

## CHILDREN'S SOCIAL VALUES: SINGLE MOTHER PARENTING

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### Abstrak

Parenting by single mothers is one of the most common social phenomena in society. Parents become single parents due to several factors such as the occurrence of divorce and or their spouse has died. Parents who become single parents will experience a series of problems. This is because there is only one parent who cares for and raises the child. The purpose of this study is to find out how the parenting style is, the inhibiting factors and to find out the efforts of single mothers in instilling social values in children. The approach taken in this research is a qualitative approach. The data collection technique used in this research is to use the method of observation, interviews and documentation. In addition, the data analysis technique uses the data triangulation method for data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions. The results of this study are, single parent parenting in instilling social values in children uses democratic and authoritarian parenting styles. Where a single parent democratic parenting pattern always prioritizes the interests of children, nurturing them with love without any coercion, the inhibiting and encouraging factors in instilling social values in children in the area are busyness factors and economic factors and low economic factors where parents busy working so that it is difficult to instill social values in children, and the efforts made by single mothers with good communication between single parents and children can have a positive impact on children's morale because parents' advice or messages are conveyed to children in instilling children's social values.

**Keywords:** *child social, parenting, single mother*

### Introduction

Family is a multidimensional concept. Social scientists disagree about the formulation of a universal definition of the family. In his book *Social Structure* that Murdock describes that the family is a social group that has the characteristics of living together, there is economic cooperation, and a process of reproduction occurs.

In terms of the existence of family members, the family can be divided into two, namely the nuclear family and the extended family. The nuclear family is a family in which there are only three social

positions, namely: husband-father, wife-mother, and sibling children (Lee, 1982). The nuclear family is a family which includes positions other than the three positions above. The first form of the nuclear family that is often encountered in society is the branched family (stem family). A split family occurs when a child, and only one, who is married still lives in his parents' house. The second form of the nuclear family is the lineal family. This form occurs when more than one child who is married continues to live with both parents. The third form of the nuclear family is the fully extended family.

This form occurs when in a family there is a third generation (grandchildren) who are married and still live together.

The nuclear family is generally built based on marital ties. Marriage is the foundation for the family, therefore when a pair of humans get married a new family will be born. The nuclear family is usually found in a society where the relationship between generations is important, not between couples. The nuclear family is usually found in a society that views kinship as important.

Parenting by single mothers is one of the most common social phenomena in society. Parents become single parents due to several factors such as the occurrence of divorce and or their spouse has died. Parents who become single parents will experience a series of problems. This is because there is only one parent who cares for and raises the child. In this case the role of parents is very important. Parents should little by little be able to guide and motivate children, especially in supporting children to socialize in the surrounding environment. Because of the status of parents as single parents, a father or mother who becomes a single parent must be as much as possible to play a role according to what the child expects.

A mother who becomes a single parent because of the death of her partner or because of a divorce will certainly

experience difficulties in her life, because there is no partner who is used as a life support. There was a worry in him, he had to work hard while raising his children. Besides, the mother as a single parent must meet the need for love, emotional needs for children, and bear the financial burden and manage it alone. Social values are values held by a society, regarding what is considered good and what is considered bad by society. Social values are things that really need to be instilled in children because basically social values function as a reference for behavior in interacting with others so that their existence can be accepted in society.

Like the phenomenon that occurred in Syuhada Hamlet, Langsa Lama District, Langsa City, it can be seen that in that area there are single parents, which occur due to divorce and the death of their spouse. In the area there are several single parents who raise their children without a partner. This divorce affects the inculcation of children's social values, where children who are cared for by single parents will have different plantings of social values with children who are cared for by complete parents.

When raised by single parents, it is possible that some children will engage in deviant behavior, such as arguing and fighting against their parents, often using disrespectful words, and using illegal

drugs. Deviant behavior carried out by children due to lack of attention from one of the parents. Single parents must understand the importance of educating their children from an early age to adolescence, especially recently that juvenile delinquency has occurred. Juvenile delinquency often occurs due to family divorce or parental separation. This kind of condition makes the child less trust in their parents and always looking for a way out of their own problems, it could be that they are involved in bad relationships because of a lack of parental control.

The purpose of this study is to find out how single parent parenting practices in instilling social values in children, to find out the inhibiting factors for inculcating social values in children and to find out the efforts made by single mothers (single parent). In instilling children's social values. Previous research which is almost the same as this research was conducted by Ade Purwati, et al (2020) with the results of the study showing that two mothers take care of their children by limiting playing time, emphasizing independence and always inviting children to discuss, including democratic parenting patterns that have an impact on children. children's behavior becomes easy to manage and has a high social spirit. Meanwhile, one mother takes care of the

child by not limiting the child in doing activities and tends to spoil the child, including in the permissive parenting pattern which has an impact on the child's behavior becoming aggressive and often rebellious. Research conducted by Eliza Riani Fitri (2018) with the results of this study proves that single parents (mothers) apply different parenting patterns. Usually, work is a single parent (mother) first priority which makes them miss the opportunity to pay attention to their child's behavior and education at school. Furthermore, because of the tiring work, single parents tend to speak harshly, commit acts of violence especially when they order their children to prepare for their school, homework, and find it difficult to facilitate school instruments and transportation. Due to the low frequency of presence of single parents (mothers), children tend to play all day without parental supervision. This problem makes children unable to feel the presence of their parents to give love and affection. Also, children have many shortcomings in getting an education both at school and at home, low academic grades, quit school before graduation, do not even go to grades.

## **Method**

The approach taken in this research is a qualitative approach. Researchers do not collect finished data or all at once and then process it, but step by step and meaning is concluded during the process from the beginning to the end of the activity, is narrative, and holistic. Qualitative methods are more based on phenomenological properties that prioritize appreciation (verstehen). Qualitative methods seek to understand and interpret the meaning of an event of human behavior interaction, sometimes from a perspective based on the researcher himself. Research that uses qualitative research aims to understand the object being studied in depth.

This research was conducted in Syuhada Hamlet, Langsa Lama District, Langsa City. In qualitative research, the instrument or research tool is the researcher himself. In this case, the researcher is an interviewer who directly collects data by asking, listening, and taking. The researcher will not end the data collection phase, before the researcher is sure that the data studied have been able to answer the research objectives. The data collection technique used in this research is to use the method of observation, interviews and documentation. In addition, the data analysis technique uses the data triangulation method for data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions.

## **Results:**

### **1. Single Parent Parenting In Instilling Children's Social Values**

#### **a. Democratic Parenting**

Based on the opinion of the informants above, it can be seen that single mothers in the area give praise/gifts to their children when the child excels, so that they are more motivated to improve their achievements and so that they feel more appreciated for their achievements.

#### **b. Authoritarian Parenting**

From the narratives of some of the informants above, it can be seen that single parents do not give their children the freedom to do whatever they want. Because parents think when a child is given the freedom to do anything it can have a negative impact on his future and can embarrass the family's good name.

#### **c. Permissive Parenting**

Based on the narratives of some of the informants above, it can be seen that single parents always control the behavior or activities of their children every day. Because parents assume that we know the activities and with whom our children hang out, so we can know and control their social environment so that they will not fall into negative things.

## **1. Inhibiting and Encouraging Factors in Instilling Children's Social Values**

In this section the author will describe the results of interviews and observations that have been carried out directly at the research site regarding the inhibiting and motivating factors in instilling social values in children.

### **a. Obstacle factor**

Based on the narratives of the informants above, it can be seen that there are three factors that hinder child-rearing patterns in the area, namely the busy factor where single mothers are busy working so that they have difficulty in raising children, especially their status as single parents, economic factors where parents The majority of single parents work as laborers whose income is uncertain and the education factor of single parents is low.

### **b. Supporting factors**

Based on the narratives of the informants above, it can be seen that there are two supporting factors for parenting in the area, namely family factors where families provide assistance and support in raising children and environmental factors where there is a social environment that provides great opportunities for children to

channel their talents and able to interact well in the community.

## **1. Efforts of Single Mothers in Instilling Children's Social Values**

There are two efforts that single parents can do in instilling social values in children, namely creating communication and creating a harmonious climate.

### **a. Creating Communication**

Based on the narratives of the informants above, it can be seen that one of the efforts made by single mothers in the area in instilling social values in children is an effort to create good communication between parents and children in order to create a close relationship and openness of children to parents.

### **b. Cozy Climate**

The following are the results of interviews with resource persons regarding the efforts of single parents in instilling social values in children in the area, in this case the effort to create a harmonious climate. Based on the narrative of the informants above, it can be seen that other efforts made by single mothers in the area in instilling social values in children are efforts to create a harmonious climate so that children feel comfortable in interacting with the social environment and create children who have friendly and polite personalities.

## **Discussion:**

### **1. Single Parent Parenting In Instilling Children's Social Values**

Parenting is a pattern of interaction between parents and children, namely how parents interact with children, including how to apply them to teach values / norms, give attention and love and show good attitudes and behavior so that they are used as role models / examples for their children (Wood and Zoo). Parenting patterns are divided into three, namely democratic parenting, authoritarian parenting and permissive parenting.

#### **a. Democratic Parenting**

According to Debri, democratic parenting is parenting that prioritizes the interests of children, but does not hesitate to control them. Parents with this behavior are rational, always basing their actions on ratios or thoughts. At this point the researcher asked three questions to the informants in the area, the first was about providing opportunities for children to express their opinions, and from the eight sources there were six sources who did provide opportunities for their children to express their opinions because single parents think that a child has rights. to express their opinions, so that they can express themselves and be confident in what they are doing. Meanwhile, the other two single parents did not give their

children the opportunity to express their opinion, because they thought that parents knew better what was best for their children.

The second is about giving punishment to children when they make mistakes. Of the eight sources, there were seven single parents who did not punish their children when they made a mistake but only gave advice so that the child would not make a mistake again. Parents consider that when giving children punishment in the form of corporal punishment is not an effective solution for changing children's behavior. And there is one single parent whom the writer interviewed did not hesitate to punish his child when he made a mistake.

The last is about giving praise or gifts when children excel. All interviewees said that they give praise or gifts to their children when they excel so that children can be motivated to improve their achievements and so that they feel appreciated for their achievements.

This parenting style emphasizes the importance of openness and cooperation in a family. In a nuclear family, democratic parenting sometimes occurs in a family. Especially in a family that only has a single parent. Whether he is a single parent, father or mother in implementing this form of democratic parenting.

Based on the results of the study, several informants have found a tendency for single parent informants to apply this pattern. Such as single mother informants who apply democratic parenting in the form of giving the right of opinion to giving their children the opportunity to make a decision.

Some of the findings in the field from interviews with single mother informants who gave the right to an opinion to confide in a child and provided an opportunity to make a decision by placing themselves as parents who need to give consideration or sometimes also need to be given consideration.

In raising children, whether in a complete nuclear family or in a single-parent family, of course there are differences. Every parent certainly has an authoritarian, permissive, or democratic side in educating their children with the hope that their children will grow up as good and responsible individuals. In families with complete parents, the division of child care tasks tends to be divided between father and mother, this makes the child does not feel a lack of love from both of them. The roles of fathers and mothers in a complete nuclear family tend to be deeply felt by children, the presence of the figures of both parents makes children feel warm in the midst of the family. This is also expected by single

parents can be given to their children. Even though as a single parent, of course, it gives more burden to parents. The double burden on single parents demands that children and single parents have to work together in various matters in the home.

The parenting style applied by single mothers from the results of this study has similarities and also has differences. The most visible similarity from single parent informants is the provision of the right to an opinion. While the difference is how the giving of the father and mother gives confidence to the child in making decisions. Single mothers tend to be possessive in giving their children decision-making rights and there are also mothers who often give their children the right to express their opinions and consider whether the decisions are good or bad.

From the results of this study, single mothers who become informants tend to be democratic in raising their children. Even though there are things that parents do that lead to authoritarian and permissive patterns, single mothers place more emphasis on children so that children become good individuals. This according to the author is a positive thing that does not harm the child. The important thing underlined by the author is that giving children the opportunity to express their opinion is democratic.

The discussion of Talcott Parsons' structural functionalism provides an overview of his AGIL theory. AGIL emphasizes session functions and roles. Where include adaptation, Goal Attainment (achievement of goals), integration, latency (maintenance of patterns). According to Parsons, the system must deal with the situation, manage the situation, and maintain it so that the attainment goals can also be achieved or the mission and vision continue to run as they should.

Based on the results of research on single mother parenting, it has been found that the tendency of parenting applied by single mothers has a tendency for all typologies of parenting. However, although the dominant trend of parenting applied is democratic parenting, it must be underlined that the tendency of democratic parenting is also because it requires other parenting tendencies.

The results of interviews with several informants have found that the structural functional theory by Talcott Parsons is in line with the AGIL theory. Where the single mother informants have nurtured, tried to blend in with the daily life of a child, maintained the role of the child for certain purposes in a family. Like shaping a child's personality to be a responsible person, knowing where something is bad. In addition to the goals

or goals attainment and adaptation, the system maintenance process also applies to single mother families in this study. Where the parenting provided by a single mother is to provide a parenting pattern that still maintains the rhythm of a child in developing himself. This can be proven from informants providing opportunities for a child to vent or express opinions.

#### b. Authoritarian Parenting

This parenting style tends to set standards that absolutely must be followed, usually followed by threats. This type of parent tends to force, command and punish. At this point the writer asked two questions to eight single parents in the area. The first is regarding the making of rules by parents that children must follow. There were six parents who said that they made rules that their children must obey so that there would be no deviant actions. And two parents said that they didn't make rules for their child because they thought their child was old enough to be able to differentiate between good and bad.

Authoritarian parenting tends not to think about what will happen in the future, always setting absolute standards that are determined unilaterally and must be followed, usually followed by threats. For example, if you don't want to eat, you won't be spoken to. This type of parent tends to be pushy, commanding, punishing, uncompromising and in one-



way communication. For example, an authoritarian parent might say “You have to do what I say, no bargaining”. They do not realize that later in life, children with authoritarian parenting may cause more complicated, confusing and sometimes energy-consuming problems. Although children with this authoritarian parenting pattern have sufficient competence and responsibility, most tend to be socially withdrawn, less spontaneous and appear less confident.

Most children with authoritarian parenting do their job for fear of being punished. Under these extreme conditions, boys with authoritarian parenting are very likely to be at risk of antisocial, aggressive, impulsive and other adaptive behavior, such as killing, stealing, drugs and so on.

The second is about giving freedom to children without any restrictions that must be obeyed. And all single parents interviewed by the author in the area said that they still set boundaries for their children so they don't deviate from the norms or cultural values of the local community. And so that the future of the child is not destroyed because of the freedom that is given. The third is controlling the behavior or activities of children every day, seven informants said that they still control their children so that

parents can know whether their children's play environment is positive or negative.

From the explanation above, we can say that most single parents in the area still apply some of the authoritarian parenting methods but do not use physical violence against children. Parents make rules that must be obeyed by children so as not to deviate from the norms or values that apply in society.

#### b. Permissive Parenting

This parenting pattern provides an explanation for their child to do something without sufficient supervision from him. They tend not to reprimand / warn children when children are in danger and very little guidance is given by them, so they are often liked by children. At this point there is one question that the author asks the resource persons, namely controlling whether or not the behavior or activities of children every day, seven informants said that they still control their children so that parents can know whether the children's play environment is positive or negative. And one informant said that they no longer control their child because they think that the child has never behaved deviantly.

The nature of this parenting pattern, namely all the rules and regulations of the family in the hands of the child. Parents obey all the wishes of the child. Children tend to behave arbitrarily, without parental supervision. He is free to do whatever he

wants. From another negative side, children are less disciplined with applicable social rules. If the child uses this freedom responsibly, then the child will become an independent, creative, initiative child, and able to realize his actualization.

From the results of interviews with several informants, it can be seen that the parenting pattern applied in this study is democratic parenting and permissive parenting. In families that apply democratic parenting, parents in educating their children want to provide opportunities for children to express their opinions. This type of parent also gives freedom to the child to choose and take an action and his approach to the child is warm.

This parenting pattern is characterized by a warm relationship between parents and children. Parents are able to apply rules clearly and consistently without coercion on children, for example children who help parents in doing homework without coercion.

Parents in raising children must have an understanding of the basic concepts of proper parenting, parents must also understand the characteristics of their children. Parents must know the children's preferences, children's needs, children's thoughts, children's opinions, and children's feelings. All of this can be

known by good communication between parents and children. In other words, parents must be willing to take time to understand their children better. That way, parents can find out what kind of parenting is appropriate in raising their children.

From this explanation, it can be said that most single parents in the area do not apply permissive parenting because they still control their children, give attention, give advice so that children can behave well, can achieve and do not act deviant.

## **2. Inhibiting and Encouraging Factors in Instilling Children's Social Values**

There are two factors that influence the inculcation of children's social values, namely the inhibiting factors and the driving factors along with the explanation of these two factors for single parent child care in the area.

### **a. Obstacle factor**

Hurlock suggests several factors that can influence parenting patterns, namely busyness, economic factors, low parental education, parents' age, situation, child's gender and temperament. And based on the results of interviews conducted by researchers in the area, there are three factors that inhibit the cultivation of children's values, namely, busyness factors, economic factors and low parental education factors. The first is the busyness

factor, from eight sources there is one informant who said that the factor that hinders the inculcation of children's social values is the busy factor where single parents are busy working so that they have difficulty in raising children, especially their status as single parents.

Second, economic factors, there are three sources who said that the inhibiting factor in inculcating values in their children is economic factors where most single parents work as farmers whose income is uncertain so that at times they experience difficulties in the economy. But despite the difficulties of economic factors, single mothers always try the best for their children. And lastly, there were four resource persons who said that the inhibiting factor in inculcating values in children was the low education factor of single parents so that they had difficulty teaching their children and taking care of children when there was a need for children, especially from school because of their low knowledge.

However, the education and experience of parents in child care will affect their readiness to carry out parenting. To be better prepared in carrying out parenting is to be actively involved in every child's education efforts, observing everything with a child's problem-oriented orientation.

Parents with low education, for example, tend to be more indifferent than those with high parental education. This is due to the low education of parents who tend to entrust their children's education to other institutions.

In contrast to parents who are highly educated, besides they entrust their children's education to other institutions, they also directly supervise and educate children at home. Another difference is that parents who practice religiosity from the socialization provided by parents and children can accept it well and do it in their daily behavior. What is given by the parents, the child's behavior can be reflected in the community if the religiosity behavior of the child is good in the community, it means that the pattern of education of the parents is also good.

#### b. Supporting factors

There are two factors that support the cultivation of values in children, namely family factors and environmental factors. And these two factors affect the inculcation of values in the children of single parents in the area.

First, family factors, family or household conditions, are circumstances or daily activities in the family, such as the attitude of parents towards their children. The attitude of parents greatly influences the behavior of children, because the development of children's social attitudes

begins in the family. Loving parents, gentle, fair and wise, will foster a pleasant social attitude for children. Because children feel accepted and loved by their parents, it will grow self-confidence in children so that they form a pleasant and sociable personality. And for single parents that we know have incomplete families, so there needs to be a large family role in raising the child.

This is also the case for single-parent families in the area. There were five sources who said that the role of the family was very large in instilling social values in children. Families provide assistance and support in raising children, so that children's growth and development can run normally even though there is a missing role in a family.

The second factor is environmental factors, one of the factors that contribute to the formation of a person's attitude is the environment in which the person is located. The social environment is a very important factor in the cultivation of social values. No matter how good the disposition, personality, family, education taken, without being supported by a conducive environment, good social values will not be formed.

Good parenting is difficult to run effectively if it is not supported by the environment. The environment influences the development of children a lot, so it is

not impossible if the environment participates in coloring the parenting patterns that parents give to children.

Three sources who interviewed single-handedly in the area, said the importance of the role of the environment in inculcating children's social values where there is a social environment that provides great opportunities for children to channel their talents and can interact well in the community. So that it helps children become polite, respectful of others and have a high social concern.

### **3. Efforts of Single Mothers in Instilling Children's Social Values**

A social system that seeks to develop a value system for children is the family. This is driven by the desire and hope of parents who are strong enough for their children to grow and develop into individuals who have and uphold social values, are able to distinguish good and bad, right and wrong, what can and cannot be done, and have a commendable attitude and behavior in accordance with the expectations of parents, the surrounding community and religion.

The efforts that single parents can do in instilling social values in children are creating communication and creating a harmonious climate.

#### **a. Creating Communication**

In communication, it is preceded by the provision of information about values and morals. It not only provides an evaluation, but also stimulates the child to be more active in some conversations and decision-making. In the family environment, friends, and organizations or groups. The efforts of single parents in the area in instilling social values in children are efforts to create good communication between parents and children in order to create a close relationship and openness of children to parents. So that children not only harbor the problems they face but can tell them to their parents by assuming that parents can also be friends for them. And with good communication between single parents and children, it can have a positive impact on children's morals because parents' advice or messages are conveyed to children.

#### b. Creating a Suitable Climate

The second effort is to create a harmonious climate, someone who learns certain life values, has attitudes and behavior as a reflection of the value of life, generally someone who lives in a positive, honest and consistent environment in behavior which is a reflection of that life value. Single parents in the area strive to create a harmonious climate so that children feel comfortable in interacting with the social environment and create

children who have friendly and polite personalities.

### **Conclusion**

From the overall results of the descriptions that have been put forward in the form of research results and discussions obtained from the field, the authors can draw the following conclusions:

1. Single parent parenting in instilling social values in children in the area uses democratic and authoritarian parenting styles. Where a single parent democratic parenting always prioritizes the interests of children, nurturing them with love without any coercion. They also provide encouragement and encouragement to children to increase their potential. While authoritarian parenting is used in the form of applying rules that must be obeyed by children but single parents do not use physical violence against children. Parents make rules that must be obeyed by children so as not to deviate from the norms or values that apply in society.
2. Inhibiting and encouraging factors in instilling social values in children in the area. First, there are three inhibiting factors, namely the busyness factor where parents are busy working so that it is difficult to

instill social values in children, the economic factor where single parents, most of whom work as farmers, experience economic difficulties at times due to erratic harvests. , the factor of low parental education where most single parents have low education. Secondly, there are two driving factors, namely families who provide assistance in the form of material or attention to children so that single parents have no difficulty in instilling social values in children, and the environment provides great opportunities for children to participate in community activities so that it can facilitate planting. social value in children.

3. Efforts made by single mothers in instilling social values in children in the area are firstly communication, where good communication between single parents and children can have a positive impact on children's morale because parental advice or messages are conveyed. against children. Second, create a harmonious environmental climate so that children feel comfortable in interacting in a social environment and create children who have friendly and polite personalities.

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