

Parenting Of Single Parent Children In An Effort To Shape Children's Behavior

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ABSTRACT. *The high divorce rate in Jember is a major problem in the biological and psychological development of a child. In this case the author wants to explore the parenting patterns of divorced families, both those who still maintain good communication between the three (husband-child-wife) and vice versa. There are several parenting patterns that parents can use. The author wants to try to know and describe the parenting patterns of single parents in an effort to shape children's behavior. The results of this study are presented descriptively through a qualitative approach in order to obtain clear information about the focus of the problem. The results of this study can be concluded, namely first, democratic parenting is the parenting of parents who interact with their children using how to provide freedom with supervision and second, permissive parenting is a parenting pattern where parental attention is valued less towards children or children always get whatever they want without control and limits*

Keywords: *Parenting, Single Parent, Child Behavior*

INTRODUCTION

Based on data on divorce rates in the Jember Religious Court on the official website (Court of Supreme Jember, 2023) from January to October reached 4,716 cases. Although there is a decrease in numbers, it cannot be denied that divorce cases still occur in society. Mainly in cases such as lack of economic needs as Raharjo as PA Jember Public Relations explained that economic reasons are still the most common divorce factor (Radar, 2023) to violence.

In these cases, the main problem is not just the divorce. Rather, it is more than that, such as the impact that will be produced on a child will be very large. This is why, M. Djawad Dahlan concluded that the family has a basic function in providing a sense of belonging, security, affection, and developing good relationships between family members. (Dewi, 2012)

However, not everyone has a harmonious and intact family, some also experience *broken homes* or divorce. Divorce can have a negative impact on both spouses and their children. Although divorce in one option can solve a problem in the household that is considered to be no longer compromised, it cannot be denied that divorce can also have a

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negative impact on socialization between families, especially on child development, which in turn can affect parenting which will shape children's behavior and personality. (Siswanto, 2020)

"The trauma of a father leaving affects the family financially, emotionally, and psychologically, and it also directly affects the children, especially sons. Boys are more frequently and more profoundly affected than girls by their parents' divorce or separation. (Josef A. Passley, 2006)

Being a single parent is certainly not an easy thing, where in an intact family the father and mother can share tasks and can exchange ideas in caring for children, but for single parents they have to double the role of father and mother at the same time. Because they have a dual role (as a father and mother simultaneously), single parents must rack their brains to be financially and mentally independent because after divorce most children will feel lonely and lack affection. Therefore, the role of parents in childcare after divorce must still be considered to maintain the needs of children. This situation is of course a big challenge because of the lameness of the foundation in the family which then creates a burden of duties on single parents.

Single-parent parenting means the overall interaction of parents and children, where parents who provide encouragement to children to change behavior, knowledge, and values that are considered most appropriate for parents so that children can grow to be better carried out by a mother (widow) as a single parent. Formation is a process or effort and activities carried out in an efficient manner to get better, establish or strive to be better, more advanced, and more perfect. Because not everyone who becomes a *single parent* due to divorce (hereinafter better known as a *single parent*) is able to deal with this well, especially when coupled with the skewed views of the surrounding community about him. (Atika, 2018)

LITERATURE RIVEW

Every work can certainly have previous studies, this is a procedural study in the academic world. There is no work that is disconnected from the work of its predecessors. In this case, scientific-based scientific regeneration will always exist and always be sustainable. The following is a researcher's search for previous studies related to the subject matter in this study

1. *First*, a journal written by Maria Aspita entitled Single Parent Parenting towards Children's Education. *Single Parent Parenting Towards Children's Education*. This journal discusses *single parent parenting* on children's educational development. The research was conducted in Lamdingi Village, Banda Aceh. The results of the study were from 8 *single parents* who were successfully interviewed and found the results that stated that they

always took a role in providing education. Although school education actually exists, they still introduce other education, such as broad religious education to their children. The similarity between previous research and our research lies in how single parents' parenting patterns towards children. The difference from this study is that previous researchers focused on the results of *single parent parenting* on children's education, while researchers focused on the parenting of divorced families in shaping children's behavior.

2. *Second*, research written by Ema Hartanti entitled *Single Parent Parenting in the Development of Children's Personality in Jetis Village, Selompang District, Temanggung Regency*.¹ The results of this study describe and examine the parenting patterns of *single parent* parents towards the development of children's personalities carried out in Jetis Village, Selompang District, Temanggung Regency. The result of this study is that the parenting pattern given by parents to children has a significant impact on the child's personality. Children who are raised with authoritarian patterns will form introverted children's personalities while children who are raised with democratic patterns will form extroverted personalities. The similarity between previous research and our research lies in parenting patterns. The difference from this study is that previous researchers focused on the development of children's personalities while researchers focused on shaping children's behavior.
3. *Third*, research written by Siti Patimah entitled *Parenting Strategies and Single Parent Parenting Case Studies in Muara Untu Village, Murung Raya Regency, Central Kalimantan*.² The results of this study describe and examine the parenting strategies and parenting patterns of *single parents* implemented in Muara Untu Village, Murung Raya Regency, Central Kalimantan. The results of this study are the strategies applied by the three *single parent* parents interviewed, namely by providing affection, paying attention to nutritional intake for child growth and development, no less important they always provide advice, support, and also protection to their children. However, they have various parenting patterns, namely situational parenting, parenting patterns applied based on the situation and conditions being experienced. The similarity between previous research and our research lies in single parent parenting. The difference from this study is that previous researchers only focused on analyzing how the strategies and parenting patterns applied

¹ Ema Hartanti, *Single Parent Parenting Patterns in Children's Personality Development in Jetis Village, Selompang Subdistrict, Temanggung Regency* (IAIN Salatiga: 2017).

² Siti Patimah, *Parenting Strategies and Single Parent Parenting Case Study in Muara Untu Village, Murung Raya Regency, Central Kalimantan* (UIN Antasari Banjarmasin: 2020).

by *single parents* while researchers focused on the parenting patterns of divorced *families* in shaping children's behavior.

4. *Fourth*, research written by Lutfy Azizatunnisa entitled Juridical Analysis of Civil Rights on *Parenting in Single Parent Families* in Winduhaji Village, Kuningan District, Kuningan Regency.³ The results of this study describe and examine the juridical analysis of civil rights on *single parent parenting* patterns carried out in Winduhaji Village, Kuningan District, Kuningan Regency. The result of this study is that the parenting pattern applied by *single parents* is despite being in an unequal family condition. However, *single parents* still try as much as possible to maintain and educate their children with good care. The similarity between previous research and our research lies in single parent parenting. The difference from this research is that previous researchers focused on analyzing the juridical civil rights of *single parent parenting* while researchers focused on the parenting of divorced families in shaping children's behavior.
5. *Fifth*, research written by Wulan Atika Sari entitled *Single Parent Parenting Patterns in Shaping the Independence of 5-6 Year Old Children*.⁴ The results of this study describe and examine the parenting patterns of single parents in shaping the independence of children aged 5-6 years at Aisyah 1 Labuhan Ratu Kindergarten, Bandar Lampung. The result of this research is that single-parent parenting, especially a mother, plays a big role in the age of 5-6 years to build children's independence by instilling habits in everyday life such as doing something related to their personal property independently which remains under parental supervision. The similarity between previous research and our research lies in single parent parenting. The difference from this study is that previous researchers focused on single parent parenting in shaping the independence of children aged 5-6 years while researchers focused on parenting divorced families in shaping children's behavior.

THEORETICAL OVERVIEW

Single Parent Parenting

Single parent is a situation where a family experiences divorce so that between husband and wife there is no longer a mental relationship. Single parenthood also refers to the solitary

³ . Lutfy Azizatunnisa, *Juridical Analysis of Civil Rights on Parenting in Single Parent Families in Winduhaji Village, Kuningan District, Kuningan Regency* (IAIN Syekh Nurjati Cirebon: 2021).

⁴ Wulan Atika Sari, *Single Parent Parenting Patterns in Shaping the Independence of 5-6 Year Old Children* (UIN Raden Intan Lampung: 2018).

existence of a father or mother. In general terms, a single parent is a father without a wife, or vice versa, who lives only with his children.

The single parent situation embraces all aspects of a child's needs. When fathers and mothers are in a divorce situation, there is a tendency for different attitudes in fathers or mothers, so it is not uncommon for a mother or father to show less affection for their children. A different attitude before the divorce, this mother treats her children more harshly, such as giving tasks with threats, and educating children is not systematic and is coercive regardless of the negative or positive reactions of her children.

According to Erikson, the psychosocial development stage of a child is divided into 8 stages, one of which is: *First, the adolescent or genital stage*. At this stage, adolescents experiment with a variety of different roles while trying to integrate the roles they have experienced in previous stages. The crisis experienced by adolescents at this stage is (identity vs role confusion). *Second, young adulthood*. At this stage, young adults learn how to interact with others more deeply. The purpose of this stage is to seek relationships with others who have a lot in common, especially to form romantic relationships with partners. (Sumanto, 2014)

Types of Parenting

There are 4 kinds of parenting patterns that can be applied. Santrock and Gerungan divide parenting patterns into three groups, namely: authoritarian parenting, authoritative parenting, and permissive parenting. However, Bornstein and Thalib tried to add another type of parenting called neglectful parenting. (Sunarty, 2015)

According to psychologist Diana Baumrind as a result of her observations, she established the basic parenting styles that are believed to be used by most parents. (Josef A. Passley, 2006) The 4 basic parenting styles are:

1) Authoritarian Parenting Pattern

This type of parenting leads to absolute standards that must be obeyed, usually along with threats. Parents with this type of parenting tend to be pushy, bossy, and punitive. If the child does not do what the parents say, then parents with this type do not hesitate to punish the child. This type of parent is also uncompromising and communication is usually one-way. These parents do not need feedback from their children to understand their children.

Children from this type of parenting tend to be *moody, moody*, fearful, sad, and not spontaneous. The child also describes anxiety and insecurity in relating to peers and shows a tendency to act violently when stressed, and has low self-esteem. (Dewi, 2012)

2) Democratic Parenting Pattern

Democratic parenting is generally based on an open attitude between parents and children. They make some rules that are mutually agreed upon. These democratic parents are parents who try to value their children's abilities directly. Children who have such parents are cheerful, tend to be socially competent, energetic, friendly, have great curiosity, can control themselves, have high self-esteem, and even have high academic achievement.

This form of parenting is considered the healthiest and most normal compared to other forms of parenting. It gives children the opportunity to develop in a positive direction. For one, learning to control oneself fairly and reasonably is very useful for the child. In addition to this, affectionate and firm parents make children more considerate of others, confident and assertive. Finally, parents who are sensitive and responsive to children's abilities and development can make children learn to take responsibility for their own behavior.

3) Permissive Parenting Pattern

Permissive parenting is characterized by unlimited freedom for children to do and behave according to their wishes. The implementation of permissive parenting or also known as all-allowing parenting is a parent who gives in, complies with all wishes, protects excessively, and gives or fulfills children's wishes excessively.

This parenting pattern is seen with excessive freedom that is not developmentally appropriate for the child, which can lead to more aggressive and impulsive behavior. Children from this parenting pattern cannot control themselves, do not want to obey, and are not involved in classroom activities. (Dewi, 2012)

4) Uninvolved parenting

Children from this parenting pattern tend to be limited academically and socially. Children with this parenting style are more likely to act antisocially in adolescence. When this parenting pattern is applied early, it results in impaired child development. Mothers in this parenting pattern will have children with deficits in physiological function, decreased intellectual ability, *attachment* difficulties, and anger. (Dewi, 2012)

Children: Character Development

There are processes that operate continuously in a child's life, namely growth and development in children. In its development, a child will increase in height or in general,

namely the child's physique and the child's psychology. The formation of a child's good character is strongly influenced by the development of other characters or cultures.

Character as a medium to determine the behavior of a child. Behavior that is considered cruel or unkind is a manifestation of bad behaviors. Thus, good character education must involve not only aspects of good knowledge (*moral knowing*), but also feeling well or loving the good (*moral feeling*) and good behavior (*moral action*). (Nyoman, 2021)

In this phase of growth and development, children are guided and educated to be able to live independently, intelligently, and have adequate life skills to live their lives. (RI, 2009) A history states that among the rights of children from their parents are to have fine motor skills such as writing, gross motor skills such as martial arts, and not to get unlawful sustenance.

"The obligations of parents towards their children include teaching them to read, swim, shoot archery, and not giving them sustenance except that which is good (halal). (Reported by al-ākim and al-Baihaqī from Abū Rāfi")

Therefore, the hope is that the child who is born later after the ceremony is able to grow into a smart, strong, healthy child, and has a noble character with good character. In line with the above opinion, according to Ratna Megawangi, character education for children should be adjusted to the age phase, namely: (Nyoman, 2021)

- a. **Age phase 0-3 years.** In this phase, the role of parents should be greater because a new moral foundation is formed at this age. In addition, love and affection from parents is needed by the child throughout this phase.
- b. **Age phase 2-3 years.** In this phase, children should be introduced to manners and good and bad deeds. In general, children at this age have tried to break the rules and are rather unruly, so it requires patience from parents.
- c. **Age phase 0 (4 years).** In this phase the child goes through an egocentric phase, where he deliberately breaks the rules, shows off and imposes his wishes. However, the child is encouraged to do good, because he expects a reward (praise), and avoids punishment. In this phase the child already has the ability to empathize.
- d. **Phase 1 (Age 4.5-6 years).** In this phase children are more obedient and cooperative, in order to avoid parental punishment. Children are able to accept the views of others, especially adults, can respect the authority of parents/teachers, consider adults to be all-knowing and like to report their naughty friends. It should be noted that if in this phase the child's behavior is still like phase 0, then it means that the character of the child concerned is not optimal. In phase 1, children are also very trusting of parents/teachers,

so emphasizing the importance of good and polite behavior will be very effective. However, character education in this phase must provide opportunities for children to understand the reasons.

- e. **Phase 2 (6.5-8 years old).** In this phase, children feel they have rights like adults, no longer thinking that adults can order children around. Have the potential to act violently due to the decline of parental/teacher authority in their minds, have a rigid concept of justice, namely retaliation, already understand the need to behave well in order to be liked by others, often compare and ask for fair treatment.

Single Parent: Impact on Children's Behavior

In this case, the child is more likely to have a significant influence. In some other findings, the effect of divorce or the death of a father has a major impact on the sustainability of a child's life. The impacts and influences are as follows: (Qaini, 2003)

1. *Mental imbalance:* this behavior can be seen in some people who are left behind, such as depression, daydreaming, anxiety, a sense of contradiction in life, feelings of poverty and deprivation, low self-esteem, loss of trust in others, anger, finger-sucking, nail-biting, and so on.
2. *Emotional problems:* Some children, even adults, can be affected by this problem. They become sensitive and cry easily, resentful of others, shy and inferior, cold and pessimistic, overly happy and laughing excessively, feeling guilty about their own actions, and various other emotional disorders.
3. *Causes difficulties:* Some children, unable to bear the burden of suffering, often make excuses, like to make things up, often get angry, like to fight and argue, look for problems, grudge, envy, like to fight, be lazy, live without rules, and even run away from home.
4. *Deterioration of morals:* The death of the father can lead to changes in the morals and ethics of the child, resulting in various attitudes and actions that are not commendable. For example, lying to attract attention, cheating to change their circumstances, irrational fanaticism, acting and boasting, selfishness, greed, finding fault with others.
5. *Problems at school:* Some children whose fathers have died experience various learning difficulties at school. Some of them are left to their own devices and live free and unrestrained because they don't get the attention of their families, so they don't get the education they deserve. Many of them also become weak in learning, lazy, some even refuse to do homework and their writing is poor and disorganized.

METHODOLOGY

In this research, the author uses a descriptive qualitative approach that seeks to explain the results of the research descriptively. This research intends to understand the phenomenon of what is experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perception, motivation, action and others holistically and in a way in the form of words and language in a special natural context and by utilizing various scientific methods. (J. Moleong, 2000)

This type of research uses *field research*, which focuses more on the results of data collection from informants or respondents who have been determined. This research was conducted in Pringgowirawan Village, Sumberbaru Subdistrict, Jember Regency. (Hasan, 2006) Through the methods and stages in this research, the author can obtain data and facts that occur in the environment, related to the research that the author raises.

DISCUSSION

In this context, it will be seen how the parenting patterns of divorced families in shaping children's behavior. From the data findings, it will be known about the parenting patterns applied to divorced families in educating, guiding, and shaping children's behavior. From the data findings obtained, it explains that all informants experience incompleteness in the family or more commonly called divorced families.

Based on the data, it turns out that a mother and a father who become *single parents* have a more democratic attitude towards their children. This is evidenced by the way of educating children in a family that uses the principle of mutual respect and respect, always discussing the problems faced by their children, giving trust and opportunities to their children to manage matters related to their lives so that children become independent, the relationship between a mother and father is very familiar and close to the child. Besides that, they also always advise and reprimand their children when their children make mistakes. When associated with these findings, at the above stage of development, a mother does not care about her child, only provides a little restraint. So that children interact synergistically". (Megawangi, 2015)

The character values that need to be instilled in children are universal values that can be a glue for all members of society despite different cultural, ethnic and religious backgrounds. IHF has compiled a series of values that should be taught to children, which are then summarized into 9 pillars of character. (Megawangi, 2015) Children from divorced families turn out to be awkward to face the realities of life, sometimes they start dreaming of becoming famous people, they prefer to dream about their lives no longer accept reality, the reduction of

children's imagination when playing will greatly affect their social, cognitive and personality development.

Just like what Mrs. D did, "Children must obey their parents, so whether they want to or not, like it or not, children must obey their parents because as their parents, I know better what they can and cannot do". "If they do not obey, sometimes I get angry, if they still argue, I hit them a little to deter them, because children sometimes push their desires too much, their names are also children, but if they are too spoiled, they will argue". (Interview D, 2024)

The same thing is also done by Mrs. E, according to her scolding children when they make mistakes is the most effective way for them to obey their parents "actually parents also don't want to be angry all the time, it's just that children like to argue if they are told, if I am already angry or I threaten by reducing their allowance then they listen". (Interview E, 2024)

The behavior of children from divorced parents based on data from the results of democratic parenting of children's character (morals), among others: Children are obedient and diligent in carrying out the teachings of Islam, for example, praying five times, like to be grateful, honest, fair and not arrogant; Children like to help others who need help; Children have an attitude of respect for others and do not impose their will; Children become independent and relate well with their friends; Children have an attitude of loving fellow humans and the surrounding nature; Children like to hang out with good children in their home environment. (Interview L, 2024)

In contrast to the results of permissive parenting, where children tend to have more attitudes, among others: children have a fairly good understanding of religion but are less implemented in actions. For example, children do five-time prayers, give alms, are grateful only sometimes; children have a spoiled attitude; children have a disobedient attitude; children do not respect others and sometimes impose their will on others; children are less independent; children are not confident. (Interview N, 2024)

Permissive parenting here is what happened to Faiz's brother, he was raised by his grandmother because since his parents divorced his father remarried and his mother worked abroad as a migrant worker to support her child. Suna's grandmother said that when she advised her grandson, the grandson did not really heed her advice "my grandson is not very obedient to me, maybe because I am only his grandmother not his parents and I am also old. So what can I do. I also feel sorry for Faiz because he doesn't have his parents so what he asks for I obey, so he doesn't feel different from his friends." (Interview O, 2024)

As for the uninvolved parenting pattern, as happened to brother Yusuf, since his parents divorced, his father remarried and settled in his wife's house (in Madura), his mother also

remarried and followed her new husband to Jakarta. Then brother Yusuf was raised by his grandmother. According to brother Yusuf, since his parents had a new family, brother Yusuf was no longer supported by his parents but was supported by his grandmother "I have not been sent money by my parents since they had their own families. My grandmother pays for everything from food to school fees. But since my grandmother works in a wood factory and lives with my aunt. But during the holidays I go home to Madura to my father's house for 10 days." (Interview P, 2024)

Based on the data analysis above, it can be concluded that:

First, the character (morals) of children raised with democratic parenting, including the following: morals to God, for example: always grateful, making prayer a necessity, obedient to parents; morals to fellow humans, for example: respect for others, like to help fellow humans, do not impose their will, honest, confident and respectful to elders; morals to the surrounding environment, for example: like to maintain and protect the natural environment, like to plant flowers, maintain cleanliness by throwing garbage in its place.

Second, the character (morals) of children raised with pessimistic parenting, including the following: Morals to God, for example: lack of gratitude, sometimes doing prayers, defying parental orders; Morals to fellow humans, for example: lack of respect for others, do not care about others, sometimes impose their will, lack of honesty, and lack of confidence; Morals to the surrounding environment, for example: do not care about the surrounding nature, do not care about environmental cleanliness, and are indifferent to the natural environment. Children are representations of small humans who have potential that still has to be developed, children have certain characteristics that are unique and not the same as adults, they are always active, dynamic, enthusiastic and curious about what they see, hear, feel, they never seem to stop exploring and learning. (Interview W, 2024)

The age range of children lies on a scale of 0 to 21 years, the explanation of the age limit of 21 years is determined based on considerations of business interests, social welfare, personal maturity and mental maturity of a person which is generally achieved after a person exceeds the age of 21 years. According to Law No. 23 of 2002 on child protection, children's rights are part of human rights that must be guaranteed, protected and fulfilled by parents, society, government and the state. Changes that occur in children such as the T include changes in physical (motor) aspects, emotions, cognition, psychosexual, psychosocial, moral and others. The development of each aspect runs simultaneously with harmony and follows the rhythm of individual development. (Interview T, 2024)

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

There are two parenting patterns of divorced parents in educating their children, namely: *First*, democratic parenting with attitudes including: mutual respect and respect, always discussing children's problems, providing opportunities for children to become independent, close relationships between parents and children, parental attention by advising and reprimanding children when they make mistakes. *Second*, permissive parenting with attitudes including: lack of parental attention to children, children are allowed to develop without parental guidance, the priority of children's interests is never prioritized, children are allowed to act and do as they please without autonomy, children always get whatever they want without any control and limits even though indirectly. The characteristics of children of divorced parents include: a) children become awkward in facing the reality of life, b) children sometimes dream of being famous, c) children prefer to fantasize about their lives, d) children have less imagination when they play, and e) children experience disturbances in their social, cognitive and personality development. Children need good parenting patterns that are more open, warm relationships and good communication between children and parents.

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