PROCEEDING

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The 2nd ASIA-PACIFIC EDUCATION CONFERENCE

"Reinforcing Character Education into Pedagogical Practices"

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# TABLE OF CONTENT

Welcoming Speech from the Chairperson of the 2nd AECon Committee ........................................... i
Opening Speech from the Rector of UMP ............................................................................................ ii
Foreword ................................................................................................................................................ iv
Table of Content .................................................................................................................................. v

## Papers of Presenters

1. Robyn M. Gillies  
   Moral Education through Cooperative Learning: a Pedagogical Practice that Promotes Appropriate Social Behaviours and Learning ................................................................. 1

2. Vilma D’Rozario  
   Service Learning as Pedagogy in Teacher Education in Singapore ............................................. 17

3. Joko Nurkamto  
   Role Modeling in Character Education: Teachers as Moral Agents ............................................... 17

4. Bambang Suroso  
   Song for Learner’s Language Growth ......................................................................................... 18

5. Dwi Agustina  
   What’s Wrong with Our EFL Teaching? Critical Thinking on ELT Practices of Developing Students’ Language Competence in Indonesian Contexts......................................................... 30

6. Dyah Kusumastuti  
   Reward or Punishment: Its Influence to Enhance Students’ Self Efficacy in English Learning Process .......................................................................................................................... 39

7. Eka Setyaningsih  
   Student’s Character Building through Guided Discovery Learning with Probing-Prompting Strategy ................................................................................................................................ 45

8. Endang Kusrini  
   Teaching Vocabulary to Young Learners: Using the Recipe Game ............................................. 54

9. Faisal  
   Pedagogical Content Knowledge in English Language Teaching in Indonesia (A Preliminary Analysis) .................................................................................................................................... 63

10. Ichwan Suyudi & Rita Sutjiati Johan  
    Promoting the Level of Education in Indonesia ............................................................................ 80

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*The University of Muhammadiyah Purwokerto*
11. Iisrohli Irawati & Agung Budi K
   Using PORPE Technique in Teaching Reading to Build Character English Education Program in STKIP PGRI Pacitan ................................................. 87

12. Ika Maratus Solikah
   Optimizing Students’ Critical Thinking Skills to Shape Independent Learners ............................................................... 95

13. Indra Ratna Mulianingsih & Listiani
   An Error Analysis of Students’ English Writing
   (A Descriptive Study of Students’ Writing at Second Grade of SMK Bakti Purwokerto Academic Year 2013-2014) .................. 103

14. Jumbuh Prabowo
   How Should a Thematic Theme be Implemented in Teaching English for Young Learners? ............................... 113

15. Junaidi
   Difficulty Levels of Questions in Listening Exercises ................................................................. 121

16. Kusno & Reni Untati
   The Model Material for the Identification of Learning Difficulties Based on Nation Character Building .......... 129

17. Menik Widiyati
   Utilizing Sirah Nabawiyyah to Promote Moral Education ............................................................ 141

18. Muhammad Ahsanu & Tito Ali Buana
   Nurturing the First Basic Character Education via Daily Basic English for Children at Home .................. 149

19. Niken Purwani
   Tic Tac Boom Game - An Alternative for Teaching Reading Task for Senior High School Student ................ 163

20. Pikir Wisnu Wijayanto
   Call for Writing ......................................................... 171

21. Pipit Muliyah
   Inserting Teaching Local Culture as Character Building in Teaching English Speaking ........................................ 183

22. Rita Sutjiati Johan & Ichwan Suyud
   The Importance of English Loan Words for Communication in Indonesian People ........................................ 191
23. Rizki Februansyah
   Charity Task: A Breakthrough in English Class for Economics
   Students ................................................................. 200

24. Umi Rachmawati
   Developing Webquests as Reading Instructional Media for the Second
   Grade Students of SMAN 1 Munilam in the Academic Year of
   2013/2014 ................................................................. 206

25. Wanda Nugroho Yanuarto
   Religiousity in Math Classroom........................................ 220

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Promoting the Level of Education in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT

There are a lot of teachers in Indonesia who still need additional skill such as computer skill, English speaking skill, etc. It is very important for teachers to improve their skill in technology because of the globalization issue which changes rapidly. In fact, teachers' quality in Indonesia is still poor. The main factor is lack of facilities. Teachers also need higher education in order to improve their skill. Education system of Indonesia should have a lot of improvements because there are many problems that have to be solved such as funding, method issues in the national education system, teachers and students who focus only on marks in the report books, teachers' quality, education management, etc. In order to improve the education, the government should facilitate the students and the teachers. The central government should give a right to regional government to take care of their regions. For the curriculum, the government should make a good system and apply it to learning process.

Keywords: Promoting, Level of Education, Curriculum

INTRODUCTION

Education is very important in people's lives. Education also gives a big influence in their lives, whether in the past or in the future (Dewey, 2007). Everyone started their education since they were babies until they are getting old. People learn about something every day and everywhere. They also get any lessons not only from teachers but also from everyone around them.

People could get education not only at school and during school hours, but they also could get it anytime and everywhere. After a human being is born into the world, he/she will start to learn by knowing his/her parents. It is also a process of education. After that, this human being will learn many things such as how to say 'Mama' or 'Daddy', how to walk, how to eat, etc. This process is not learned at school. Parents teach their children at home.

Every country in the world has education systems. For example in America, the education levels are divided into four levels; they are kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school and senior high school (Bok, 2013). There are two types of school in America; they are state and private schools. The government has a policy that the cost of state school from kindergarten until high school is free. This policy is very helpful for some people in America. After students graduate from senior high school, they may continue their study in higher level of education, such as university or college.

In England, the education levels are divided into elementary school, high school,
A-levels in high school, bachelor program, and magister program (Bowen, 2013). Children start to enter the elementary school at the age of 5 for 6 years. After that, they will enter the high school at the age of 11 for five years. After they graduate, they may work or continue their study to the A-levels for 2 years. It is the level before they enter the bachelor program where they have to prepare for the test to enter the university which they want.

In Japan, the education levels are divided into preschool education, obligatory education, high school, and university/college (Bowen, 2013). Preschool education is divided into play group and kindergarten. 3-year-old until 5-year-old children can enter the kindergarten. For 3-year-old children, they get 3-year education in kindergarten, 2 years education for 4-year-old children, and one year for 5-year-old children. After that, they have to enter the obligatory education. Obligatory education is elementary and middle school. Obligatory education is free for every student. It is also helpful for parents to get their children to be well educated persons.

DISCUSSION

In Indonesia, there are three levels of education, which are elementary school, junior high school and senior high school. They are also divided into two types; which are state and private schools. Nowadays, there is a level for children around 3 until 5 years old which is called PAUD (Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini) or play group. There are also kindergartens where children are playing and studying at the same time. These levels are good to build children’s character. It also helps children to get a good environment and develop their talent.

The government has a policy that Indonesian children are required to get the nine-year education in both the elementary school and junior high school levels. 7-year-old children will enter the elementary school for six years. Then, they will continue to SMP (junior high school) for three years. After that, they are recommended to enter the senior high school. There are two types of senior high school in Indonesia; they are SMA (senior high school) and SMK (vocational school). The difference is that in vocational high school students may choose their major and learn about it specifically. After graduation, they may enter the work world without entering the higher education level. While students in high school, they learn about what they have learned in junior high school deeply. However, they should enter the higher education level to take their major and enter the work world after they graduate. It is because they will feel difficult to find a job by using only their SMA certificate.

After students graduate from senior high school, they will enter the higher education level. In Indonesia, there are five kinds of high education level; they are university, institute, high school (college), polytechnic, and academy. They are also divided into state and private schools. University is an institution of higher education and research which provides academic degrees in a variety of fields (Kerr, 2001). A university provides undergraduate and graduate education. A university consists of a number of faculties which hold academic education and/or vocational education in several sciences, technologies, and/or arts. If it is eligible, it can organize the professional education.

Institute is a college which holds academic education and/or vocational academic
in a group of discipline of science, technology, and/or arts. If it is eligible, it also can organize the professional education. Institute provides higher education and teaching and has research in several branches of science.

High school in Indonesian education is a college which holds academic education and/or vocational in scope of a discipline of science, technology, and/or arts. If it is eligible, it also can provide the professional education. High school provides higher education and teaching and also conducts research in a branch of science. Polytechnic is a kind of college besides university, institute and high school.

Polytechnic provides vocational education in several fields of special knowledge. In its position as a college, polytechnic is a part of national education system that aims at preparing the students to be members of society who have the professional ability to apply, develop, and disseminate the science and technology and to seek its use to improve people’s lives and welfare of mankind and enrich the national culture. Polytechnic is a professional education that is directed towards the readiness of application in current skills. To achieve this purpose, polytechnic provides a learning experience and adequate training to establish a professional capacity in science and technology.

Academy in Indonesian education is a kind of college besides university, institute, high school, and polytechnic. Academy is a college which provides vocational education in a branch or a half branch of current science, technology, and/or arts. Academy gives higher education and teaching which is addressed to special expertise.

In college level, students start to arrange their future. They choose their major according to their goal. In this phase, students need their parents’ support very much. Sometimes, there are parents who intrude their children to enter the major which they like. Most students who experience this thing failed in their education because they had no spirit in studying. That is why parents’ support is very important.

Education system of Indonesia should have a lot of improvements because there are many problems that have to be solved such as funding, method issues in the national education system, teachers and students who focus only on marks in the report books, teachers’ quality, education management, etc.

The government has given the scholarship called BOS (Bantuan Operasional Sekolah) which is helpful for students who cannot pay their tuition. However, the scholarship is not evenly distributed. A lot of students in current area do not get the scholarship. The government should provide so large funds for education that it can facilitate the poor students and decrease the number of children who do not get education in Indonesia.

Most of the teachers in Indonesia still use the “Spoon Feeding” method in teaching process. It is the process where the teachers are actively feeding the knowledge to the students who are acting passively. It brings a bad effect on students because they are not brave enough to share their opinion. It makes students unable develop their creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship. In the future, Indonesia needs people who not only get a good job, but also create a job field and decrease the unemployment. If Indonesia keeps applying this method, the people’s quality will not be improved.

This method not only makes students become passive persons but also makes students only focus on the marks in their report books. The essence of school is to get knowledge, not only to get good marks in their report books. Sometimes, there are teachers who give good marks to students who have poor quality. It is because the
teachers want to look good in public by passing all of the students. Indirectly, the teachers show lie to the students, and they will assume that it is reasonable. It definitely brings bad effect in Indonesian people's attitude.

Authority to take a principle policy in the field of education in Indonesia is still held by the central government. Thus, standardization of education anywhere in Indonesia is the same. It makes the regional government become non-independent. The regional government should manage the education system by themselves because everyone has their own idea. Their brilliant idea will improve the education system and the quality of students.

There is an education problem that is hard enough to solve; it is about the curriculum. Curriculum in Indonesia has changed without thinking seriously about whether students can accept and adapt to the new system of the curriculum or not. Curriculum in Indonesia has changed about six times starting from curriculum 1984 which was then replaced with curriculum in 1975 and updated again in 1984. In 2004 Indonesia used curriculum called KTSP (Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan), and the newest curriculum is 2013 curriculum. These changes definitely bring effect on students and teachers. They have to adapt to the new system, and for teachers, they have to try to make the curriculum run well.

The changes of the curriculum actually make the quality of education lower than the education system in other countries. The government should focus only on one curriculum and make it successful for teachers and students. It is good if they want to update it, but let the students and the teachers adapt to it first. Then, the government may update it in order to have a progress.

Nowadays, the education quality of Indonesia is considered low, based on the data from the Education For All (EFA) Global Monitoring Report 2011: The Hidden Crisis, Armed Conflict and Education issued by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural United Nations (UNESCO), which was launched in New York on Monday (1/3/2011), the index of educational development or education development index (EDI) based on 2008 data is 0.934. The value placed Indonesia in the 69th position of 127 countries in the world. EDI said that it will be high if it reaches 0.95 to 1. Medium category is above 0.80, while the low category below 0.80.

Currently, Indonesia is still left behind Brunei Darussalam, that is ranked 34th. Brunei Darussalam has entered high achievement group with Japan, which reached the number one position in Asia. Malaysia is ranked 65th or medium achieving category like Indonesia. However, the position of Indonesia is still far better than the Philippines (85), Cambodia (102), India (107), and Laos (109). (Bowen, 2013).

Indonesia needs solution for its education problem in order to improve the quality. The government can provide a high cost in education to help children to get their education. It also decreases the number of children who do not get the education because of the high cost. The distribution of the scholarship also should be monitored, so it can be evenly spread throughout the country.

For teaching method problem, teachers should make the students be active. They have to give chances to students to share their opinions. Sometimes, teachers also make mistakes. If students only accept what their teachers say without criticizing their mistakes, it will be a wrong mindset until they become adults. Teachers and students should have a good communication in classroom. They can hold a discussion about...
materials related to the lessons. Teachers can also give some presents to children who act actively in studying time so it may attract students to be active.

Teachers should also be patient when they teach a student who feels difficult to accept the lesson. They have a responsibility to make the students become smart. They could add the studying time after school for students who have poor quality. They also have to support their students to make achievements. Teachers should be fair in giving marks to students. They should reflect the honest personality to students and become a good example for them.

In order to improve the education, the government should facilitate the students and the teachers (Augustin, 1958). Every school should have a good building, good facilitation, such as computers, sport equipments, health care for students, etc. The government also could help teacher to get their higher education in order to improve their skills. Teachers could improve their knowledge to adjust the globalization era. They could tell students to filter information they have got and differentiate the right and the wrong.

The central government should give a right to regional government to take care of their regions. Regional government also should be independent in taking care of its government business especially in education. The government could have some innovation in education fields but still follow the system from central government. They may share their ideas to improve the quality of education in their region. If it runs successfully, it will be a good example for other regions.

For the curriculum, the government should make a good system and apply it to learning process. The system should ease the students of studying in order that they get the lessons and increase their quality. Just let the teachers and students adapt to the system until they feel comfortable with it. If the system works well, the government may update the system but not make some big changes.

Everyone wants to get success in their education nevertheless, to reach the success, they need much effort. They have to pay attention to the lessons they have got. People who want to get success do not waste their time for useless things. They focus on their education and appreciate their parents’ efforts to make them well educated.

Actually, Indonesian people are smart. They are able to create many brilliant things such as technology, arts, and any other business. They only need to learn more. If all of Indonesian people are well educated, it will be a very successful country because Indonesia is not only rich in culture but also rich in nature.

A research has been done with 30 bachelors who continue their study to master degree and 30 bachelors who do not continue their study. They had different opinions about promoting their educational levels. Most of bachelors who continue their study to master degree said that they can get a job easier. They also get more knowledge and experience in education. Some of them also considered it as prestige. While most of bachelors who do not continue their study said that they feel enough by having only bachelor degree. It means that promoting educational level brings many advantages for people. They have to improve their knowledge add more experience to get a brighter future (Wilson, 2012).
CONCLUSION

Hopefully, education in Indonesia can improve its qualities and produce a good generation in the future. It will happen if everyone cooperates in giving good lessons to children and trying to help poor children in order that they get the education. Education can be got everywhere, not only at school, college, or any education place. Parents have a big role in educating their children because education in school is not enough to build up a good personality. Many teenagers fell into the wrong society because they did not get education from their parents. Finally, they do many bad things called juvenile delinquency such as brawling, consuming drugs, and wasting their time doing useless things.

Youth is an important asset of a nation to do development in the country. If the youth is not well educated, the nation will be destroyed. They need education very much. Their quality will be an image of a nation and determine the future of a country. This is the importance of education. It has a big role in someone’s life and a country’s future.

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