



Parenting Patterns of Children in Poor Coastal Communities

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Abstract

This research aims to describe the childcare patterns implemented by poor coastal families in Makassar City. Understand parenting patterns applied by parents, especially for children aged 10 to 15 years. Exploring the factors that influence childcare patterns in families, as well as the impact of childcare patterns on child development in poor coastal communities. This research uses qualitative methods as its approach by taking 10 poor families who apply three parenting patterns in the family, namely authoritarian, permissive, and democratic. The large enough population resulted in a purposive sampling technique being carried out with the main informants being 3 (three) parents from poor families, 2 (two) supporting informants as observers of child development, and 3 (three) key informants, namely children in parental care. The data collected was carried out through observation and in-depth interviews with parents, children, and observers of child development. The research results reveal that the childcare patterns adopted by poor coastal communities in Makassar City are generally authoritarian. This is due to several factors, including poverty, low education from parents, and the culture of parenting inherited from their previous parents. The impact of authoritarian parenting patterns in poor coastal communities results in anxiety and depression in children, low self-confidence, and difficulty managing emotions appropriately.

Keywords: *Children, Coastal Communities, Parenting, Poor.*

INTRODUCTION

Inhabited by 36,764 residents in 2022 with an area of 4.40 km² at a population density of 8,355 people per square kilometer, Ujung Tanah District is one of the areas in Makassar City which is located in the coastal area. One of the areas with the highest population density is Pattingalloang Village with a population of 10,346.67 people per square kilometer (BPS Makassar City, 2023: 25). Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City is a coastal area where the majority of the people earn their income as fishermen (BPS Makassar City, 2018).

Pattingalloang Village in Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City, which has an area of 0.39 km², is faced with the challenge of population density with uncertain income. Most people in the area spend their time working as fishermen and casual laborers. This condition has an impact on parenting patterns for children whose parents generally have a very low level of education. Makassar City BPS data (2020) for 2019 stated that the number of poor families was 82,326 and increased in 2020, to be precise in June, reaching 154,632 or an increase of 72,306, with a percentage from 3 percent to 7 percent.

For coastal communities, education for children is not a primary need, they view the most important need in raising children as their children's involvement in helping their parents when earning a living, such as helping them catch fish or helping them meet kitchen needs.

Research conducted by Taliep et al., (2018: 5-6) revealed that families experiencing difficult economic conditions tend to implement more authoritarian parenting practices, which emphasize obedience, conformity, and adherence to rules. A case example can be seen in the US Department of Education, in 2007 revealed very low academic skills in economically disadvantaged parents causing parenting intervention challenges, 19% of parents with below basic literacy skills did not try to teach letters to children of them, 11% have never talked to their school-age children about the things they learned at school, and 25% have never worked with their school-age children on homework (Mchale, nd).

Low socio-economic status is of course directly related to reduced expressions of affection from parents and decreased response to children's emotional needs. In addition, financial constraints often affect their access to quality education and adequate health



services for their children. The results of research conducted by Kaloko & Mulyani, (2020) show that family income will have an influence on children's growth and development.

Parenting patterns in poor families are often influenced by difficult economic conditions, limited resources, and a social environment that is not always supportive. The challenges faced by poor parents in implementing parenting styles for their children are seen in the difficulty of meeting basic needs, including financial limitations, especially in the quality education sector.

Basically, childcare patterns are divided into three, namely; 1). Authoritarian parenting style. In this pattern, parents tend to be more dominant when caring for children. Rough and harsh ways of educating children are part of this pattern. 2). A pattern with a permissive nature is a parenting pattern that is more open to children. Each child is given the freedom to determine what they want, parents only give rules, but the decision is completely given to the child. 3) The democratic pattern is a parenting pattern that sees children as developing individuals. Parents make rules that must be obeyed, but children have freedom in their choices that must be held accountable (Kadir, 2020).

The influence of the parenting style applied by coastal communities in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City can be seen in the behavior of children who tend to be loud and rude when interacting with other people. This is caused by the dominant role of parents, coupled with the cultural legacy of parenting from previous generations which is not supported by an adequate level of education.

Parents who live in poverty, namely in slum homes, have lost their jobs, have difficulty finding food, and who feel they cannot control their lives tend to become anxious, depressed and irritable. Parents will become less loving towards their children, less responsive, excessively harsh (Rahman, Putri Lia & Yusuf, 2012).

Coastal communities in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City who work as fishermen are often a marginalized group and continually face economic, social, educational, health and cultural problems. Their living conditions are very worrying, especially in terms of economics and education, so it is a concern for researchers to look

further into childcare patterns in poor families in coastal communities.

Coastal communities in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City are faced with dependence in the economic sector and vulnerability to environmental changes which can affect family stability and child-rearing patterns. Herbert Spencer likened this condition to the human body where one part is functionally related to other parts.

This view can be applied in analyzing family sociology, where the family can also be understood as an organization consisting of parts that have a relationship of dependence on each other, such as between parents and children, husband and wife, and between other family members (RB Soemanto, nd).

Bourdieu's theory can also be used in the context of parenting patterns in poor families in coastal communities. Bourdieu analyzes the lack of economic and cultural capital that influences child-rearing patterns. Meanwhile, habitus formed in the context of poverty and limited resources will influence the way parents care for children and the way children interact with the environment around them. Bourdieu's theory provides an understanding that children's parenting patterns are not only the result of parenting choices made by parents, but are also influenced by broader social structures and the unequal distribution of resources in society.

METHODS

Coastal communities, with their cultural characteristics, are often characterized by poverty which can affect child-rearing patterns. To understand the complexity of this reality, qualitative research methods are the basis for this research. Sugiyono (2019, 16:17), explains that the qualitative research method is a method based on the philosophy of postpositivism. This method views that reality/symptoms/phenomena can be classified, are relatively fixed, concrete, observable, measurable, and have causal symptom relationships.

Qualitative research opens up space to delve into the local context, values, and beliefs that color parenting patterns. Through observations, and in-depth interviews, researchers can build close relationships and gain rich perspectives from parents, children, and other family members.



The basis of the qualitative research paradigm is between subjects, the social community being studied is also a subject, because qualitative research seeks to reveal the experiences of the people being studied. Researchers have full control over the treatment of human respondents (Pradoko & Si, 2020).

Researchers took 10 (ten) families in the poor category, who implemented authoritarian, permissive and democratic parenting styles for children aged 10 to 15 years. Tiro & Urbaningsih (2017: 2) explain that population is defined as the set of all objects or individuals that will be studied based on a sample. Sugiyono (2019), population is a generalized area consisting of objects/subjects that have certain qualities and characteristics determined by researchers to be studied and then conclusions drawn.

Sampling is not too difficult, because there is no diversity, which is the basis for researchers to determine the population of poor families in coastal communities by taking parts of the cluster. Creswell (2009) sampling procedure using clusters, is carried out by identifying groups, then taking the names of individuals in the group, who then draw samples from them, Creswell (2017).

Looking at the population in this study, sampling was carried out using purposive techniques *sa m p li ng*. Because the sample size had reached data saturation, the researcher determined the main informants, namely, 3 (three) parents from the poor family category, 2 (two) supporting informants who were observers of child development, plus 3 (three) key informants, namely children in care aged 10 to 15 years. Sudaryono (2019), revealed that the obstacle faced in the research was that the size of the population had been determined, so, to be more practical, subgroup responses were used to predict the responses of all group members.

Through a qualitative method approach, parenting patterns in poor coastal families in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City can be revealed. Qualitative research methods seek to avoid generalizations and stereotypes, while still looking at a richer and more complex reality. Researchers describe the influence of poverty, low access to education, and family involvement on the way parents care for children.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Parenting Patterns and Child Behavior

Parenting style consists of two words, namely pattern and care. The Big Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI) defines pattern as a pattern, model, system of working methods, fixed form (structure). Meanwhile, the word foster has the meaning of looking after (caring for and educating) young children, guiding (helping to train, etc.), and leading (heading and organizing) a body or institution (Tridhonanto, AI & Agency, Home, 2014).

Parenting style refers to the way they raise their children, including support in biological, emotional, spiritual and social aspects. The long-term results of this parenting style actually reflect the parents' aspirations for the socialization goals they set. In general, many parents have high aspirations for their children and want the best for them. However, there are other factors that also influence whether they will become responsible individuals or not (Talib et al., 2015).

Lack of parental knowledge about parenting styles can hinder children's development in the future. On the other hand, positive parenting will have a good impact, especially on children's behavior. The authoritarian parenting style that is often developed by poor coastal communities in Patti Ngalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City emphasizes parental supervision of children so that they are submissive and obedient.

The results of the research reveal that parents in poor coastal communities in parenting their children seem stiff and harsh. They make rules that every child must obey. If children engage in behavior that their parents do not want, they will become very emotional and angry easily, and often even use unkind words which will have a bad effect on the child's behavior in the future.

Poor children are at greater risk of experiencing behavioral problems, depression, peer conflict, and low self-confidence. Children born into poverty, especially children who face various risks, for example, single parenting, chronic poverty, low-income environments, and high levels of stress tend to have lower IQs. compared to other middle-class children (Kaiser & Delaney, 2020).

This research is in line with what was done by Taib et al., nd (2020: 129) who revealed that



authoritarian parenting is often considered a parenting pattern that can interfere with children's development. Research facts show that authoritarian parenting has a negative impact on children's development, but positive impacts can occur, if the rules made by parents must be implemented, such as prayer, then children will diligently worship and be polite and obedient to their parents.

Poor working-class parents believed that their children would develop spontaneously. Financial constraints make them focus on meeting their children's basic needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter. In contrast, middle-class parents invest in many aspects of their children's lives. They have a responsibility to ensure their children get the best education. These differences in parenting patterns show how social and economic structures influence the way parents care for their children. Poor working-class parents focus on meeting their children's basic needs, while middle-class parents invest in their children's education and development. (Wheeler, Sharon, nd 20234).

Based on the description above, it can be said that parental education can be a determining factor in parenting patterns. Parents with a low level of education may have limited knowledge about effective parenting practices and how to support children's development.

Culture and Authoritarian Parenting

The application of an authoritarian parenting style that is generally carried out by poor coastal communities in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City is derived from the traditions and culture of their parents. They think that parents have rights and responsibilities towards children which require children to submit and obey their parents' orders. Economic conditions in the living environment can influence parents' parenting styles indirectly, by encouraging them to see children's behavioral problems as external factors and apply less strict parenting styles (Lee et al., 2014).

In addition, low education creates an authoritarian parenting style with various punishments that make every parent's word a rule that must be obeyed. As a result, children who are adopted with authoritarian parenting patterns appear harsh, which results in distrust of themselves.

research shows that childcare practices are indeed influenced by parents' educational and employment

status. Sherman & Harris, (2012), experts have not yet reached an agreement regarding how work and education influence parenting behavior. Some scholars argue that class status translates into parenting practices through norms and values associated with particular occupations and levels of education. On the other hand, some argue that structural constraints such as income and resources related to educational attainment and employment status are the main factors driving parental behavior

Children in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City who are raised with an authoritarian parenting style generally show characteristics such as lacking self-confidence, being easily embarrassed, having difficulty getting along with new people, being quiet, and not daring to try new things because they are afraid of making mistakes. September et al., (2016) the quality of child care is influenced by a combination of economic, social, and cultural factors, with the level of parental education playing an important role in providing a conducive environment for children's overall development.

Qualitatively, the results of this study show that low parental knowledge will have an influence on parenting patterns, especially authoritarian parenting patterns. Research conducted by Garcia, (2019: 2) reveals that parents who are authoritarian (firm but not warm) obtain obedience and conformity to social standards from their children. In an academic context, teenagers from authoritarian parents achieve well and tend not to be involved in deviant activities. However, on the other hand, children with authoritarian parents have relatively poorer independence and psychosocial pressure. Children who are pampered by parents (warm but not strict) show a strong sense of self-confidence, even though they fail in academic contexts.

CONCLUSION

Child-rearing patterns in poor coastal communities generally use an authoritarian pattern. This pattern sets rigid rules and demands absolute obedience from the child. Ironically, even though they demand obedience from their children, parents do not provide reasons for the rules they apply, as a result physical and verbal punishment is often used to discipline children.

Children in poor coastal communities who are raised with an authoritarian parenting style are more



likely to experience behavioral problems of aggression, anxiety and depression. In the academic aspect, children who receive authoritarian parenting experience low academic achievement. This can be seen from the children of poor coastal communities in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City, who do not continue their education and prefer to help their parents earn a living.

The parenting patterns of poor coastal communities in Pattingalloang Village, Ujung Tanah District, Makassar City are influenced by poverty factors, where parents focus more on fulfilling daily needs rather than providing optimal care for children. Lack of education is the cause of lack of intense care for children. Parents from poor coastal communities do not have the knowledge and skills needed to care for their children well.

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