



Parental Involvement in Maintaining Children's Social Interactions

Juwinner Dedy Kasingku¹, Robert Siby²

^{1,2} (Fakultas Keguruan dan Ilmu Pendidikan, Universitas Klatat, Indonesia)

* Corresponding Author. E-mail: kasingkujuwinnerdedy@gmail.com

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini mencari tahu pentingnya peran orang tua dalam membentuk pergaulan sosial anak, khususnya dalam menghadapi tantangan pergaulan bebas yang semakin merajalela di kalangan remaja. Dengan menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif, data diperoleh melalui studi pustaka dan informasi dari sumber-sumber online yang relevan. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan bahwa keluarga memiliki peran penting dalam membentuk karakter, kebiasaan, dan tindakan anak. Selain itu, pergaulan sosial anak juga sangat dipengaruhi oleh lingkungan keluarga, yang menjadi fondasi awal bagi perkembangan anak. Komunikasi yang baik antara orang tua dan anak, serta pembentukan aturan dan batasan yang jelas dalam keluarga, menjadi kunci untuk membentuk pergaulan sosial yang positif. Orang tua juga perlu memberikan pendidikan seks yang sesuai dengan usia anak untuk membantu mereka memahami risiko pergaulan bebas. Dengan demikian, peran orang tua dalam membimbing anak dan menciptakan lingkungan keluarga yang sehat sangat penting untuk melindungi anak-anak dari dampak negatif pergaulan bebas dan membentuk karakter yang kuat serta kesiapan menghadapi tantangan masa depan.

Kata kunci: Orang Tua, Pergaulan sosial, Anak

Abstract

This research explores the importance of parents' roles in shaping children's social interactions, especially in facing the increasing challenges of peer pressure among teenagers. Using qualitative research methods, data was obtained through literature review and relevant online sources. The findings show that families play a crucial role in shaping children's character, habits, and actions. Additionally, children's social interactions are greatly influenced by the family environment, which serves as the foundation for their development. Good communication between parents and children, as well as the establishment of clear rules and boundaries within the family, are key to fostering positive social interactions. Parents also need to provide age-appropriate sex education to help children understand the risks of peer pressure. Thus, the role of parents in guiding children and creating a healthy family environment is very important to protect children from the negative impacts of peer pressure and to build strong character and readiness to face future challenges.

Keywords: Parents, Social Interactions, Children

Introduction

These days, one of the issues often appearing among children is the problem of promiscuity. This kind of socializing has significant negative effects on their development and education. The bad influence of promiscuity can lead to criminal behavior, fights, alcohol abuse, and premarital sex. Uncontrolled juvenile delinquency is often related to promiscuity. Many teenagers today are trapped in this kind of socializing and have experienced the consequences of their actions, such as unwanted pregnancies and a ruined future. According to Kamila (2023) via Kompasiana, around 80 teenagers in Bojonegoro have experienced premarital pregnancies, and 409 teenagers have applied for marriage dispensation. That is why Bojonegoro is in an emergency state regarding early marriage. Furthermore, according to CNN news channel (2024), the police arrested 4 people involved in a deadly brawl in Mampang, Prapatan, which resulted in 1 death. Previously, according to news on Detiknews (2015), 23 percent of teenagers in Indonesia have consumed alcohol because it is easily obtainable from shops or stalls. The news further states that alcohol has a significant impact on ruining the younger generation, leading to criminal actions such as murder, rape, and theft.

The role of parents is very important in shaping their children's character and behavior, as stated by Musawamah (2021). Therefore, according to Wijaya & Mukramin (2023), parental supervision and education must be more active to prevent unwanted things, including promiscuity. According to Mone (2019), the role of parents is crucial so that children feel they receive enough attention and love at home, preventing them from seeking attention outside by engaging in negative activities. The education taught by parents at home greatly influences children because the home is where they first learn, and their first teachers are their parents. Children need to be well-educated and guided at home to be ready to face future challenges and have a strong educational foundation (Putri & Aji Pradana, 2021). The primary and initial environment for the process of forming each child's identity is the family environment at home. The family environment is the initial foundation for children in their social process. When children are provided with a good

education at home, it will become their habit and character, enabling them to resist and even avoid the temptations of juvenile delinquency. According to Kasingku & Siby (2024), it is undeniable that unhealthy socializing can negatively impact life.

This research aims to understand the importance of the family's role, especially parents, in shaping children's social interactions. The character education children receive at home prepares them for their future social environment. By analyzing and comparing various articles related to this topic, it is hoped that we can understand how the character and social education provided by parents shape the behavior, character, actions, and readiness of young people to face the challenges of today's world. Through this research, it is hoped that the current young generation can be prepared to become individuals with good character and strong principles, maintaining healthy social interactions. It is also intended to encourage parents to provide sufficient attention and love to their children.

Method

The method used in this research is a qualitative research method focused on literature review and supplemented with relevant information from the internet. This research will collect and analyze literature sources such as articles, books, and other documents related to the role of parents in shaping children's social interactions. The goal is to provide a positive impact on parents in educating and supervising their children's social interactions, making the children feel comfortable and at ease.

Result and Discussion

The Role of Family in a Children's Life

The family's role is crucial for a child's growth and development because the family is the first and closest environment the child has from a young age. According to Daming & Barokah (2022), the family plays an important role in ensuring children receive what they need, maximizing their potential, and enhancing their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being. Astuti et al. (2023) state that parents play a vital role in meeting children's needs, such as providing safety, love, and emotional support. Children who experience this tend to have better emotional well-being. Parents should build

closeness with their children (Ifitah & Anawaty, 2020). Handayani (2016) adds that parents should involve children in family decision-making according to their age and encourage open communication and mutual respect. The family environment is a primary factor influencing a child's successful growth and development because the family is considered a primary group (Dewi, 2019). A child's development is shaped and honed from early education at home, which serves as the initial foundation for their growth. Therefore, families and parents must pay close attention to the small details in a child's growth and development process.

Social Interactions in a Children's Environment

Socializing is a way to make friends and improve our social life. Children have the opportunity to interact with anyone during their socializing period. During this time, children will always do what they find enjoyable, even if they don't understand the impact on themselves. According to Subekti (2021), there are two types of social interactions: good interactions, also known as healthy socializing, which tend to be positive and can form good habits and character, and bad interactions, or promiscuity, which lean towards negative and unimportant activities. Andriati & Hidayati (2020) state that to create good and positive social interactions, it is important to have good social ethics to create a warm and friendly atmosphere when socializing. Additionally, Kasingku et al. (2023) mention that good social interactions occur when we know how to choose good friends. Friends influence the direction of our social interactions towards good or bad (Kiawati & Prayitno, 2021).

The social environment influences behavior changes in individuals. According to Palar et al. (2018), it is essential to maintain a healthy social environment for children because a positive social environment can influence children's behavior, such as in character development and avoiding unwanted outcomes for their future. Tamara (2016) explains that the social environment includes the family, school, and community. These three environments impact a child's development, but we will focus on the family's role in shaping a child's social interactions.

Therefore, socializing is an important aspect of human social life, especially during childhood. These social interactions provide opportunities to expand friendships and influence character and habits. There are two types of social interactions: good ones that can form positive character and habits and bad ones that tend towards negative activities. Good social ethics are crucial for creating a warm and friendly social atmosphere. Moreover, choosing friends plays a vital role in forming positive or negative social interactions. The social environment, especially the family environment, plays a significant role in shaping a child's behavior and character, so maintaining a healthy social environment can positively impact a child's development and future.

The Role of Family and Parents in Children's Social Interactions

During puberty, children tend to focus more on their relationships with friends than with family, making it challenging for parents to control and manage them. During this period, children start to socialize and try new and challenging things. According to Said (2018), children's social interactions often form during adolescence or puberty, considered a turbulent time when individuals seek their identity and easily accept external information without much consideration. Therefore, it is important to establish good communication as early as possible, ideally when the child is still young. When children feel heard and valued by their parents, it is easier for them to communicate during puberty (Tan, 2021). The role of parents in educating children is irreplaceable because no one understands children as well as their family and parents. As the saying goes, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree." Parents and children share a bond that makes it easier for them to understand each other. Children absorb the values passed on by their parents to live their lives. According to Inten (2017), many children see their parents as figures and role models. Not a few children idolize their parents. Nasiruddin (2018) emphasizes that parental role modeling is crucial in developing children's character and family. Additionally, Subagia (2021) states that most of children's learning comes not from what parents say but from the example they set. Therefore, parents must pay attention to their actions, as children will follow them. As parents, we can play various roles for our children. Sometimes we need to be a good motivator, a

doctor caring for a sick child, a teacher educating them, and a communicator helping them solve problems.

Setting rules and clear boundaries are essential in a child's social environment. According to Arifin & Tjahjono (2021), parents should establish family rules and follow them, so children will follow them too. Both children and parents need to understand and adhere to these boundaries. Agreements on rules and boundaries are crucial for creating a harmonious family environment. Parents should quickly identify potential issues within the family and establish clear, simple, and specific rules and boundaries. It is important to ensure that children understand these rules by encouraging discussions to explain their purpose, intent, and implementation. Creating a list of consequences for breaking rules and rewards for following them reinforces the importance of these rules. Additionally, parents should be prepared to enforce these rules consistently. This approach helps create a sense of security and understanding within the family while fostering trust and responsibility among all family members (Rohayati, 2021). Discipline in following these agreements is a parental responsibility that the entire family must adhere to. When the established rules are clear and agreed upon by all family members, especially parents, they must be enforced to train children to be disciplined and not act as they please. Guiding children and teaching them to avoid promiscuity is a parental responsibility. According to Marbun & Kalis (2019), it is important to provide age-appropriate sex

education so that children understand the importance and value of maintaining their cleanliness and purity. Through sex education, parents can provide appropriate information according to the child's needs and age. Additionally, with sex education, children can be informed about various risky sexual behaviors so they can avoid them. Furthermore, Christian religious education for teenagers can significantly impact them because they can understand that God created them, helping them avoid promiscuity that can harm their lives (Kasingku & Sanger, 2023).

Conclusion

Promiscuity among children is an important issue with significant negative impacts on their development and education, such as criminal behavior, fights, alcohol abuse, and premarital sex. Parents play a crucial role in shaping the character and behavior of their children, especially in supervising and educating them to avoid free association. Setting clear rules and boundaries, maintaining open communication, and providing age-appropriate sex education are steps parents can take to address this problem. The family environment is the main factor in forming a child's identity and behavior, so the role of parents in setting a good example and providing proper education is very important. With active supervision and education from parents, it is hoped that children can grow and develop well and be able to face future challenges.

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