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Student Empowerment through Character Education: Overcoming Bullying in English Language Teaching (ELT) [Pemberdayaan Siswa melalui Pendidikan Karakter: Mengatasi Bullying dalam Pengajaran Bahasa Inggris (ELT)]

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Abstract. This article aims to explore how character education in ELT can address the problem of harassment in schools and provide practical strategies for ELT teachers. Method: A literature review with qualitative analysis of relevant academic sources. Results: (1) Character education is important for a good learning environment and respect for cultural diversity. (2) Strategies include character education, social skills, and a multicultural approach, as well as student participation and collaboration with parents and staff. (3) The principles of character education help overcome harassment through respect, honesty, and the role of the teacher. (4) A multicultural approach encourages respect for diversity and challenges stereotypes. (5) The integration of anti-harassment concepts in ELT aims for a safe learning environment with understanding and strategies. (6) Anti-harassment programs involve training and extracurricular activities. (7) Integrating anti-harassment concepts requires integrated strategies involving teachers, students, and parents with methods such as role-playing and discussions.

Keywords - *character education; bullying prevention, multicultural approach*

I. INTRODUCTION

Organizational bullying is a serious problem that can affect students' psychological and academic well-being. Bullying at school can occur in various forms, such as physical violence, verbal harassment, intimidation, and social rejection. Bullying is aggressive behavior carried out repeatedly by one or more students against victims who are less able to defend themselves [11]. The impacts of bullying are far-reaching, including reduced academic achievement, mental health problems, and low student self-confidence [12].

In the context of English language teaching (ELT), an inclusive and safe environment is essential to encourage active participation and effective language development. Research shows that students who feel safe and accepted in the classroom environment tend to participate more actively and are more open to trying to use English in everyday communication [14]. However, the presence of bullying can hinder this process, making students afraid to speak and interact, which ultimately hinders their language development.

Empowering students through character education can be a solution to overcoming bullying because it helps create a positive and supportive classroom climate. Character education emphasizes the development of moral and ethical values in students, such as respect, empathy, honesty, and responsibility [1]. By instilling these values, students are expected to demonstrate better behavior and be more supportive of each other, which in turn can reduce bullying incidents at school.

Character education is a deliberate effort to cultivate the virtues that shape good behavior and ethical decision-making [17]. This theory emphasizes the importance of moral integrity and intellectual virtue as the basis of good behavior. Lickona identified ten key values that need to be taught in schools, including respect, responsibility, and justice. Applying this theory in the ELT context can help create a learning environment that is more conducive and freer from bullying.

The goal of character education in ELT is to create an inclusive and supportive classroom climate, where every student feels valued and safe to learn. Effective character education can improve school climate, relationships between students, and academic engagement [18]. In ELT classes, character education can help reduce the emotional barriers students may face in learning a new language, as well as encourage them to participate more actively in learning activities.

Literature shows that character education can have a positive impact on overcoming bullying. Comprehensive character education programs can reduce bullying incidents and increase a sense of community among students [2]. Schools that implement character education tend to have a more positive school climate and lower bullying incidents [22].

Implementing character education in ELT involves integrating moral values into the curriculum and daily learning activities. This approach involves explicit teaching of moral values, the use of literature that reflects

those values, and the creation of a classroom culture that supports positive behavior [23]. In an ELT context, this could mean choosing teaching materials that emphasize the importance of respect and cooperation, as well as involving students in discussions about good and bad behavior.

However, there are also quite a few challenges in implementing character education. One of the main challenges is how to make these moral values relevant and interesting for students. Teachers need to use creative and interactive methods to teach character values, such as role plays, group discussions, and collaborative projects [13]. In ELT classes, teachers can utilize stories, dialogue, and group activities to instill character values while teaching English language skills.

A multicultural approach is also important in overcoming bullying in English language learning. Multicultural education can help students understand and appreciate cultural diversity, which can reduce prejudice and stereotypes that are often the root of bullying [13]. In ELT classes, teachers can integrate teaching materials that reflect various English-speaking cultures, as well as encourage students to share their own experiences and perspectives. This not only helps reduce bullying but also enriches students' language learning experiences.

Character education and a multicultural approach must be an integral part of the ELT curriculum to create a safe and inclusive learning environment. Interventions that focus on character development and social-emotional skills can significantly reduce bullying behavior and improve classroom climate [8]. Thus, this effort will not only address the problem of bullying but also increase the overall effectiveness of English language learning.

Lickona's theory emphasizes the importance of integrating moral values into the school curriculum and students' daily lives. Character education must be carried out explicitly and systematically to be effective. It involves teaching values such as respect, responsibility, and honesty through various activities and teaching methods [10]. Structured character education programs can improve school climate, reduce negative behaviors such as bullying, and encourage more positive relationships among students [30].

Apart from that, Lickona also emphasized the importance of the role of teachers in character education. Teachers not only function as teachers of academic material but also as moral models for students. Teachers should demonstrate virtue in their behavior and create a classroom environment that supports character development [4]. Teachers who are actively involved in promoting moral values can create a more positive classroom climate and reduce bullying incidents [5].

Character education also involves students' active participation in the learning process. This means that students must be given opportunities to practice moral values in real situations. For example, through group discussions, collaborative projects, and community service activities, students can learn to work together, show empathy, and take responsibility. Students' active involvement in activities that emphasize moral values can strengthen their understanding of these values and increase their ability to apply them in everyday life [3].

In the ELT context, Lickona's character education theory is very relevant. Teaching English is not only about learning grammar and vocabulary but also about developing effective and ethical communication skills. By integrating character education into English language teaching, teachers can help students develop language skills accompanied by strong moral values. Teaching that includes character development and social-emotional skills can improve academic achievement and reduce negative behavior at school [31]. Therefore, applying Lickona's theory in ELT will not only help overcome the problem of bullying but also create a more inclusive learning environment and support students' overall development.

The purpose of this article is to examine how the application of character education in English language teaching can effectively overcome the problem of bullying in the school environment, as well as to offer practical strategies that can be implemented by ELT (English Language Teaching) teachers. Through an analysis of the character education theory put forward by Thomas Lickona and various relevant literature, this article aims to show how moral values such as respect, empathy, honesty, and responsibility can be integrated into the English curriculum. With this approach, teachers can create a safer and more inclusive learning environment, which not only reduces bullying incidents but also increases students' active participation and development of language skills. The proposed practical strategies include the use of interactive and collaborative teaching methods, the selection of teaching materials that reflect moral values, and the implementation of a multicultural approach that values diversity and encourages mutual respect among students. Thus, this article seeks to provide a comprehensive guide for ELT teachers to empower students through character education and create more positive and productive learning experiences.

II. METHODOLOGY

This research was conducted through a literature review which involved qualitative analysis of various academic sources relevant to the topics of character education, bullying, and English language teaching (ELT). This study includes an in-depth review of academic journals, books, and articles that discuss the theory and application of character education, as well as case studies that illustrate anti-bullying strategies in the context of language learning. These sources were selected based on their relevance to the research objectives and their academic quality, with a focus on works that have been recognized in the fields of character education and ELT.

The literature analyzed includes major works such as Studios that provide insight into how moral values can be integrated into the ELT curriculum and their impact on student behavior. By combining findings from various literature, this research seeks to develop practical strategies for ELT teachers to empower students through character education and overcome the problem of bullying in schools [20].

III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

A. The Importance of Character Education in English Language Teaching (ELT)

Character education in ELT is important because it helps create a conducive learning environment. Good social interactions are essential in language learning, and positive traits such as respect, empathy, and responsibility can support these interactions [33]. In the context of an English class, students often participate in pair or group activities, and the success of these activities depends on their ability to work together harmoniously. By implementing character education, students learn to appreciate differences and work together well, which are key skills in language acquisition.

Character education involves instilling moral values that help students develop into morally and ethically good individuals [35]. In English learning, these values can be integrated through various activities such as group discussions, role plays, and collaborative projects. For example, when students work in groups to complete a task, they learn the importance of respect and responsibility towards other group members. Effective character education programs can improve classroom climate and strengthen relationships between students [28].

Language learning also requires emotional engagement, and character education can help create a safe and supportive emotional environment. Empathy, one of the core values in character education, allows students to understand and feel what their friends are experiencing. This is important in language learning, where students often have to speak in front of the class or participate in discussions. With empathy, students will be more likely to provide emotional support to each other, which in turn increases their self-confidence and courage to speak up [7].

In addition, character education helps reduce negative behavior such as bullying, which can disrupt the learning process. Character education programs can reduce bullying incidents and increase a sense of community among students [21]. In the ELT context, bullying can be a major obstacle because it can reduce student motivation and participation. By instilling moral values such as respect and responsibility, character education can help create a safer and more supportive environment for all students.

Character education also plays an important role in shaping students' attitudes and behavior toward learning. Students who have strong character values tend to have higher intrinsic motivation to learn and achieve their academic goals. Character education can increase students' involvement in the learning process and encourage them to become active and responsible learners [9]. In English learning, a positive attitude and active engagement are essential for effective language acquisition.

A multicultural approach to character education is also very relevant in English language learning. English is a global language used in various countries with different cultures. By teaching multicultural values and respecting diversity, character education can help students understand and appreciate the cultural differences they encounter in English learning materials. Multicultural education can reduce prejudice and stereotypes, which are often the root of bullying behavior [33].

Character education can also improve students' social skills, which are very important in language learning. Skills such as cooperation, communication, and conflict resolution can be strengthened through activities that are integrated with character values. Character education can improve relationships between students and create a more positive school climate. In English classes, good social skills will help students interact more effectively in language activities [25].

Apart from improving social skills, character education also supports the development of critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students are taught to think ethically and consider the consequences of their actions, which is an important part of good decision-making. Character education that integrates the development of critical thinking skills can help students become more reflective and responsible individuals [19]. In English learning, critical thinking skills are very important for understanding complex texts and cultural contexts.

The application of character education in ELT can also be done through selecting teaching materials that reflect moral values. Teachers can choose stories, articles, and other texts that contain moral and ethical messages. In this way, students not only learn the language but also gain a deeper understanding of the values that are important in life. Teaching materials rich in moral values can strengthen character education and provide a more meaningful learning experience [16].

Finally, the importance of character education in ELT is not only limited to reducing bullying and improving classroom climate but also to the overall development of students as good and responsible individuals. By instilling strong moral values, character education helps shape students into citizens who contribute positively to society. In the long term, effective character education in learning English can produce a generation that is not only competent in the language but also has a strong character and high integrity [34].

B. Dissecting Bullying Issues in English Language Teaching (ELT)

Bullying in the ELT context can appear in various forms, such as teasing of language abilities, social rejection, and verbal intimidation. Students who are just learning English often feel anxious and vulnerable to criticism from peers, which bullies can exploit to undermine their self-confidence. Bullying is aggressive behavior that is repeated and involves an imbalance of strength or power [35]. In ELT classes, students who are more fluent in English may use their linguistic superiority to denigrate less fluent students.

This bullying can hinder the learning process because it reduces students' self-confidence and active participation in class activities. Students who are victims of bullying often feel embarrassed or afraid to participate in class discussions, which are important in English language learning. Victims of bullying tend to experience decreased self-confidence and increased anxiety, which can hurt their academic performance [26]. In an ELT context, this impact can be more severe because public speaking skills are a key component of language learning.

ELT teachers must be aware of the signs of bullying and have strategies to deal with it effectively. These signs can include changes in behavior, decreased participation, and increased anxiety or fear in class. Teachers need to be proactive in creating a safe and supportive classroom environment and have clear and firm policies against bullying. Identifying and addressing bullying quickly is an important step to ensuring that all students feel safe and valued in the classroom [15].

One strategy that can be used by ELT teachers is to apply character education in teaching. Character education can help create a positive classroom climate where values such as respect, empathy, and responsibility are valued [29]. By teaching these values, teachers can help prevent bullying and promote positive behavior among students. Effective character education programs can reduce bullying incidents and increase positive relationships among students [28].

Additionally, teachers need to teach social and emotional skills that help students manage conflict and interact well. These skills include effective communication, conflict resolution, and the ability to recognize and respond to the emotions of others. Teaching social and emotional skills can increase students' ability to handle conflict constructively and reduce aggressive behavior. In the ELT context, these skills are very important because social interaction is an integral part of language learning [12].

Teachers should also create opportunities for students to participate in activities that promote cooperation and mutual understanding. Group activities and collaborative projects can help build a sense of community and reduce exclusionary behavior that is often the basis of bullying. Cooperative learning can improve social relationships among students and reduce negative behavior such as bullying [11]. In English classes, activities such as role-playing, debates, and joint projects can be used to achieve this goal.

A multicultural approach can also be an effective tool in dealing with bullying in the ELT classroom. Teaching students to respect and understand cultural differences can help reduce the prejudices and stereotypes that often form the basis of bullying. Multicultural education can help students develop a deeper understanding of cultural differences and promote inclusivity [12]. In an ELT context, this can be done through teaching materials that reflect cultural diversity and activities that encourage students to share their cultural experiences.

It is also important to involve students in creating classroom rules that support positive behavior and oppose bullying. When students feel they have a voice in creating classroom rules and policies, they are more likely to comply with and support them. Involving students in the decision-making process can increase their sense of responsibility towards the classroom environment [14]. In ELT classrooms, discussions about classroom rules and behavioral expectations can be integrated into lessons to strengthen students' understanding of the importance of a safe and supportive learning environment.

In addition to the strategies mentioned, ELT teachers need to continually monitor and evaluate their classroom climate to ensure that all students feel safe and supported. A positive school climate can significantly reduce bullying incidents and increase student engagement [1]. Teachers can use surveys, discussions, and observations to gather feedback from students about classroom climate and make necessary adjustments.

Finally, teachers need to work together with parents and other school staff to address bullying. Involving the entire school community, including parents and staff, is more effective in dealing with bullying than efforts made only at the classroom level. ELT teachers can hold meetings with parents, participate in anti-bullying training, and work with school counselors to support students who are experiencing bullying. With a holistic and collaborative approach, teachers can create a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students.

C. Application of Character Education Principles to Overcome Bullying

The application of character education principles such as respect, honesty, and empathy in English classes

has great potential to overcome the problem of bullying. Teachers can integrate these principles into daily classroom activities to help students understand the importance of a positive attitude and respect for differences [17].

First of all, the principle of respect can be applied by encouraging students to respect the opinions and feelings of others in the classroom environment. This concept reflects the values of character education, where students are taught to respect the rights and dignity of each individual. Teachers can provide a space for students to share their opinions safely without fear of being ridiculed or belittled by peers. Character education involves developing respect for others as unique individuals [18].

Furthermore, the principle of honesty can be the basis for creating an open and honest classroom climate. Teachers can promote honesty by setting good examples and encouraging students to talk honestly about their feelings and experiences. Through open and transparent discussions, students can feel more comfortable sharing their experiences and seeking help when they experience difficult situations. Character education helps students understand the importance of honesty and integrity in all aspects of life [2].

Additionally, the principle of empathy plays an important role in overcoming bullying by helping students understand the feelings and experiences of others. Teachers can build empathy through activities such as role plays, group discussions, and stories that describe various life experiences. By understanding other people's points of view, students can develop a sense of sensitivity to other people's feelings and needs, thereby reducing the possibility of bullying behavior. Character education can increase student empathy and strengthen social relationships in the classroom [22].

In applying the principles of character education, teachers can also use teaching methods that are oriented toward moral values. For example, the story or text chosen for learning can be chosen based on the moral message or values that you want to convey to students. Through analysis of these texts, students can identify and understand the moral implications of the various actions and decisions of the characters in the story. Thus, learning English becomes not only about mastering grammar and vocabulary but also about developing character and values [23].

The importance of using stories and literature in character learning [13]. Good stories can be an effective tool for building students' character because they carry moral messages and broaden their view of the world. By selecting relevant and meaningful texts, teachers can help students understand and internalize values such as respect, honesty, and empathy.

Additionally, engaging students in reflective discussions about behavior and its consequences is another way to apply character education principles in addressing bullying. These discussions can allow students to consider the impact of their actions and the actions of others on others. By considering the perspectives of various parties, students can develop a deeper understanding of the importance of positive attitudes and behavior that is respectful of others [8].

The application of the principles of character education can also be strengthened through the modeling role played by the teacher. Teachers can be good examples for students by showing respect, honesty, and empathy in daily interactions in the classroom. Teacher role models can influence student behavior and help form a positive classroom culture [10]. By demonstrating desired character values, teachers can provide inspiration and motivation for students to adopt the same behavior.

In addition, establishing an inclusive and supportive classroom community can also help overcome bullying. In a strong community, students feel supported and valued by their peers and teachers, reducing the likelihood of negative behavior such as bullying. A positive and inclusive classroom climate can help protect students from the risk of becoming victims or perpetrators of bullying [30].

D. A Multicultural Approach to Involving Bullying in the English Classroom

A multicultural approach to English language teaching (ELT) is an important strategy in combating bullying in the classroom. Through this approach, students not only learn English but also understand and appreciate the cultural diversity that exists in the world. Teachers can introduce the culture of various English-speaking countries, teach tolerance, and encourage students to share their personal experiences. In this way, students can learn to appreciate differences and develop inclusive attitudes that respect all individuals, thereby reducing the possibility of bullying behavior in the classroom [5].

A multicultural approach in education is a way to promote respect for differences in culture, race, religion, and social background. In the context of ELT, this approach allows students to understand that English does not only belong to one particular cultural group but is used by various groups throughout the world. Through teaching about the culture and customs of English-speaking people, students can broaden their understanding of the world and understand that diversity is natural and valuable [3].

A multicultural approach to education can reduce prejudice and stereotypes, which often form the basis of bullying behavior. By understanding and appreciating diversity, students become more open to others who are different from themselves. They learn to see similarities rather than differences, and this can help create a classroom climate that is inclusive and welcoming for all students [31].

Additionally, through teaching about the culture and traditions of various English-speaking countries, teachers can open meaningful dialogue about issues such as racism, discrimination, and intolerance. A multicultural approach provides opportunities for students to consider other people's perspectives and understand the impact of their actions and words. By discussing these sensitive issues openly in class, teachers can help students understand the importance of respecting human rights and combating all forms of behavior that harm others [20].

A multicultural approach also allows students to identify and appreciate the different values in English-speaking cultures. Through discussion of different beliefs, traditions, and social norms, students can broaden their view of the world and understand that there is no right or wrong way to live. Multicultural education helps students develop a deeper understanding of the complexities of global society [24].

Implementing a multicultural approach in ELT can also help students feel more accepted and valued in the classroom, which in turn can reduce the risk of becoming victims of bullying. When students feel that their identities are valued and accepted by peers and teachers, they are more likely to feel safe and confident in the classroom environment. By creating a supportive environment for all students, teachers can help improve their emotional and social well-being [24].

Furthermore, a multicultural approach can help students develop intercultural communication skills that are important in an increasingly global world. In a multicultural environment, students will interact with people who have different cultural backgrounds, and this skill is critical to building healthy and productive relationships. Multicultural education helps students become more effective communicators and sensitive to the needs and perspectives of others [32].

In addition, a multicultural approach can be used as a tool to encourage collaboration and cooperation among students with different cultural backgrounds. In collaborative projects that emphasize diversity, students learn to collaborate effectively with people who have different views and experiences. Intercultural cooperation allows students to learn from each other and build social skills that are important in a multicultural society. [25]

A multicultural approach can also provide opportunities for students to reflect on their own identities and develop a deeper understanding of who they are. By studying other cultures, students can compare and contrast their own experiences with those of others, which can help them understand themselves better. Multicultural education helps students understand that their identity is not limited to certain cultural aspects but is a combination of various influences [7].

Finally, a multicultural approach in ELT not only benefits individual students but also encourages the formation of a more inclusive and tolerant global society. By promoting respect for diversity and fighting prejudice and stereotypes, multicultural education helps shape a generation that is more aware and concerned about global issues. This approach is important to prepare students to become responsible world citizens and respect cultural differences [21].

E. Integration of Anti-Bullying Concepts in ELT

Integrating anti-bullying concepts in English language teaching (ELT) has an important role in creating a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. By incorporating an understanding of bullying into the ELT curriculum, teachers can help students understand the negative impact of this behavior and provide them with the skills necessary to overcome and prevent it [9].

One method that can be used to integrate the concept of anti-bullying in ELT is through role-playing. In role plays, students are asked to play the roles involved in bullying situations, either as perpetrators, victims, or witnesses. Through this game, students can understand other people's perspectives and consider various possible responses in bullying situations. Role-playing can help students develop the empathy and social skills needed to overcome bullying [33].

In addition, group projects are also an effective way to integrate anti-bullying concepts in ELT. In this project, students can work together to create learning materials about bullying, including information about the signs of bullying, its impact, and how to stop it. This kind of project not only allows students to learn about relevant issues in their context but also gives them the confidence to talk about issues they may face in everyday life. Group projects can help increase student engagement and create an inclusive classroom environment [25].

Class discussions are also an effective method for integrating anti-bullying concepts in ELT. In these discussions, teachers can use scenarios or case studies that highlight bullying situations and ask students to think about solutions based on character values such as honesty, empathy, and respect. These kinds of discussions allow students to think critically about the impact of their actions and develop strategies for preventing and responding to bullying. Classroom discussions can help students understand the consequences of their behavior and motivate them to act more positively [19].

Apart from using specific methods, training in good communication skills is also important in integrating anti-bullying concepts in ELT. Good communication skills help students to express themselves positively and

constructively, thereby reducing the possibility of conflict and bullying. Through exercises designed to improve communication skills, students can learn to communicate their feelings clearly and effectively and develop the ability to listen empathetically. Good communication skills are the key to building healthy relationships and resolving conflicts peacefully [16].

The use of relevant literature can also help integrate anti-bullying concepts into English language learning. Teachers can choose stories or texts that describe students' experiences of dealing with bullying, and provide space for students to discuss these themes. Through literature analysis, students can understand the complexity of the problem of bullying and consider the various responses they might face in similar situations. Literature is an effective way to teach character values to students and help them internalize these concepts [34].

A holistic and integrated approach to dealing with bullying in English classes also involves collaboration between teachers, students, and parents. Teachers can work with parents to build awareness about the problem of bullying and encourage them to support the school's efforts to create a safe and inclusive learning environment. An approach that involves the entire school community, including parents, staff, and students, is more effective in preventing and dealing with bullying than efforts carried out individually [35].

In the ELT context, it is important to understand that overcoming bullying is not the responsibility of teachers or schools alone but is a shared responsibility of the entire school community and society. By implementing an integrated and holistic approach, teachers can help create a safe and supportive learning environment for all students, as well as provide them with the skills and knowledge they need to address and prevent bullying [26].

F. Development of an Integrated Anti-Bullying Program

Developing an anti-bullying program that is integrated into the English curriculum is a holistic and important strategy for dealing with the problem of bullying in the school environment. This program not only focuses on preventing bullying but also includes steps to effectively address the problem if it occurs. Through an integrated approach, this program can ensure that all aspects of school life, including English language learning, support the creation of an environment that is safe, inclusive, and respectful of diversity [15].

One of the main components of an integrated anti-bullying program is training for teachers and students. This training aims to increase understanding of the problem of bullying, identify signs of bullying, and develop strategies to respond to and prevent it. Effective training for teachers can help them become more aware of their role in preventing and addressing bullying in the school environment. Meanwhile, training for students can help them develop the social and emotional skills necessary to interact positively with peers and handle conflict in healthy ways [29].

In addition to training, an integrated anti-bullying program may also include extracurricular activities that focus on social and emotional learning. Such activities may include clubs or discussion groups that address issues such as empathy, good decision-making, and effective communication skills. Through this activity, students can learn to recognize and manage their emotions well, as well as understand the impact of their actions on others. Extracurricular activities that focus on social and emotional learning can help improve students' interpersonal skills and promote positive attitudes toward others [28].

A holistic approach to building healthy relationships between students is also an important part of an integrated anti-bullying program. Teachers can play an important role in facilitating positive relationships between students by creating an environment that supports collaboration, cooperation, and respect for differences. Having supportive peers can help protect students from the risk of becoming victims of bullying, as well as help them feel safer and more comfortable in the school environment [22]. By strengthening bonds between students, integrated anti-bullying programs can help create a school culture that does not support bullying behavior.

Apart from that, an integrated anti-bullying program also requires active involvement from all stakeholders in the school, including teachers, students, parents, and school staff. Collaboration between all parties is important to create a supportive environment for all individuals in the school [11]. Teachers need to act as role models and support efforts to prevent bullying, while students need to be encouraged to report cases of bullying that occur. Parents also need to be involved in supporting their children and working together with schools to address bullying issues. With collaboration between all stakeholders, integrated anti-bullying programs can be more effective in creating a safe and inclusive environment for all students.

The application of social psychology theories in the development of anti-bullying programs can also help increase their effectiveness. For example, theories such as social cognitive theory by Arthur emphasize the importance of learning through observation and personal experience in developing social behavior [12]. By strengthening students' social and emotional skills through integrated anti-bullying programs, schools can help improve students' abilities to handle complex social situations, including cases of bullying. In addition, approaches based on motivational theories such as the autonomy theory can also be used to increase students' motivation to participate in anti-bullying programs and adopt positive behavior [14].

In the context of English language learning, the development of integrated anti-bullying programs can also help create opportunities for meaningful and authentic learning. For example, through collaborative projects that emphasize social and emotional learning, students can learn about real-world issues and develop the skills

to act as agents of positive change in society. Collaborative projects can help increase student motivation and engagement in learning, as well as create better relationships between students and teachers [6].

G. Challenges and Strategies for Implementing Anti-Bullying Concepts in ELT

The integration of anti-bullying concepts in English language teaching (ELT) offers many benefits, but its implementation is not free from various challenges. One of the main challenges is the limited time and resources available to teachers. In an already dense curriculum, adding character education and anti-bullying elements is often seen as an additional burden. Teachers must be able to juggle available time and learning materials with activities designed to promote awareness and tackle bullying. To overcome this challenge, schools and policymakers need to provide additional support in the form of adequate training and resources to teachers [18].

Character education must be thoroughly integrated into the curriculum to be effective [2]. Therefore, a strategy that can be used is to combine anti-bullying material with existing English learning content. For example, teachers can choose readings or texts that discuss the theme of bullying or insert discussions about character values in grammar and vocabulary lessons. In this way, anti-bullying concepts can be integrated without adding a significant time burden to teachers and students.

Another challenge is identifying and dealing with bullying cases effectively. Often, students who are victims of bullying feel afraid or embarrassed to report their experiences, so cases of bullying can be difficult for teachers to detect. To overcome this, schools need to create a culture of openness and trust where students feel safe to talk about the problems they face. A successful anti-bullying program must include components that encourage students to report bullying behavior and provide a responsive support system [22].

One strategy that can be used is to involve parents in efforts to prevent and handle bullying. Through effective communication between school and home, parents can be invited to participate in anti-bullying programs and given information about how they can support their children at home. Parental involvement is an important factor in the success of anti-bullying programs [23]. Schools can hold workshops or information sessions for parents to raise their awareness about bullying and give them tools to help their children.

In addition, providing training and support for teachers is an important step in overcoming the challenges of implementing anti-bullying concepts. Teachers need to be trained to recognize the signs of bullying, understand the social dynamics underlying the behavior, and develop skills in mediation and conflict resolution. This training should also include strategies for creating an inclusive and supportive classroom environment, where all students feel valued and accepted. Well-trained teachers are the key to creating a safe and positive learning environment [13].

In the ELT context, teachers can use various methods to teach anti-bullying concepts. One way is to use role-playing, where students can act out various situations involving bullying and try to resolve them constructively. This method not only helps students understand the impact of their behavior but also allows them to practice social and conflict-resolution skills. Role-playing is an effective tool for increasing empathy and social skills among students [8].

Group projects can also be used as a means to teach anti-bullying concepts. In this project, students can work together to produce educational materials, such as posters, videos, or presentations that campaign for the importance of anti-bullying. Through this collaboration, students learn to work together, appreciate each other's contributions, and develop good communication skills. Group projects can help build a sense of community and cooperation in the classroom, which is important for creating an inclusive environment [10].

Open and reflective class discussions about bullying issues are also an effective strategy. Teachers can facilitate discussions about real or fictional scenarios involving bullying, and ask students to consider multiple perspectives and solutions. These discussions help students develop critical thinking skills and empathy, as well as understand the consequences of their actions. Open and honest discussions are a good way to encourage students to talk about their experiences and find solutions together [30].

Lastly, technology can be utilized to promote anti-bullying awareness in English classes. Teachers can use online platforms to provide educational resources, such as articles, videos, and discussion forums about bullying. Social media can also be used to campaign anti-bullying messages and encourage students to share their stories and solutions. By using technology, teachers can reach students in a way that is interactive and relevant to their daily lives [4].

In facing the challenges of implementing anti-bullying concepts in ELT, it is important to adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach. By combining various strategies and involving the entire school community, from students to teachers to parents, schools can create a safe and supportive learning environment. Through this joint effort, it is hoped that bullying incidents can be reduced and the social and emotional well-being of all students improved.

IV. CONCLUSION

Character education is proven to play an essential role in efforts to overcome bullying in the context of English language teaching (ELT). Through the application of moral values such as empathy, honesty, respect, and responsibility, students not only learn languages more effectively but also develop social skills that are important for everyday life. Character education helps create a safe and supportive learning environment, where students feel valued and recognized. This positive environment increases students' self-confidence and encourages their active participation in teaching and learning activities.

Integrating character education in ELT has a significant impact on classroom climate and student well-being. Teachers who apply the principles of character education can guide students to understand and internalize positive values, which in turn reduces bullying incidents. With this approach, students learn to respect differences, work together harmoniously, and constructively handle conflict. Character education also prepares students to face various social challenges outside the school environment, making them more emotionally and socially prepared.

However, the success of integrating character education in ELT cannot be separated from adequate support for teachers. Teachers need continuous professional training and development to enrich their skills and knowledge in managing classrooms that are inclusive and free from bullying. With this support, teachers can be more effective in implementing anti-bullying strategies and building a conducive learning environment. Therefore, collaboration between teachers, schools, and parents is very important to create an educational community that supports the overall character development of students.

ELT teachers are advised to actively integrate character education principles into their teaching. One effective way is to use various interactive methods such as role plays, group projects, and class discussions that discuss issues related to bullying and character values. Teachers can also utilize relevant literature and technology to enrich learning materials as well as to conduct anti-bullying awareness campaigns. By teaching students to understand and apply values such as empathy, honesty, and respect, teachers can create a more inclusive and supportive classroom environment.

In addition, schools and policymakers need to provide adequate support to teachers in the form of training and professional development. Training programs that focus on conflict management, communication skills, and anti-bullying strategies can help teachers feel more prepared and competent in dealing with bullying. Support from the school and community is also needed to ensure that teachers have the resources necessary to create a positive and safe learning environment. Collaboration with parents is also very important to ensure that anti-bullying efforts are not only carried out at school but are also supported at home. With a holistic and sustainable approach, it is hoped that bullying incidents can be minimized and student welfare can be improved.

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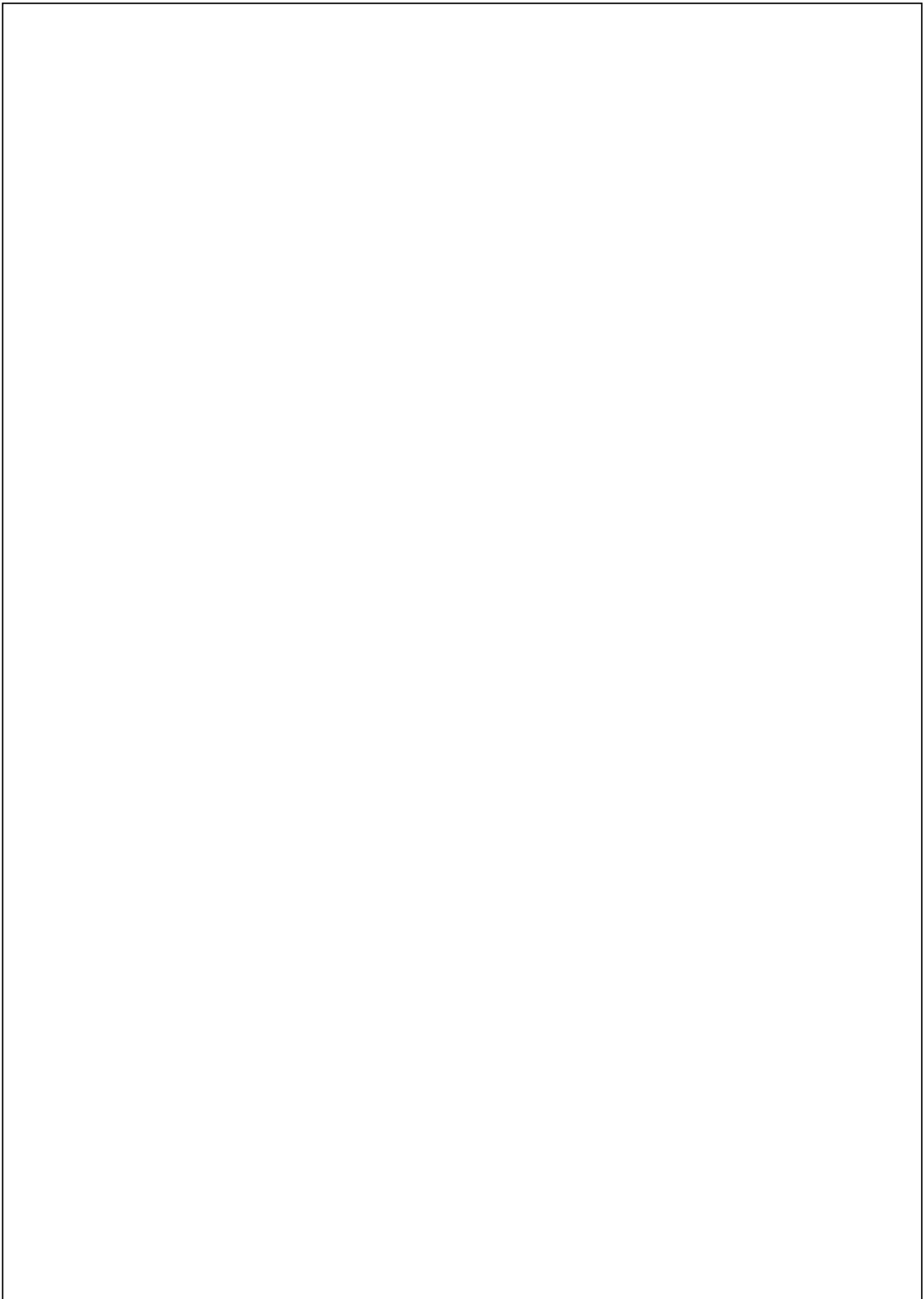
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