

# Cooperation of Parents and Teachers in Building Children's Character During The Covid-19 Pandemic

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## Abstract

**Background;** The Covid-19 pandemic that has hit the world community has made extraordinary changes, especially in people's social lives. In Indonesia, many victims have fallen, either dead or alive, but their quality of life has decreased, due to declining sources of income. Especially in the world of education, besides affecting the quality of children in the academic field, it is also feared that it will affect the social quality, namely the character of children, as a result of the online learning process. The purpose of this study is to describe how the cooperation of parents and teachers in building children's character during this covid-19 pandemic.

**Materials and Methods;** Using a qualitative descriptive approach, by taking a purposive sample of parents and junior high school teachers in the Central Java region.

**Results;** The results of the study show that parents have played a role in being smart parents by always accompanying children while studying, giving attention, supervision and even sanctions when children make mistakes. Most parents use social media to increase their knowledge as a provision in assisting their children to learn. Cooperation built with schools/teachers tends to be less than optimal because it is constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Conclusion:** In shaping children's character, the role of parents is quite crucial and important, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic situation which requires learning activities to be carried out online. This condition requires parents to be smart parents, so that the child's learning process runs smoothly without encountering obstacles, both in the subject matter and the formation of the child's character, so good cooperation between parents and teachers is needed.

Keywords: Cooperation; parent; teacher; child character, covid-19.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

The condition of the COVID-19 pandemic has changed all the order of life in the world, including our country. Almost all fields are affected by this condition, including the education sector. Education is one of the important factors to make quality human beings have good morals and will be able to face competition in society. Education plays an important role in shaping the character of children. One of the goals of education is to form good character whose results will be seen in one's attitudes and behavior.

Families, especially parents, have an important role in children's education. The success of a child's education will be greatly influenced by his parents or family in addition to the school. The important task of parents is to care for and educate, set a good example, provide good direction, so that it is hoped that good character will be built as parents want, namely having responsibility, being honest, caring, fair,

The condition of the covid-19 pandemic, which until now has not gone away so that all forms of learning at all levels of education have to be carried out online from their respective homes. With this condition, smart parents are needed to deal with it so that the child's learning process runs smoothly.

The teaching and learning process during a pandemic, forcing teachers not to be able to directly play an active role in assisting students directly, they can only provide material via online, so they cannot directly instill character values such as honesty, critical thinking, daring to express opinions, and work with friends. This condition will more or less affect students because they lose role models, so there is a tendency for students to lack concentration in following lessons and tend to play more. As reported by various mass media articles in

various regions which found the fact that parents were worried that their children would not study during school hours. Parents seem confused about this problem[1]

Research on the role of parents in building children during the COVID-19 pandemic has been widely carried out. One concludes that parents play a more important role in shaping the character of children to become perfect people, namely acting as educators (educators), facilitators, motivators, companions and supervisors, and as role models for children (al-uswah al-hasanah). In addition, parents have more challenges in guiding and supervising children during the learning period from home due to the use of gadgets that are sometimes misused by children.[1]. Therefore, to be smart parents, it is very necessary to always develop parenting methods that are considered good to be applied to their children. Democratic parenting is one of the most effective parenting styles compared to other parenting styles.[2] The role of parents in implementing behavior Children's discipline is categorized as weak if it is not accompanied by the role of teachers in schools.[3]. So that there is a need for cooperation between teachers and parents in educating children.

## **II. THEORITICAL REVIEW**

### **A. Character building**

The definition of character comes from the Greek "charassein" which means "to engrave" (draw, paint). Character is a pattern of behavior that is specific and individual owned by a person. These patterns of behavior and traits are formed after the child goes through a period of childhood growth[4] Character education aims to shape the character of children so that they can adapt in the social life of the community, both in the regional and global arenas. Through character education, it is expected to form a personality, have a good attitude and be able to respect other people who have differences with him. Character education also has a positive relationship with the success of forming students' social perceptions[5]

Through character education can build integrity, self-discipline, expression of love, and compassion. Thus, building a child's character can be interpreted as a form of instilling good values into children so that they will grow into children who have good qualities. Character can also be understood as a way of thinking and behavior that characterizes each individual to live and work together in the family, community, and nation.

### **B. Understanding Smart Parenting**

Parenting management is an activity related to planning, organizing, implementing, and evaluating carried out by leaders or institutions to provide educational programs to parents of students.[6] Parenting is "a process of utilizing parenting skills based on noble and noble rules". <sup>1</sup>*Parenting* in this study is one of the activities included in the school-community work program, in which "every citizen aspires and actively participates in fostering education". Parenting is "a form of informal activity carried out to harmonize child care and education activities between play groups and at home".[7]

Technical guidelines for parenting education are: 1) Parent class. This activity is a communication for parents to share information and knowledge with resource persons, both from outside the institution, educators, or fellow parents. Children with active parents behave differently from inactive parents[8]2) Parents' Day. This activity is carried out by involving parents in the learning process.[9]

There are several principles that need to be considered in the implementation of school-community relations, namely integration, sustainability, simple, comprehensive, constructive, appropriate and flexible; As for this research using the principle of continuous, comprehensive and flexible.

### **C. The need for Smart Parenting in shaping children's character**

The term Smart parenting is a smart action taken by adults or parents to children in protecting, caring for, teaching, disciplining and providing guidance. In interacting with the environment, sometimes there is a tendency that affects children, both in terms of behavior, speech style, knowledge, and lifestyle [1]

*Smart parenting* is a pattern of parental strategies in educating children, where they are the first teachers to teach, educate, foster, and guide. As in family education, all efforts made by parents are in the form of habituation and improvisation to help the child's personal development [2].

In the conditions of the Covid-19 pandemic, parents have an important role in shaping the character of their children. Their task is to ensure that the online learning process does not encounter obstacles and that the educational goals are achieved.

## **III. METHODOLOGY**

This research use descriptive qualitative approach. The research location is in several public junior high schools (SMP) in the province of Central Java. By using purposive sampling technique. The main data in this

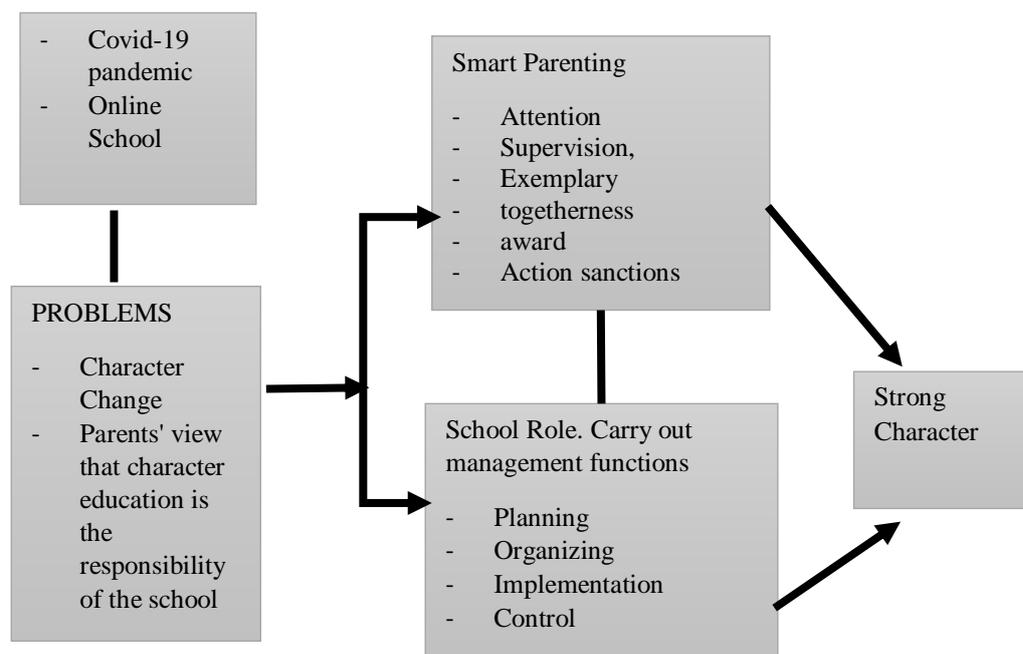
study were obtained through observation, questionnaires to teachers and parents of students, through google forms and through Focuss Group Discussions involving teachers and parents of students.

#### IV. RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

##### Smart parenting management model in children's character education

The smart parenting management model in character education is a model that parents use in educating children to shape their character.

Smart parents will always try to improve their quality for provision in educating children. In children's character education, parents and schools together make plans for activities that students must do. Activities are more on hidden curriculum and non-curricular activities. Organizing, implementing and evaluating/controlling together. The following is a picture of the smart parenting management model in character education:



##### Implementation of Character Education Management Function

In the development of character education, serious handling is needed both from parents and from schools so that it must be managed professionally. Indicators of handling professionalism can be seen from the implementation of the education management function carried out

Management functions according to GR Terry,[10] as a process consisting of planning, organizing, actuating, and controlling that is carried out to determine and achieve the goals that have been set through the use of human resources and other resources. In the process of achieving goals, starting from the actions of planning, organizing, actuating, and controlling which are done by mobilizing and utilizing existing resources.

Education is a process by which a person acquires knowledge (knowledge acquisition), develops abilities/skills (skills development), attitudes or changes attitudes (attitude of change). As part of society, education has a dual function[11], namely social functions and individual functions. The social function is to help each individual become a more effective member of society by providing past and present collective experiences, while the individual function is to enable a person to lead a more fulfilling and productive life by preparing him for the future.

Educational management is a process to coordinate various educational resources, such as teachers, educational facilities and infrastructure such as libraries, laboratories, and so on to achieve educational goals and objectives.

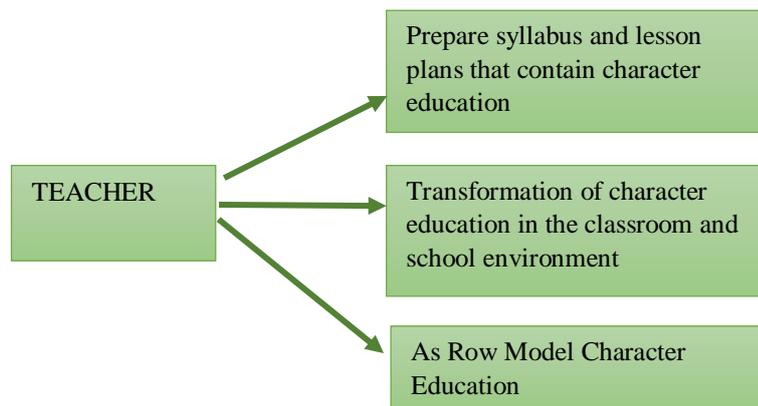
The success of an educational institution is related to the management applied. As the meaning of art and science in carrying out the functions of planning, controlling, supervising, personnel and professionalism. The managerial functions contained in the process of educational activities include: a. educative function, b. The function of developing thinking maturity through the transmission of knowledge, c. The function of strengthening belief in the truth that is believed by scientific understanding, d. religious function,[12]

### Teacher's Role in Character Education

The role of the teacher in character education is essentially the same as the role of the teacher in general as an educator. The difference is that the role of the teacher is currently seen as much heavier and more complex, namely not merely the role of the teacher as a teacher in front of the class. Changes in the role of teachers like this are due to the changing times which gave birth to a number of new challenges faced by teachers, as well as new tasks imposed by the community or the government on teachers, including the task of education, the task of forming character, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. 19 this.

To understand the role of the teacher more specifically, especially related to his duties in character education, it is necessary to first understand (1) the role of the teacher in this new era. What is the role of the teacher today where there have been many changes that have created new challenges for teachers in carrying out their duties as educators. After we gain an understanding of the new role of teachers in the new era, then we will describe (2) character values that are appropriate to be developed in students so that they are not affected even during the covid-19 pandemic.

Figure 2.2 illustrates the teacher's role in character education



Gambar 2.2 The role of the teacher in the development of character education

Teachers have an obligation to prepare syllabus and lesson plans. In delivering material in the classroom, efforts are made to insert character education messages. Transformation is a gradual process of change so that it reaches the ultimate stage, changes made by responding to the influence of external and internal elements that will direct changes from previously known forms through an iterative process.

Transformation in learning is defined as the process of changing the form of the information learned into the form of abilities or knowledge possessed or controlled by students. This transformation in learning is carried out by students when absorbing the lessons conveyed by the teacher in the classroom and outside the classroom, so the teacher must be able to become a model figure who can be a role model for students in behaving and behaving.

### The role of parents in shaping children's character

Character formation must start from the earliest level. Instilling good values must be given to children in the family and school environment. That way, when growing up, a person already understands good values. Parents must be a good example to their children. Parents should not set an example for bad deeds, no matter how small they are. Schools must also start teaching anti-positive values to their students.

The process of character building is done through socialization. In the process of socialization, individuals learn behavior, habits and other cultural patterns, as well as social skills such as language, socializing, dressing, eating, and so on. Media commonly used for socialization include: 1) Family, 2) Playmates and school, 3) Work environment, 4) Mass Media

In childhood, parents are the sole agent for children in socializing. The socialization process at this stage is described through the AGIL concept introduced by Talcot Parson in analyzing social action. A (Adaptation ), G (Goal Attainment), I (Integration), L (Latent pattern maintenance)[13]

During the adaptation period, children begin to adjust to the environment. His reaction did not only come from within him, but came from the outside. In the goal attainment phase, a child acts with a specific purpose and is more directed. In the integration phase, a child's actions are deeper, that is, every action he takes is a part of his life. In the latent phase, a child's actions are based on the responses of others outside of him.

Besides the family, the school plays an important role in the socialization process. Children experience changes in social behavior after he enters school. The functions of the school include: a) preparing children for work, b) providing basic skills, c) opening up opportunities to improve fate, d) providing development workers,

e) helping to solve social problems, f). transmits culture, g) forms a social human being, h) is a tool for transforming culture[14]

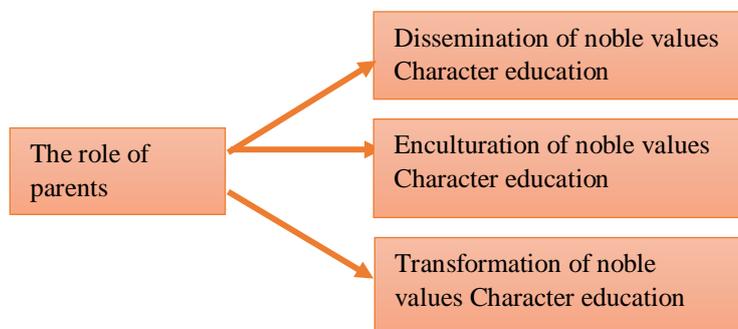
The socialization process did not always run smoothly due to a number of difficulties. First, there are communication difficulties, when children do not understand what is expected of them, or do not know what society wants or cultural demands about their behavior. This will happen if the child does not understand symbols such as language, signs and so on. Second, there are different or conflicting behavior patterns. Parents expect their children to be honest, don't smoke, but the student code requires them to participate in cheating, smoking, if they don't want to be isolated.[14]

There are various terms that can be used to refer to "family". Family can mean mother, father, children or the whole household. It can also be called *batih*, namely the whole household who is dependent and can also mean people, namely relatives and relatives.[15](This understanding refers to the anthropological aspect, namely humans in the family environment. According to Tajul Arifin, the definition of family is; "a group consisting of two or more people who are bound by blood ties, marriage, or adoption and live together"[16]

As said above that fathers and mothers have roles and responsibilities to be caregivers or parents. This term is known as parenting. Parents can be said to be managers for the household, because of their role as managers of home situations and conditions. Therefore they need to implement parenting management. Parenting is the work and skills of parents in raising children. The discussion about parenting in this reference, the author emphasizes on the discussion of parenting by parents in the family and teachers in schools. Parenting is the best way that parents take in educating children as an embodiment of a sense of responsibility to children.[17].

Parents and the environment play an important role in the process of child development [18]. Parenting is a parental effort that is actualized in the arrangement of the social environment, cultural environment, psychological atmosphere and behavior that is displayed at the time of meeting with children. Parenting is an atmosphere of teaching and learning activities that emphasizes warmth, not towards a one-way or emotionless education[19]. Thus, parenting is how to educate parents to children either directly or indirectly. Parenting concerns all day-to-day behavior of parents, whether directly related to children or not, which can be caught or seen by their children, with the hope that what is given to children (caregiving) will have a positive impact on their lives, especially for religion, self, nation. , as well as the country.

The concept of parenting management here is how management functions are applied in the family. That is the planning, implementation and evaluation that must be carried out in managing a family  
Figure 3 shows the role of the family in the development of anti-corruption character education for children.



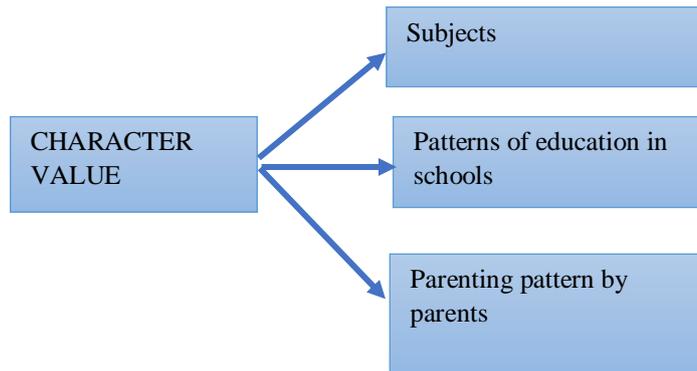
Gambar 2.3 The Role of Parents in the Development of Character Education

**Synergy between parents and schools in character education**

Basically, character education is not included as a subject but has been integrated into subjects, including through parenting in schools and parenting patterns. Therefore, schools need to integrate the values developed in character education into the Curriculum, Syllabus and Learning Program Plans. As well as the synergy between schools and families in developing the noble values of character education.

The learning principles applied in character development strive for children to recognize and accept the noble values of character as their own and be responsible for the decisions they make through the stages of recognizing choices, assessing choices, determining attitudes, and then making a value according to self-confidence. With this principle, students learn through the process of think, act, and act. These three processes are intended to develop students' abilities in carrying out social activities and encourage students to see themselves as social beings.

The development of noble character values is carried out in schools and families as shown in Figure 4 below:



Gambar 2.4 Character Values Development

The material for the noble values of character education is not used as the subject matter that is put forward like other subjects, so the teacher does not need to change the existing subject matter, but uses the subject matter to develop character values. Also, teachers do not have to develop specific learning processes to develop grades. One thing that must always be remembered is that a learning activity can be used to develop abilities in the cognitive, affective, and psychomotor domains. As a consequence of this principle, character values are not asked in tests or exams. However, students need to know the meaning of a value that they are growing in themselves. They should not be in a position of not knowing and not understanding the meaning of that value.

Character Education Development carried out by the school and family together through the following things.

**1) Self-development through education patterns in schools and education patterns from parents**

In the self-development program, the planning and implementation of character education is carried out through integration into daily activities at school and in the family environment, namely through the following things.

a. Attention to child/student activities

Attention is one of the many psychological symptoms in humans. In attention, there is mental activity that involves the brain and the senses.[20] that, attention is the concentration or concentration of all individual activities aimed at something or a group of objects.

At school Attention variable is indicated from indicators, among others Schools always pay attention to children's character education, Schools always pay attention to student honesty, School always pay attention to student creativity, the school always pays attention student hygiene

In the family, attention can be manifested in the form of, among others, parents always pay attention to the character education of children, how the attitudes and behaviors are shown on a daily basis. parents must always pay attention to who their child's social friends are, so that by paying attention, at least getting to know their child's social friends, especially their child's close friends, they can know who their child is hanging out with so they can always monitor

Parents must always pay attention to the results of their children's education, the difficulties encountered and the achievements achieved.

b. Supervision of children's activities

Supervision as determining what has been carried out, meaning evaluating work performance and if necessary, implementing corrective actions so that the work results are in accordance with the predetermined plan.[21] Whereas what is meant by supervision is the process of observing rather than implementing all organizational activities to ensure that all work being carried out goes according to a predetermined plan.[22] .So Supervision is as a systematic effort by management to compare the performance of predetermined standards, plans, or goals to determine whether performance is in line with those standards and to take necessary remedial actions to see that human resources are being used effectively and efficiently. possible in achieving the goal.

Supervision that must be carried out by schools for students, among others, supervision of student behavior in the school environment, supervising students while performing worship at school, supervising extracurricular activities, supervising student discipline in dressing and others. By providing maximum supervision, it is expected that students will behave and behave in accordance with what is expected by the school.

In the family environment, parental supervision is carried out, among others: always supervise their daily behavior, monitor who their children hang out with, trying to assist when children study in groups, when children are active outside the home.

c. Exemplary

Exemplary is the behavior and attitude of teachers and parents in providing examples of good actions so that they are expected to be role models for children / students to emulate.

If teachers and parents want children/students to behave and behave in accordance with the noble values of the anti-corruption character, the teachers and parents are the first and foremost to set an example of behaving and

behaving in accordance with those values. For example, dressing neatly, arriving on time, working hard, speaking politely, affectionately, caring for children, being honest, maintaining cleanliness, being fair and democratic.

d. **Togetherness**

Togetherness is carrying out an activity or activity together (more than one person). In schools, for example, worship activities are carried out together, a culture of discussion is developed. take the time to listen to student complaints / input. This will encourage students to dare to voice their opinions, build a critical attitude

In the family environment, parents always try to also carry out worship activities together with the children, always take time for recreation with the family, always take time to eat together with the children, always take the time to listen to children's complaints / hearts, and always try to provide solutions to problems faced by children.

e. **award**

award is a form of appreciation for a certain achievement given, both by and from an individual or an institution which is usually given in the form of material or speech. School or teacher awards to students, such as giving praise if students excel or other awards, will spur students to have a spirit of achievement.

In the family environment, parents must get used to always giving awards to children when they show achievements, positive behavior or at certain important moments. This will build confidence that they are valued.

f. **Action Sanction**

Sanctions are a form of reward or reward given to someone for their behavior. Sanctions can be in the form of rewards and punishments. Sanctions are given or set by the community to keep the behavior of its members in accordance with applicable norms. The definition of sanctions that are usually given in schools and in the family environment is punishment.

In schools, sanctions are given by teachers to students who behave badly. undisciplined, dishonest with giving warnings, advice and even educating punishments, for example by giving additional assignments to write a summary of the material from books or others, with the hope that students will become deterrent and will behave better.

In the family, sanctions are given by parents to children who behave badly. undisciplined, dishonest with give warnings, advice and even educational punishments, for example by reducing pocket money

Self-development that is carried out at school and in the family environment must be in synergy and should not conflict with each other so as not to cause confusion among children/students.

**2) Forms of cooperation between schools and parents in anti-corruption character education**

In carrying out anti-corruption character education, cooperation between schools and parents is needed. Forms of cooperation include:

a. **Planning (planning)**

Schools and families carry out anti-corruption character education planning in the form of:

1. Planning character education development activities in the academic calendar by involving parents
2. Planning extracurricular activities that contain character education

Periodically create events for the development of character education by involving parents of students, designed by the school since the beginning of the school year, and included in the Academic Calendar. For example, visits to places that foster a sense of love for the homeland, foster the spirit of nationalism, carry out community service to foster social care and solidarity.

b. **Organizing (organization)**

1. Involve parents in the development of character education.

Periodically invite parents to discuss children's development and ask for input / contribution of thoughts for the development of character education

2. Organizing the implementation of extracurricular activities that contain character education

c. **Actuating (implementation)**

1. Provide socialization to parents about character education
2. Provide opportunities for parents to provide input in the development of character education

d. **Controlling (control)**

- 1 make improvements to the shortcomings of the implementation of education
- 2 Supervise and evaluate character education jointly between schools and families

Together the school and family monitor the daily activities carried out by students by streamlining the work of BK teachers (Guidance Counseling). By making a form that will be filled out by students' daily activities for one week which will be filled out by each student and known by parents and teachers.

Students are given the task of observing the daily behavior of anti-corruption character values carried out in the neighborhood (family) and school, and asked to provide comments, known by the school and parents.

## V. CONCLUSION

In the formation of children's character, the role of parents is quite crucial and important, especially in the Covid-19 pandemic situation which requires learning activities to be carried out online. This condition requires parents to be smart parents, so that the child's learning process runs smoothly without encountering obstacles, both in the subject matter and the formation of the child's character. The results of the study show that parents have played a role in being smart parents by always accompanying children while studying, giving attention, supervision and even sanctions when children make mistakes. Most parents use social media to increase their knowledge as a provision in assisting their children to learn. Cooperation built with schools/teachers tends to be less than optimal because it is constrained by the COVID-19 pandemic.

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