

Single Mother Parenting Towards The Formation Of Early Childhood Independence

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ABSTRACT

This research seeks to assess the impact of parenting styles employed by single mothers on the development of early childhood independence in the Kertasemaya District. An associative method with a quantitative approach is utilized for this study. The research will take place across various kindergartens situated in West Java Province. The population under consideration comprises all single mothers residing in Lemahayu Village, Kertasemaya District, Indramayu Regency, amounting to a total of 37 individuals, with total sampling being the chosen technique. Consequently, the sample encompasses all single mothers in Lemahayu Village, Kertasemaya District, Indramayu Regency, totaling 37 individuals. A questionnaire serves as the data collection instrument for this study. For data analysis, simple linear regression tests are conducted utilizing SPSS software. Findings indicate a significant effect of single mother parenting styles on early childhood independence in Kertasemaya District. The results from the simple regression test reveal a significance value of 0.049 ($p < 0.05$), leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis (H_0) and the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis (H_a). This signifies that the parenting styles of single mothers exert a substantial influence on the independence of children. In this study, the coefficient of determination (R^2) reveals that the parenting styles of single mothers account for 78% of the variance in children's independence, with the remaining 22% attributed to other factors not explored in this research. These results suggest that the parenting style of single mothers plays a critically significant role in shaping children's independence.

Keywords: Parenting, Independence, Single Mother, Early Childhood

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INTRODUCTION

A single parent can be understood as a father or mother who strives to educate, guide, protect, and raise their child alone without the assistance or support of a partner. A single mother or father must take on dual roles in order to meet the material and spiritual needs of their family. The loss of a family member can indeed create an awkward atmosphere, but it must be promptly addressed by family members in order to maintain unity and harmony within the family. The loss of a family member has several impacts. Children from single-parent families tend to have higher levels of depression. Additionally, the self-confidence of divorced parents can also affect their children, making them less

confident and fearful of forming intimate relationships with the opposite sex (Nugrahani & Fitri, 2023).

A study conducted by Suroso & Meilan Arsanti (2023) indicates that the impact of divorce is highly significant and long-lasting. This can have long-term effects on children, including making them more aggressive and frequently feeling sad and empty. The research indicates that divorce can initiate psychological impacts, which are reflected in alterations in children's behavior, emotional stability, and sense of accountability. Furthermore, children may undergo feelings of anxiety, depression, sadness, shame, and confusion following a divorce. It is expected that the findings from this study will enhance our comprehension of the intricate ways in which divorce influences children's psychological growth (Suroso & Meilan Arsanti, 2023).

The problem of parents that leads to divorce often causes children to become the receiving party. This clearly affects the progress of their growth and development. They will directly or indirectly feel the impact of their parents' separation. The immediate impact they feel is the loss of the presence of their parents whom they may have encountered daily before. As a result of all these divorce situations, custody arrangements are usually resolved. During the process, children are repeatedly attacked. Afterward, other consequences will become evident over time (Siswato, 2020).

The different ways in which the children were raised – some by a single parent, others by both parents – meant that it was difficult to teach and promote independence and courage. The latter group tends to be more participative and grants children freedom, although not entirely free from parental supervision. In the village of Lemahayu, Kertasemaya sub-district, Indramayu district, parenting styles vary among different parents. Some adhere to stricter rules, while others provide guidance and advice to their children without resorting to violence. These diverse personalities contribute to varying individual traits.

One of the factors that can influence individual independence is parenting style. Parenting style involves the interaction between parents and children, including the processes of educating, guiding, disciplining, and protecting children to achieve maturity in accordance with societal norms. It is an ongoing complex process in human life that involves activities such as childbirth, child protection, child care, and child guidance (Harnasti, 2018).

The single role of a parent or parents fundamentally changes the way they perceive the situations they face. Of course, the child's independent nature will always accompany them and cause the mother to become a figure capable of enduring. With an unbalanced situation, involving dual responsibilities, the role of the mother as a single parent becomes increasingly complex, as she shoulders two responsibilities: fulfilling the father's role as a guide, head of the household, breadwinner, and role model for the child, as well as the role of a single parent. A mother's tasks include counseling, teaching, and other responses to the individual changes in the child (Lestari, 2023). Developing independence in children is indeed challenging, as parents must be able to focus on their child. Additionally, parents must also pay attention to factors that can negatively impact a child's learning process, especially those originating from both parents and the surrounding environment.

Therefore, many children are overshadowed and lack interest in self-directed learning, ultimately leading to lazy parents.

Amidst this phenomenon, the question arises of how single mothers can foster independence in young children amidst various limitations and challenges they face. Independence, according to Santrock (2018), is the ability of an individual to self-regulate and control oneself without relying on others. Key aspects of independence in young children include the ability to make decisions independently, manage emotions, and carry out daily tasks without adult assistance (Santrock, 2018). In the context of single mothers in the Kertasemaya District, their parenting style is likely influenced by factors such as time constraints, emotional fatigue, and economic difficulties.

Solutions that can be implemented to support single mothers in raising their children to be independent involve several aspects. Support from the government and society is crucial in providing welfare facilities and parenting training for single mothers. As suggested by Agnafors et al. (2019), interventions specifically designed to support single-parent families can significantly improve the quality of their family life and help their children grow into independent and competent individuals (Agnafors et al., 2019).

The purpose of this research is to analyze the influence of parenting styles applied by single mothers on the development of independence in young children in the Kertasemaya District. In this context, the study will identify the types of parenting styles employed by single mothers and how these parenting styles affect the development of independence in young children.

METHOD

The researchers employed an associative method in their investigation, which seeks to identify the relationship among two or more variables. The primary objective of this research is to establish truth in order to address the problem under examination. The study is situated in Lemahayu Village, located within the Kertasemaya Subdistrict of Indramayu Regency, and was conducted from March to June 2024. The choice of this particular location stems from the presence of various issues and challenges pertinent to the topic proposed by the author. The population for this study comprises all single mothers residing in Lemahayu Village, Kertasemaya Subdistrict, Indramayu Regency, amounting to a total of 37 individuals. The sampling technique utilized in this research is total sampling, which entails a sample size that mirrors the population size. This approach is warranted due to the population being fewer than 100. Consequently, the sample encompasses all single mothers in Lemahayu Village, Kertasemaya Subdistrict, Indramayu Regency, totaling 37 participants. For data collection, a questionnaire was employed as the instrument, which is particularly appropriate when addressing a large number of respondents distributed over an extensive area. In this research, the author employed simple linear regression. As noted by Sugiyono (2018), simple linear regression constitutes an equation involving a single independent variable. This method is utilized to forecast and analyze the impact and relationship between variable X (single mother parenting style) and variable Y (child independence).

FINDING AND DISCUSSION

RESULT

Table 1 explains whether the regression model can be used to predict the independent and dependent variables. From the output, we know that the calculated F value is 4.151 and the significance level is $0.049 < 0.05$. Therefore, it can be said that the regression model can be used to predict the effect of the single mother variable (X) on the child's independent variable (Y).

Table 1. Anova

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	1127.236	1	1127.236	4.151	.049 ^b
	Residual	9504.433	35	271.555		
	Total	10631.669	36			

a. Dependent Variable: Independence of Children

b. Predictors: (Constant), Single Mother Parenting Style

In table 2, it is explained that the known value of the constant (a) is 38.358, while the value of the single mother parenting (X) is 0.364, so the equation can be written as follows:

Table 2. Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	38.358	12.243		3.133	.003
	Single Mother Parenting Style	.364	.179	.326	2.037	.049

a. Dependent Variable: Independence of Children

The table presented above delineates the established value of the constant (a), which is 38.358, while the value associated with single mother parenting (X) is 0.364; thus, the equation can be expressed as follows:

$$Y = a + bx$$

$$Y = 38.358 + 0.364x$$

The equation can be translated as follows:

- The constant of 38,358 implies that the consistent value of the single mother parenting variable is 38,358.
- The regression coefficient of X at 0.364 indicates that for every 1% increase in the value of single mother parenting style, the independence of the child increases by

0.364. This positive regression coefficient implies that the direction of influence of variable X on Y is positive.

- c. From the table in the Coefficients section, a significance value of $0.049 < 0.05$ is obtained. Therefore, it can be concluded that the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, meaning that the single mother parenting variable (X) has an effect on the child's independence variable (Y).

According to Table 3, the regression model exhibits a coefficient of determination with an Adjusted R^2 value of 0.780, indicating that 78.0% of the variance in child independence is accounted for by the parenting style of single mothers. The remaining 22% is attributable to other factors that are not encompassed within this research model.

Tabel 4. Coefficient of Determination

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.726 ^a	.706	.780	16.47893

a. Predictors: (Constant), Single Mother Parenting Style

The results of this research indicate that the parenting style of single mothers has a significant influence on children's independence. This can be seen from the simple regression test results, which show a significance value of 0.049 ($p < 0.05$), meaning that the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected and the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted. Therefore, it can be concluded that the parenting style of single mothers significantly affects children's independence.

DISCUSSION

The findings of this study suggest that the parenting approach employed by single mothers significantly impacts children's independence. This conclusion is supported by the results of the simple regression analysis, which reveal a significance value of 0.049 ($p < 0.05$). Consequently, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected, while the alternative hypothesis (H_a) is accepted. Therefore, it can be inferred that the parenting style of single mothers has a considerable effect on the independence of their children (Syahrul & Nurhafizah, 2021).

Furthermore, this research finding is also supported by the study conducted by Darmawan & Puspita (2021), which states that parenting styles characterized by high control and demands, as well as warmth and sufficient involvement, can help children develop independence and self-regulation. In the context of single mother parenting, despite facing several challenges in implementing the ideal parenting style, single mothers still strive to create a nurturing environment that encourages their child's independence (Darmawan & Puspita, 2021).

This finding is in line with the research conducted by Wulandari et al (2023), who found that the use of gadgets among young children in Indonesia tends to be high, with an average usage duration of 3-4 hours per day. The high duration of gadget usage can be

attributed to several factors, such as easy access to technology, lack of parental supervision, and limited attractive alternatives for children in rural areas (Wulandari & Kurniasih, 2023).

In this study, the coefficient of determination (R^2) reveals that the parenting style of single mothers accounts for 78% of the variability in child independence, leaving 22% attributable to other factors not explored in this research. This result underscores the considerable significance of single mothers' parenting style in shaping child independence. Supporting this conclusion, prior research studies corroborate the findings of this investigation, emphasizing the substantial impact that the parenting style of single mothers has on fostering independence in their children. Thus, it can be inferred that the parenting approach adopted by single mothers is a pivotal element in promoting the development of independence among children raised in single-parent households.

However, there are several limitations in this study, including the relatively small sample size and the focus on only one research location. Therefore, further research is needed with a larger and more diverse sample, taking into consideration other factors that may influence children's independence, such as family socio-economic conditions, parental education levels, and so on. Overall, this research provides practical implications for single mothers in implementing parenting patterns that can encourage their child's independence. Single mothers need to understand that the parenting style they apply significantly influences their child's development of independence. Therefore, single mothers should strive to create a nurturing environment that supports their child's growth, such as providing emotional support, implementing firm discipline balanced with warmth, and giving opportunities for independent learning and responsibility.

CONCLUSION

The findings of this research demonstrate a substantial impact of single mothers' parenting styles on the independence of young children in the Kertasemaya District. Results from the simple regression analysis yield a significance value of 0.049 ($p < 0.05$), leading to the rejection of the null hypothesis (H_0) and the acceptance of the alternative hypothesis (H_a). This suggests that the parenting style employed by single mothers significantly affects children's independence. The coefficient of determination (R^2) indicates that 78% of the variance in child independence can be attributed to the parenting style of single mothers, while the remaining 22% is influenced by other factors not addressed in this study. These results underscore the importance of single mothers' parenting styles as a critical factor in shaping child independence. Consequently, it can be concluded that there is a positive and significant effect of single mothers' parenting styles on the independence of young children in the Kertasemaya District; thus, an improvement in these parenting practices correlates with an increase in children's independence levels.

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