

From Where the Authoritarian Parents Come? Examining Parenting Models Within Ethnic Minorities

Bohal Domenicus Situmorang
Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
bohaldomenicus.2018@gmail.com

Sudrajat
Universitas Negeri Yogyakarta
Yogyakarta, Indonesia
sudrajat@uny.ac.id

Abstract—The study of the form of parenting has diverse differences and characteristics in every family in the world. In this case, parenting becomes very interesting when it comes to the discussion about the form of parenting that adopted by minority groups in order to be able to maintain their identity and existence among the majority group. So, it is required an effort to preserve its identity and existence within the majority group. So, parents in their parenting patterns have a fundamental role in maintaining the process of forming a personality and the process of child development into adulthood. This is the way that is carried out by ethnic minorities in their care patterns which also has a higher level of sensitivity, high social control, and more authoritarian communication with their children in their families. Authoritarian attitudes carried out by parents in their parenting are as a series of acts carried out by ethnic minorities in childcare.

Keywords: *ethnic minority families, authoritarian parenting*

I. INTRODUCTION

A. The Problem of Parenting of Ethnic Minority

Every country in the world has a high level of growth and progress due to factors of population movement and the influence of globalization, as a result of the influence of globalization and heterogeneity of these communities, so the values and culture in an area has a variety of diversity. The diversity produced by the influence of globalization and heterogeneity of a society leads to the creation of an acculturation process as a form of a social phenomenon that shows an individual in identifying his own culture and the culture in the majority ethnic residence environment. In the acculturation process, ethnic minority groups in their parenting style can integrate themselves among the majority group, so that they are able to adapt to the dominant values in their environment. Obviously, parents in this case also have authority in the pattern of nurturing and instilling values for their children in order that their ethnic culture will not be lost, so that the inclusion of trust, cultural values, and a firm attitude from parents is a series to keep their social identity in the majority environment [1].

Therefore, parenting practices carried out by minority groups to maintain the identity of the group in the majority environment become more interesting to know through the formation of children's personalities and are influenced by different educational backgrounds, socioeconomic status (SES), and acculturation with the majority ethnic culture [2]. The influence of this diversity causes many factors in

the pattern of care performed by caregivers and their influence in the process of child development and the process of forming the child's personality within the family. Parenting is an interaction between children and parents during holding parenting activities, which means parents educate, guide, discipline and protect children to reach maturity in accordance with the norms that exist in society. As caregivers and mentors in the family, parents are very instrumental in laying the foundations of behavior and attitudes [3].

In addition, parents are also colored by certain attitudes in maintaining, guiding, and directing their children. This attitude is reflected in different parenting patterns for their children because parents have certain parenting patterns. The pattern of authoritarian parenting carried out by parents with the attitude of giving rules, rewards, and punishments, how parents show authority, and how parents give attention and response to their children [3]. The attempt done by parents as the foundation for the child's personality and the basis of socialization for children. So through the form of authoritarian parenting, it can shape a child's mentality through cultural ideology, as well as confidence in children who are different from other children in the major groups [4].

The formation of attitudes and character of children by inculcating cultural values has different practices from the majority group and has the characteristics of ethnic minorities in strengthening the identity of the group. Interactions conducted by ethnic minority parents may have differences with the majority group parents in their parenting patterns. It is seen from the cultural differences in the value of care, as well as the purpose of the child to be raised so that later it will influence the level of sensitivity, social control, and communication carried out by a child in his social environment [5]. To better understand the problems associated with the care of certain ethnic minorities, the author outsources some ideas in reviewing more deeply and guiding readers' thoughts towards the authoritarian parenting style practiced by ethnic minorities. First, the view that every culture in this world is not static which means that parents are simultaneously active in the cultural practices of the majority ethnicity in their neighborhood so that it affects the parenting style practiced by ethnic minority parents [6].

II. DISCUSSION

A. Cultural Values and Ethnic-Minority Authoritarian Parenting

The value of parenting done by parents towards their children is something that is very important in the development of children's attitudes and personalities [7]. this becomes a fundamental value in their care. An authoritarian parenting style has a low level of warmth between parents and children but has a high level of discipline for children [8]. parents of ethnic minorities apply a regulation without compromise with the child so that the child is forced to obey the rules that have been determined if the child does not obey the rules, then he will get the punishment. Parenting carried out by parents on ethnic minorities is an important root foundation in the process of instilling cultural values for children and is a goal in raising children and part of the struggle undertaken by parents in their care.

The fundamental differences that exist between the majority and minority groups in terms of their upbringing are found in individualism and collectivism towards parental care that having different values and characteristics. it is marked by the existence of an individualistic culture that emphasizes the independence of children in their social environment while the value of cultural collectivism emphasizes interdependent relationships that require attention from other people [9,10]. This cultural value has its own differences and characteristics. in this case, it can be seen in western culture that is individualistic with the existence of self-confidence, achievement, and independence, on the contrary, Asian culture is more illustrated by the value of the culture of collectivism which emphasizes the importance of obedience, social rules, and interdependence between individuals [11].

The conception and cultural values of parenting in ethnic minorities in Asia, especially in Chinese ethnicity in the value of cultural orientation collectivity manifests cultural values in the principle of Confucianism in which there are several values such as *Li* (adhere to social norms), *Qian* (simplicity), *Chi* (feelings of shame because of inappropriate behavior); and *Xiao* (filial piety) [12]. Through the value of Confucianism that has been applied by parents to their children is able to be a child's process to achieve success in education and business. Therefore, ethnic Chinese struggle to improve educational success and try to raise their economic level among the majority group, so that the goal of parenting carried out by ethnic minority groups such as Chinese successfully [12].

B. Impact of Parenting of Ethnic Minority

Parenting that occurs in ethnic minorities is inseparable from the value of childcare, the goals of childcare, and how childcare practices are carried out by parents as a way of maintaining their identity in society. this becomes an important part of parents as part of an ethnic minority group that is authoritarian towards their children so that it is seen from the level of sensitivity, social control, and discipline of parents, as well as parental involvement in children's lives both in determining children's education and children's play environment. the differences in childcare carried out by ethnic minority authoritarian

parents can influence the development of children in their social environment.

1) High Level of Parental Sensitivity

The level of sensitivity of ethnic minority parenting is higher than the majority ethnicity, this causes the ability of parents to more quickly and accurately respond to signals to children. in society differences in the level of sensitivity that is displayed through language, touch, movement, and rules made by parents in regulating the lives of children [13]. Besides, when compared to the influence of parental sensitivity level on ethnic minorities, it cannot be separated from the influence of low or high socioeconomic status, this can be seen from the ethnic Chinese caregiving style in Indonesia which has a high income, high socioeconomic status, and higher education has more binding responses to children as a form of authoritarian parenting in controlling and disciplining children in their social environment [14].

2) Parental Control and Discipline

Parenting practices adopted by ethnic minorities and the majority certainly have differences in control and discipline towards children. a study conducted by Baumrid classifying parental controls in disciplining children there are four typologies. first authoritarian namely a high level of control and discipline of children, but the level of communication and warmth towards children tends to be low, *second* authoritative, which has a high level of warmth and communication with children and high control of children, *third* permissive namely parents have a high level of warmth high with children but the control given to children tends to be low, the fourth parental social control is negligent parenting style of children who have a low level of warmth and communication and control of children is also low[15,16]. of the four typologies that have been known, it can be seen when parents, especially in ethnic minorities use authoritarian parenting in controlling and disciplining children. parents with a high level of authoritarian expect children to follow the rules that have been made by parents without the process of negotiation, behavior like this tends to be done by parents in shaping the character and personality of children in their lives by providing input and encouragement that is coercive [16]

3) Communication Between Parents and Children

Communication carried out by ethnic minority parents in the socialization process was obtained in the family environment as well as the social environment in which they lived. differences in residence and ethnic minority backgrounds require that individuals adapt well through language [17]. In a study conducted by Susetyo related to ethnic Chinese in Semarang that the tendency of them to adopt positive values of Javanese ethnicity as their social identity, and in the end, they found their social identity [18]. Hall suggests two thoughts related to cultural identity. first thought group identity is created because they have the same historical background and descent. So, in this context cultural identity tends to be static and permanent. while the second thought the second thought states that an identity of the culture changes depending on one's position in the community. so it can be seen that ethnic minorities often apply these two identities, and attach them to a child [19]. This is increasingly interesting

because the Chinese ethnic has found an identity that supports the practice of interaction and communication in the majority environment so that in the end there is a Javanese identity, Batak Chinese, Sundanese Chinese, Padang Chinese, Sundanese Chinese and so on. this is done by ethnic Chinese to ease the process of socialization and make it easy for someone to be able to blend in with their neighborhood [20].

C. Social Support of Parenting of Ethnic Minority

Social support carried out by ethnic minorities in the family is obtained from the extended family environment, this has become a prominent characteristic in the care pattern of ethnic minorities, like a research conducted by MCloyd highlights how the role of social support as a stimulus for parents to behave and transform fundamental cultural values that are instilled in children in the family. The process of social support needed by ethnic minority parents is inseparable from the prejudice, racism, and discrimination felt by the ethnic majority in the majority group [21,22,23]. Research conducted by Garcia Coll et al in the field of empirical research addresses the problem through the point of view of racial socialization by telling the behavior model of ethnic minority parents in the United States with negative prejudices that make it difficult for children from ethnic minorities to foster respect for their own culture because it is caused by the dominance of the majority group that can malign, discriminate or discredit the individual outwardly [24].

This is a challenge for ethnic minorities in the process of inculcating cultural values for children, due to prejudice and discrimination by the ethnic majority. therefore, ethnic minority parents who have higher education provide more understanding to their children regarding cultural background, as well as historical background regarding attitudes and recognition of ethnic minority groups. Giving illustration and image are the challenges that exist in ethnic minority groups, is by instilling a sense of ethnic identity and group knowledge so that children can prepare themselves for competence in the majority group so as to reduce prejudice, racism, and discrimination experienced by minority children. The social support provided by the extended family environment from ethnic minorities has become a series and way for parents to carry out social mobility. Therefore, efforts that support this are influenced by socioeconomic status, as well as the effects of displacement by ethnic minorities into the majority group with strong influence. The impact of discrimination and racism obtained by ethnic minorities ties high-stress levels and impacts on childcare patterns to be unfavorable [25]. Parenting patterns are carried out by parents to reduce the risk of discrimination that occurs in their families as ethnic minorities by adopting the cultural values of the majority group in line with the cultural values that exist in the ethnic minority groups.

III. CONCLUSION

The influence of the development of the times resulted in a significant change in the social order in society, this is related to the development of community growth. the development and growth of society is a new challenge for ethnic minorities who are in the majority environment. the challenges of ethnic minorities in authoritarian parenting

are due to the anxiety experienced by minority groups. The pattern of authoritarian parenting undertaken by parents as a way of limiting children in their social interaction patterns in the community. In addition, the authoritarian parenting patterns of children influence the level of sensitivity, high social control over their children and the lack of harmonious communication carried out by parents as a form of protection for children in the majority environment. however, it is not uncommon for authoritarian parenting style by parents to adopt the values that exist within the majority group to be able to adapt to their environment so that the cultural acculturation that appears from this is applied in ethnic minority groups in order that their children will be able to adapt.

REFERENCES

- [1] Vertovec S: Super-diversity and its implications. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*. 30:1024-1054, 2007.
- [2] Totkova, Z. Symbolic Interactionism and the Perceived Style of Parenting. *Qualitative Sociology Review*, 15(2), 172-184, 2019.
- [3] Mensah, M. K., & Kuranchie, A. Influence of parenting styles on the social development of children. *Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies*, 2(3), 123-129, 2013.
- [4] Cheah, C. S. L., & Chirkov, V. Parents' personal and cultural beliefs regarding young children. A cross-cultural study of aboriginal and Euro-Canadian mothers. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*, 39(4), 402-423, 2008.
- [5] Mariëlle J.L. Prevo, Catherine S. Tamis-LeMonda. Parenting and globalization in western countries: explaining differences in parent-child interactions. *Current Opinion in Psychology*. Volume 15, 33-39, 2017.
- [6] Rogoff B, Najafi B, Mejia-Arauz R: Constellations of cultural practices across generations: Indigenous American heritage and learning by observing and pitching in. *Human Development*. 57:82-95, 2017.
- [7] Fischer C, Harvey EA, Driscoll P: Parent-centered parenting values among Latino immigrant mothers. *Journal of Family Studies*. 15:296-308, 2009.
- [8] Timpano, K. R., Keough, M. E., Mahaffey, B., & Schmidt, N. B., & Abramowitz, J. Parenting and obsessive-compulsive symptoms: Implications of authoritarian parenting. *Journal of Cognitive Psychotherapy: An International Quarterly*, 24, 151-164, 2010.
- [9] Yaman A, Mesman J, Van IJzendoorn MH, Bakermans-Kranenburg MJ, Linting M: Parenting in an individualistic culture with a collectivistic cultural background: The case of Turkish immigrant families with toddlers in the Netherlands. *Journal of Child and Family Studies* 19:617-628, 2010.
- [10] Tamis-LeMonda CS, Way N, Hughes D, Yoshikawa H, Kalman RK, Niwa EY: Parents' goals for children: The dynamic coexistence of individualism and collectivism in cultures and individuals. *Social Development* 17:183-209, 2008.
- [11] Triandis, H. C. Individualism-collectivism and personality. *Journal of Personality*, 69, 907-924, 2001.
- [12] Rufan Luoa, Catherine S. Tamis-Le Mondaa, Lulu Song b: Chinese parents' goals and practices in early childhood. *Journal of Early Childhood Research Quarterly* 843-857, 28, 2013.
- [13] Ainsworth MDS, Bell SM, Stayton DJ: Infant-mother attachment and social development. In *The introduction of the child into a social world*. Edited by Richards MP: Cambridge University Press; 1974, pp. 99-135.
- [14] Tajima EA, Harachi TW: Parenting beliefs and physical discipline practices among Southeast Asian immigrants: Parenting in the context of cultural adaptation to the United States. *Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology*. 41:212-235, 2010.
- [15] Baumrind, D. Child care practices anteceding three patterns of preschool behavior. *Genetic Psychology Monographs*, 75(1), 43-88, 1967.

- [16] Baumrind, D. Current patterns of parental authority. *Developmental Psychology*, 4(1), 1–103, 1971.
- [17] Schieffelin BB, Ochs E: Language Socialization. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 15, pp. 163-191, 1986.
- [18] Susetyo, Stereotip Dan Relasi Antar Etnis Cina Dan Etnis Jawa Pada Mahasiswa di Semarang. Tesis. Depok: Program Pascasarjana Fakultas Psikologi Universitas Indonesia, 2002.
- [19] Hall, Stuart. "Cultural Identity and Diaspora," dalam Jonathan Rutherford, eds. *Identity: Community, Culture, Difference*. London: Lawrence and Wishart, pp. 222–37, 1990.
- [20] DP. Budi Susetyo. Krisis Identitas Etnis Cina di Indonesia. *Kajian Ilmiah Psikologi*, vol. 2, hal. 61-71. 2002.
- [21] Taylor, R. D. Adolescents' perceptions of kinship support and family management practices: Association with adolescent adjustment in African American families. *Developmental Psychology*, 32, 687-695, 1996.
- [22] McLoyd, V. C., The impact of economic hardship on Black families and children: Psychological distress, parenting, and socioemotional development. *Child Development*, 67, 311-346, 1990.
- [23] Boykin, A. W., & Toms, F., Black child socialization: A conceptual framework. In H. McAdoo & J. McAdoo (Eds.), *Black children: Social, educational, and parental environments*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage Publications, pp. 33-51, 1985.
- [24] Garcia Coll, C. T, Meyer, E. C, & Brillon, L., Ethnic minority parenting. In M. H. Bomstein (Ed.), *Handbook of parenting*. Vol. 2, biology and ecology of parenting. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum. pp. 189-209, 1995.
- [25] Becares L, Nazroo J, Kelly Y: A longitudinal examination of maternal, family, and area-level experiences of racism on children's socioemotional development: Patterns and possible explanations. *Social Science & Medicine*. 142:128-135, 2015.