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THE RELATIONSHIP OF FATHER'S INVOLVEMENT IN PARENTING AND INTERPERSONAL INTELLIGENCE OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Merta Verani¹, Abdus Somad¹, Jhoni Warmansyah^{2*},

¹Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Indonesia

² Institut Agama Islam Negeri Batusangkar, Indonesia

Corresponding e-mail: *jhoniwarmansyah@iainbatusangkar.ac.id

Abstract

The involvement of fathers in parenting is an interesting discussion today. Many research show positive impacts of fathers' interactions in parenting on child development. The reality in Jakarta is that fathers work full time all day, and many fathers still think that child management is the mother's duty. This study aimed to see how the relationship between the father's interaction in parenting and the child's interpersonal intelligence. This study used a sample of 115 fathers, and children were collected using a simple random sampling technique. The research method used is correlational. The instrument was a questionnaire compiled independently and distributed to the father to measure the father's interactions in parenting in the form of a Likert scale, interpersonal intelligence measured through a multiple intelligence instrument (Jamaris, 2018). Based on data analysis using Pearson's current product trials, the researcher found that trust (r_{xy}) was 0,509 with $p = 0.000$ ($p < 0.001$). Thus, it can be stated that the higher the father is involved in parenting, the better the level of development of the child's interpersonal intelligence. The role of fathers in parenting is significant in child development, especially in developing multiple intelligence possessed by children.

Keywords: Interpersonal Intelligence, The Involvement of Fathers in Parenting, Early Childhood

Abstrak

Keterlibatan ayah dalam pengasuhan menjadi pembahasan yang menarik saat ini. Melihat banyaknya hasil penelitian yang menunjukkan dampak positif dari keterlibatan ayah dalam pengasuhan terhadap perkembangan anak. Realita di Jakarta bahwa ayah bekerja dengan waktu penuh seharian dan masih banyak para ayah beranggapan bahwa mengurus anak adalah tugas ibu. Tujuan penelitian ini ingin mengetahui bagaimana hubungan keterlibatan ayah dalam pengasuhan dengan kecerdasan interpersonal anak. Penelitian ini melibatkan sampel sebanyak 115 ayah dan anak yang diambil menggunakan teknik sampel acak sederhana. Metode penelitian yang digunakan adalah korelasional. Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan kuesioner yang disusun sendiri dan disebarakan kepada ayah mengukur keterlibatan ayah dalam pengasuhan berbentuk skala likert, sementara kecerdasan interpersonal diukur melalui adaptasi instrumen kecerdasan majemuk. Berdasarkan analisis data menggunakan uji korelasi product moment Pearson, Peneliti menemukan bahwa koefisien korelasi (r_{xy}) adalah $r_{xy} = 0,509$ dengan $p = 0,000$ ($p < 0,001$). Sehingga dapat dinyatakan bahwa semakin tinggi ayah terlibat dalam pengasuhan maka semakin baik tingkat perkembangan dari kecerdasan interpersonal anak. Peran ayah dalam pengasuhan sangat penting dalam perkembangan anak terutama mengembangkan kecerdasan majemuk yang dimiliki oleh anak.

Kata Kunci: kecerdasan interpersonal, keterlibatan ayah, anak usia dini

Introduction

It is vital to develop children's intelligence from an early age. One of the intelligence that can be developed in children is interpersonal intelligence. Interpersonal intelligence is a condition where a person can build relationships, work effectively, have empathy, and understand others (Ekayati, 2015). Children with high interpersonal intelligence will adjust to their school environment, have good social relationships with their peers, and participate in academic activities (Robinson & Diamond, 2014).

Interpersonal intelligence helps children improve academic achievement, social relationships, and emotional well-being (Sary, 2018). Further discussing interpersonal intelligence, which consists of collaboration, teamwork, responsibility, and conflict resolution should be cultivated in schools to make it easier for children to apply the lessons learned in class to real-life situations (Nurunnisa, 2017).

Children who have bad relationships with their peers have a greater chance of experiencing neurotic and psychotic disorders, delinquency, sexuality disorders, and difficulty adjusting in adulthood. On the other hand, children who have positive relationships with their peers will have more mature emotional abilities and better adapt (Muniroh, 2013). Therefore, interpersonal intelligence needs to be developed optimally in early childhood.

Based on the observations made in group B Kindergarten in the Matraman area, Central Jakarta, many children prefer to play alone because they do not want to share toys. These children disturb their friends when playing together, and some children seem to dominate the activities so that their friends do not get the opportunity. There are still many children who do not want to take turns expressing opinions during learning activities. It indicates that the child's interpersonal intelligence is still low.

The results of a study conducted by Gupita (Gupita, Musayyadah, & Veronica, 2020) state that children with low interpersonal intelligence will easily withdraw from their environment, affecting the decline in the quality of interpersonal relationships in subsequent developmental periods. Children will be shy and have difficulty socializing (Gupita et al., 2020).

Children's interpersonal intelligence can be influenced by the closest family environment's surrounding environment. The figures who are the primary keys for the development of children are mothers and fathers. Parental involvement in nurturing and emotional support provides many benefits such as good academic performance, improved social relationships, a sense of self-worth and self-efficacy, and school readiness. Factors that affect children's interpersonal development are the environment and parenting patterns (Frida Khalifatul Sholikhah, 2013).

The parenting role is not only a mother's responsibility but also the father's. He must also have a role in running optimally for the child's development. In the family, the father and mother have different roles. Children and mothers build attachments from the womb, while fathers have different ways of establishing relationships with children (Ery Arofal Haque, 2013).

As a result of not being attached to parents, children feel worthless and unloved in family life. Feelings like this form a negative self-concept and can impact children's development at a later age (Diananda, 2020). To strengthen the growth of empathy, affection, attention, and the ability to build good social relations in children requires the presence and involvement of a father in child care (Septiani & Nasution, 2018a). The father's warmth, guidance, and nurturing can help identify the extent of the child's moral maturity, which is reflected in prosocial behavior and positive behavior (Formoso, Gonzales, Jr, & Dumka, 2014).

The awareness of a father to accompany the child's growth and development process in Indonesia is still very lacking. Parenting awareness that grows and develops amid Indonesian society is based on a mother. A study conducted in Greater Jakarta by Asy'ari, H., & Ariyanto (2019), mentions that fathers who have children aged 5-12 years have low involvement in the six dimensions of paternal CRISM parenting (communication, responsibility, interaction, teaching, social competence, and monitoring). Another study states that fathers who are directly involved in parenting have a positive relationship to cognitive, social, psychological, and academic performance and can maintain a child's level of aggressiveness (Kwok & Li, 2015). In another study, it was said that the father's perception of child care was still limited to physical interaction and responsibility. At the same time, the actors in parenting were carried out jointly by the father and mother. However, because the father worked, the mother had a dominant role in child care (Bussa, Kiling-Bunga, Thoomaszen, & Kiling, 2018).

Children with fathers involved in parenting have more varied stimuli, resulting from interacting with two parents with different values, behaviors, vocabulary, and parenting styles. It can lead to better cognitive outcomes for children (Rollè et al., 2019). Subsequent research found that father and son time was more strongly associated with children's cognitive outcomes when spent in educational activities (such as reading or educational games) (Cano, Perales, & Baxter, 2019). Other studies have also revealed that higher-quality father and son activities are one way to influence children's decreased expression of aggressive behavior (Anderson, Qiu, & Wheeler, 2017).

Much evidence states that parenting involving fathers impacts positively on child development. Many previous studies have examined how father involvement's impact on cognitive abilities correlates with improving children's learning outcomes

in the future and on children's social and emotional maturity. However, researchers have not found a research study that discusses the relationship between a father's involvement in parenting and interpersonal intelligence. Based on the main problems described and relevant research, this research needs to be carried out to test the significance of the relationship between fathers' involvement in parenting and children's interpersonal intelligence.

Methods

This study uses correlational research methods to measure two variables: father's involvement in parenting as an independent variable and interpersonal intelligence as the dependent variable. According to Sugiyono (2014), correlation research involves collecting data to determine whether there is a relationship between two or more variables (Nurhani & Atika Putri, 2020).

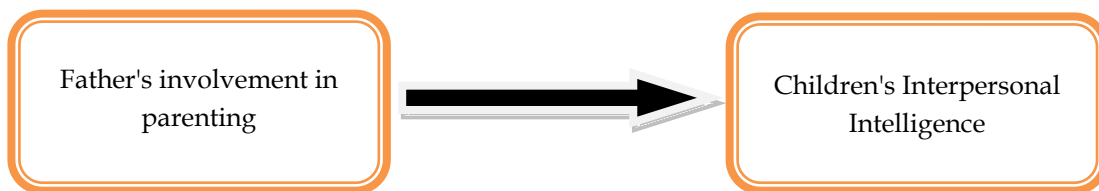


Figure 1. Variable Correlation

Sampling using a simple random technique involving 115 children and fathers in DKI Jakarta Province. Data collection techniques used questionnaires distributed to fathers to measure father involvement in parenting as measured by: (1) economic support, (2) caring, (3) interaction with children, and (4) quality of time with children, using the Likert scale. The research instrument consists of 20 items, with the criteria of (4) Often, (3) Sometimes, (2) Ever, and (1) Never.

Measurement of interpersonal intelligence uses an instrument adapted from multiple intelligence instruments (Jamaris, 2018). It is measured based on: (1) understanding the feelings of others (Empathy), (2) communicating well, (3) collaborating, (4) and managing or organizing, which consists of 22 items. The following criteria were used: (4) Consistently developing, (3) developing as expected, (2) moderately developed, and (1) undeveloped. The analysis technique uses product-moment correlation using a statistical computer program for social sciences (SPSS) version 22.0

Results and Discussion

Table 1. Correlation between Variables

		Correlations	
		Father's involvement	Interpersonal Intelligence
Father's involvement	Pearson Correlation	1	,509**

	Sig. (2-tailed)		,000
	N	115	115
	Pearson Correlation	,509**	1
Interpersonal Intelligence	Sig. (2-tailed)	,000	
	N	115	115

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Correlation Test

The calculation found that the correlation value of the father's involvement in parenting with the interpersonal intelligence variable was 0.509. It is known that the value of the r product moment table with 5% of significance level with a Df of 113, obtained r table of 0.154, and a significance level of 1% of 0.216. The correlation value of r (xy) and the value of the r table show 0.416 and 0.154, respectively. It means that the r-value is greater than the r table. It also means that H0 is rejected and H1 is accepted, with a significance value (2-tailed) of 0.0000 <0.05. It means that there is a positive and significant relationship between the father's involvement in parenting and the variable of interpersonal intelligence.

Table 2. Coefficient Determination

Coefisien Correlation	Coefisien Determination	t _{count}	T _{table (α=0,05)}	conclusion
0,509	0,259	6,28	1,66	Significant

Based on the results, the determination coefficient (cd) was 17%, meaning that father's involvement in parenting contributed 26% to the interpersonal intelligence of children aged 5-6 years. In comparison, other factors could influence the remaining 74%. It means that there is a relationship between father's involvement in parenting and the interpersonal intelligence of children aged 5-6 years.

Positive relationships and high levels of father involvement in assisting the parenting role influences children's interpersonal intelligence. Based on the study, there are several strong indicators of father involvement with children's interpersonal intelligence, namely providing facilities and maintaining health, such as fathers accompanying children to doctors for health checks or when children are sick; assisting children's activities such as fathers trying to take time to play and watch together, and the dimensions of doing activities together such as fathers trying to take time to exercise and have breakfast together.

The other indicators are moderate, such as providing educational facilities and support and motivation. Meanwhile, keeping children clean is low. So it can be interpreted that fathers who have high-quality time with children are essential to increasing children's interpersonal intelligence. It is because the activities carried out

by fathers with children are meaningful in learning and support to improve child development.

Empathy is one indicator of children's interpersonal intelligence. In this study, there was a significant relationship between father's involvement in parenting and the child's ability to empathize with others. It is in line with research conducted by Brantasari, which says that the parenting role of a father influences children's behavior. In the study, it was said that there was a significant correlation between the parenting role of fathers and early childhood behavior (Brantasari, 2021). Children who have high empathy skills will have a sense of affection, understand others, have an attitude of tolerance, understanding of others, and will be better able to control their anger (Nugraha, Apriliya, & Veronicha, 2017). Therefore, a father's involvement becomes essential in parenting early childhood.

The ability to communicate well is also an indicator of a child's interpersonal intelligence. The father's involvement in parenting affects the child's communication skills. Children's language development is influenced by various factors, one of which is parenting patterns. This is because communication and interaction between parents and children help improve children's language skills. (Mulqiah, Santi, & Lestari, 2017). The more children communicate or interact with their parents, the better their language skills will be, including, in this case, communication and interaction with fathers.

The results of this study are in line with research that states that quantitatively, the interaction of father and son occurs when children do physical activities, such as playing. While the mother is more fulfilling the child's needs, such as feeding, giving water, taking off, and wearing clothes (Abdullah, 2010). This research is also supported by the statement that when a husband gains confidence in caring for his child as a wife makes direct physical contact such as doing physical activity (exercise), recreation, watching, and eating together with her child, it will show good results on his children development (Castillo, Welch, & Sarver, 2015). Fathers who want to interact and provide free time with their children will contribute positively to the behavior and soul of the child, increase brain development, and the child's ability to socialize (S, 2015). These findings support that children's interpersonal intelligence is related to father involvement in parenting.

The involvement of fathers in parenting also positively affects children's moral intelligence. Research conducted by Septiani (2018b) mentions that fathers involved in parenting will positively impact children's moral intelligence from an early age. Therefore, when children have good behavior, good souls, and good social skills, a sense of empathy will be awakened towards others. Children will also respect others and have many new friends in the surrounding environment.

In other studies, many benefits are obtained when fathers are involved in child care, including cognitive development, emotional development, psychological well-being, social development, and physical health (Aryanti, 2017). The involvement of fathers in parenting impacts the secure attachment that children have. By meeting the child's needs, the father's attitude forms a secure attachment between the father and the child, who chooses the father as the attachment figure in parenting (Putri Herlina Aryanti, Eka Oktavianto, Suryati, 2019).

Apart from quality time, the support provided by the family is also proven to affect the interpersonal intelligence of the child. It is in line with the statement that children's interpersonal intelligence is influenced by the child's closest environment starting from emotional closeness with family, then with teachers and peers so that children's personalities are formed who will easily socialize with the surrounding environmental conditions (Kårstad, Wichstrøm, Reinfjell, Belsky, & Berg-Nielsen, 2015). Children's interpersonal intelligence is shaped and influenced by parents, but teachers and their peers will influence children's emotional control and behavior towards others. Children can speak politely and have a high sense of empathy about the impact of their school teaching and experiences when interacting with peers. Therefore, it takes cooperation, support, and trust from people around the child's parents to provide a stimulus through the social environment to form their interpersonal intelligence.

Conclusion

This study found a positive relationship between fathers' involvement in parenting and interpersonal intelligence possessed by children. The higher the father's involvement in caring for children, the children's interpersonal intelligence level will also increase. Children's interpersonal intelligence needs to be developed optimally to affect the next child's development. These results imply that parents, especially fathers, should be responsible for economic needs and provide free time with children in activities. He can be the primary listener for children and require intensive interaction to get closer to the bond between father and son. The continuity of attention given by the father can increase the child's confidence and strengthen the child's character from an early age.

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