

# Parenting Style During the Covid-19 Pandemic :

## The Experience of Working Mothers

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**Abstract**—Parenting will affect the child's development, especially during the covid-19 pandemic, because parents have flexible time in parenting their children at home. This paper explores working mothers' experiences of developing children vocation and interest. This was a qualitative study employing a phenomenological approach. Data was collected using in-depth individual interviews and a content analysis was carried out.

**Keywords**—parenting, vocation, interest, working mother

### I. INTRODUCTION

On March 2020 the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) was declared a pandemic, resulting issuing “work from home” orders, which workers to work remotely from home and schools and daycares to close. These situations have placed increased demands on parents, particularly working mothers. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many working mothers have been faced with trying to balance the responsibilities of working from home, being the primary caregiver homeschooling school-aged children, and taking care of the daily needs of their families. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought health disparities to the surface and revealed a bigger systemic problem that paralyzes families so that family empowerment is needed, one of which is through childcare [1].

Every parent wants their child to be creative, and everyone basically has the potential to be creative, it's just that the problem is to what extent this potential can be honed in the child by the parents, so that the child can grow up by producing spectacular works and ideas. To hone and develop creativity, interests and talents, it can be started from early childhood. Of course, as parents who want their children to be creative, they must understand how to develop and increase the creativity, interests and talents of children.

Developing children's talents and interests aims to make children learn so that in the future they can have the ability and work in the field they are interested in and according to their talents and interests [2]. Parents basically want their children to grow and develop normally, but sometimes parents do not aware that the parenting style they employ can have negative effects on their children. A child is fundamentally dependent

on his or her parents including efforts to achieve developmental tasks [3].

Parenting seen as most beneficial for children's development [4]. These psychologists indicate that parenting style which includes parent-child interaction, parent-child joint activities, parents involvement in children education are significant in socialization and children functioning [5]. Parenting dimensions, defined as the features, the qualities, the descriptive scheme used to capture the nature of parenting, represent one set of building blocks on which the study of parenting is built [6].

Specific parenting behaviors and practices influence child development and are part of a broader parenting environment, called parenting style [7] Parenting styles were originally conceptualized as transactionally associated with social competence, but studies have mostly focused on parent-to-child effects [4] Parenting style may facilitate the optimal growth and development of the children [3] Moderate intensity physical activity may attenuate the negative impact of parenting stress on social relationships and satisfaction with one's environment in working mothers during the COVID-19 pandemic [8].

### II. METHODS

This qualitative study used a phenomenological approach to understand the experiences of parents using the authoritarian parenting style for developing vocation and interests of children. A sample of three people participated in this study with the inclusion criteria of parents with school-age children (7-10 years old). Furthermore, in-depth interviews were conducted to collect data.

### III. RESULTS

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is felt by everyone. Researchers are working mothers who experience changing conditions. as a working mother I can understand how necessary it is to spend time accompanying children at home.

Participants were asked to describe how their life has been affected by COVID-19 and recommendations to isolate at

home. Several themes were identified from the single open-ended question inquiring about their experiences. In summary, the present study provides an important about experience working mother to develop children vocation and interest, and working mother's experiences of parenting for their child during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Working mothers have more time with children, children become closer to their parents. Many activities are carried out together such as planning the breakfast menu, preparing breakfast, eating together, playing, and studying. Working mothers feel happy to be able to accompany their children all day at home. however, it is necessary to organize an efficient time so that working mothers can continue to do their work at home. Having a father at home is also very helpful in parenting. Mothers can divide the tasks of accompanying children at home.

Activities carried out by working mothers in developing children's talents and interests are:

- Accompanying children during their activities at home
- Watching children's favorite movies
- Read story books according to children's requests
- Accompany the child to take a nap
- Doing a hobby together. Boys choose to raise pets and grow crops. Girls choose to cook, bake and draw.

Parents need to recognize children's talents and interests, then strive to create an environment that can stimulate all aspects of children's development in a balanced and optimal manner. The development of children's talents and interests will be more optimal if the activities are carried out in a pleasant atmosphere. Involving children in activities that match their interests can stimulate children's development. Children's experiences with their parents within a cultural context consequently scaffold them to become culturally competent members of their society [9].

#### IV. CONCLUSION

This is a study that explores the experiences of working mothers in developing children's interests and vocations. The meaning of his experience is that mothers and fathers can share

the role of parents in caring at home. Participants in this study consisted of three mothers who work as lecturers in Bandung. They are 32 to 37 years old with school age children. The educational background of the participants is master. The study findings lead to the following 4 main themes. Parenting that was carried out during the Covid-19 pandemic was effective, indicated by the closeness between parents and children. Father and mother share roles together during activities at home. Work from home allows working mothers to monitor children's learning progress more optimally. Activities related to children's interests can be stimulated more optimally.

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