



The Role of Education Profession Courses in Building Student Character Values as Prospective Biology Teachers

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ARTICLE INFO

E-ISSN: 2721-0804
P-ISSN: 2723-6838
Vol. 7, No. 1, June 2025
URL: <https://usnsj.id/index.php/biology/index>

Suggestion for the Citation and Bibliography

Citation in Text:

Yusuf & Wulandari (2025)

Bibliography:

Yusuf, M.I & Wulandari, T.S.H. (2025). The role of education profession courses in building student character values as prospective Biology teachers, *Journal of Biological Science and Education*, 7(1), 20-28

Abstract

Education is the key to progress and quality development because humans can realize their full potential with education. One of the courses that discusses theory is the education profession course, which examines the concept of professional teachers. This study aims to determine the role of education profession courses in improving the character values of students as prospective biology teachers. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method. Data was collected by distributing research questionnaires containing statements about the study's title. The research sample included biology education students in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 intakes, with 45 students as respondents. This study concludes that education profession courses are essential in improving students' character values. In addition, lecturers in charge of the course are also very important in guiding and being an example for students as prospective biology teachers.

Keywords: character values, students, teachers, biology

A. Introduction

Education is considered a means to obtain quality human resources (Halean et al., 2021; Kurniawan & Zarnita, 2020). Education is the key to all progress and quality development because, with Education, humans can realize their full potential as citizens. Education and educational science are interrelated in the sense of practice and theory, so that in the process of human life, both collaborate (Rahman et al., 2022). In this modern era, as a prospective teacher, you not only have to understand the lesson material but also have to learn character values as a prospective teacher. The current level of student education must also follow a series of learning, one of which is by taking courses. Courses in teacher education have an important role in helping prospective teachers develop character and personality through moral and ethical values (Anisatus et al., 2024). A student not only understands the material and pedagogy but also has integrity, responsibility, empathy, and professionalism as provisions to become a

teacher. One example of a course and role studied by prospective teachers is the profession of Education.

The teaching profession course is a subject that studies the profession of a teacher, including the understanding of ethical codes, ensuring that their duties as educators do not deviate from established ethical standards (Sohibun et al., 2017). As one of the courses that discusses theory, the Profesi Pendidikan course covers the concept of a professional teacher (Syahroni & Firmadani, 2023). Students must understand the concept of becoming a professional teacher, including their rights and responsibilities, the requirements and competencies of a professional teacher, teaching duties and functions, and insights into the teaching profession (Syahroni & Firmadani, 2023). The teaching profession course provides an in-depth understanding of ethical principles and guides students in internalizing these ethical values in their future teaching practices (Simanjourang et al., 2024). Additionally, the teaching profession course teaches students about character values.

Character is a set of values that underlie human attitudes, ideas, and behaviors expressed through words, feelings, and actions. These principles are based on law, conventions, culture, ethics, and customs (Samrin, 2016). Character formation holds a critical position in shaping the morals of the nation's children (Subambang et al., 2021). According to Yulia (2020), character components include: (conscience, self-esteem, empathy, love for good things, self-control, humility), moral actions (competence, willingness, habits), and moral knowledge (moral awareness, knowledge of moral values, perspective determination, moral reasoning, decision making, personal knowledge) - all of which are elements of good character. Education, incorporating character values into every learning process, reflects growth in all aspects of life, and character plays a crucial role in education and existence. A nation's strength, growth, glory, and dignity are reflected in its good character (Yulia, 2020). Ethics and character education play an important role for students. Ethics enable students to distinguish between good and evil, allowing them to behave politely and courteously while maintaining accountable freedom (Muharani et al., 2022). Character values can also serve as guidelines and standards for behavior (Mahajani et al., 2021). This character education can also be instilled in education students, including biology education students, as future educators.

Future educators must be capable of imparting information, experiences, and knowledge to their students. Therefore, teachers must be skilled at creating an effective learning atmosphere to achieve every learning objective (Inda et al., 2022). Thus, teacher professionalism becomes an attitude of loyalty in educating the nation's children based on values, ethics, and norms (Affandi et al., 2022). Previous research was conducted by Isnaini et al. (2023) in their study titled "Religious Character Education in Pancasila and Entrepreneurship Learning for Prospective MI/SDIT Teachers." Research on character was also carried out by Jela et al. (2022), who wrote about "The Implementation of Boarding School-Based Character Education Strengthening for Prospective Teacher Students." Similar research was conducted by Fikri (2021), who observed "The Role of Micro Teaching in Enhancing the Character of Prospective Teacher Students." Yunita et al. (2021) also researched "The Role of Professional Ethics in Building the Professionalism of Prospective Mathematics Teachers to Realize the Golden Generation of 2045." Based on this background, this study represents a novelty and aims to examine the role of the Teaching Profession course in building character values among biology teacher candidates.

B. Literature Review

1. Education Profession Courses

Educational professional courses become a place that can help instill student character values (Awalia et al., 2024). The education profession is one of the courses that students must take as prospective teachers. Educational profession is a theoretical course that deeply discusses the concepts and practices of professional teachers. Students are expected to be able to understand the concept of how to become a professional teacher, which includes the rights and obligations of teachers, the requirements and competencies of professional teachers, the duties and roles of teachers, and the insights of the teaching profession (Syahroni & Firmadani, 2023).

2. Character Values

According to psychology, character is a system of beliefs and habits that direct the actions of an individual. According to the Depdiknas Language Center, the character is innate: heart, soul, personality, behavior, personality, nature, character, and temperament (Prasetyo et al.,

2020). Students' character as future educators is important, including establishing positive role models, creating a positive learning environment, improving teaching quality, establishing good relationships with students and parents, and teaching moral and ethical values. The importance of character-building for future educators is recognized as a long-term investment in educating a generation of educators with integrity, responsibility, and empathy (Alimuddin et al., 2023).

C. Methodology

1. Research Design

This type of research is qualitative research. Qualitative research is research that is analytical and descriptive. In qualitative research, descriptive refers to describing events, occurrences, and social circumstances under study. Analysis is the process of describing, analyzing, and comparing research findings (Waruwu, 2023). According to Safrudin et al. (2023), qualitative research as a methodology does not yet have a standardized definition and is not generally agreed upon for use. The approach in this study uses a data collection instrument in the form of a questionnaire to obtain research results to describe students' perceptions of the role of the Education Profession course in shaping character values.

2. Instruments

The data in this study were obtained by selecting respondents who met the research objectives and distributing questionnaires to biology education students from the 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 intakes, totaling 45 students as respondents. The questionnaire used contained questions related to the title and objectives of the study.

3. Technique of Data Analysis

Data processing in this study will be carried out by describing the research results in the form of questionnaire data obtained, and by describing and explaining the results of the collected research data in the form of a percentage of respondents processed quantitatively.

D. Findings and Discussion

1. Findings

The research results on the Role of Education Profession Courses in Building Student Character Values as Prospective Biology Teachers were obtained from distributing research questionnaires to respondents of biological education students in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The percentage of those who filled out the questionnaire is presented in Chart 1.

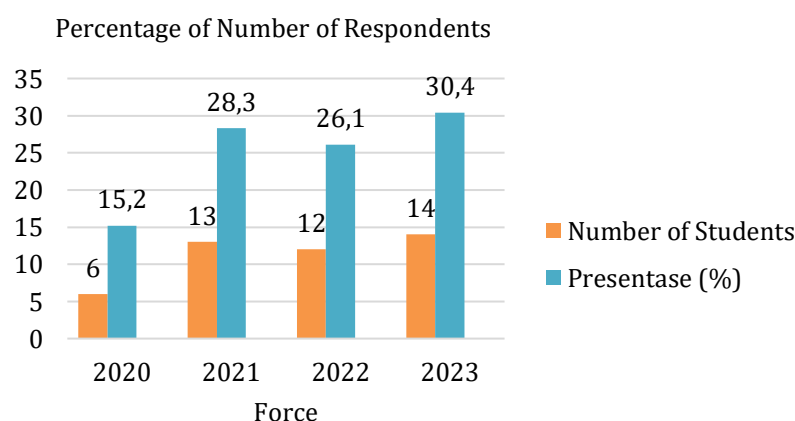


Figure 1. The percentage of those who filled out the questionnaire

The results of the discussion of aspects of the research questionnaire on the role of education profession courses in building student character values as prospective biology teachers include several aspects, some presented as diagrams. The research results on the Role of Education Profession Courses in Building Student Character Values as Prospective Biology Teachers were obtained from distributing research questionnaires to respondents of biological education students in the Class of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. The percentage of those who filled out the questionnaire is presented in Chart 1.

The education profession course helps you understand the importance of character values in the education profession.

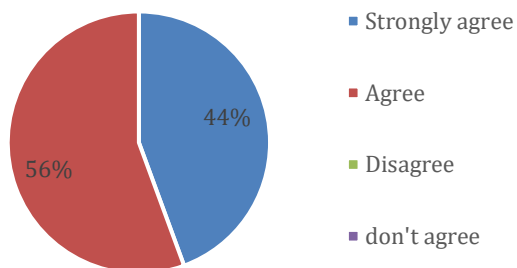


Diagram 1 percentage of question 1

Professional education courses really build students' character

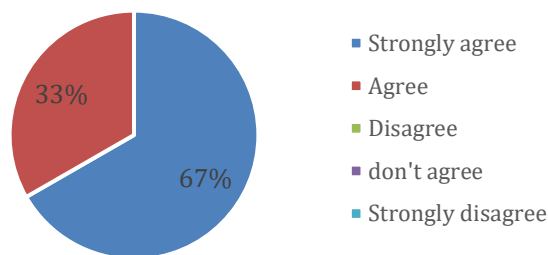


Diagram 2 percentage of question 2

The education profession course has provided concrete examples of how to apply character values in educational practice.

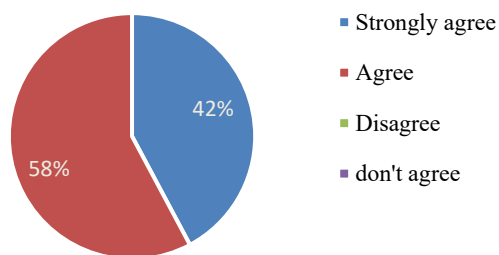


Diagram 3 percentage of question 3

You discuss the importance of character values with your lecturer in the education profession course.

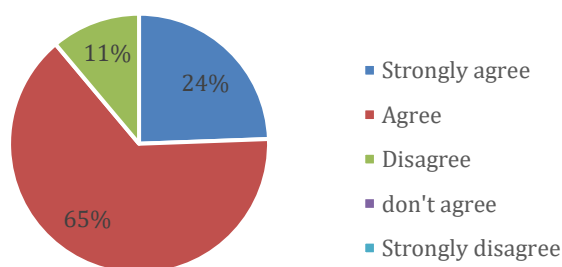


Diagram 4 percentage of question 4

Professional Education Lecturer involves effective assessment as character building

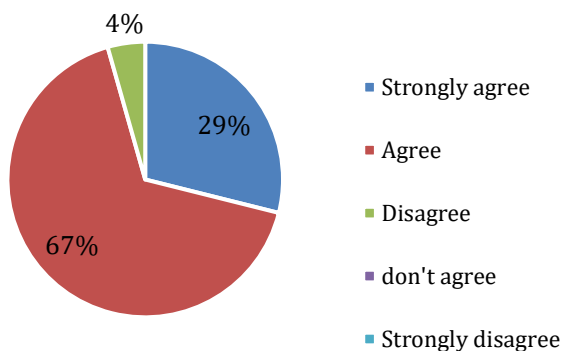


Diagram 5 percentage of question 5

The behavior and attitude of course lecturers are very influential in building student character as prospective teachers.

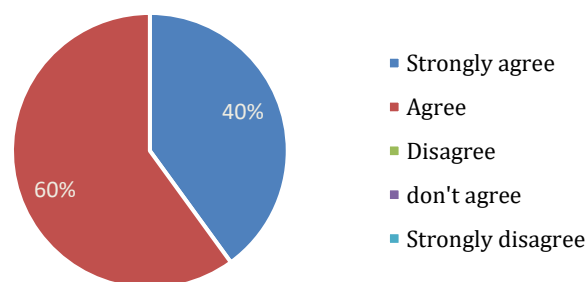


Diagram 6 percentage of question 6

The education profession course has succeeded in improving character values in you such as (honesty, responsibility, discipline, cooperation)

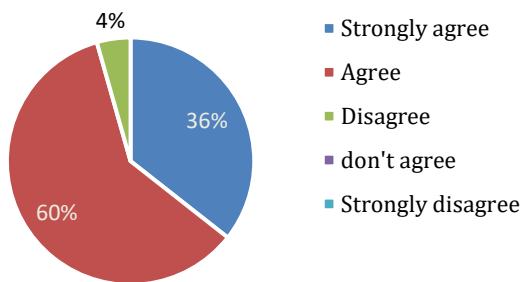


Diagram 7 percentage of question 7

You apply the character values learned in professional education courses in everyday life (both on campus and off campus)

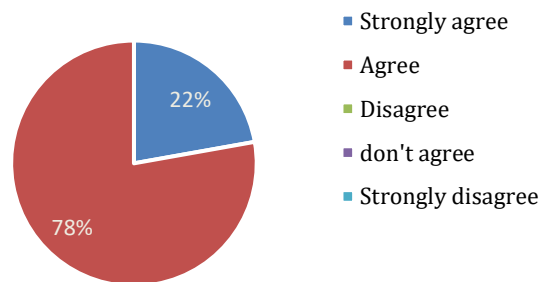


Diagram 8 percentage of question 8

Lecturers use effective learning methods in developing character values in professional education courses.

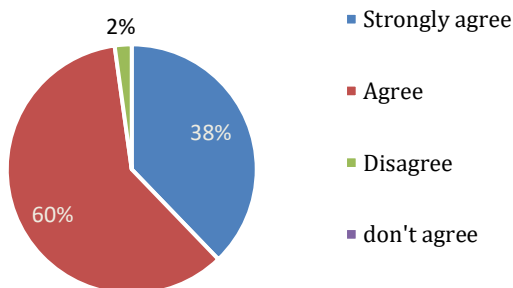


Diagram 9 percentage of question 9

You can increase the effectiveness of professional education courses in developing students' character values.

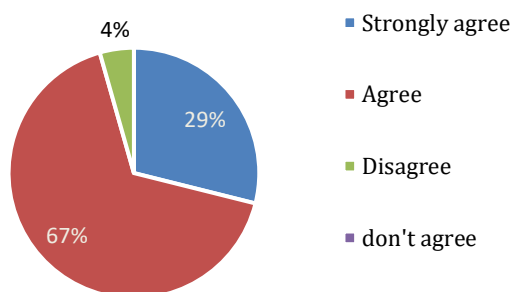


Diagram 10 percentage of question 10

2. Discussion

Based on several responses from respondents, the percentage agrees and strongly agrees with the question. The education profession course helps you understand the importance of character values in the education profession, as found in Diagram 1. Diagram 2 shows a very agreeable presentation value with the statement that the education profession course builds student character. Based on the percentage in diagrams 1 and 2, it can be concluded that the education profession courses can help students understand the importance of character values in the education profession. Lecture guidelines are the spearhead in organizing professional and educational ethics lectures by instilling character values. This is in line with research conducted by Januarti (2017), which says that the ethics and teaching profession course is expected to direct and develop the ethics and teaching profession and prepare teachers with character.

The results of the presentation regarding the statement The education profession course has provided concrete examples of how to apply character values in educational practice shows a higher percentage of agreeing than 45 respondents; this shows that the education profession course has an influence and provides concrete or actual examples in applying character values in the world of education, especially in biological education students who will later plunge into the world of education to become a biology teacher. Education profession courses are essential for prospective teachers; a teacher can prepare themselves to become a professional teacher. As a result, teachers can educate children more effectively and professionally in carrying out their duties as teachers. In the world of character education, it is essential. According to AwaLia et al. (2024), It is necessary to pay attention to the character education process, which aims to form individuals, especially prospective teachers, who are required to not only have good intellectual abilities but also have good morals and character so that later they can serve in the world of education.

Diagram 4 shows the presentation results in discussing the importance of character values with lecturers of education profession courses. Diagram 4 shows the variation in the percentage of respondents ranging from the most agreeing, strongly agreeing, and also a few who answered

disagreeing in this regard, but the most significant percentage showed an agreeing response to the statement; therefore, in the process of lecturing the education profession the role of lecturers and discussions with lecturers in charge of courses is needed, and the role of lecturers is also influential in directing students in exploring the importance of character values. Discussing the importance of character values with lecturers of professional education courses is influential for students who can involve communication between students and lecturers. This is in line with Tasbih (2021). The relationship between lecturers and students in learning must be well maintained so that they can receive and give each other conditions that allow communication to be built from various directions, so that it can encourage students to explore information.

The research data shows that of the 45 respondents involved in this study, 67% agreed with the statement in Diagram 1. Education Profession lecturers involve practical assessment as a character cultivation. Effective assessment is an important instrument for measuring and understanding students' emotional and behavioral characteristics in education. Evaluation of behavioral characteristics, including attitudes, interests, self-concept, values, and morality, is one example of affective elements in assessment. Affective aspects are quite important assessment indicators for students because affective aspects can be used to see changes in student behavior and understanding (Dewi Wahyuni & Cahaya, 2022). Diagram 2. This shows the relationship between the statement that the behavior and attitude of course lecturers are very influential in building students' character as prospective teachers. 60% of students agree with this statement. Because course lecturers have a significant role in instilling the character values of students as prospective teachers. This is in line with Suhaida & Azwar (2018) regarding the role of lecturers in developing student character values in their research, stating that, in addition to acting as role models, lecturers help students develop their creativity and sense of responsibility.

The results of the percentage of diagram 7 show the response of 45 students in the statement that the education profession course has succeeded in increasing character values in yourself such as (honesty, responsibility, discipline, and cooperation) which shows a percentage of 36% strongly agreeing, 60% agreeing and 4% answering less agreeing. These results show that more responses agree. Therefore, it can be concluded that the education profession course has succeeded in increasing character values in yourself, such as (honesty, responsibility, discipline, and cooperation); which of these aspects is a significant value applied in education because, as a teacher, students must have honesty and significant responsibility for their duties as prospective biology teachers. Students must also be able to apply discipline in themselves as a good example of prospective biology teachers and apply aspects of cooperation in an educational environment by accepting the opinions of others in their work environment.

Based on Diagram 8. Shows the results of a very high percentage in the statement, Students apply character values learned in education profession courses in everyday life (both in the campus environment and outside the campus). This statement has an agreed percentage of respondents, 78%, which shows that after attending the education profession lecture, students can apply the character values learned in the education profession course in everyday life both on campus and outside the campus. As prospective biology teachers, students can develop their role through professional education courses because, in professional education courses, students can gain knowledge in professional ethics, teacher professionalism, and teacher competence, which is a provision for students who will later become teachers. Education profession courses discuss ethics and professions in education. Teachers are a very noble profession and a profession that has a big responsibility; therefore, in carrying out their duties as teachers, they not only teach about the material, but they can also teach character values and become role models for students.

This course discusses ethics and professions in the fields of education and teaching. The teaching profession is a noble profession that has great responsibility. In carrying out their profession, teachers teach material to students and educate and guide students to develop their potential, starting from cognitive, psychomotor, and affective, and become role models for students. This aligns with research conducted by Kurniati (2023), who said that teachers not only teach the material to students but also educate and guide students to develop their cognitive, psychomotor, and affective potential and become role models for students. Because of this responsibility, teachers and students must understand the ethics and the education profession they will carry out.

Effective learning methods in education professional courses are very influential in developing student character values. Based on the results of respondents, with a percentage of

60% agreeing with the statement, Lecturers use effective learning methods in developing character values in education professional courses. Based on this, it shows that lecturers can also develop character values through effective learning to instill student discipline in attending lectures. The percentage of results can be seen in Diagram 9. Meanwhile, Diagram 10 shows that students can increase the effectiveness of the Education profession course in developing student character values.

As a prospective biology teacher, of course, not only can one master the material, but one must also instill character values in oneself as a provision to become a teacher. As a prospective teacher, of course, skills and attitudes are needed and accompanied by extensive training. Some are knowledge about the material being studied, how to deal with students, being a professional teacher, and other general knowledge. Generally, a teacher must have the following professional skills: mastering learning materials, planning the teaching and learning process, managing programs, implementing the teaching and learning process, using media and learning resources, and assessing and understanding student learning outcomes. In addition, various fields, including communication, sociology, and psychology, should support these skills (Sohibun et al., 2017). In addition to understanding learning, character values must also be learned. According to (Busfi Wulandari et al., 2022), the integration of character values in biology learning activities includes: 1. Instilling a sense of love for God Almighty, 2. Curiosity, love of knowledge, and healthy living, 3. Caring for society and the environment, 4. Thinking logically, critically, creatively, and innovatively, 5. Developing a scientific attitude, 6. Discipline, responsibility, honesty, 7. Cooperation, politeness, respect for others, and respect for diversity.

E. Conclusion

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the Educational Profession course plays a significant role in enhancing students' character values. This is because the course includes various topics such as professional ethics, competencies, and character values that can be developed and applied in daily life. Character education is essential for prospective biology teachers to shape educators who possess strong moral and ethical principles, in addition to sound academic abilities. Character education encompasses the cultivation of values such as honesty, responsibility, tolerance, peace-loving attitudes, respect, and collaboration. Moreover, lecturers can serve as role models by instilling ethical and moral values, helping students understand their duties and roles as future biology teachers.

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