



The Effectiveness of Monitoring Book for Teacher-Parent Collaboration

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Abstract

This research aimed at describing and solving problems related to the use of monitoring book that did not work optimally. Monitoring book as a medium of communication between teachers and parents should be used as best as possible so that even when parents are busy with their work, they can still control their child's development at home. After conducting research, problems were found in the field that the use of monitoring book was still not effective because there were several problems that needed to be solved. Through qualitative research methods with a descriptive analytical approach, it was found that problems with the use of monitoring book were caused by a lack of attention, concern, and participation of parents in supervising children studying at home. It was because parents did not sign the monitoring book as proof that parental control over their child's learning at home did work. This research found that the reason for this was that the rules set at the beginning of the year were not implemented as they should have been.

INTRODUCTION

Monitoring book is a medium of communication that connects teachers with parents as a form of collaboration (Amalia et al., 2024; Indriani et al., 2023; Kholil, 2021). It is something that needs to be available apart from electronic media (e.g. WhatsApp). The evidence of the collaboration can be seen in the notes and signatures of teachers and parents in the monitoring book. The realization of collaboration as a means of communication between teachers and parents can be easily carried out through this book (Nazmuddin et al., 2023; Qamaruzzaman et al., 2025). Teachers and parents do not need to set aside special time to communicate about their students' progress at school and at home (Fadhilah & Tambusai, 2025; Lesmana, 2024; Triwardhani et al., 2020).

Parental involvement in cooperation is necessary to obtain information about children's development in school (Indria et al., 2021). If a child's deficiencies and weaknesses are found, parents can correct them at home by providing motivation, guidance, and education under the direction of the teacher (Dewi, 2022). The other way around, teachers receive information about the children's character at home from parents. Intensive communication between teachers and parents really supports the development of children, so that they receive a conducive environment. Teachers and parents know each child's development through the information contained in

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the monitoring book (Fatmawati, 2020; Supriyatna & Suwarni, 2017). Students' learning activities at home and school can be read and understood by both parties so that both parties can improve their instruction (Yunita & Apriliya, 2022).

The importance of monitoring book as a medium of communication between teachers and parents needs to be seen for its effectiveness, especially in the Integrated Islamic Elementary Schools in Bukittinggi City which started using this book. From the initial observations, the monitoring book contributed to the information on the students' development at school, but this contribution was not taken into account due to several obstacles that affected the achievement of the goals.

It is necessary to study what hinders the function of monitoring book of because this means of communication is very effective in the future, especially considering the busy lives of parents today, who lack direct meetings with teachers. In fact, meetings between teachers and parents are necessary nowadays, considering the need for control and supervision of children both at home and at school. In order to support face-to-face meetings that are difficult to hold, the use of this monitoring book must be maximized so that the child's development remains known to busy parents.

Therefore, the researchers want to see to what extent this monitoring book is being used so that its effectiveness can be known and how to proceed in optimizing it. Therefore, research was conducted to; a) find out what form of monitoring book had already been in use, b) develop a monitoring book so that they will be effective and efficient in the future. It is hoped that the results of this research will benefit teachers and parents in the education of their children.

METHODS

The approach in this research is descriptive qualitative. This research aimed at viewing the effectiveness of using a monitoring book in Integrated Islamic Elementary Schools. The research was conducted in the following Integrated Islamic Elementary Schools: Cahaya Hati, Masyithah, and Insan Kamil in Bukittinggi City. The data sources were teachers, parents, students, and school principals. Data were obtained through observation, interviews, and documentation using snowball sampling technique (Engkizar et al., 2024; Jaafar et al., 2025). The data obtained were analyzed using data reduction steps, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The validity of the data was also checked by testing the credibility (testing the research results), transferability (external validity), dependability (auditing the research process), confirmability (objectivity of qualitative testing) (Engkizar et al., 2023, 2025; Gito et al., 2025; Khusnah et al., 2025; Okenova et al., 2025; Ummah et al., 2025).

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Monitoring book is a medium of communication between teachers and parents that contain information about children's development at school and at home. The monitoring book covers the monitoring and guiding of worship, study, memorization of Quran chapters, and student attitude. The following is a description of the contents of the monitoring book.

Monitoring the Worship

The monitoring book contains the religious services that students must carry out every day both at school and at home. Teachers and parents are required to fill it out as a form of training and familiarizing students with worship. Worship that is a form of practice and habituation is the obligatory prayers and sunnah prayers, including the sunnah dhuha prayer and the *tahajjud* prayer. Apart from prayer, there are also sunnah fasting, *infaq*, reading the Quran as well as *muraja'ah* for children, as well as prayers in and out of the house, prayers before and after sleeping, prayers for

entering and leaving the toilet, and so on.

Monitoring the Study

Monitoring book is also a means of monitoring and supervising students' learning at school and home. Especially learning at home that is controlled by parents, such as doing homework, memorization/ *muraja'ah* the Quran, and reviewing children's lessons at home. Parents sign the page as the proof that they control their children's learning process at home.

Guiding Quran Memorization

Children's memorization of the Quran and Hadith must also be controlled and supervised by parents at home, as a form of parental concern for children's memorization and the program set by the school/teacher. Every day, parents sign a page about the guidance of children's memorization/ *muraja'ah* control at home.

Monitoring the Attitude

Students are taught at school in the form of training and getting used to become better in accordance with educational goals. The achievement of educational goals can be seen in the development of students' attitudes and morals both at school and home. In order to achieve goals in the attitudes and morals of students, teachers and parents need to cooperate in guiding them. At school, teachers try to explain and guide each student's behavior theoretically so that they understand it. Likewise, at home, parents must participate in guiding their children, as evidenced by the notes and signatures of parents in the monitoring book, for example, regarding children's morals at home, such as how to talk to parents, how to call parents, and how to say goodbye before going to school.

Cooperation in the education and guidance of students as described in the monitoring book is a form of communication between teachers and parents. Therefore, the monitoring book has the function and benefit of being an intermediary between teachers and parents, so it needs to be effective for better use.

The description of the monitoring book found in the field is still very important and cannot be removed. Researchers found that monitoring book was a medium of communication between teachers and parents, although there were still parents who did not pay maximum attention to the function of this book. Researchers found that in order to maximize the use of it, the role of this book needs to be strengthened so that it becomes the center of attention and awareness for parents. Based on the data found, before developing monitoring book, the description/form of the monitoring book in the field will be explained.

The Overview of Monitoring Book

Monitoring book is a medium through which teachers report the progress and results of students' education at school. Notes on the student's progress and learning outcomes are written daily by the teacher in monitoring book with the aim that parents can read them at home and know what guidance they need to give. The notes in this monitoring book are a periodic report that the teacher makes on an ongoing basis. Parents can also provide periodic reports to the teacher at home about their child's progress and learning outcomes by writing notes.

Teachers are required to inform parents of any developments that lead to progress/throw-back in the student's learning process so that they can provide intensive guidance to their children at home, in addition to the learning activities in which the children participate at school.

Interviews with parents revealed: "The monitoring book is a report on the monitoring and guidance of children's worship, memorization, learning, and morals at home and at school. Through our monitoring book, parents can find out how students have developed over time" (parent of student).

The teacher also explained that, "In general, parents agree to have a monitoring book to help them know their child's progress while at school, but not all

parents who sign the monitoring book are proof that they have really monitored their child's worship, memorization, learning, and morals" (Teacher).

In this regard, there were differences between some parents and teachers as to whether the implementation of the monitoring book is actually carried out effectively or not. Regarding children's learning at home, not all parents always remembered to sign the monitoring book. The teacher also assured that not signing the monitoring book meant that parents did not guide their children to study at home, because it had been proved that students did not do their homework, did not contribute to their memorization of the Quran chapter, etc.

The monitoring book contains information about monitoring the students' worship and morals at home. Monitoring the worship performed which are *fardhu* prayers, *dhuba* prayers, reciting the Quran, etc. Guiding students' morals at home, such as shaking hands/saying goodbye to parents before leaving for school. Monitoring book is a pretty good medium for supervising and controlling students. However, not all parents and teachers do what are required according to the instructions in the monitoring book.

In the monitoring book there is a section that must be signed by the parents at home as proof that their child has done the direction in the book. However, most parents did not sign the monitoring book, which proves that parents did not pay attention to the students' worship at home and did not checked the monitoring book whether there was a message from the teacher at school or not.

Vice versa, there were also teachers who did not check the monitoring book for several months on the grounds that the teacher had a lot of assignments or was busy with work at the school. The principal also did not sign the book, although the book also had the principal's signature. This situation resulted in the ignorance of parents to the contents of the book.

The monitoring book contains worship and morals as requirements that students must perform while at school and at home. Most of the contents of the monitoring book are done at home and are marked by parents when their child performs the worship or shows these morals. If the worship or morals in the monitoring book are not performed by students at home, parents may not mark them.

The school will follow up on this by discussing with the parents about what prevents students from doing so. After that, the school and parents will make an agreement on this matter. The monitoring book should be checked by the teacher once a month, however, there were many parents who did not sign the monitoring books and did not pay attention the activities in the book.

From the above description, it can be concluded that the monitoring book did not work optimally, because several pieces of evidence were found, as follows:

The first, parents did not sign the monitoring book. Many parents ignored the monitoring book function for various reasons, such as forgetting, not understanding, not caring, and so on. Parents who did not sign the monitoring book showed that they did not pay attention to their child's progress at school, which means that they did not care about their child's education. This cannot be allowed because it will affect the achievement of educational goals. The monitoring book contains teacher's information about the extent to which the child has mastered the lessons, the child's shortcomings in mastering the lessons, and the extent to which the child has memorized the Quran, which requires parental guidance to teach the child at home. Evidence that parents do not care about their child's education can be seen in the absence of parents' signature in the monitoring book.

The second, the principal did not sign the monitoring book. Based on the data collected from the parents, it was found that the monitoring book was not signed by the principal, so the parents concluded that the function of the monitoring book was

not very important. Of course, this was a trigger for parents not to pay attention to the function of the monitoring book.

The third, the teacher did not strictly enforce the rules agreed upon at the beginning. Rules made and agreed upon with parents should be strictly enforced and implemented. Parents did not pay attention to the function of the monitoring book, did not sign it, and did not even check the book for a semester. This is certainly not forgivable, and teachers should have enforced the policies created by providing appropriate sanctions.

The fourth, lack of parental understanding of the function of monitoring book. An explanation of the function of the monitoring book should always be given by the teacher at the beginning of the academic year and at the beginning of the semester so that parents understand better. Several things need to be done by teachers to help parents understand the importance of the monitoring book so that it can be run properly.

Developing An Effective Monitoring Book

Based on the use of the monitoring book from the description above, several shortcomings were found that need to be developed to make it effective and efficient. Monitoring book can work well and help achieve educational goals if there is a mutual relationship in the form of a high level of care. High attention is needed for optimal development of students so that educational goals can be achieved. Therefore, researchers will provide the development of monitoring book procedure as follows:

The first, teachers regularly check monitoring book and remind parents who ignore it. Considering the different backgrounds of the students' parents, not all of them know, understand, and have a sense of responsibility to fill out the monitoring book, thus the teacher's instruction and guidance is needed. Teachers must regularly remind parents to always see, fill out, and sign the monitoring book to find out what guidance parents should give their children. The signature in the monitoring book is used as proof that the parent has participated in the child's home instruction.

The second, parents always check and monitor students' worship, memorization, study, and morals contained in the checklist of monitoring book. There is a checklist for monitoring student worship, starting with *fardhu* prayers, sunnah prayers, and recitation of the Quran. When the student performs the prayer, the list is marked. Parents help to guide the prayer so that students can get used to performing the prayer. Likewise, the memorization process of the Quran must be supervised by the parents to help the students increase and improve their memorization so that it becomes smoother and sticks in the student's memory. The monitoring book also functions to communicate the development and shortcomings of student's morals at school to their teachers and friends. Parents need to know this because if there are student deficiencies that the teacher communicates in the monitoring book notes, parents can follow up at home.

The third, parents must always check and read important notes in the monitoring book. The need for parents to see and read the monitoring book is to provide appropriate follow-up and guidance to their children at home in hopes of seeing better changes in their children at school. Parental involvement in their children's education makes it easier for teachers at school to provide guidance because teachers and parents work together to provide education. This is why it is important for parents to look at the teacher's notes in the monitoring book.

The fourth, teachers must strictly enforce the rules and agreements that have been established. Initial rules and agreements will produce positive results and meet expectations if they are firmly implemented. Any shortcomings identified should be followed up and corrected immediately so that the arrangements made achieve the goals.

The fifth, teachers and parents must respond to the information they receive. Through the monitoring book, teachers and parents should provide information and respond to each other with the goal of better student development. Responses between teachers and parents are part of effective communication and should be continuous and ongoing in order to achieve the educational goals.

The sixth, the principal's role in maintaining the monitoring book. The principal is the leader of an educational institution who has policies and must consistently implement the policies he makes. If the principal is inconsistent, it will affect the process of achieving the goals which are greatly influenced by these rules/policies. Likewise with the monitoring book, it will have an effect according to its function, if the principal also participates in carrying out his functions in the monitoring book. If the monitoring book requires a parent's signature as proof of their involvement, then the principal must also sign the book as proof of leadership's attention. Attention to parental involvement, teacher follow-up, and student growth.

CONCLUSION

A monitoring book is a book that connects teachers and parents to inform each other about students' progress, provide information how students are at school and home, so that this way of sharing information will provide benefits for better students' development. Monitoring book as a means of communication between teachers and parents need to be developed to be more effective so that their use helps maximize the achievement of educational goals.

Monitoring book contains the supervision of teachers and parents at school and home regarding worship, study, memorization of the Quran, and the morals of students. Supervision of worship, such as obligatory prayers and sunnah prayers, is a practice and habit that must be carried out continuously by teachers and parents. supervision of students' homework, memorization of the Quran, and other subjects must also be done at home by parents, as evidenced by the parents' signatures in the monitoring book. Students' fluent memorization of short verses and letters instructed by the teacher must also be guided by parents at home. This is because the aim of Integrated Islamic Elementary Schools, especially in Bukittinggi City, is to produce a Quranic generation. Students' memorization notes are written in monitoring book, which is also referred to as supervision by teachers and parents in the children's memorization section. Similarly, the goal of education is to develop children's attitudes and morals which change for the better by monitoring students' morals. Better behavior and speech are proofs that teachers and parents have succeeded in educating their children. This requires the unity of teachers and parents in guiding children in the school environment and at home.

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