Shaping an Ethical Future: A Comprehensive Review of Child Ethics in a Global Context

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Abstract

Understanding children's ethical values and norms within the framework of globalization is of paramount importance when it comes to shaping an ethical future. Children's ethical values refer to the moral principles and standards that guide their behavior and decision-making. The purpose of this article is to delve into the various factors that impact children's ethical development, with particular emphasis on the influence of mass media, education, family, culture, and cross-cultural interaction. Through a multidisciplinary analysis, researchers have identified the significant roles played by mass media and technology, education, family, culture, and cross-cultural interaction in shaping children's ethical values and norms. Furthermore, an in-depth understanding of the etymology of ethics is increasingly crucial in a global context, as it establishes a firm foundation for comprehending the origins of moral values worldwide. The implications of this study underscore the importance of adopting a holistic approach to children's education, one that takes into account the diverse factors that influence their ethical development. These findings also hold practical implications for churches, educators, researchers, and policymakers who are devoted to shaping the character and morality of children in this era of globalization.

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Introduction

The impact of globalization on the cultural, technological, and values landscape worldwide has had a significant influence

on the moral and ethical development of children. Globalization has greatly shaped the cultural, technological, and values landscape on a global scale, thus significantly impacting the moral and ethical development of children. The exposure to diverse cultures and ideas, brought about by globalization, has affected children's interactions and perceptions, leading to changes in moral values, relationships with parents, gender roles, health, language development, and identity (Arsyad, Pratiwi, and Wantu 2023). Furthermore, the spread of Western culture has challenged traditional beliefs and practices, thereby influencing societal norms and cultural values (EKERT54 2023). The increased cultural diversity and hybridization resulting from globalization also play a role in shaping children's understanding of different cultures and values ("Globalization Has a Significant Benefit to Emerging Economies but Is Potentially Detrimental to Local Cultures" 2023). As an inevitable phenomenon, globalization has expanded the range of intercultural interaction and cross-border exchanges, leading to complex consequences for individual development, especially in children. In this context, it is crucial to understand how globalization affects the perception of values, norms, and moral values that form the foundation of children's character formation. However, despite recognizing the importance of addressing the ethical aspects of children in the era of globalization, the existing literature on this topic is limited and often lacks comprehensiveness. Therefore, conducting in-depth research and gaining a better understanding of child ethics in the context of globalization are essential in order to anticipate negative impacts and foster sustainable moral development amidst rapidly changing global dynamics.

Technological advancements and the rapid process of globalization have brought forth numerous benefits for children. However, they have also given rise to concerns regarding the moral and ethical development of children. The exposure of children to a culture centered around consumerism, often devoid of moral values, has become a pressing issue (Brom et al. 2023). Moreover, the phenomenon of globalization can lead to conflicts in cultural identities and values, resulting in confusion among children with regards to ethical principles and their own sense of identity (Sun et al. 2023). Furthermore, unrestricted access to inappropriate content through information technology poses a significant threat to children's ethical comprehension and moral growth (Adams et al. 2023; Eliasson, Peterson, and Lantz-Andersson 2023). These challenges underscore the urgent need for a well-balanced approach encompassing technology education, the development of ethical policies, and parental guidance in order to safeguard the moral and ethical development of children in the digital era. Therefore, it is imperative to clearly identify these issues and provide appropriate solutions through comprehensive research on child ethics in the context of globalization.

Although there is recognition of the importance of comprehending child ethics within the framework of globalization, there exists a significant disparity between current understanding and existing theories. Much of the extant literature tends to concentrate on the ethical development of children within local or national contexts (Arsyad, Pratiwi, and Wantu 2023) without delving deeply into the influence of globalization, which increasingly impacts the dynamics of children's morality. Furthermore, existing studies often fail to offer a comprehensive perspective on how globalization affects the establishment of ethical values and norms in children worldwide. Therefore, there is an urgent necessity to bridge this gap through extensive and diligent research on child ethics in the context of globalization. By comprehending and identifying these gaps, this investigation aims to make a significant contribution to the existing literature and foster a more comprehensive understanding of child ethics in the era of globalization.

The purpose of this study is to comprehensively examine child ethics within the context of globalization. Our objective is to gain insight into how globalization impacts the moral and ethical development of children, as well as identify the factors that influence the establishment of ethical values and norms among children from different cultural backgrounds. Moreover, we aim to explore potential solutions to address the challenges and risks associated with the adverse effects of globalization on child ethics. Consequently, this study is expected to offer valuable insights for Sunday schools, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers as they endeavor to promote positive moral development in children amidst this intricate era of globalization.

This study stands out due to its comprehensive and meticulous approach to child ethics within the framework of globalization. By conducting an extensive literature review, we will gather and analyze various perspectives, theories, and research to foster a more thorough understanding of the subject matter. Additionally, this study will contribute by shedding light on key aspects that have often been overlooked in previous research, such as the role of information technology in shaping children's moral compass. Consequently, this research will establish a strong basis for the development of policies and practices that support the healthy moral and ethical development of children in a constantly evolving globalized world. By focusing on enhancing the quality of literature and devising practical solutions, this research will make a substantial contribution to the scientific understanding and practical implementation of child ethics in the context of globalization.

Research Methods

In this study, the researchers employed the literature review research method to gather and analyze relevant information from existing literature. Literature reviews enable researchers to explore various contemporary research concepts, theories, and findings pertaining to children's ethics in a global context. The researchers conducted comprehensive searches through scientific journal databases, books, and other pertinent textual sources to locate articles that aligned with the focus of their research. Once relevant literature was identified, the researchers critically analyzed the content and methodology of each article to identify patterns, trends, and findings that can either support or challenge the research hypothesis. This approach allows for the presentation of a comprehensive overview of the factors influencing the development of ethical values and norms in children during the era of globalization, while also fortifying the theoretical foundation for future research in this field. Although literature reviews do not involve primary data collection, this approach makes a valuable contribution by augmenting our understanding of this complex topic through the synthesis and critical analysis of existing literature.

Results and Discussion

Etymology of Ethics

The etymology of the word "ethics" comes from the ancient Greek "ethos", which refers to the customs, character, or morals that develop in society. Children's ethical values refer to the moral principles and standards that guide their behavior and decision-making. These values are shaped by various influences, including family, culture, education, and personal experiences. In this context, ethics discusses the moral principles that govern human behavior in social and environmental interactions. In the Christian religious tradition, the concept of ethics is also found in the teachings of the Bible.

In Ephesians 4:22–24, the apostle Paul emphasizes the importance of moral and spiritual change in one's life, saying, "Remove, of yourselves, the old qualities associated with your former life corrupted by deceitful lusts. Let your minds and hearts be restored, and put on new garments, even the new creation of God, molded to resemble God in his true truth and holiness."

Thus, ethics is not only a philosophical concept, but also has roots in religious teachings that direct individuals to live according to moral and ethical values inspired by their spiritual beliefs. In the context of this study, an understanding of ethical etymology and religious foundations provides a strong basis for the discussion of ethical values and norms in children in the era of globalization.

The significance of ethical etymology in a global context

In today's increasingly interconnected and intricate global context, the understanding of ethical etymology holds immense importance for the development of ethical values and norms in children. Ethics, which is deeply rooted in various cultures and traditions, serves as a fundamental moral foundation for individuals in today's globalized society. By exploring ethical etymology, we can observe the evolution and preservation of moral values across diverse cultural contexts worldwide. This allows us to appreciate the diversity of morality and acknowledge that these values possess contextual variations that must be comprehended within a global framework. In this era of globalization, where children are exposed to a multitude of cultural influences and diverse values, an understanding of ethical etymology empowers us to navigate this complexity more effectively (Malone and Crinall 2023). By taking into account the historical and cultural origins of moral values, we can guide children in developing responsible, empathetic, and ethical attitudes as they engage with an increasingly interconnected global society. Hence, recognizing the relevance of ethical etymology in a global context is vital in our endeavors to shape an ethical future for generations to come.

Globalization has a profound influence on the moral and ethical upbringing of children in diverse cultural settings

Globalization has a significant impact on the moral and ethical development of children. It shapes their values and perceptions in different cultural contexts (Pardasani 2023; Bass 2023; Hanaba 2022). This influence presents both challenges and opportunities in educating children about human values. It underscores the importance of considering local realities and cultural ideologies of childhood to prevent unintended negative consequences (Sporre, Lotz-Sisitka, and Osbeck 2022). Understanding how globalization impacts children's morality is crucial in preparing for the complexities of

ethics education in an interconnected world. In this world, children are exposed to diverse information and cultures that mold their ethical paradigms (Sakr and Steemers 2021). By acknowledging the profound changes brought about by globalization, educators and policymakers can strive to cultivate a more ethical generation. This generation will possess the ability to navigate the evolving global landscape with integrity and empathy.

The influence of globalization on access to information and content

The influence of globalization on access to information and content has had significant ramifications for children. It presents both opportunities and challenges (Arsyad, Pratiwi, and Wantu 2023). On the one hand, globalization has made it easier to access diverse knowledge and moral values from various cultures, thereby fostering a more comprehensive understanding of ethics. However, globalization has also given rise to risks. It exposes children to inappropriate content that can hinder their moral development (Nosek-Kozłowska 2023). The digital environment, which is heavily influenced by globalization, plays a pivotal role in shaping children's perceptions of ethics and morality. This underscores the importance of guiding children towards responsible media usage ("The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child's General Comment on the Digital Environment" 2023). Therefore, it is crucial to comprehend the implications of globalization on children's moral and ethical development to navigate the complexities of the digital age (Bass 2023).

In the era of globalization, children's exposure to culturally diverse narratives through the internet and mass media can significantly influence their moral values and ethical development (Arsyad, Pratiwi, and Wantu 2023; Rega, Minoia, and Boursier 2023). While this exposure can enhance their understanding of human morality and foster tolerance and empathy, it also carries the risk of consuming inappropriate content, potentially causing moral confusion and hindering ethical growth (Buhaiov 2023). Children may come across inappropriate material such as violence or the promotion of unethical behavior, which can impact their perception of right and wrong. Additionally, exposure to unverified information can perpetuate harmful stereotypes, impeding the development of a comprehensive and inclusive ethical framework (Cahyandaru et al. 2022). Therefore, ensuring access to age-appropriate content and promoting critical media literacy is essential in nurturing children's moral values and ethical understanding in the digital age.

In today's digital era, the impact of electronic media on children's moral development is significant (Jennah, Mazrur, and Rahmaniati 2023; "The Effect of Distance Learning on Children's Moral Development" 2022). While technology offers new opportunities for learning and cooperation within families, it also poses risks such as overstimulation and exposure to inappropriate content (Nosek-Kozłowska 2023). Character education is becoming essential to instill ethical principles and promote responsible use of technology, especially as children increasingly engage with social media (Viktorova et al. 2022). To ensure positive moral development, it is important for parents, educators, and policymakers to guide children in accessing quality and relevant content, cultivating critical skills to interpret and respond ethically to digital information (Sukmawati 2023). By promoting responsible media use and emphasizing moral values through a variety of learning media, including video media based on local culture, stakeholders can support children's ethical understanding in the digital age.

Influence on family structure and society

Globalization has had a significant impact on family structures and societal norms (Arsyad, Pratiwi, and Wantu 2023). This has led to changes in traditional roles within the family, such as increased work mobility, which can result in family separation and a reduction in time spent together (Unya, Onya, and Aare 2022). This shift can impact the direct transmission of moral values from parents to children in stable family units (Menabdishvili, Menabdishvili, and Gomelauri 2022). Additionally, globalization has introduced the concept of the "transnational family," in which members live in different countries, further affecting family dynamics and values (Tkach and Bilokur 2022). A deeper understanding of these changes and their implications on family interaction and moral upbringing is essential in this era of globalization (Mukhanbetkaliev, Uralbaeva, and Rakimzhanova 2022). Efforts to adapt to this shift and maintain strong family ties while instilling moral values remain essential in the face of evolving global trends.

Globalization has also led to a transformation of social and cultural values, impacting children who are exposed to diverse models of behavior and values from different cultures (Uglova, Bogdanovskaya, and Nizomutdinov 2022). This exposure can create conflict between the individualistic and consumptive values often promoted in the media and the traditional values of social solidarity and togetherness instilled in family and community environments (Kobleva and Karataban 2022). The clash between new and old values is a common theme in rapidly changing societies, where individuals navigate between established norms and emerging cultural influences (Alaverdyan 2022). The shift highlights the importance of understanding and reconciling these disparate values to promote social cohesion and individual well-being, especially among younger generations who are particularly vulnerable to these influences (Boltivets 2023).

The impact of globalization on family structures has led to significant changes in societal values, creating potential conflicts for children between traditional values taught at home and values prevalent in external environments such as school, peers, and the media (Norkulov 2023). These clashes can pose challenges to a child's moral development and character building (Menabdishvili, Menabdishvili, and Gomelauri 2022). The changes brought about by globalization have introduced new norms, including delayed marriage, increased acceptance of cohabitation, and an increase in out-of-wedlock births, which may conflict with the values instilled in the family unit (Wickham 2022). Additionally, the evolving social landscape due to globalization has affected the prevalence of individualistic egoistic values over collective values, impacting the overall value system that children face (Mukhanbetkaliev, Uralbaeva, and Rakimzhanova 2022). This discrepancy between family and external values can create confusion and hinder children's ability to navigate their moral compass effectively. Thus, changes in family and societal structures triggered by globalization can have a complex and varied impact on the ethical development of children in this era of globalization. It is important for parents, educators, and policymakers to understand these dynamics and provide appropriate support to facilitate positive moral and ethical formation in children amid these rapid and complex changes.

Influence of popular culture and mass media

In the contemporary era of globalization, the impact of popular culture and mass media on the moral and ethical development of children cannot be underestimated. The influence of popular culture and mass media on children's moral and ethical development can be observed through several channels. Firstly, popular culture often showcases characters or figures in films, television shows, and music who serve as models or role models for children. These characters

typically uphold normative behaviors and exemplify socially acceptable actions ("Children Infer the Behavioral Contexts of Unfamiliar Foreign Songs." 2022). When these characters exhibit positive behavior and display good morals, children are inspired to emulate such attitudes in their own lives. Conversely, if these characters engage in unethical or irresponsible behavior, they can shape children's perceptions of what is deemed acceptable or normal.

Secondly, popular culture and mass media frequently convey certain values through stories, songs, or visual narratives. Films or TV programs that emphasize values such as friendship, honesty, or tolerance can help children develop a better understanding of the significance of these values in their own lives. Nevertheless, if values are presented in an unbalanced or inaccurate manner, it can also influence children's understanding of what is right and wrong ("Framing Essay I" 2023).

Thirdly, popular culture and mass media have the ability to contribute to the normalization of certain behaviors, thereby influencing what is regarded as normal or desirable in society (Kuusisto et al. 2021; Linan and Jianhang 2022). For example, when certain behaviors, such as violence or drug use, are repeatedly depicted in the media, children may begin to perceive these behaviors as a normal part of everyday life, even if they are unethical or irresponsible (Pawson and Kelly 2022).

Lastly, mass media provides children with access to information on various social, cultural, and political issues on a global scale (Smith and McMenemy 2017). This exposure broadens their understanding of the diversity of the world and complex ethical issues. However, it is crucial to ensure that the information presented through mass media is accurate, balanced, and comprehensible for children (McGuigan, McNally, and Wyness 2016; Ghia et al. 2020)

In conclusion, popular culture and mass media exert a profound influence on the moral and ethical development of children in the current era of globalization through shaping behavioral models, framing values, normalizing behavior, and providing information. Consequently, it is essential for parents, educators, and policymakers to carefully monitor and supervise the media consumption of children, while also facilitating open and critical discussions about the values portrayed in popular culture and mass media.

Cross-cultural encounters and interactions

The process of globalization has stimulated the exchange of cultures and interactions among individuals from diverse backgrounds, influencing the ethical development of children. Exposure to different cultures enhances children's comprehension of diversity and human values (Lietor and Iñiguez 2022). Nevertheless, cross-cultural encounters present challenges, such as misunderstandings stemming from variations in social norms, which can potentially impact children's ethical perceptions (Jurkat et al. 2022). Thus, while globalization brings opportunities for ethical growth through intercultural experiences, it also underscores the necessity of addressing cultural differences to effectively support children's ethical development.

Cross-cultural encounters and interactions play a significant role in shaping children's moral identity and understanding of ethical complexities within a global framework. Research findings emphasize that fostering ethical cross-cultural projects

entails establishing horizontal research relationships grounded in context-specific values (Wefers, Simba, and Guandinango 2023). This approach can provoke deep reflection on their moral values and how they compare to the values they encounter from other cultures. Consequently, cross-cultural encounters and interactions can act as catalysts for the formation of children's moral identities and their comprehension of ethical complexities within a global context.

Thus, cross-cultural encounters and interactions can have a multifaceted and diverse impact on the ethical development of children in the era of globalization. While encounters with individuals from different cultures can broaden their perspectives and enhance their understanding of the values of other cultures, they can also give rise to challenges and conflicts that must be overcome. Therefore, it is crucial for educators and parents to provide appropriate support for children in navigating cross-cultural experiences and guiding them in comprehending and appreciating human diversity.

Identify factors influencing the formation of ethical values and norms in children in the era of globalization

In the era of globalization, it is important to understand the factors that affect the development of ethical values and norms in children. With a globalized world, children are exposed to various influences, making it a complex environment. Factors such as access to technology (Arsyad, Pratiwi, and Wantu 2023), moral heteronomy, reasoning, and the significant influence of others (Paprotna 2022), character values taught by parents (Nazarullail and Maskulin 2023), legal education and moral norms (Zadorozhna 2022), and global policies shaping local childhood (Pardasani 2023) all play a significant role in shaping a child's moral character. It is important to consider these factors to ensure that children establish a strong ethical foundation that aligns with global ideals and local realities, fostering responsibility and understanding in an interconnected world.

By identifying and understanding the various factors that influence the formation of ethical values and norms in children in the era of globalization, we can develop a comprehensive and sustainable approach to support their moral development. Through interdisciplinary collaboration and evidence-based practices, we can help children become individuals who have a deep understanding of ethics in this increasingly complex global context.

Multidisciplinary analysis

This research contributes to our knowledge of the factors that influence the ethical values and norms of children. By taking a multidisciplinary approach, it integrates perspectives and methods from various scientific fields. For example, psychological analysis helps us understand how the psychological development of children impacts the formation of their ethical values and norms. Developmental psychology explores how children acquire an understanding of morality and ethics as they grow. Sociology, on the other hand, allows us to grasp the role of social institutions like families, schools, and societies in shaping children's ethical values and norms. By studying social interaction and social structure, sociology sheds light on how children are socialized. Anthropology, from its standpoint, enables us to comprehend the cultural variations in ethical values and norms. It investigates how cultural values are maintained, changed, or influenced by social

interaction and historical context. The field of education also plays a vital role in this multidisciplinary analysis. Such analyses can examine the impact of school curricula, teaching methods, and learning environments on the moral and ethical development of children. Moreover, considering the influence of technology and mass media, multidisciplinary analysis explores how they shape children's ethical values and norms. Media and technology studies investigate how media content and online interactions influence children's moral perspectives. By combining these perspectives, multidisciplinary analysis provides a comprehensive understanding of the factors that shape children's ethical values and norms. This approach allows us to examine the phenomenon from different angles and comprehend the complex interplay among these factors in the context of children's moral development.

Mass media and technology

Mass media and technology exert a significant influence on the development of ethical values and norms in children, particularly in today's era of globalization (Islam 2023). Children are exposed to various forms of media content, including television programs, movies, and social media platforms, all of which directly impact their perception of morality and behavior (Khalid, Martens, and Khalid 2023). The effects of mass media and technology on children's ethical values and norms are multifaceted.

Firstly, mass media and technology provide children with easy access to a wealth of information and content, some of which conveys moral values. Through the internet, television, and mobile devices, children can effortlessly consume different types of media. This content often presents complex moral dilemmas and diverse role models, shaping children's understanding and responses to ethical situations in real life.

Moreover, mass media and technology play a pivotal role in shaping children's self-perception and identity. Children are frequently exposed to idealized images of beauty, success, and happiness in the media, which are often unrealistic. This exposure can influence children's notions of values such as self-esteem, success, and happiness, and subsequently impact their behavior as they strive to meet the standards set by the media.

Additionally, mass media and technology have an impact on children's social interactions. Social media and other digital platforms enable children to engage in online discussions, share information, and establish relationships with their peers. Nevertheless, these interactions can also shape the way children communicate, interact, and comprehend social and moral norms.

Education and schools

Education and the school environment play a crucial role in shaping the ethical values and norms of children in the era of globalization. Schools serve not only as institutions for acquiring academic knowledge, but also as places where children's character and moral attitudes are formed (Guta 2023; Assis et al. 2022; Sarkio, Korhonen, and Hakkarainen 2022). The impact of education and the school environment on the formation of children's ethical values and norms is multifaceted.

Firstly, educational curricula in schools often incorporate teachings on moral and social values. Structured character

education programs educate children about principles such as honesty, responsibility, empathy, and tolerance. This type of learning provides children with a better understanding of the significance of ethical behavior in their daily lives.

Secondly, the school environment provides opportunities for children to interact with their peers and teachers, which can influence their perspectives on ethical values and norms. Through collaboration in class projects, group discussions, and other social activities, children learn to work together, appreciate differences, and respect the rights and needs of others.

Furthermore, the role of teachers as positive role models is highly influential in shaping the character and morality of children. Teachers who exhibit good attitudes, integrity, and empathy set powerful examples for children, encouraging them to develop similar qualities. Additionally, counseling and guidance provided by teachers can assist children in navigating moral conflicts and gaining a deeper understanding of ethical values.

In this context, it is crucial for schools to establish an environment that supports the moral and social development of children. This can be achieved by implementing comprehensive character education programs, providing teacher training on moral values, and promoting ethical values through extracurricular activities and curriculum development. Thus, education and the school environment emerge as essential factors in shaping ethical values and norms in children, equipping them to become responsible and ethical citizens in a complex global society.

Family influence

Family influence is a significant factor in shaping the ethical values and norms of children (Huang 2023; Ali et al. 2022). The family serves as the primary environment where children develop social relationships and acquire moral values and behaviors that are passed down through generations. Family influence has a profound impact on the formation of ethical values and norms in children.

Firstly, the family acts as the initial model for children to understand and internalize moral values. Parents and other family members serve as crucial role models, instilling attitudes, principles, and morality in daily life. Children learn about ethics and morality by observing parental behavior, interacting with siblings, and experiencing other family dynamics.

Secondly, the family environment establishes the foundation for the development of children's personal identities and values. Values such as respect, responsibility, honesty, and empathy are taught and practiced in daily interactions within the home. Through the establishment of family norms, children gain a better understanding of the importance of ethical and moral behavior in interpersonal relationships.

Furthermore, open communication and healthy relationships among family members also play a vital role in shaping children's ethical values and norms. Discussions on moral values, family norms, and complex moral situations help children comprehend ethical concepts and develop the ability to make informed moral decisions.

In this context, it is essential for families to create an environment that supports the formation of positive ethical values and norms in children. This can be achieved through parental involvement in children's lives, active learning of moral values, and a focus on open communication and empathy within family relationships. Therefore, family influence plays a

pivotal role in shaping children's character and morality, ultimately helping them become responsible and ethical individuals in society.

Culture and traditions

Local cultures and traditions have a significant impact on the ethical values and norms that children develop (Gamble 2023). The presence of cultural and religious diversity in early childhood education (ECE) is crucial for fostering culturally sensitive education, which, in turn, influences the moral development of children (Knoblauch 2023). Cross-cultural studies have shown that children begin to exhibit culture-specific explanations for behavior at an early age, highlighting the influence of culture on their understanding of social interactions and moral reasoning (Jurkat et al. 2022). Overall, local culture and traditions serve as the foundation for instilling moral values in children and shaping their ethical development. The impact of culture and tradition on the formation of ethical values and norms in children can be summarized as follows:

Firstly, culture and tradition provide a robust moral framework for children. The values that are emphasized in local cultures, such as politeness, respect for parents and figures of authority, solidarity within communities, and reverence for traditions and cultural heritage, lay the groundwork for children to comprehend and internalize ethical behavior.

Secondly, children learn about ethical values through regular participation in rituals, celebrations, and cultural practices within their daily lives. By engaging in traditional ceremonies, cultural festivals, or religious rituals, children become familiar with important moral and spiritual concepts within their own culture.

Furthermore, culture and tradition also play a role in determining the social norms that are upheld in society. Through observing social traditions, community norms, and cultural conventions established by their ancestors, children become acquainted with accepted and valued behaviors within their communities.

In this context, it is crucial for educators and communities to understand and appreciate the role of culture and tradition in the formation of ethical values and norms in children. Efforts to preserve and reinforce positive cultural values can assist children in understanding their own identities and developing responsible attitudes towards their culture. Additionally, multicultural education and the appreciation of cultural diversity can provide children with a broader understanding of ethical values within complex global contexts. Thus, culture and tradition play a vital role in shaping the character and morality of children, helping them develop inclusive and tolerant attitudes within an increasingly global society.

Cross-cultural interaction

Cross-cultural interaction plays a significant role in shaping the ethical values and norms of children, particularly in the context of globalization. Research suggests that multicultural education promotes tolerance and acceptance of diverse moral ideals (Babu 2023). Intercultural education aims to foster openness, tolerance, and acceptance of others, thereby enhancing positive intercultural relations (Suradi, Nilawati, and Gustari 2022). Moreover, studies have shown that cultural differences influence the development of moral reasoning in children. For example, parents in the United States and Japan have different approaches when discussing moral actions with their children (Torkos and Egerau 2022).

Additionally, online cross-cultural projects have been found to effectively cultivate global awareness in high school students, highlighting the importance of collaborative experiences and teacher involvement in shaping children's perspectives on global issues (Senzaki et al. 2022). Overall, these findings underscore the importance of cross-cultural interaction in enriching children's ethical values and broadening their worldview.

The impact of cross-cultural interaction on the formation of ethical values and norms in children can be summarized as follows: Firstly, cross-cultural interaction provides children with firsthand exposure to cultural diversity. By interacting with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, children come to understand that ethical values are not universal but rather contingent upon cultural context. This fosters attitudes of openness, tolerance, and appreciation for diversity within society.

Secondly, cross-cultural interaction expands children's understanding of social realities and living conditions in different parts of the world. Children gain insight into the differences in moral values, social norms, and challenges faced by communities globally. This, in turn, facilitates the development of empathy and a deeper appreciation for the experiences of others.

Furthermore, cross-cultural interactions offer opportunities for children to develop essential cross-cultural communication skills in an increasingly interconnected world. Through cultural exchange, collaboration, and cooperation with individuals from diverse cultural backgrounds, children learn to build mutually beneficial relationships and navigate the complexities of cross-cultural interactions.

Given these benefits, it is crucial for educators and parents to actively support and facilitate cross-cultural interaction for children. Educational programs that incorporate cross-cultural elements, student exchanges, and intercultural collaborative activities can serve as effective means of expanding children's understanding of ethical values and norms within our complex global landscape. In essence, cross-cultural interactions play a pivotal role in shaping children's character and morality, enabling them to become ethical global citizens in our increasingly interconnected society.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this scientific article examines the formation of ethical values and norms in children within the context of globalization. Based on the conducted discussions, it is evident that several complex factors influence the development of these values and norms. These factors include the impact of mass media and technology, the role of education and the school environment, family influences, cultural traditions, and cross-cultural interactions.

Firstly, the influence of mass media and technology can significantly shape children's perceptions and values, thereby affecting their moral development. Secondly, education and the school environment play a crucial role in establishing the groundwork for learning moral values and character, while families provide models and moral norms that children apply in their everyday lives. Thirdly, local cultures and traditions serve as moral frameworks for children, and cross-cultural interactions broaden their perspective on diverse ethical values.

Based on these findings, several suggestions can be made for further research and practice. Firstly, it is essential to adopt a holistic and multidisciplinary approach to understand and discuss the formation of ethical values and norms in children. This approach will provide a more comprehensive understanding of the various factors involved in this process. Secondly, educators, parents, and communities need to strengthen their roles in shaping children's ethical values and norms. This can be achieved through structured character education programs, promoting open communication and empathy within families, and efforts to uphold and reinforce positive cultural values.

Lastly, additional research is required to explore the influence of the factors identified in this article and develop effective strategies to help children develop responsible and ethical attitudes in our increasingly complex and interconnected global society.

By taking these steps, it is hoped that we can better understand and support the formation of positive ethical values and norms in children. Ultimately, this will help them become ethical global citizens in the era of globalization.

Contribution

These conclusions have the potential to make significant contributions to a wide range of stakeholders, including churches, particularly in the context of Sunday schools, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers. For churches, especially in Sunday school management, these findings can serve as a foundation for enhancing a comprehensive approach to religious education. This approach transcends mere instruction on religious doctrine and incorporates the integration of ethical and moral values into children's learning. This presents an opportunity for the church to become a more influential agent in shaping children's character in alignment with their religious teachings.

Practitioners in the field of child education can utilize these findings to develop more targeted teaching strategies. These strategies can assist children in comprehending and internalizing moral values in their daily lives. Additionally, researchers can expand on this study by further examining the interactions among factors that influence the development of ethical values and norms in children. This deeper understanding can yield valuable insights for practitioners and policymakers. Similarly, policymakers can employ these findings as a basis for designing more inclusive educational and social policies. These policies should consider the significance of nurturing children's character and morality within society.

By integrating the findings from this research into practice and policy, churches, practitioners, researchers, and policymakers can effectively promote the cultivation of positive ethical values and norms in children. This will aid children in becoming more responsible and ethical individuals in an ever more intricate society.

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