

# Fostering Integrity In Teachers Through Character Education: A Literature Review

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## Keywords

Integrity

Character

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## Abstract

In primary schools, character education is essential to shape the nation's generation of excellence amid the challenges of globalization and the digital era. The purpose of this article is to explore the important role of teachers in shaping students' character through instilling the values of honesty, responsibility and professionalism. This research uses the literature study method by analyzing seven relevant articles from 2021 to 2025. The results of the study show that teachers who consistently apply integrity values have a significant influence on student character building. The findings also show that character education integrated in teaching practices can improve teacher performance and create a positive school culture. The implication is that strengthening teacher integrity through character education needs to be the focus of teacher professional development in primary schools. Thus, a strong culture of integrity in the elementary school environment is an important foundation in shaping a generation of excellence and integrity character.

## 1. Introduction

Education is the main foundation of the nation in forming a superior generation of the nation. Character education is a crucial issue in Indonesia that needs serious attention in facing the challenges of globalization. On the website, Abdul Mu'ti, Minister of Primary and Secondary Education (Mendikdasmen), stated that the main character problems in students include violence, physical and mental health disorders, gadget addiction, pornography, online gambling and drugs, therefore it is necessary to prepare students who have the eight main characteristics of the nation, namely religious, moral, healthy, intelligent and creative, hard work, discipline and order, independent, and useful. Educators play an important role in instilling character education in students to produce a superior generation. (Yandri A, 2022)

An educator is a more mature person who conducts teaching, training, education, guidance or guidance either at home, at school, college or in the community (H. Syarifuddin, 2021). The term educator has a broad meaning, in elementary school educators refer to teachers who guide students to achieve educational goals. Teachers are professions that require special skills in carrying out their duties and roles (Nurzannah, 2022). The role of teachers as educators plays an important role in shaping the character of students in elementary schools.

The role of the teacher is not only as an educator but also as an example for students in learning and as an example for all elements of society who interact with him (). Therefore, the formation of the teacher's character is very necessary, considering his role as an example for students. Teachers need to develop character values, such as caring, honesty, fairness, responsibility, respect for themselves and others, perseverance, high work ethic, and persistence, in order to become teachers with character. By forming and instilling these values, teachers can form students with character. Kandiri & Arfandi, 2021 (Wahab, 2022)

Teachers as role models need to form character by instilling integrity values to become professional teachers. In the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language (KBBI), integrity is defined as a trait, quality, or state that is intact so that it can behave honestly and authoritatively. However, the meaning of integrity has its own meaning for teachers as the central role of education. The value of integrity is when teachers can act in accordance with the principles of honesty, consistency, and responsibility to be taught to students. Teachers with integrity are teachers who are committed and have a high sense of responsibility for their duties and authority. (Riska Yanti Samosir, 2024)

In maintaining the value of integrity, of course, there are various challenges that must be faced. Research from , shows that there has never been any specific training on the integration of character education in learning. Meanwhile, the findings of the study show that educators often feel pressured by

the existence of educational standards from the government that result in ethical violations by educators to achieve the desired results. This challenge needs to be solved with motivation and action from schools, the government, and teachers. (Rizwani Pardede, 2025) (Tumewa Pangathousands et al., 2025)

Various efforts to maintain the value of character with integrity are a responsibility of teachers in instilling students' character. One of the strategies that teachers can apply in instilling character education is by giving sanctions if they violate school rules. This strategy can increase students' motivation in behaving positively. In addition, the results of the research emphasized the existence of transparent communication between students, teachers, parents, and colleagues regarding learning objectives, expectations, and the assessment process. Transparent communication can encourage students to accept the way teachers teach and the knowledge imparted. (Putri et al., 2022) (Tumewa Pangathousands et al., 2025)

The purpose of this article is to analyze the role of teacher integrity in shaping character education in elementary schools and identify the challenges faced in its implementation. This article also examines various solutions that support teachers in maintaining the value of integrity. This research is important because effective character education in elementary schools will have a long-term impact in shaping a generation with noble character and global competitiveness. An understanding of teacher integrity and its relationship to the success of students' character education will make a real contribution to the development of national education strategies.

## **2. Method**

This study uses the Study Literature Review (SLR) method, which is a method that is carried out by collecting, analyzing, reviewing, and managing information from previous research. Data sources come from journal articles, books, theses, and websites. Data collection is carried out through Google Scholar, then identification is carried out to avoid duplication of article titles. Furthermore, screening was carried out with the criteria for publication of articles in the last five years (2021-2025).

Once the articles are selected, continuous screening is carried out with the exclusion of articles that are not accessible as a thorough process. Furthermore, the final screening was carried out with the condition that the article was not in accordance with the keywords "Integrity" and "Teacher Character". The results of the screening and identification resulted in 7 articles that met the criteria and could be used for this study. This method is used to review various articles and findings, not to prove the results of a hypothesis. This research focuses on the discussion of the formation of integrity in teachers as an example to instill character education in students.

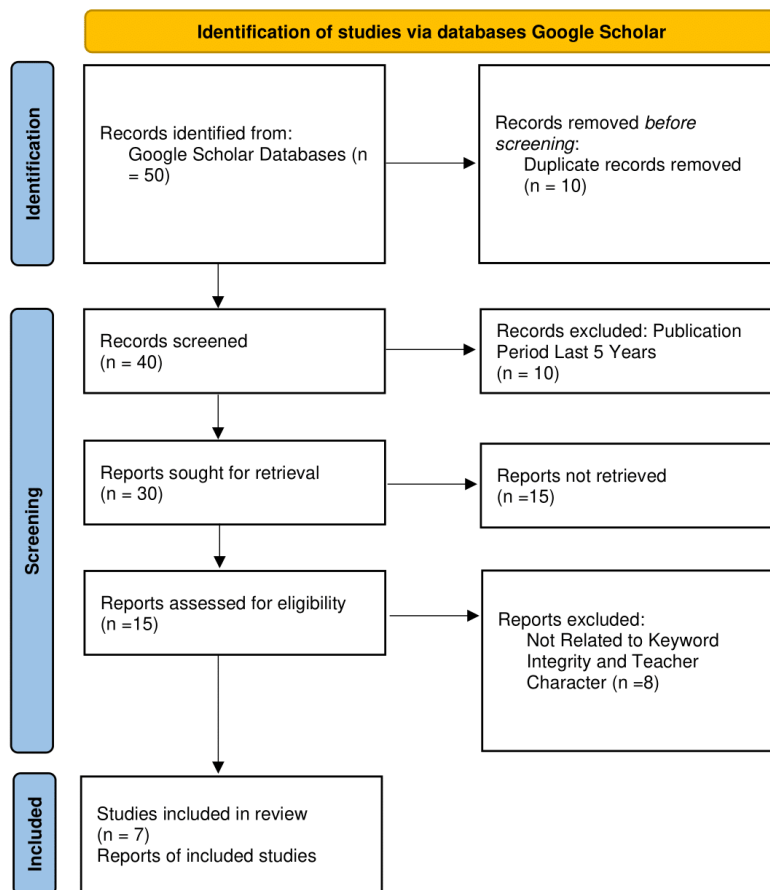


Figure 1. Prisma Flow Diagram

### 3. Results and Discussion

Educators are a student figure, especially in elementary school, who has an important role in fostering students' cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities. A teacher must be a figure for students Educators need to always improve their good attitude and self-evaluate educators. The character value that teachers must always improve is integrity. Integrity character helps teachers in shaping themselves as independent, responsible, and professional. (Napratilora et al., 2021). Results and Discussion 3

Table 1. Research Results from Literature Review

Article	Research Methods	Research Result
The Challenges of Character Education in the Digital Era (Sagala et al. 2024)	Qualitative	In this article, the essence of the digital era is explained, that fast and wide connectivity is a characteristic of the development of technology, the challenges of the digital era and its benefits for life. In addition, this article discusses education in the digital era and its challenges. The study in this article emphasizes the challenges of character education in the digital era, namely the ease of access to information that

		<p>is not necessarily positive and others. Most importantly, this article provides solutions and strategies to face various existing challenges.</p>
<p>The Role of the Teacher's Code of Ethics in Building the Character and Integrity of Educators (SriISTRY Lumbanraja &amp; Naibaho 2025)</p>	<p>Qualitative</p>	<p>The Role of the Teacher's Code of Ethics in Building the Character and Integrity of Educators (SriISTRY Lumbanraja &amp; Naibaho 2025)</p>
<p>Literature Review: The Concept of Integrity for ASN (SUYONO 2022)</p>	<p>Studi Literature</p>	<p>This article focuses on explaining the essence of integrity, where it is explained that there are many meanings of integrity, but the essence of integrity is something whole, it also involves honesty. This article also compares various elements of obedience/quality that make readers have their own meanings of various meanings. The discussion of this article compares, but in this article there is a connection between the definitions discussed. This article also examines more deeply the 5 elements of integrity that can be applied to ASN or educators.</p>
<p>Teacher Problems in the Habituation of Manners Character Habituation Program for Elementary School Students (Putri et al. 2022a)</p>	<p>Descriptive Qualitative</p>	<p>This article explains the problems faced by teachers in a program to habituate the character of manners of SD 5 Jekulo Kudus students. The focus of this article is to discuss various problems that occur at SD 5 Jekulo Kudus. This article also focuses on discussing solutions to overcome various existing problems. The solutions presented will have an impact on students or not, in this article it is discussed in more depth</p>

according to the results of previous research and the results of the author's research.

<p>The Role of Teachers in Moral and Character Education (Aiman Faiz &amp; Purwati 2022)</p>	<p>Literature Study</p>	<p>This article contains an explanation of the role of teachers in instilling students' morals by building good relationships with students to include moral values related to character education. In addition, teachers must also show their affection for students to be able to build good student morale. This article also discusses various approaches that can be applied in internalizing moral values in schools. Approaches that are in accordance with the model are also explained clearly and in detail, starting from the value construction model, the condition approach and various others.</p>
<p>Analysis of Teachers' Strategies in Instilling Values of Character Education, Manners, and Positive Discipline in Elementary School Students (Wahib Nasir Alhidri et al. 2025).</p>	<p>Descriptive Qualitative</p>	<p>The discussion in this article is about what strategies teachers use in implementing character education that has been carried out by researchers showing that teachers become role models, this strategy succeeds in making students model behavior, how to speak, dress and others. In addition, teachers also apply one of the positive discipline methods to control student behavior. The various strategies that teachers have done must be with the aim of improving the character and abilities of students. Not forgetting that teachers also collaborate with parents to shape and develop students' characters.</p>

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<p>The Role of Principal Leadership in Improving Teacher Performance</p> <p>(Alhabsyi et al. 2022a)</p>	<p>Qualitative Interview</p>	<p>The results of the research on the role of the principal at SDN 12 Palu are that the principal in addition to having a function as a leader also has many other functions in guiding teachers to improve their performance. In an effort to improve teacher performance in relation to professionals, the principal has created a program to improve teachers' ability to teach, motivate, be a good role model, and always guide teachers. In addition to the example and leadership of the principal, it turns out that the principal also experiences obstacles to improving teacher performance. Even so, in the application of school principals to teachers, there are supporting factors that motivate principals and teachers to continue to develop their abilities.</p>
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Education plays an important role in forming a superior generation with integrity. It is undeniable that the digital era has succeeded in bringing change and influencing social dynamics. The main challenge for students, especially in elementary school, is the ease of access to information that is not always positive. At the age of elementary school, the development of students can be disrupted because at their age students are still in the example stage. Research (Sagala et al., 2024), reveals that dependence on social media can trigger issues related to self-image and the need for online validation that can damage character. Therefore, digital literacy and good collaboration between students, parents, and teachers are needed. (Sagala et al., 2024)

Teachers are professional educators who have the obligation to teach students in the Constitution Number 14 of 2005 concerning Teachers and Lecturers, in addition to that it is stated that teachers must have academic qualifications, competencies, educator certificates and others. The presentation means that teachers are personnel who emphasize their professionalism. Professional teachers are obliged to obey the teacher's code of ethics as a guideline in regulating teachers' attitudes and behaviors. The code of ethics is very important because it encourages teachers to act in accordance with existing rules and maintain the professionalism of teachers. Teachers who comply with the code of ethics well will produce students with character. (SriISTRY Lumbanraja & Dorlan Naibaho, 2025)

Teachers have a duty as an example to produce students with character, especially integrity characters. In line with previous research, teachers are role models that students can emulate and must have a good personality (Sagala et al., 2024). The realization of students with integrity requires teachers to have integrity character first. The character of the teacher's integrity will be a guideline for students who have a very strong influence in shaping character. Integrity has values that must be adhered to, namely honesty, norms, ethics and codes of ethics, morals, and anti-corruption attitudes. These five

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attitudes are the unity and harmony of the meaning of integrity for a professional educator. (JUNIOR, 2022)

In implementing character formation for students, programs that are in accordance with the goals of character education are needed, such as the greeting, smile, and greeting programs that are often encountered in elementary schools. In line with the research, the existence of a nationalism instillation program will make it easier for teachers to guide students, besides that teachers also facilitate and direct environmental care activities through the Adiwiyata program in the learning process to develop students' abilities. The results of these two studies can be concluded that a program will help teachers in instilling character values through guidance, direction, and as a facilitator to students. The above research is in line with the research conducted by , where there is the application of a habituation program of manners character in one of the elementary schools, this program facilitates students to always develop character of manners, but in its implementation teachers experience difficulties, including students who do not respect their elders, students commit mischief, and teachers who are less patient with students' behavior (Putri et al., 2022a). So that it is necessary to understand the value of good integrity character and optimize the role of teachers as role models. (DJ & Jumardi, 2022) (Rismayanti, 2022) (Putri et al., 2022)

An example has a very important role for students in instilling moral values in students. Teachers must build a good interaction pattern with students to be able to provide input on moral values. Good communication will open students' minds so that they can change students' behavior and character. In addition to being an example for students, teachers must also be consistent with the moral values they believe in (Aiman Faiz & Purwati, 2022). Exemplary and consistent are the main keys for teachers in carrying out their roles and producing students with character. (Aiman Faiz & Purwati, 2022)

In another study, it was explained that the approach that can be implemented in instilling character values is the modeling approach or exemplary (Aiman Faiz & Purwati, 2022. In addition, there are other strategies, namely by integrating character values in learning, carrying out positive discipline methods, providing motivation and extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities have a very important influence in instilling the character values of students. Extracurricular activities can build cooperation, comply with regulations, and be responsible in a team (Wahib Nasir Alhidri et al., 2025). Other research also emphasizes the importance of character formation through extracurriculars because it can improve academic and social development. (Wahib Nasir Alhidri et al., 2025) (Nurhaqim & Subando, 2023)

In maintaining stability and consistency of a teacher as a role model for students, appropriate support is needed between teachers, leaders, and professional institutions. The leader of a professional institution has a very significant role in the professional teacher. A leader has the authority to mobilize personnel to achieve the vision or goals of the school. In line with the research conducted by , a leader is the same as a teacher, should encourage teachers to cooperate without forcing them to achieve school goals. Just like a teacher, a leader must have a good character as an example for teachers. (Alhabsyi et al., 2022) (Miftahul Janah & Suwadi, 2024)

The literature review in this study explains that teachers have an important role in instilling character in students. Teachers as role models must have high integrity in implementing character education to students. The character of integrity needs to be instilled first in teachers to get used to and influence the character of students. However, in its implementation, there are many challenges that teachers must face, the need for teachers to increase patience and awareness of student development. In maintaining the professionalism of a teacher, leaders have a very crucial role to improve teacher motivation and performance.

### **3.1. Conclusion**

This study concludes that elementary school teachers play a pivotal role in character education, not only as academic educators but also as moral role models. Their daily embodiment of values such as honesty, responsibility, consistency, and professionalism significantly shapes students' characters and learning environments. Moreover, school principals contribute by offering continuous support and guidance to enhance teacher performance and integrity. Schools with strong leadership, effective educational media, and the right approach can become fertile grounds for developing future generations with good character.

However, the study has limitations, as it is based solely on secondary data from literature reviews and does not reflect direct field experiences. Future research using case studies or qualitative field

methods is highly recommended to explore the practical implementation, challenges, and successful strategies of character education in schools.

## Author Contributions

The authors contributed significantly to this study and were involved in all stages, from the planning to the writing of the article. Feranie Azizah contributed to the overall composition of the article, including the methodology, literature review relevant to the topic, discussion, conclusion, and the preparation of the references. Meanwhile, Candra Utama contributed by providing the idea for an engaging article title, reviewing the content, and offering suggestions for improvement to reach the final version of the article.

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## Declaration of Conflicting Interests

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