

The Single Parent's Parenting Style

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ABSTRACT

Every parent certainly has a different parenting style, as well as single parents who have to play a dual role in carrying out their lives as father and mother. Being a single parent is not just their wish but a choice they never imagined or dreamed of. In fact, they want a complete and harmonious family. Even so, the role of parents is very important in providing care for early childhood because it can affect the lives of children in the future. In essence, every parenting style must be adapted to the characteristics of the child. The purpose of this article is to determine the parenting style of a single parent. The method used is literature study. Based on the results of this article provide an overview of single parents in choosing and implementing parenting styles, factors and their impact on early childhood development.

Keywords: *Single parent, early childhood, parenting style.*

1. INTRODUCTION

According to Sirait and Minauli [1], in family life, consisting of father and mother who have the role of being parents of their children. The fact is that in the community there are families where one parent is missing. This is caused by several factors that cause them to be divorced or not live together, including by death and divorce itself. Thus, that is what causes parents to become single parents. Anne [2] states that a single parent is a family where there is only one single parent, either father or mother, widowed parent who takes care and raises their children alone without any help, support or responsibility from the partner.

Every human being who is married and becomes a parent never hopes and wants his marriage to end and makes himself a single parent. They certainly want to have a complete family that is a dream for everyone. But sometimes fate has a different will. In fact, these ideal conditions cannot be maintained or realized forever. Many parents due to certain conditions have to care for, raise and educate their children alone [3]. The growth of families with single parents is currently a phenomenon that continues and is not new [4]. Recently the number of single parent families has been increasing at an alarming rate [5]. Indonesia is a country that has threatened family resilience, this is due to the large number of divorces and violence in a household, resulting in many parents becoming single parents. In addition, the number of single parents in Indonesia is more single mothers than single fathers [4]. Based on the Central Bureau of Statistics, the presentation of single mothers is 14.84%,

while single father is only 4.05%. According to Surya, of the 67.6 million heads of households in Indonesia, 7.9 million are single parents who are women. This is the number of 11.6% of the total family in Indonesia [6], [7].

However, the role of parents is very important in providing care for early childhood. Being a single parent does not mean that parents have to give up all their responsibilities towards their children because this is very unjustified. Parents are a reflection for their children; therefore, parenting is an obligation carried out by the nuclear family. In addition, the parenting style must be adapted to the characteristics of the child. When parents provide good and correct parenting, it will have a good impact on children's development, and vice versa. If parents provide inappropriate care, it is possible that the child will have a negative impact from the care provided by the parents.

So, for that parents must be careful in their management patterns. There is one example in the research of Mabuza and Okeke [8], namely a child who has a negative effect from parenting a single parent, there is a psychological problem because the single parent does not have enough time for supervision and monitoring and lack of communication about the needs of the child. Parenting mistakes given can be detrimental to the child's future. Indeed, every parent would want to provide the best care for their children. However, every parent must have a different type of providing care. As a single parent who carries out the responsibilities that should be carried out by two people, of course it is very burdensome, besides having to look after their children; they also have to work to meet all the needs of their family.

2. THE PARENTING STYLE OF SINGLE PARENTS

The parenting of children by single parents is one of the social phenomena that often occurs in society. Single parent is the condition of a parent who lives his life by playing a dual role as a mother/father without a companion figure. Being a single parent is certainly not easy because he plays two roles at once without any help, motivation or support from a companion to raise and care for his children. In reality, raising children alone is not easy, a single parent feels sadness, stress and even fatigue in parenting [9]. However, that does not mean that parents should ignore their children, instead parents still have to play an important role in providing care, educating and teaching children properly, carefully and thoroughly because it will be very influential with their life in the future.

Parenting is the best way that every parent should do in caring for a child as a manifestation of their responsibility as a parent to their child. The role of parents and family becomes more important in educating children because the family is the basis for the formation of a child's personality. Parenting can be interpreted as a method or method used by parents in dealing with their children which aims to be able to shape the character, attitude and personality of the child better so that they are able to adapt to the community [10]. Each parent in applying the style of parenting to children, of course, varies depending on the child and the parents' background as well as the single parent. Thus, it can produce a variety of different temperature patterns. According to Baumrind cited in Ningsih [11], parenting style is a series of attitudes that parents show to their children in order to create an emotional climate that surrounds parent-child interactions. There are three aspects that include parenting styles including: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive. These three aspects have their own characteristics and each of them can have a different effect on children [12].

First, Authoritarian parenting style is a parenting style that is restrictive and punitive and requires children to follow all the rules and orders given and always respect what parents do. Authoritarian parents limit and sometimes assertive and do not provide opportunities for children to communicate verbally, so that everything must be with their will without thinking about the wishes of their children [13]. Authoritarian parents according to Baumrind have a low but high accepting attitude in terms of controlling, punishing, commanding who must require children to do something without cooperation, be tough, and tend to be emotional and resist [14]. Authoritarian parents always feel that they are the most correct in behaving and speaking without self-reflection. Even though what he instills in children that they think is good is not necessarily good for children. Encourage children to always submit and obey their parents without thinking

about the wishes of their children. In the end it results in the child sacrificing their will.

Second, authoritative parents support children to be independent but providing limits, and controlling actions and opportunities for children to communicate verbally. Authoritative parents are open, flexible and provide opportunities for children to grow in rational rules [13]. Meanwhile, according to Baumrind, authoritative parents have an accepting attitude and are able to control their children's needs. In addition, it supports children to argue and ask questions and provide direction/advice to children regarding the impact of good and bad deeds [14]. This is what can cause parents to have a good and close relationship with their children, because they always encourage children to be involved in carrying out disciplines with full awareness.

Third, permissive, is a parenting style given by parents who always give freedom and accept all forms of children's behaviour, even when the child has a mistake, they are never punished and tend to ignore it. Meanwhile, according to Baumrind, permissive parents have a high acceptance attitude, but low in controlling because they always give freedom to their child's wishes, without thinking about the good or bad consequences for the child [14].

3. FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE SINGLE PARENT IN PROVIDING PARENTING STYLE

3.1. Factors that Cause Single Parent

Someone becomes a single parent usually due to several factors that make them a single parent, such as divorce and death.

Divorce is a break in the relationship or marriage bond between husband/wife which is established or legalized by the law of the religious court. Divorce is not an option that is desired by every married human, especially if he is already blessed with children. The children's first reaction to their parents' divorce is an emotional reaction, this occurs in children of all ages including early childhood including: sadness, fear, depression, anger, confusion, and sometimes relief [15]. In this divorce factor, the child can still recognize the face of the mother or father even though they do not live together. The difference in place of residence or distance should not be a reason to ignore their children, but parents must continue to provide care. But in fact, those who are divorced will focus on nurturing, educating, guiding and providing for one of them. Even though this care is the responsibility and obligation of being a parent. Even when the children live with the mother, often the father is reluctant to provide care, educate, provide a living, even meet he is reluctant. Supported again by advances in digital technology that makes it easy for fathers and

mothers to share news with their children via cell phones, as well as providing a living through an ATM.

The next factor is death. Death cannot be predicted or prevented as it is the destiny of God Almighty. For children, the death of a parent is the "worst loss" for children because they have lost the figure they depend on for security in life, and the parent has lost their life partner [15]. In the case of death, the children cannot meet their father or mother who has died.

These two factors, if the parents are not ready and accepting it, can affect the provision of parenting styles and child development.

3.2. Factors that Influence Parenting Style

Things that can influence the provision of a single parent parenting style include educational and economic factors, religious factors, and environmental factors.

Parents who have high education and sufficient economy, usually they can meet all the needs of their children, starting from providing good education, good parenting, and good facilities and infrastructure adapted to the child's developmental stages. Thus, children do not feel burdened and can even help and make it easier for parents to implement their care. In addition, parents expect their children to have a positive attitude towards education. Meanwhile, parents who have a low level of education and economy, usually are less able to meet their children's needs properly, even the children are required to help their parents to meet economic needs and do not have to take education. This makes children involved in helping the family economy [16].

Religion is an important thing in a child's life. Parents who have a good religious level will educate and provide parenting in accordance with religious teachings. In contrast to parents whose religion is thin, they are more likely to provide care that follows the times, not necessarily according to religious teachings. Therefore, when parents who are faithful and provide nurture, educate, and guide children according to religion, they will grow well.

The environment has a great influence in shaping children's diversity behaviour. A good environment will make the child become a good individual, likewise if the environment is not good it will lead the child to bad ways [16].

According to Tridhonanto [17] there are four factors that influence parenting, namely: age, involvement, education, experience and stress. Age is very influential because it has a relationship with physical and psychosocial strength, and this is very influential on the provision of care for children. In providing care, there must be communication or interaction that involves children from all aspects, be it orders, prohibitions or entertainment. Education affects a person's readiness in

carrying out the role of parents in providing reinforcement, and he is more ready and understanding in observing everything about children's problems. Experience can provide a person's readiness/unpreparedness in providing care, influenced by personal experience and conceptual factors such as cultural heritage and economic status [18]. Stress can reduce a person's ability to provide and play a nurturing role, because stress is a feeling of pressure, displeasure with increased emotions such as unclear anger. This can have a negative impact on the child.

4. THE IMPACT OF SINGLE PARENT'S PARENTING STYLES ON EARLY CHILDHOOD

In giving parenting styles, single parents are not much different from parents in general, it is just that providing care is done by one father / mother without any help and support from his partner so there is no collaboration between the two. According to Baumrind, in principle, parenting is parental control, namely how parents control, guide and accompany their children to carry out their duties in accordance with the stages of development towards the maturation process [13]. Of every parenting style that a single parent chooses, of course everything has an impact on the child, both negative and positive.

Authoritarian parenting shows poor social skills such as emotional disturbances, high emotional levels are generally obedient and clever, but looks unhappy, easily irritated, feels uncomfortable in their environment and eventually withdraws. Assuming that other people are always right in making decisions, this causes children to lack initiative, do less spontaneous things, and lack a high sense of curiosity. In addition, it often creates problems, lacks discipline, and low levels of self-esteem. Therefore, it can be said that this parenting style is more negative than positive. This happens because parents always provide rules without letting children choose [19], [20], [21].

Authoritative parenting is already good at fostering children's welfare, tends to produce children who are happy, clever and successful. Because the parents treat the child well in providing high affection, warmth and support, without giving physical punishment. So that it makes children have good and positive behaviour [19], [20], [21].

Permissive parenting, the effect of this parenting style is that it can result in children being less disciplined, low social skills, and feeling discomfort. Children get less happiness, but have freedom in rules. Children are more likely to experience power problems and tend to experience problems in school [19], [22].

4. CONCLUSION

Single parents are parents who play a dual role in making themselves as mothers/fathers. She only raises her children alone without a partner. Parenting style is the most important thing for parents in raising children, especially early childhood. According to Baumrind, there are three parenting styles including: authoritative, namely parenting that provides rules to children, punishes and requires children to follow all the rules that parents want. So that it can cause children to feel uncomfortable when they are in their environment, low social skills, but they are smart but tend to be unhappy. Authoritarian is care that provides support to children but is still given boundaries, parents and children are open to each other, in this care the child will become independent and have high social skills. Whereas in permissive parenting; parents are too liberating without being given any restrictions, so that the child is less disciplined and responsible.

Factors that can cause a parent to become a single parent are: death and divorce. Meanwhile, the factors that can influence the provision of parenting styles are age, involvement, education, experience and stress. Of the three parenting, there are negative and positive impacts. As parents, they must be able to choose a parenting style that is tailored to the characteristics of the child and all the needs of the children. If it is not suitable, it will affect the children.

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