

## Conference Paper

# The Influence of Single Parent Parenting in Forming Early Childhood Independence

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**Abstract**

This study aimed to determine the effect of single parent parenting in shaping early childhood independence. This research used a qualitative approach through a case study, and data were collected through interviews, observation and documentation analysis. The results showed that single parent parenting affected the formation of early childhood independence. According to the results, children who were cared for in democratic parenting tended to have an independent attitude, be responsible, have the courage to take risks, and could develop self-confidence, demonstrate learning achievement and develop their potential. Meanwhile, children who were cared for with permissive parenting tended to be less independent, slower, have low motivation, and lack self-control and confidence.

**Keywords:** parenting, single parents, independence, early childhood

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## 1. Introduction

Parents are part of the family, parents are caregivers or mentors who interact with children in the family or school environment. The basic function of the family is to provide a sense of belonging, security, love, and foster good relationships between family members [2]. Love relationships in family life are not only limited to feelings, but also involve nurture, a sense of responsibility, care, understanding, respect and a desire to raise the child they love. Parenting is the duty of parents in terms of mother and father figures, however, there are several cases of parenting carried out by single parents. Families whose relationships are not harmonious, full of conflicts or communication gaps, can experience mental health problems. Everyone wants a complete and strong family in which there is a father, mother and child, but sometimes what someone wants cannot always be realized due to various factors such as divorce or death, so someone inevitably has to become a single parent for their child. As a result, there has been a change in the role and task burden that must be borne by one parent in raising the child. If in a complete family, the father and mother or husband and wife jointly develop

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standard rules and values to be taught to the child, then in an incomplete family only the father or mother is the educator.

Single Parent is a warm situation discussed in social circles, Single Parent is a foreign language term that is often referred to by many people to single parents who raise their own children without a life partner. According to [5] being a single parent is not easy because there are many problems that must be faced in the future, such as social, emotional and economic problems. In situations like this, the role of single parents requires understanding and cooperation from people who are involved in their lives to help the process of caring for their children. In a family, children are candidates for the next generation who must be nurtured and cared for as well as possible. The personality of a child will be greatly influenced by the family parenting style that is given from an early age. For this reason, parents must be careful in providing any education to their children. As the divorce rate increases, the number of single parents is increasing in Japan. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs and Communications, from 2005 to 2010, families consisting of single fathers increased sharply, from the number reaching 166,000 to 204,000. The role of father in the family is known as Fathering, which is a role played by a father in giving direction to children to become more mature and independent, both physically and biologically.

According to [19] that: "Parenting means education, while education is a conscious guidance by educators on the physical and spiritual development of students towards the formation of the main personality. Single parents must be more patient and resilient and must be able to provide a good understanding in dealing with problems in their family. Single parents are required to work extra in carrying out their activities, work or in other matters in their daily social life to carry out their duties or functions, because as single parents they have to fight for their own lives. Single parents will usually feel depressed compared to parents who are whole in their abilities as parents. This parental competence will later be able to influence the way parents care for their children. Single parents do not have a partner to share in dealing with problems and in terms of educating and raising their children which will later affect the psychological development of the child. This is what motivates the author's interest in knowing and examining how the impact of parenting by single parents in instilling children's independence.

## 2. Related Works/Literature Review

The definition of parenting according to [11] is everything related to how we as parents educate and raise children. Parents must be very wise and careful in this matter. Parenting [5] is the method or method chosen by educators in educating their children which includes how educators treat their students. Parenting is a picture used by parents in caring for, raising, caring for, and educating children which directly affects children's independence in learning, Surya in [15]. Furthermore, according to Djamarah, parenting styles in [3] are patterns of behavior applied to children that are relatively consistent from time to time. This pattern of behavior can be felt by children and can have both negative and positive effects. Parenting is the best way that parents can do in educating their children as a form of responsibility to their children. Based on the description above, it can be concluded that parenting is a process of interaction between parents and children which includes the activities of caring for, educating, guiding and disciplining in achieving the maturation process, either directly or indirectly [16].

A single parent in a psychological sense is a parent consisting of a father and mother who is ready to carry out their duties with full responsibility as single parents. If he is able to raise children, is brave and responsible with all the risks in raising children, he is called a single parent. A single parent bet here about responsibility. It is not easy to be a single parent, especially in the early days of being separated from your spouse either because of divorce or death [10]. The task of being a parent, especially for a mother, will be heavier if you become a single parent. Everyone, especially women, certainly never hopes to become a single parent, a complete family is everyone's dream, but there are times when fate has different desires. In fact, these ideal conditions cannot be maintained or realized forever. Many of the parents, due to certain conditions, raise, raise and educate their children by themselves or become single parents, (Hurlock) in [09].

Independence [14], namely the child's ability to carry out activities on their own or to be able to stand alone in various ways. Independence [18] is the ability or skill of a child to do everything himself, whether related to self-help activities or activities in daily life, without depending on others. In preschool children [6] the potential that must be developed is independence, because at this preschool age children have started to learn to separate themselves from their families and their parents enter a wider environment, namely kindergarten or playground.

As for some previous research that is used as a reference in this study is the result of research [15] entitled “The Role of Single Parent Parenting on Children’s Social Development” shows that: Democratic parenting, authoritarian parenting, permissive parenting, uninvolved parenting. Parents. The role of single parent parenting on children’s social development in Tangkilkulon Village, Kedungwun District, it is said that the role of parenting is not involving parents in children’s social development, resulting in children feeling neglected and feeling less affectionate. Subsequent research is the Role of ‘Single Parent’ Mother in Fostering the Independence of Children in the Village of Bojong Timur Magelang, written by [3]. The results of this study are the parenting patterns given by single parents to children in fostering children’s independence in East Bojong Village, namely, parenting which is applied differently to children causes different behaviors in children. The impact of this parenting style on children’s independence. By applying different parenting styles to children, it has an impact on the level of independence that is also different for the child. Children who are cared for in authoritarian parenting do not have an attitude of independence. Children who are cared for with permissive parenting also do not have an attitude of independence and children who are cared for in democratic parenting have a high attitude of independence.

In addition, the relationship between parenting styles and children’s behavior is shown by several studies conducted including “The effects of maternal parenting style and religious commitment on self-regulation, academic achievement, and risk behavior among African-American parochial college students”, who examined the effects of maternal parenting and religious commitment on self-regulation, academic achievement, and risky behavior among African-American students. Furthermore, the results of the research entitled “The Effect of Parenting Programs on the Development of Early Childhood Independence” written by [12] show that the implementation of parenting programs has a positive effect on the development of children’s independence in PAUD Paramata Bunda Palopo City.

The results of another study entitled “Mothers’ Strategies with Multiple Roles in Forming the Independence of Pre-School Age Children” shows that the experience of mothers with multiple roles in shaping children’s independence through the use of parenting, giving examples and mentoring children in doing activities that children can do independently and familiarize children with simple daily activities to fulfill their own needs [1]. Furthermore, research [17] reveals that The study also unveiled that finance is the major problems encountered by the majority of single parents. This is because majority of the single parents find it difficult to meet the basic needs of their children such as food, clothing, school fees, and other personal needs. This also accounts for

the difficult in maintaining discipline among their children. Research [4] states that The results of this research comply with those of other studies, which proved the existence of a direct relation between the socio-economic level of the parents and their conduct towards the child (the economic difficulties encountered by the parents creating an environment prone to the formation of socially invalidating personality traits – such as the lack of self-confidence, shyness, distrust in others, deficient development of cognitive abilities, language and concentration ability, low participation in the social life or even.

### 3. Material & Methodology

This research is a qualitative research with a case study approach. This research focuses intensively on one particular object that studies it as a case. Case study data can be obtained from all interested parties, in other words, this study is collected from various sources [8].

This study uses primary and secondary data. Primary data obtained through informants with in-depth interview techniques and observation methods. In this study, primary data were obtained from single parents, children who are cared for and other family members who live in the same house. The number of single parents and children sampled was 3 parents and 3 children. The reason for selecting informants is because the informant is someone who is directly concerned with what is the focus of this research, so that the relevant informant can directly provide the necessary data or information according to the wishes and focus of this research. Meanwhile, secondary data consists of documents related to children such as report cards, children's achievements and others. Secondary data were also obtained from children's teachers, neighbors, and children's friends. Secondary data [13] is a data source that does not directly provide data to data collectors, for example through other people or through documents.

Data collection techniques in this study using interview techniques, observation and documentation. Interviews are needed to collect data on the impact of single parent parenting on children's independence recorded based on the recognition of 3 single parents. Observations are made to obtain data and information about the activities, attitudes and behavior of single parents in caring for their children and the attitudes and behavior of the children they care for. Other data collection techniques are also used to complement interview and observation techniques, namely in the form of documentation. Data in qualitative research is obtained from human sources through observation and interviews, but there are also data sources in the form of documentation

where materials are available, available and ready to use and do not require money [7]. The documentation here is in the form of photos of the children’s and parents’ activities, as well as the children’s learning outcomes at school.

This discussion is carried out by analyzing the data obtained through data triangulation, by comparing the supporting theories and the results of empirical studies. The process in this study refers to the data that has been collected, to reveal the findings whether there is an effect of single parent care on early childhood independence, which will be proven by the findings from data analysis. Data collection was carried out by conducting interviews with parent and child participants. In addition to interviews, researchers conducted a documentary study of children’s activities in the home environment. Observations were also carried out by looking at the social environment around the place where he lived, then processed it into data which was elaborated through the form of data and narrative.

#### 4. Results and Discussion

Researchers conducted research on 3 single parents with not much different ages, this can be seen from table 4.1. When viewed from the results of observations and interviews conducted by researchers with 3 parents related to the formation of children’s independence, researchers revealed that mothers have a very important role in the family, because awareness of parenting is an awareness of the importance of the role of childcare as a means to optimize the process of child independence. The existence of high awareness of parenting will encourage a mother to do her duties as well as possible so that child welfare can be achieved.

TABLE 1: Age of Respondents with Single Parents

No	Name	Age
1	EJ	36 years
2	AN	30 years
3	RH	33 years

From table 4.2, it can be seen that the age of the respondent children is at the golden age, the golden age is the golden age of children which is an important period to optimize growth and development. During the golden age, the formation of the nervous system has basically occurred. At this time, there is a connection between nerve cells. Parents should realize that early age is a golden period for the growth of every individual. This is because the first five years of a child’s age are a critical period. This period is a period that is the basis, foundation and foundation of various

aspects of development, therefore the parenting style plays a big role in shaping a child’s attitude.

TABLE 2: Age of Child Respondents

No	Name	Age
1	A	5 years
2	B	5 years
3	C	4 years

The parenting patterns used by respondents from this study can be seen from table 4.3, where EJ and Mrs. AN use democratic parenting for A and B, democratic parenting is a parenting pattern that applies treatment to children in order to shape children’s personalities by prioritizing interests. children who act rationally or thoughts. This parenting style is carried out by promoting love and attention, which is accompanied by strict and consistent application of discipline. On the other hand, children are given the freedom to have opinions and time to discuss, so that two-way communication is established. When there is a difference of opinion, he is still respected and given understanding. Meanwhile, RH uses permissive parenting for C, where this permissive parenting is a tolerant or patient parenting style. The characteristics of this parenting style are having some rules or standards of behavior, the rules can be inconsistent, do not expect too much from the child, and continue to nurture and love children. The effect of this parenting style is that children will lack independence, self-discipline, have poor social skills, will be very demanding and feel insecure.

TABLE 3: Respondents’ Parenting Patterns for Children

No	Name	Parenting	Independence
1	EJ	Democratic	Independent
2	AN	Democratic	Independent
3	RH	Permissive	Less Independent

From table 4.4 it can be seen that the three single parents educate, guide, nurture and encourage their children to be more independent, this is done patiently and with full attention, if the child makes mistakes, this single parent gives a warning with gentle words and fun, so that it makes children feel calm and not tense. Ibu EJ and Ibu AN apart from guiding their children patiently, these two single mothers also instill good values in their children. In contrast to RH mothers who do not allow their children to do everything by themselves on the grounds that their children are too small, RH mothers only provide a few examples for their children to practice independence. The role of

TABLE 4: Independence Indicator

No	Independence Indicator	A	B	C
1	Can wear their own clothes	√	√	-
2	Can do your own homework	√	√	-
3	Can eat and drink alone	√	√	-
4	Can wear your own shoes	√	√	-
5	Can shower alone	√	√	-

the mother as an educator who must be able to control her child. Mothers also play a role in educating and developing children’s personalities.

Based on the results of the study, the researchers saw that EJ and AN were able to control and educate their children in terms of independence, for example when their children were studying, they played an active and diligent role. Meanwhile, RH mother gives study time after evening prayer, RH mother must be firm with her child first and then she does her job.

Mothers are good examples and role models for children’s growth and development to improve and develop independence, therefore a mother must always provide an example and role model, especially in terms of developing independence. Based on the results of the study, the researchers saw that EJ and AN gave good attitudes and examples for children A and B, so that these two children were able to be kind to those around them both in the school environment and in the community. Meanwhile, RH mother must first provide understanding to C to understand the people around her, both in the school environment and in the community.

Mother as a very extraordinary manager in the house, a mother who manages the smooth running of the household and is responsible for all her duties. Based on the research results of these three single mothers, the children of EJ’s mother and AN’s mother always help their mother do homework and know their responsibilities, but the child of mother AN, namely B, even though she is 5 years old, always helps her mother happily, however he must be given an explanation first. Meanwhile, the child of RH’s mother doesn’t really understand the responsibility of helping her mother even though she helps her mother’s work, but she must be given an example first.

A single mother automatically takes a dual role, one of which is about working to make a living for the children she is responsible for, because the role that was previously the role of the father then became the role of a single mother. In the case of divorce, even



though the ex-husband provides a living, the situation will not change, the ex-husband is no longer providing a sufficient amount of support. As felt by the three single parent mothers, RH said that the income provided by her ex-husband was not sufficient for the needs of the child, so I had to work to supplement my income.

In contrast to EJ's mother and AN, they said that their ex-husband never provided support for their children's needs. So, these two single mothers have to work to earn their own living to support the children they bear.

Independence is very helpful and supports children in learning to understand behavior and the risks that must be accounted for, especially those related to making decisions about children's activities and needs according to their age. The importance of independence for children can be seen from the late childhood development that must be mastered by children such as helping themselves, for example wearing clothes, bathing, eating and so on.

Of these three single mothers, the children of EJ and AN have started doing their own activities according to their age, A and B can already wear their own clothes, eat by themselves, wear their own shoes and can help their mother's work at home. Meanwhile, C, the son of RH's mother, still has not developed in terms of independence, C is still fed, when he eats, he is still bathed, even C is still unable to wear his own clothes.

## 5. Conclusion

Researchers concluded that it was found that parenting styles greatly affect the independence of early childhood. Parenting is very important and is the main responsibility of parents. In parenting, there is an understanding of educating, guiding, and educating children to be independent, so that children can manage their lives. This is because independence is a condition characterized by a child being able to stand alone without depending on others. Dependence on other people is characterized by the individual's ability to meet his own needs both physically and psychologically. Independent children are children whose behavior is characterized by their ability to make their own decisions about their activities and needs in everyday life. Independence is also one of the characteristics of children that can measure the level of children's adjustment in everyday life. The parenting pattern of single mothers affects children's independence, this means that the participation of single parents in the parenting process is very high. Single parents show optimal attention in supporting their children's needs. Single parents also use effective communication to build good relationships with children because of the short time spent with children due to other activities to meet family needs.

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