

The Impact of Fatherless on Child Development

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Abstract. Family is an important aspect in a child's life. The role of family/parents makes a big contribution to children's development, especially the role of fathers. Fatherless is a term used to describe children who grow and develop without the presence of a father, both physically and psychologically. So it can be concluded that fatherlessness is the absence of a father in parenting both physically and psychologically caused by death, divorce or the father's non-involvement in the child's daily life. The purpose of the research is to describe the impact of fatherlessness on child development. This type of research is a literature review. The research results show that fatherlessness can have a significant impact on children's development. Fatherless children are more at risk of experiencing emotional problems such as depression, anxiety and self-esteem problems, behavior such as aggression, delinquency and the use of illegal drugs. These children are also more at risk of experiencing problems in academic achievement.

Keywords: *Fatherless, Children Development*

Abstrak. Keluarga merupakan aspek yang penting dalam kehidupan anak. Peran keluarga/ orangtua memberikan kontribusi yang besar bagi perkembangan anak, terutama peran ayah. *Fatherless* adalah istilah yang digunakan untuk menggambarkan anak yang tumbuh dan berkembang tanpa kehadiran ayah, baik secara fisik maupun psikologis. Sehingga dapat disimpulkan bahwa *fatherless* merupakan ketidakhadiran ayah dalam pengasuhan baik secara fisik maupun psikologis yang disebabkan oleh kematian, perceraian atau tidak terlibatnya ayah dalam kehidupan sehari-hari anak. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menggambarkan dampak *fatherless* terhadap perkembangan anak. Jenis penelitian ini adalah kajian kepustakaan/literature review. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa *fatherless* dapat memiliki dampak yang signifikan pada perkembangan anak. Anak yang *fatherless* lebih berisiko mengalami masalah emosional seperti depresi, kecemasan, dan masalah harga diri, perilaku, seperti agresif, kenakalan, dan penggunaan obat-obatan terlarang. Anak tersebut juga lebih berisiko mengalami masalah dalam prestasi akademik.

Kata Kunci: *Fatherless, Perkembangan Anak*

INTRODUCTION

A family is a group of people who live together in one house connected by a bond of marriage, blood relationship and adoption with the aim of maintaining common culture and enhance the physical, mental, emotional and social development of each members (Suryanto, 2004). The Indonesian Ministry of Health stated that the family is the smallest unit of society consisting of the head of the family and several people who gather together and live under one roof in a state of mutual dependence. Burges defines the family with several characteristics, namely: a) in the family there are people based on ties blood, marriage and adoption, b) family members usually live together in one house, if must be separated they still consider the household as their home, c) family members interact and communicate with each other in the social role of the family, d) the family has a culture the same one.

The basic objectives in forming a family are: 1) the family is a very basic unit influences individual development, 2) the family is everyone's hope and intermediary family members in the needs and demands of society, 3) the family also functions in fulfilling the needs of family members with the aim of stabilizing the need for affection, sexual and socio-economic, 4) family influences the formation of individual identity and feeling of self-esteem. In carrying out their lives, each family member has a role and their respective functions.

WHO reveals several family functions as follows: Biological functions are the function of reproducing, caring for and raising children, feeding, maintaining health and recreation. Conditions that must be met in fulfilling this function, namely genetic health, knowledge and understanding fertility management, healthy consumption behavior, care during pregnancy and child care. Economic function, the function aims to meet the needs of sources of income, determine allocations necessary resources, ensuring financial security. Conditions that must be met in fulfilling the economic function, namely having knowledge, skills and responsibility. Psychological function, serves to provide an environment that is capable of enhancing development natural personality, which aims to protect the psychology optimally. The conditions that must be fulfilled, namely stable emotions, the ability to cope with stress and crises, feelings between good member. Educational function, This function is to teach knowledge, attitudes and skills. The requirements that must be met fulfilled, namely having a level of intelligence including knowledge, skills and appropriate experience. And Sociocultural function, This function is to carry out the transfer of values related to behavior, language, tradition/custom. The requirement for this function is to know the standard values needed, exemplify behavioral norms and maintain them.

The efforts made by parents certainly do not all run smoothly, because In the efforts to pursue an education, children sometimes encounter obstacles such as (1) behavioral patterns developed at home; (2) the family does not provide a good example, which has an impact on children's behavior; (3) lack of children's motivation to learn to adapt. This caused by unpleasant social experiences; (4) lack of guidance and the assistance received by children during the learning process (Suharti, N., 2016). The causes of family dysfunction can vary, such as (1) lack of role parents, especially fathers; (2) lack of direction and education for adolescents (Kasenda, et al. 2023); (3) death of one or both parents; (4) divorce (Sarwono, in Agustin &Kudus. 2023).

Preparing children to be brilliant is not an easy matter, it require effort which is consistent and continuous from parents in carrying out their duties to care for, nurture and educate their children until they are able to live independently (Syahraeni, 2015). One of the causes of family dysfunction is the lack of role parents, especially fathers (Sarwono, in Agustin & Kudus. 2023). Lately, The absence of a father's role or what is commonly called *fatherless* is a hot topic of conversation.

Recently, news has gone viral that Indonesia is a country with a large number of families. the world's largest *fatherless population* Based on data from *the United Nations Children's Fund* (UNICEF) 2021. Around 20.9% of children in Indonesia grow up without the presence of a father. On the other hand, According to Susenas 2021 data, the number of early childhood in Indonesia reached 30.83 million people. From Of that number, 2.67% or around 826,875 young children do not live with their father and mother. biological. Then, 7.04% or around 2,170,702 early childhood children only live with their mothers.

This means that of the 30.83 million early childhood children in Indonesia, around 2,999,577 people have lost their father figure or do not live with their father. Of course this is a number that many, not to mention children who do not get attention, affection and love from their fathers, even though the father is physically present. It is ironic, because the father's role is very significant for the child.

On the other hand, the cause of *fatherless country* is the high divorce rate. Divorce become one of the main causes of fatherlessness in Indonesia. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), the number of divorces in Indonesia continues to increase from year to year. In 2022, recorded there were 583,266 divorce cases in Indonesia. This figure increased by 15.31% compared to 2021 which reached 447,743 cases. Divorce can cause children to lose one of their his parents, namely the father or mother. This happens because after the divorce, both parents usually will live separately and only meet the children in turns. As a result, the children will losing time with one of the parents. On the other hand, patriarchal gender culture also plays a role contribute to the number of fatherless. Because there are still some areas in Indonesia that It is women who must

educate their children. Women also have to look after and raise their children. A man's job is to earn a living for the family's needs, while domestic work is women's business.

Populix in June 2023, around 31.1 percent of respondents admitted to being in a condition *fatherless*. The survey was conducted on 2,565 respondents. In 2015, KPAI released a report entitled 'Child Care Quality in Indonesia: National Survey and Policy Review' Fulfillment of Child Custody Rights in Indonesia'. Number of samples or respondents in this survey were 800 families with a total of 2,400 respondents. They are 800 father respondents, 800 mother respondents, and 800 child respondents spread across 33 provinces in Indonesia. This study found the fact that the quality of education and parental knowledge related to child care still weak. It was stated that only 27.9 percent of fathers and 36.9 percent of mothers sought information. caring for and raising children before marriage. While 38.9 percent of fathers and 56.2 percent of mothers looking for information on caring for and raising children after marriage. In childcare practices In the early phase, the proportion of mothers was also greater, namely 89.9 percent, while fathers were 69.9 percent. Direct parental involvement in the child-rearing process is said to still be low, Only 26.2 percent of fathers and 25.8 percent of mothers stated that the child-rearing process was not assisted and not transferred to anyone else.

The quantity and quality of communication time between parents and children is also still very important. minimal, in terms of quantity the average time spent communicating with children is only 1 hour per day, namely by 47.1 percent for fathers and 40.6 percent for mothers. Lack of parental time communicating with children, has the potential to result in a loss of intimacy, warmth and harmony the relationship between parents and children in the family. In addition, this study found data. that 56.5 percent of fathers and 55.8 percent of mothers provide mobile phone and smartphone facilities. have an internet connection. However, 44.4 percent of fathers and 42.8 percent of mothers stated that they did not supervise and assist children in accessing media.

The concept of *fatherless* can be interpreted as the absence of a father's presence in the process. parenting. This is then known as "*fatherless*", "*father absence*", "*father loss*" or "*father hunger*" (Ashari, 2018). According to Berlian and Chitam (2023) *Fatherlessness* is a condition a child who has a father, but the father is not present or does not play an optimal role in the process of child growth and development. Fitroh (2014) stated that *fatherless* is not the existence of a father's role or presence in a child's life. This happens to orphans and children who do not have a close relationship with their father in everyday life.

Apart from that, Smith (Fitroh, 2014) also stated that someone is said to be in a *fatherless* condition. when he does not have a father or does not have a relationship with his father, which is caused by due to divorce or marital problems of parents. In other literature, Bradley (Iskandar, Prasetyo & Mulya, 2023) stated that *fatherless* is the absence of a father figure in a person's life physically, emotionally, and spiritually. *Fatherless* is a term used for depicts a child who grows and

develops without the presence of a father, either physically or mentally. and psychological. So it can be concluded that *fatherless* is the absence of a father. in care both physically and psychologically caused by death, divorce or the father's lack of involvement in the child's daily life.

Fatherlessness can be caused by various factors, such as the death of a father, divorce of parents old, or irresponsible father. Physically, *fatherless* means the child does not have father who lives with him. The child may live with the mother, grandmother, or nanny others. Psychologically, *fatherless* means that the child does not have a close relationship with his/her parents. The father may not be involved in the child's upbringing, or the child may not feel close to his father.

METHODOLOGY

The research method used is the literature review method (Hart, 2018; Snyder, 2019). A literature review is a systematic, explicit, and reproducible way to identify, evaluate, and synthesize research articles and research ideas. produced by researchers and practitioners that have been published online. This article examines some core articles related to the impact of *fatherlessness* on child development.

DISCUSSION

Fatherlessness has a negative impact on a child's growth and development. Children who growing up without a father is more prone to problems such as emotional. It must be admitted, that children who grow up without the presence of a father are more susceptible to emotional problems, such as anxiety, depression, and antisocial behavior. This is because children who grow up without a father do not having a father figure who can be a source of love, support, and guidance. In psychology, anxiety and depression are two of the most common emotional problems experienced by children growing up without a father. Children who experience anxiety and depression may feel anxious, scared, or sad. On the other hand, children may also have difficulty concentrating, learning, and socializing with peers. Research (Khusniyah, 2018) on "The Role of Parents as a Form of Children's Social Emotions" shows results that there is an influence significant between the role of parents in the formation of children's social emotions impact on the success and personality of children in adulthood. Then the research (Aditia, 2023) on "The Relationship between the Role of Parents and the Mental-Emotional Development of Children of Age *Preschool*" shows results that there is a relationship between the role of parents and child development. mental-emotional of *preschool children*. Children's mental-emotional will be optimal if parents has a role in its development. Furthermore, research (Hidayah, 2013) on "The Relationship between Parenting Patterns and Emotional Intelligence of Preschool Children" shows the results that there is a significant relationship between the parenting patterns provided by parents on the emotional development of preschool children.

Second, children who grow up without the presence of a father are also more susceptible to experiencing problems. behavior, such as juvenile delinquency, drug abuse, and criminality. This is because children Those who grow up without a father do not have a father figure who can be a role model and example. good behavior. Thus, children who grow up without a father are more susceptible to experiencing juvenile delinquency because they do not have a father figure who can supervise and directing his child. Drug abuse and crime are two behavioral problems more serious. Research (Prasasti, 2024) on "The Relationship between Parenting Patterns and Juvenile Delinquency at SMP Negeri 3 Surakarta" showed results that there was a significant relationship significant relationship between parenting patterns and the behavior of adolescent acquaintances at SMP Negeri 3 Surakarta. Parenting patterns can influence delinquent behavior in adolescents because adolescents also requires more intensive attention and supervision to avoid inappropriate behavior. which is not good for teenagers can occur. Then the results of the study (Sembiring, 2017) about "The Relationship between Parental Attention and Juvenile Delinquency at SMP Negeri 2 Galang" shows the results that there is a significant relationship between parental attention and juvenile delinquency which means that the attention given by parents to teenagers can reduce delinquent behavior in adolescents. Furthermore, research (Maghfirawati, 2023) on "The Relationship between Parenting Patterns and the Tendency of Juvenile Delinquency in Schools" shows the results that there is a relationship between Parenting Patterns and Tendency of Juvenile Delinquency in Schools.

Third, what often happens to children who grow up without the presence of a father is experiencing academic problems, such as low academic achievement, falling test scores, and neglect education. This is because children who grow up without a father do not have a father figure. father who can help learn and develop academic skills. Not to mention, the problem of *being bullied* at school because the presence of parents is never seen. In essence, children who Growing up without a father may have difficulty keeping up with lessons at school because they don't have a father figure who can help them understand the subject matter. More than that, Children who grow up without a father may also have problems with motivation and self-discipline, which can hinder academic achievement. The results of the study (Purba, 2023) entitled "The Relationship between Parental Support and Student Learning Achievement" show that there is a relationship between parental support and student learning achievement. Then the results of the study (Nurmalasari, 2024) on "The Impact of the Absence of a Father's Role (*Fatherless*) on Achievement Academic Adolescents" showed results that fatherlessness has a significant negative impact on the academic achievement of adolescents. Children who experience *fatherlessness* show poorer cognitive achievement, lower test scores and poorer school attendance less. The absence of a father's role can have a detrimental impact on adolescents' academic achievement. Amato et al. in (Luo, J., Wang, LG, & Gao, WB 2012)

mentioned the absence of a father have an impact on poor cognitive performance, such as poor academic achievement. *Academic Achievement* (academic achievement) is a progress that is achieved by the aim is to acquire skills, materials, knowledge that covers various fields academic achievement. *Academic achievement* refers to achievements obtained in the academic environment. academic than non-academic. Different from the form of achievement in general, *academic achievement* is seen as having no specific end point. This concept is understood as a spectrum which enables a person to “acquire” certain skills and knowledge, as well as offers limitless opportunities for those who want to develop, expand and deepen their skills (Bolt, 2011). Then the research conducted by Zia, Malik & Ali (2015) showed that the absence of a father causes obstacles to the presence of teenagers in college. A father figure is essential to encourage academic life their children, and if teenagers do not feel the proper *support*, teenagers will show it negative signs that affect their academic areas, such as *dropping out*. Teenagers those who feel the absence of their father may experience a lack of motivation to attending lectures, or forcing teenagers to get the best results in order to get recognition from a father. The foundation of a solid relationship between teenagers and The father is essential for the success of the teenager both in academic and career realms. Teenagers who do not have this foundation tend to give up easily and do not have desire to continue studying.

COUCLUSION

Fatherless is a term used to describe a child who grows up and develop without the presence of a father, both physically and psychologically. So that it can it is concluded that *fatherlessness* is the absence of a father in caring for a child, either physically or mentally. or psychological caused by death, divorce or the absence of the father in the family children's daily lives. *Fatherlessness* can have a significant impact on child development. *Fatherless* children are at greater risk of experiencing emotional problems such as depression, anxiety, and self-esteem problems, behaviors, such as aggression, delinquency, and substance use illegal drugs. The child is also at greater risk of experiencing problems in academic achievement academic.

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