



The Role of Parents in Educating Children's Independence: Duties and Responsibilities

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Abstract

This study aims to analyze the role of parents as mentors, motivators, educators, and facilitators in educating and developing independent character in children. The research was conducted on Jalan Surya Haji, Gg Dahlia number 1, Percut Sei Tuan District, Deli Serdang Regency, North Sumatra Province in 2024. The research subject's parents consisted of 2 participants. The research method used is qualitative. The data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation. The data analysis technique used is an interactive triangulation model, which includes data presentation reduction and conclusion drawing. The results showed that the role of parents in educating children's independence in becoming mentors and motivators has been done well, namely accompanying children when studying, supporting and giving advice to children, providing examples and facilitating children's educational needs, and giving gifts to children. The research may offer practical contributions for parents, educators, and counselors on how to cultivate independence in children in a balanced and healthy manner.

Kata Kunci

Pola Bimbingan;
Orang Tua;
Akhlaq;
Anak;
Media Sosial

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis peran orang tua sebagai pembimbing, orang tua sebagai motivator, orang tua sebagai pendidik, dan orang tua sebagai fasilitator, untuk mendidik dan mengembangkan karakter mandiri pada anak. Penelitian dilakukan di Jalan Surya Haji, Gg Dahlia nomor 1, Kecamatan Percut Sei Tuan, Kabupaten Deli Serdang, Provinsi Sumatera Utara pada tahun 2024. Dengan subjek penelitian orang tua yang terdiri dari 2 orang partisipan. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah kualitatif. Teknik pengumpulan data yang digunakan adalah observasi, wawancara, dan dokumentasi. Teknik analisis data yang digunakan adalah triangulasi model interaktif yang meliputi reduksi penyajian data dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa peran orang tua dalam mendidik kemandirian anak dalam menjadi mentor dan motivator sudah dilakukan dengan baik, yaitu mendampingi anak ketika belajar, mendukung dan memberikan nasehat kepada anak, serta memberikan contoh dan memfasilitasi kebutuhan pendidikan anak, dan memberikan hadiah kepada anak. Penelitian ini dapat memberikan kontribusi praktis bagi orang tua, pendidik, dan konselor tentang bagaimana menumbuhkan kemandirian pada anak secara seimbang dan sehat.

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INTRODUCTION

Early childhood education generally aims to facilitate the optimal and comprehensive development of children's potential according to the norms and values of life. Children's education should be carried out through three environments, namely family, school and organization. The family is the first and most important center of education. Since the emergence of human civilization until now, the family has always had a major influence on child development (Utomo et al., 2022). Education is a shared responsibility between the family, community and government. Schools as an auxiliary to the continuation of education in the family because the first and main education obtained by children is in the family (Lestari et al., 2022).

Children are a gift given by Allah to be entrusted to parents. Basically, children are born in a state of fitrah. Explained in the Hadith: "There is no baby but is born in a clean fitrah. Then it is his parents who make him a Jew, Christian, or Majusi, just as an animal gives birth to a whole star. Do you know that there is a star in it that completes its life? Then Abu Hurairah recited this verse 30 of Surah ar-Rum: (Remain upon) the word of Allah who has created man according to that fitrah. There is no change in the fitrah of Allah that is the straight religion". (HR. Bukhari). In surah at-Tahrim: 6 Allah has also explained that children are born in a state of fitrah (Sit & Nasution 2019).

Parents are someone in the family who acts as the main implementer in education who has responsibility at the early childhood education level (Utomo & Pahlevi, 2022). Parents, children and parenting: a case study of family service and guidance patterns on children's character building. *Journal of Eve: Studies in Gender and Child Mainstreaming*, 4(1), 91-102. Mothers and fathers have an obligation to teach, educate, and always give examples or instill positive values to all their children without exception. Because children are a gift and trust from Allah given to parents, so they are obliged to continue to maintain and support them as their responsibility. Parents are responsible for a child in guiding and directing the child's education as a form of devotion to Allah, the universe, family, society and the State and nation (Utami 2020).

Parents play a role in carrying out their main interests in terms of education need to provide

encouragement and motivation to be able to increase and improve the level of intelligence and independence of children (Saragih, 2022).

The development that occurs in children cannot be separated from the involvement of parents in educating their children. The family is the first environment known by children and plays a very important role in child development (Hasanah, 2015). Through family interaction, children can learn to recognize themselves, recognize other people around them, and in the family can shape the character or personality of the child. The character formed in the family environment will have an impact on the child's further life. The role of parents is very important in the development, education, and formation of character in children (Sari & Rasyidah, 2020).

The character that influences the development of children after an early age is independent character. Independent character can affect social emotional development in early childhood (Lestari, et al., 2024). Independent character has a very important role, namely to help children be able to do everything themselves without requiring the help of others. Teaching and educating children to have independent characters requires a process. The formation of children's independence is influenced by parenting. The role of parents in educating children is very important for the development of children's independence because parents are personal figures that children will imitate, parents who will become models towards the formation of children's character (Rahmawati et al., 2024). Parents must provide opportunities for children to do everything by themselves without worrying about their children by giving positive attitudes to children such as praising and supporting independent efforts made by children as a form of independent effort (Elminah & Patilima 2023).

According to Erikson, independence is an attempt to break away from parents with the intention of finding himself through the process of finding ego identity, namely the development towards a stable and independent individuality. Independence in early childhood is characterized by the ability of children to choose for themselves, be creative, take initiative, regulate behavior, be responsible, be able to restrain themselves, make their own decisions, and be able to overcome problems without any influence from others (Zulkarnaen, 2019).

The character of independence needs to be taught from an early age where children are expected to be able to have a responsible attitude towards themselves and those around them. Independence is a behavior that can have many positive effects, because independence in children will appear when children will do simple daily activities. In general, early childhood independence can be measured through how children behave physically and their social-emotional behavior. The independent character of a child can not only be formed from the family environment, but in the school environment and society children can foster the character of independence (Ramadhani et al. 2019).

This attitude, which is important to instill in children since childhood, is crucial because parents today tend to give their children too much potential. Thus, children are very dependent on parents (Aprilia, et al., 2024). It is also explained in previous research that the independence of young children needs to be observed. Because through an independent attitude, children can carry out various things without depending on other parties. For example, independent children can play with their peers more confidently and without fear. Excessive anxiety interferes with their psychological development, for example when parents are still in school and waiting for them to come home from school. Through encouraging an independent attitude since childhood, children grow into adults, can more easily make decisions, are less dependent on someone, are responsible, and can adapt to their environment. Parents' efforts to develop children's independent attitudes are through providing opportunities for children to do it themselves, so that they are more responsible and do not continue to depend on their parents (Ayllon et al., 2019).

The role of parents in developing children's independent attitudes is to create safe home conditions for exploration and adventure, guide children, include children in various activities, avoid ultimatums or orders that make children depressed to show affection for children (Lestary and Marlina 2019). Therefore, parents should provide opportunities for their children to carry out things independently without worrying about their children, through being positive towards children, praising them, and supporting their children's individual work. In a good parental role, children grow and

develop towards independence. In order for children not to depend on others, parents should train their children to be independent from an early age. Children are also used to being alone in all activities (Sulistianah & Tohir 2020).

The purpose of this research is to analyze the role of parents as mentors, parents as motivators, parents as educators, and parents as facilitators, to educate and develop independent character in children and build children's independence through the role of parents at home.

METHOD

The method used in this research is a qualitative method. Qualitative research is research that aims to understand phenomena about what is experienced by research subjects such as behavior, perceptions, motivations, actions, and others holistically in the form of words and language of a special natural context by utilizing various natural methods.

The research was carried out on Jln. Surya Haji, Gg Dahlia no.1, Kec. Percut Sei Tuan, Kab. Deli Serdang. Researchers carried out a set of processes in collecting data intensively about the role of parents in educating children's independence in the family environment which was made the subject of research. The subjects of this study amounted to 2 parent participants on Jln Surya Haji. Parents teach independence by encouraging children to carry out activities on their own, allowing them the opportunity to build confidence.

The data collection technique carried out is by means of observation. Observation is the process of observing carried out by people or individuals deliberately and structured to be able to obtain the data or information needed by the researcher. In order for researchers to obtain accurate and relevant facts, researchers should make observations to the field so that they can understand the language, see with their eyes, and understand the language.

In order to understand the language, see with our eyes directly what is happening, listen with our own ears, and record what we see directly. Researchers use this type of direct observation by visiting residents on Jl. Surya Haji, Gg Dahlia no 1.

The second data collection technique is the interview technique. An interview is a conversation arranged between the two parties, namely the inter-

viewer who asks questions and the interviewee or resource person who answers questions with a specific purpose. Interviews conducted by researchers are addressed to parents at home. The problem discussed is the role of parents in educating children's independence. This certainly needs to be discussed because teaching early independence to children is very important. So that children do not depend on others.

The third data collection technique is documentation. Documentation is a number of documents needed as information material in accordance with research problems such as photos of researchers in conducting observations and interviews. In this case the researcher includes documentation in the form of photographs during observations and interviews with sources.

The data analysis technique used is an interactive triangulation model including reduction, data presentation, and conclusions. This can be drawn in analyzing the data that researchers have found.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

Based on the observations and interviews conducted by the researcher in the Laut Dendang village, Surya Haji Street, Gg Dahlia number 1, there are various roles of parents in educating children's independence. First, parents foster independence in the home environment. According to the interviews conducted, on average, the informants choose to gradually and habituate their children in carrying out daily activities such as eating, drinking, bathing, dressing, using the toilet, and tidying up, like cleaning up toys that have been used and making the bed. The majority of informants believe that this role can help their children become independent because it is important to note that children, through habituation, will easily remember the things they need to do. An example of the table description can be seen in the table below:

Table 1. Indicators and Aspects of Independence

Indikator Aspects	
Parents as mentors	a) Responsible
	b) Not relying on others
	c) Giving opportunities to children
	d) Giving praise to the child
Parents as motivators	a) Monitor the development of children's moral attitudes and behaviors
	b) Monitoring the growth of children's academic abilities
	c) Provide learning motivation to children
Parents as educators and facilitators	a) Teaching children how to overcome difficulties
	b) Providing a place to play and children's play equipment
	c) Teaching children discipline
	d) Teaching children to believe in themselves
	e) Teaching children to fulfill their needs

In the following research, there are two parents who were interviewed to familiarize their children with getting up to make their beds and bathe themselves and eat by themselves and parents provide opportunities for children to be in associating with their environment and parents accompany and guide their children during learning. The following research aims to find out about the role of parents in educating children's independence.



Figure 1 and 2. Interview with parents

Figures 1 and 2 show researchers conducting interviews with parents to find out how parents educate and teach independence to children. Of the two second respondents have carried out the role of parents in teaching independence in children through habituation, and parents also become mentors, motivate children, become educators and become facilitators for children.

Discussion

1) Parents' Role as Mentors

Parental guidance plays a role in helping children achieve their goals. Learning guidance through parents can help in resolving children's learning difficulties. Learning challenges can be caused by low learning potential, low levels of learning motivation, and home conditions that are not learning friendly. Parents must be persistent and patient to help children overcome learning obstacles and achieve learning goals such as mastery of skills and development of attitudes to adapt to a supportive learning environment (Rahmatika & Apsari 2020).

Based on the results of interviews with parents, some parents have taught or guided children in being responsible for the tasks that have been given. The second aspect of the role of parents as mentors is that according to the results of interviews they repeatedly remind children of their right to solve their own problems such as doing homework independently, cleaning the bedroom, tidying up toys and washing dishes after eating.

The next aspect is the role of parents in guiding, namely based on the results of interviews, parents always praise children, for example when children show persistence when doing something to support children when doing a good thing by giving or saying something good to them, for example "wow, my child is good at helping Mama clean the house, thank you, my child".

2) Parents' Role as Motivators

This role is to influence the enthusiasm of children in learning and influence the character of children to be diligent, so the role of parents as motivators is very important, the efforts that parents can carry out in fostering their children's learning motivation include one understanding the results, 2 giving gifts and sanctions, three providing the necessary equipment and facilities. Based on the results of the interview. If a child achieves the rights that parents expect, namely good learning results, parents can act as motivators by giving awards. In addition, one of the ways parents can motivate children in independence is to encourage them to do homework to prepare them for exams to encourage them to participate in school activities and reward them with gifts and flattery such as their learning achievements from the results of the interview all

parents have motivated their children and monitored their children's development both in terms of their children's behavior and their academic performance.

3) The Role of Parents as Educators and Facilitators

The role of parents is to provide education and facilitate children in training children's independence such as parents teaching children to overcome their difficulties and providing a place to play and learn. Children teach children discipline such as children are accustomed to showing an attitude of discipline by sleeping at the time determined by parents. Teach children to be confident, children dare to do something and work. Parents teach children to meet their own needs, for example tidying up the place of play equipment that has been used and eating alone and bathing alone (Wahyuni & Leonard 2021).

Parents can play a role in children's education, such as being a teaching guide. Parents play a role in encouraging children towards achievable goals, so the role of parents is very important and needs to be done to achieve children's goals by becoming a guide to become a motivator and become an educator and facilitator for children.

The development of children's independence is a significant and interesting part, independence not only has an impact on its performance but also contributes to the achievement of life goals of success and appreciation. It is hoped that the Ministry's values will be easier to master and can be firmly embedded in the child if trained from an early age, children's independence is the ability to carry out daily activities or tasks depending on their stage of development (Daviq, 2019).

Independence is very important because in the kindergarten curriculum independence is included in one of the scope of the kindergarten curriculum kindergarten competency standards and is included in one of the areas of development in kindergarten. The ability of children's independence can be done by developing the spirit of independence in themselves from an early age. The importance of independence in children is that they can take care of themselves not depend on others and be able to direct themselves in the future (Yusutria & Febriana 2019).

From the results of research in the village of Laut Dendang on Jalan Surya Haji Gang Dahlia number 1 that the role of parents is very important to educate and teach children's independence, these results are in line with previous research conducted by Sari & Rosyidah (2019) the role of parents is very important in the development of education and the formation of character in children the formation of the Ministry of Children. influenced by parenting parents in educating children is very important for the development of the Ministry of children because parents are personal figures that children will imitate Allah's parents who will be a model towards the formation of children's character The Ministry is a behavior that can provide many positive influences because the Ministry in children will appear when children will carry out simple daily activities. The role of parents is an active action to take care of guiding and protecting and teaching children in achieving the maturity process expected by society in general.

CONCLUSION

The results of the above research can be concluded that the role of parents in children's independence greatly influences the development of children's independence. Parents are a person who will be imitated and used as a role model by children in the formation of children's character, so the role of parents in children's education determines their independence. Parents can teach children not to depend on others so that children's independence will be formed in children. Parents as mentors build good communication with children and provide opportunities for children to do their own homework and give sincere praise when children do something good, besides that parents can encourage their children to study harder by giving gifts or other incentives when their children meet parental expectations. Parents serve as facilitators by giving their children the opportunity to practice independently and providing them with educational resources such as learning materials and books.

This study shows that the role of parents is not only limited to providing children's basic needs but also involves the duties and responsibilities of shaping children's character to be independent, resilient, and ready to face life's challenges. The research findings may encourage providing facilities

or policies such as parental leave, family counseling, and parenting training that support the formation of children's independence. This research can be the basis for developing training programs or modules for parents which emphasize the importance of their role in shaping children's independence.

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