

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Research

Indonesia has published the 2013 curriculum, the substitute of the previous curriculum, where character building in learning process should be applied. According to Sukemi (2013), the staff cabinet of Ministry of Education and Culture, in order to develop the generation of nation to be strong, the character education is much needed. It means that character education can increase the students to be a better generation and create the high quality nation. In fact, Indonesia has had some subjects that support character education in class activity, such as civic education and religion education. In both subjects, students learn how to interact with others, attitude, or rules to build the good character. In addition, schools also conduct extracurricular activities such as: *pramuka* (scout), where the activities can develop students to be independent people and accustomed to solving problems. It can be said that there have been efforts to build the character of students in Indonesia. Moreover, in 2013 curriculum, the government suggests that teachers put character education in all subjects like Biology, Mathematic, English, and others. By integrating the character education in all subjects, automatically the portion of character education in learning activity will be bigger and Indonesia will have a smart and competent

However, the reality says different. Tribunnews.com reported that the number of students in Indonesia who commit crimes is quite high each year. For example, on February 12, 2014 in Bogor, there was a fight between two gangs of students of SMK Wiyata Kharisma and SMK Menara Siswa. In this case, there was one student of SMK Wiyata Kharisma who died (Tempo.com, February 2014). Another case was a student of an elementary school of the 1<sup>st</sup> grade in Makasar who died because of being tortured by his three friends. It happened at SD Tamalanrea V, Makasar on March 31, 2014 (Tribunnews.com). Violence had been part of some children's life. It was just a little part of the criminal case which engaged students. There were still many cases of criminality of students in Indonesia. In 2013, Sirait (National Commission for Children Protection) said that there were 255 cases and 20 victims in Indonesia (Tribunnews.com). This shows that fights between gangs in Indonesia had been common among students. According to Sirait, if students have the bad attitude, that is the reflection of the condition in their environment. Further, Sirait said that the social environment can give the positive guidance for students. Thus, school has the important rule in here, because almost every day student interacts with their friends there.

Yogyakarta is one of the cities whose schools have the significant influence to students' character education. One particular example is Madrasah Muallimin of Muhammadiyah of Yogyakarta, which has applied character education. There was no criminal or violence record in this school and there were some achievements made by

students. Therefore, the researcher is interested in conducting the research at Madrasah Muallimin of Muhammadiyah of Yogyakarta.

Madrasah Muallimin is an Islamic school which has two programs *tsanawiyah* (junior high school) and *aliyah* (senior high school). The students who study in Muallimin should stay in a dormitory, called "pondok". The activities of the students are not only at school but there are also some daily activities that should be held in the dormitory, such as: communal Qur'an recital, communal prayer, extra classes (Arabic, English), and so on. All students have to take a part in these activities because it is an obligation. Besides that, the rule in Madrasah Muallimin Yogyakarta is very clear. For example, the students of PBI UMY, when conducting the teaching practice in Madrasah Muallimin said that the rule of this *madrasah* can build the students' discipline. Moreover, these student teachers witnessed that the majority of students in Madrasah Muallimin are polite with teachers. The student teachers of PBI UMY felt the joy of teaching in the class because they could control the class easily. Moreover, almost all students always participate the activity respectfully in the class and always paid attention to the teacher.

As a matter of fact, there was no criminal case which engaged the students of Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. Teachers working in this school had confirmed this. Thus, it can be said that Madrasah Muallimin has some manners in implementing the character building. This is part of the background to conduct this research. This research tries to describe the character education implemented in

Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta

### **Problem Statement**

In Indonesia, education should support the character building. There are several characters can be built by schools to improve students quality, such as: leadership, religiousness, discipline, responsibility, and many others. Schools should know what strategy to build the characters of their student. Furthermore, Indonesia has made the new curriculum where character building in learning process should be applied. Besides that, teachers are the key in here, because teachers are those who directly interact with students. Teachers should be able to integrate the character education in a lesson plan. Thus, character education can be realized in learning activity. Therefore, the development and implementation of character education needs to be executed with configuration of the character in the context of the totality of the psychological, social-cultural, covering spiritual, intellectual, physical, and creativity development (Sudrajat, 2010).

### **Purpose of the Research**

This research is conducted in order:

1. To know the characters those are attempted to be built by Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta for students.
2. To know what strategies used by Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta to build the characters of students.

### **Research Question**

The main goal of this study is to understand the character education implemented in Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. Research questions in this study are set up as follows:

1. What students' characters are attempted to be built at Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta?
2. What strategies are used by Madrasah Muallimin Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta to build the characters of student at school?

### **Significance of the Research**

The result of this study will give significance. There are some benefits of this study:

1. For students of Education Department, as prospective teachers, this study will help them to be ready in facing different characters of students in any school.
2. For lecturers/teachers and schools, if they know what characters are usually built for student, what factors supporting the character education in school, it will help to find some strategies to help students to build good characters.
3. For researchers, this study will increase the knowledge about character education and give ideas for further research. The researcher can evolve the study where this research becomes a reference. For example the other

researcher research about the effectiveness of character education in

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