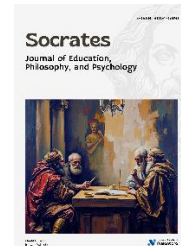




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The Social and Emotional Impact of Fathers' Inaction on Child Rearing

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Abstract: The family is a crucial environment for a child's education. The role of parents, especially fathers, is crucial in supporting a child's academic achievement. Fatherlessness can negatively impact a child's psychological and academic development. The article found that fatherlessness has a significant negative impact on adolescents' academic achievement. Children experiencing fatherlessness exhibit poorer cognitive performance, lower test scores, and lower school attendance. Fatherlessness can have a detrimental impact on adolescents' academic achievement. Comprehensive interventions are needed to address the impact of fatherlessness and support children in achieving their academic potential.

Keyword: Family, Parents, Children, Father

INTRODUCTION

The family is the place where children receive their first education. Ki Hadjar Dewantara (in Amaliyah, 2021) said that the family has a special place because the family is a small environment, but from a social perspective, the family is a sacred and pure place so that the family becomes a noble center of education. In this case, the family also has an important role in supporting children in achieving their achievements. William J. Goode (in Syahraeni, 2015) said that the success achieved by students in their education essentially reflects more than just the quality of the institution. However, this also shows that the family is able to properly prepare the education that will be taken by the child. The efforts made by parents certainly do not all run smoothly, because in the effort to pursue education sometimes children encounter obstacles such as (1) behavioral patterns developed at home; (2) the family does not provide a good example which impacts the child's behavior; (3) the child's lack of motivation to learn to adapt. This is caused by unpleasant social experiences; (4) the lack of guidance and assistance received by the child during the learning process (Suharti, N., 2016). The causes of family dysfunction can vary, such as (1) a lack of parental involvement, especially fathers; (2) a lack of direction and education for adolescents (Kasenda et al. 2023); (3) the death of one or both parents; and (4) divorce (Sarwono, in Agustin & Kudus, 2023). Preparing children to excel is no easy task; parents must make consistent and ongoing efforts to care for, nurture, and educate their children until they are able to live independently (Syahraeni, 2015).

One cause of family dysfunction is the lack of parental involvement, especially fathers (Sarwono, in Agustin & Kudus, 2023). Recently, the absence of a father's role, or what is commonly referred to as fatherlessness, has become a hot topic. Social Minister Khofifah Indar Parawansa stated that Indonesia is the third-most fatherless country in the world. Children who grow up without a father's presence will have psychological impacts. Several studies have shown that the impact of a father's absence significantly affects a child's psychology, with children experiencing feelings of anger, loneliness, low self-esteem as they grow older (self-esteem issues), and shame because they lack the same developmental experiences as other children (Sundari, A.R., & Herdajani, 2013). This is due to unpleasant social experiences; (4) a lack of guidance and assistance received by children during the learning process (Suharti, N., 2016).

The concept of fatherlessness can be defined as the absence of a father's presence in the parenting process. This is then known as "fatherless," "father absence," "father loss," or "father hunger" (Ashari, 2018). Other literature explains that fatherlessness is the absence of a father's role and figure in a child's life. According to Berlian and Chitam (2023), fatherlessness is a condition in which a child has a father, but the father is absent or does not play an optimal role in the child's development.

METHOD

The research used a review study. Data collection techniques included identifying data sources, searching for literature, selecting literature, extracting data, and managing data. The data collection instruments used were a selection criteria framework (inclusion/exclusion), a literature search tool, a data extraction formula, an evaluation checklist, and a study quality assessment.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Fatherlessness has serious impacts on early childhood development, including cognitive impairment. Children tend to have low motivation to learn, even losing it, resulting in a decline in the quality of their learning. The absence of a father can disrupt a child's emotional development, particularly feelings of low self-esteem, difficulty controlling emotions, and anxiety or depression. Children from families without a father figure tend to have higher levels of aggression and lack of responsibility.

One of the factors that significantly determines the success of developing the welfare and protection of children in Indonesia is the availability of laws and regulations capable of safeguarding the welfare and protection that refer to children's rights without discrimination and in the best interests of the child, as stipulated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Psychologically, fatherlessness can result in a lack of emotional stability for children. Fathers play a crucial role as role models in the development of a child's identity and self-concept, particularly in social and emotional development. Without a father figure, children may experience difficulty in establishing healthy social relationships and are at higher risk of behavioral and emotional disorders such as low self-confidence and difficulty managing emotions. This violates children's right to adequate protection and care, as stipulated in Article 18 of the CRC, which states that parents are jointly responsible for their well-being.

Without a father, children tend to grow up with trauma in relationships with the opposite sex, although some eventually make peace with this reality. Fatherless children also tend to experience decreased academic achievement due to differences in parental supervision compared to those with parents in general. When in a social environment, fatherless children also find it difficult to open up. They struggle to open up for several reasons, including shame, lack of self-confidence, difficulty trusting others, and fear of being shunned due to their family status. This also stems from the lack of a positive role model from their father. This aligns with research conducted by Castteter (2020), which found that fathers who do not fulfill their roles and functions as heads of families effectively impact children's feelings of emptiness, feelings of

rejection, restrictions on interactions with the opposite sex, economic hardship, and low self-esteem compared to children from intact families. Meanwhile, in emerging adulthood, individuals should be in a period of experimentation and exploration, both related to physical, sexual, cognitive, and work.

CONCLUSION

Parents play a crucial role in fostering a child's social and emotional development, particularly the role of fathers in childcare. Social-emotional intelligence encompasses the ability to manage a child's emotions, build social relationships, and foster consistent parenting. Parents are the primary educators in a child's social-emotional development through reciprocal interactions between them and their children, and through their role models.

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