and others (W/1.1/PK/19-10-2019). In addition to motivating the small committee to carry out their duties, the Mata Hati NGO team coordinates with them every day during the PCC in Bantur Village (D/1.1/19-10-2019). In this activity involved the PCC Chairperson, disciplinary teachers, the small committee, Mata Hati NGO, Bantur community and PCC participants. Besides that, the people of Bantur Village are already familiar with students from Malang City (W/3/WB/20-10-2019).

Table 4.Interview Results on Organizing PCC

Interview Results on Organizing PCC	
Informant	Interview results
	We plan PCC activities based on students mental development. Students are divided into groups
	to play and place on residence in foster parents' houses. The school also collaborates with LSM
AVI /4 4 /IZC /4	Mata Hati to build student character. We also collaborate with Bantur villagers to show the
(W/1.1/KS/1 9-10-2019).	situation of village life, as well as provide experiences for students to understand their character.
J-10-2017).	The PCC co-teachers who were also part of the discipline team were given the task to see, arrange
	and provide food for the PCC committee and the Mata Hati NGO for three days in Bantur
	Village. Also, PCC team recruits some students as a small PCC committee.
	The task divided in two weeks before departure on 19 October 2019. We have divided the tasks
	for the teachers who can participate in implementing the PCC program. The selection of a small
(W/1.1/G/19-	committee is made by interviewing, looking at their physical condition and character values or
10-2019)	their disciplinary points. The committee was then asked questions whether they were able and
	willing to be part of the small committee? If it is not capable, it means that the person concerned
	is not a small committee but instead a PCC participant.
	In PCC activities, we involve all school members from students, teachers, Mata Hati team and
	also Bantur villager. All must know and become partners in the implementation of PCC as a
	character-based school activity. If a teacher cannot participate in the activity, she/he needs to ask
777 / 4 2 C / 4 C	permission for reasonable excuses and must come at other times, but for the teachers in the
(W/1.2 G/19- 10-2019)	disciplinary team must take part in the activity from the first day to end. Also, we work with the
	village community. We request that the community must provide a real life in the village.
	Therefore, we need to have good cooperation with the people of Bantur village. Schools cannot
	do this activity on their own, need support from various parties. However, we still have to fix if
	things are found that are not following the specified program.
(W/3.3/WB/	I feel pleased with the PCC activity because I feel I can help the school. Also, I already consider
21-10-2019).	them like my children. Every morning I provide them with food the same as what I eat.

The Development of Students' Environmental and Social Care Character

The environmental and social care character of SMAN 4 Malang students was developed through the PPC program in four days. The pre-event also as the first day started on Friday 18 October 2019. The aim was to select participants to get a golden ticket and being a part of the small committee. The activities in Bantur village were carried out for 3 days-2 nights, from Saturday to Monday at 19-21 October 2019. The activity began at 08.30 am as participant departure from the school to Bantur village (O/4.3/19-10-2019). There are penalties for participants who do not take part in this activity without the permission of the school principal or teacher, so that student must return the PCC program next year. It also applies to students who did not pass for this year (W/4.1/G/21-10-2019).

The character development program for students in the PCC activities at SMAN 4 Malang is carried out by including values in each activity event. Program activities are generally carried out following the rundown of the event. Usually, some activities cannot be carried out due to weather changes or unplanned incidents (O/4.3/19-10-2019) (W/4.3/TMH/20-10-2019).

Structured actions according to the schedule of activities carried out by the Mata Hati team to develop the positive character of discipline and obey the rules. The time was starting at 3:00 am to develop a religious character. At 07.00 am, the activities were carried out with a play but still focused on the development of student characters. At 09.00 pm, the activities were carried out at foster parent's house and then continued to rest. This pattern is believed to develop positive characters in students. The activities provided lessons to students to deal with problems contextually. Therefore, the development of student experience in PCC activities is influenced by the Mata Hati team by guiding and directing students sincerely.

Then, participants are given tasks and responsibilities. Several forms must be carried out by PCC participants, that called 'the kindness project'. They must write down the kindness been done from morning to evening on a paper given. Next, the paper was handed over to the small committee team to be assessed by the other team called 'spy'. The example of the kindness project paper showed in the following figure2 (W/4.3/S/10-19-2019).



Figure 2.

The Kindness Project Paper by Students

In figure 2, students build the habits by repeatedly doing from morning to evening about the kindness project. This kindness project is mandatory for all PCC participants. When it is finished, students must ask for autographs of people who have been helped. The form was proof as participant completing the challenges given. The challenges consist of eight activities. The first challenge was called 'pasukan semut (ant forces)'. The name come from the ant colony means collaborative and follow the good leader. (W/4.3/TMH/10-19-2019).

The second challenge is the data bank. The group leader must be able to gather group members quickly and know the conditions of their members. The data must be collected and submitted to the small committee or Mata Hati team (O/4.3/19-10-2019). The third challenge is about sensitivity. The activity challenged the participants to close their eyes and go to the placed directed by the group leaders. The leaders must not give wrong directions (O/4.3/19-10-2019). The fourth challenge is crafting. Students were given a task to craft from scraps, then presented to Mata Hati team about the benefit and the process of making the items (O/4.3/19-10-2019).

The fifth challenge is to get along with the mentor. In this challenge, each group must be able to communicate with mentors about the problems they meet during the activities. The mentor was part of the small committee team that has been trained to solve and provide motivation to participants (W / 4.3 / TMH / 19-10-2019). The sixth challenge is 'senam otak (brain exercise)'. The purpose of this challenge was that the participant could able to absorb information faster, to hone the skills and train the focus and memory of participants (W / 4.3 / TMH / 20-10-2019). The seventh challenge is doing a presentation. Students presented 'the kindness project' through mind mapping and participated in cooking challenges in front of the mentors (O/4.3/20-10-2019). The eighth challenge is exploring or also called hydrotherapy. In the final challenge, the participants were invited to walk along the riverside (W/4.3/TMH /21-10-2019). The PPC activities were shown in the following figures.

The First Day: Saturday, 19 October 2019



Figure 3a.
The Participants Live in the Foster Parent's House (Host)



Figure 3b.The Reinforcement of Positive Character by the Participants



Figure 3c.

The Formation of Social Care Character



Figure 3d.

Collecting the Tasks

The first activity carried out by PCC participants when they arrive in Bantur Village showed in figure 3a. PCC participants are required to meet their foster parents (Host) during the PCC program. At this stage, students are taught self-management about the value of respect and courtesy to elders. In figure 3b, the participants were given positive reinforcement from alumni who had participated in the previous year. Figure 3c explained the importance of having self-confidence, creative, hard-working, leadership, justice, nationalism, patriotism, and friendly or communicative. In figure 3d, showed the participants taught about responsibility, honesty, trustworthy, and discipline.

The Second Day: Sunday, 20 October 2019



Figure 4a.

Mind Mapping Presentation



Figure 4b.

The Cooking Challenge Presentation

In figure 4a, the participants were required to make mind maps. The mind map topic was determined before leaving on the first day. The figure showed participants were given the presentation about like to read, self-confidence, creative and hard-working. Figure 4b showed cooking challenges activity, which participants are taught to care about the environment, saving and using food provided by foster parents (host).

The Third Day: Monday, 21 October 2019



Figure 5a.
Entrepreneurship Activity/The Cheap Market



Figure5c.

Graduation Announcemen



Figure 5b.

Teaching at Elementary School



Figure 5d.
Students with the Lowest Points

Based on Figure 5a, the participants were trained to have entrepreneurship to sell second-hand clothes to Bantur villagers. Figure 5b explained that the participants are also trained to understand others feeling, especially teachers, by teaching at the elementary school with the basic material. As the end of the PCC program, participants will receive a graduation announcement based on the points collected when doing a challenge showed in figure 5c. In figure 5d, the participant who gets the lowest point was collected into one group then selected who will be saved. The students who have the lowest point in their attitudes and behaviour are required to take the PCC program at school. The flow of activities can be seen in the following figure.

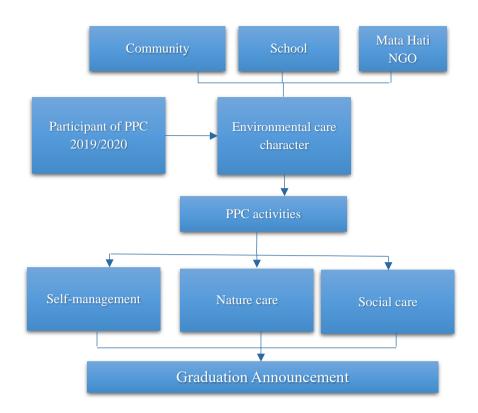


Figure 6.The PPC Outline

The Effectiveness of the Positive Character Camp (PCC) program at SMAN 4 Malang

The program effectiveness was measured to determine the influence of the PCC program on students in developing the environmental and social care character. The influence of the PCC program showed in the following table

Table 5.

The Influence of the PCC trooram in SMAN 4 Malano

Informant	Interview results	
(W/4.3/TMH/2 1-10-2019)	Through the PCC program, it is teaching me to survive to get points and to be more concerned with the people around. I also could felt the warmth of the villagers. I hope that the PCC program will always there to build good characters.	
(W/3.3/S/21- 10-2019)	My impression of participating in this PCC activity is that I could gain more positive characters. Besides, it made me have more grateful to the people who have a low economy and facilities. I also taught to be more sensitive to nature and people around.	
(W/3.3/S/21- 10-2019).	Compared to last year's PCC program, I would prefer this year. The positive character is obtained not only by the small committee but also by the participants. Through this program, I understand the meaning of "1 second" in life.	
(W/4.3/S/21- 10-2019).	The PCC activity warned me to be concerned about committing mistakes that had been agreed upon during the program. Participants were also always reminded not to break the rules told by the small committee team. When we make a mistake, we were asked to reflect on the mistakes we made.	

Besides the participants, the small committee team also felt a positive impact, specifically for themselves. During my time at the PCC, I learned to be grateful, independent, discipline and well-manner. In my opinion, this activity needs to continue (W/4.3/PK/10-21-2019). The PCC also taught that there are times when people get low (W/3.3/S/21-10-2019). The PCC could provide positive suggestions through the motivation from the instructors by saying "you are ... great children". The suggestion succeeded in motivating me to be confident, feel great in positive things and understand the circumstances (W/3.3/S/21-10-2019). During the PCC activities, there have been changes in the behaviour of PCC participants to break the law.

Discussion and Conclusion

First, PCC management in developing the character of high school students has planning, organizing, managing and supervising resources in an effective and efficient manner. As quality education will produce quality human resources, the quality of education must be carried out with quality management (Sonhadji, 2014; Dalimunthe, 2016; Darmanto, 2019; Prihartono et al. 2019; Rosyida et al. 2020). Management must always be carried out systematically and consistently through steps called management functions (Salim, 2015). Mature planning is the process of setting goals and choosing actions effectively, efficiently and optimally (Sonhadji, 2014). Teachers and schools have a substantial contribution to provide learning and encouragement in developing environmental care characters (Ajmain & Marzuki, 2019; Sumarmi, 2008; Sumarmi et al. 2020). The implementation of character programs requires broad support from all parties such as teachers, communities, youth service groups, businesses and charitable groups (Pala, 2011). The PCC management is more structured and has clear objectives. It can be seen from the setting of goals, planning, organizing and cooperation with Mata Hati team and Bantur villager.

Second, during the PCC activities, the students' character development process was carried out in a very diverse manner. The first character development activity is carried out by giving self-management to students. Based on the results that students who are given self-management services have a positive impact on learning about discipline (Asim, 2016). Self-management is a process of planning, organizing, leadership and self-control to achieve life goals (Marsidin, 2003). Character building can be done with a holistic education, able to stimulate and direct students to the indicators of character values (Maunah, 2016; Sudarsana, 2016; Yuliana et al. 2020). Also, there is a close and significant relationship between character education with emotional students (Adhim, 2012). The learning that involved students directly in the field can increase awareness of the environment (Abimantara et al. 2019; Adriansyah et al. 2019; Afrizon & Dwiridal, 2017; Sumarmi, 2008; Sumarmi et al. 2020). There is also the influence of responsibility on environmental change concerns. Concerns about climate change will be positively related to personal feelings of responsibility to reduce climate change (Bouman et al. 2020). The process of developing good character must begin with self-management. Diverse activities can internalize the character of caring for the natural and social environment for students.

Third, based on the data presented above showed that the character building in SMAN 4 Malang through the PCC program is very effective, especially in the environmental and social care character. However, another study stated that the effectiveness of the PCC program character values to students was only 80% (Abbas et al. 2017). The PCC program can provide a new perspective to all people and good and right parenting practices for students by strengthening the positive character (Genjor, 2014). The PCC management process will be excellent if it has more activities and gives positive influences on students.

Recommendations

It was considering the important role of the development of environmental care character of students to overcome many environmental problems that occur nowadays. The environmental character-building program is carried out with management which includes planning, organizing and managing activities. The school also cooperates with NGOs to engage students character development. The suggestion was given to high school leaders to implement the PCC program because it is proven effective to develop the character of environmental care, family care, social care, and to keep learning.

Limitations of the Study

The limitations of the study must also be considered for further research. This study is only an investigation of the influence of PCC in developing the character of students at the high school level in Bantur Village. There is no guarantee that the results will be similar to other levels. Also, it needed to be considered the background and the number of informants at the time of data collection selected were different for further research. Furthermore, because this study is not a longitudinal study, the character of high school students is likely to change. Quantitative studies can be carried out to ensure the effectiveness of the PCC program at other levels of education with a higher number of participants.

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