

# Theological Ethical Study of the Role of Parents in Educating Children in the Gmim Marturia Ratatotok Congregation

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## Abstract

The research focuses on the crucial role of parents in shaping the moral and spiritual development of children in the congregation, as well as close collaboration between parents and the Church in instilling positive values and providing spiritual guidance to children. This research aims to determine the ethical awareness and involvement of parents in educating children within the GMIM Marturia Ratatotok congregation, emphasizing the theological and ethical dimensions of the role of parents. The research method used is qualitative, using observation data collection, interviews, literature studies, and data analysis. This research explores the perspectives and benefits of involving parents and children in natural environments. Research findings emphasize the importance of the active role of parents in shaping the moral and spiritual character of children in the congregation. The research results show that parental involvement rooted in Christian values is crucial to promoting children's well-being and building a societal foundation of truth. So, it can be concluded that the active involvement of parents in children's education within the GMIM Marturia Ratatotok congregation is significant for developing children's character and spiritual growth. The implications of this research emphasize the need to prioritize parental involvement and support and strong collaboration between parents and the Church. This research recommends special programs designed to increase parental awareness and involvement in children's education and develop effective strategies to strengthen collaboration between parents and the Church in instilling Christian values.

## Keywords

Educating Children, Gmim Marturia Ratatotok Congregation, Role of Parents, Theology

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The role of parents is significant in educating children from an early age (Egan et al., 2021; Raum, 2020; Schneider & Coleman, 2018). In realizing the success of children's education, the role of parents is needed, but there are still many parents who are unaware of their role in educating children. Parents influence their success (Fatoni, 2019; Mulia & Kurniati, 2023). However, some parents completely hand over their children's education to the school. Looking at the situation that occurs in the Ratatotok



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Marturia congregation, there is still a lack of education and parental attention toward children where parents are more focused on taking care of the family's economic needs rather than educating children, even though to realize educational success requires the main and most important role of parents.

Nowadays, because of the sophistication of technology (the internet), young children increasingly understand how to use cell phones so they can access many things they cannot watch, such as watching pornographic videos, using the TikTok application, and watching YouTube even though they should not. (Alia & Irwansyah, 2018). Watch adult videos. However, parents only let their children use sophisticated technology in this day and age. So children will continue to access what they do not know because their curiosity is so great at an early age that they ignore their parents' prohibitions.

Many children today grow up without certain norms because parents are more concerned with being busy than paying attention to their children (Febriyanti et al., 2022; Nomaguchi & Milkie, 2020). Children develop without a targeted parenting pattern but develop on their own. The child is not particular how he should act or behave because his parents never tell or guide him. Sometimes, parents never realize this, parents just let their children do whatever they want without any supervision from their parents. Therefore, to become a parent, you need certain conditions to develop your child well. Parents must be able to share their attention with all objects in their household because it is in the family that interaction between parents and children occurs. The love given by parents at the beginning of a child's life helps the child's growth and development and even becomes the foundation for forming his personality. (Wahidin, 2020; Widodo, 2020).

Parents in Ratatotok do not play an active role in educating their children; they only prioritize their personal lives over educating their children. What often happens here is that children grow and develop in their minds without help and direction from their parents, so many children drop out of school, get pregnant out of wedlock, marry quickly, drink, and consume Drugs. This happens because parents do not think about their responsibility to educate their children so they are on the right track. Parents do not think about their children's future in the future, they are only busy making a living in their lives. Children are allowed to socialize too freely, so they think about doing things they should not. Some parents earn a living for family life, but some earn a living for their personal needs, especially in fashion, without realizing that their children are no longer walking the good path. Children's lives are like this; of course, they do what they want to do without thinking that this is the wrong relationship they should be in, but they do not think that far because inside, they are disappointed with their attitude and abandoned by other people. Parents who only care about their work rather than giving. Complete love.

The word ethics comes from Greek which means *ethos*, meaning habits, customs. *Ethos* and *ethics* mean morality, inner feelings, or a person's inclination when carrying out an action (Östman et al., 2019). Christian ethics focuses on the heart with which a person acts. Christian ethics is centered on God's commands in the Bible because the Bible is God's word in the Bible. After all, the Bible is God's Word and the center of Christian teaching, so Christian ethics is a theological ethic that refers to the teachings and behavior of Jesus Christ, who is believed to be the Son of God who brought and taught about God's love for this world. (Arifianto & Widodo, 2021; Susanto, 2021; Tampenawas & Mangantibe, 2020).

A family is a small group consisting of a father, mother, and children who gather and live in one place and depend on each other. According to Salvicion and Celis, in a family, two or more individuals are united by kinship relations, marriage relations within a household, and interacting with each other to create and maintain their roles. (Irianti, 2020). Likewise, it can also be called God's divine institution in Genesis 1:27: "So God created man in the image and the image of God he created man and woman he created them." (Eastvold, 2018). So, it can be understood that the family is a higher and divine institution. Glorious.

Parents are primarily responsible for providing examples, behavior, and examples of correct living in the Christian faith to their children, as well as loving and paying attention to their needs. (Peak, 2023). Following the teachings of Ephesians 6:4, parents are commanded to educate their children with God's

teachings and advice without causing anger in their hearts.(Manihuruk et al., 2022; Pasaribu, 2018; Simatupang et al., 2023). This responsibility is God's plan, which requires parents to communicate the correct values to their children, starting with themselves. The relationship between parents and children is formed from the moment the child is born into the family, and through this subsystem, close relationships are established, including biological and social relationships that require parental attention and love to help the child in his spiritual and mental development.

According to RA Koesan, "Children are the younger generation who are still young in Spirit and their life journey because the surrounding environment easily influences them.(Jenatton & Morales, 2020)Therefore, children need serious attention. However, as the most vulnerable and weak social creatures, ironically, children are often placed in the most disadvantaged position, do not have the right to speak, and are often victims of acts of violence. And violation of his rights. Furthermore, children are seen as adult humans in small sizes to provide a clear understanding(Aron-Wisnewsy et al., 2020; Gottschalk, 2019), as stated by A. Murni Yusuf in his book Introduction to the Science of Education that "Children are tiny humans whose bodies are developing both physically and mentally. From the opinion above, it can be understood that children are tiny humans who experience growth and development; children are subjects who are growing and developing(Yusuf, 2019).

Several works, such as Wagiu (2020), whose research aims to examine the implementation of the role of parents according to Deuteronomy 6:4-9 in Christian Religious Education in the family at the Immanuel Evangelical Church Aertembaga Minahasa. The findings show that although the informants have an adequate understanding of the concept of parental roles as outlined in Deuteronomy 6:4-9, their understanding of Christian Religious Education in the family is still limited, and the role of parents as instructed by God in Deuteronomy 6:4-9 inadequate and implemented optimally. Therefore, increasing educational and outreach efforts by church leaders is necessary to empower parents in their role as educators of Christian Religious Education in the family, as instructed by God in Deuteronomy 6:4-9(Wagiu, 2020). Baganu's (2018) research findings show that the role of parents in providing sex education to teenagers in GKII Tengkapak Parish has a significant impact on reducing risky sexual behavior in teenagers. (Baganu, 2018). Nely & Rabung's (2022) research findings reveal that the lack of maximum involvement of parents in the character formation of the teenage children of the KIBAIID Church congregation in Sassa stems from a lack of awareness and understanding of their role, exacerbated by pressure and interference from outside.(Nely & Rabung, 2022).

Existing literature highlights various challenges related to parental involvement in educating children in congregational environments, as evidenced by research such as Wagiu (2020), Baganu (2018), and Nely & Rabung (2022). However, there is a real gap in the literature regarding the theological and ethical dimensions of parents' role in the Gmim Marturia Ratatotok Congregation. Although previous research has explored the role of parents from an educational and behavioral perspective, there is still a lack of focus on the theological foundations and ethical implications of parental responsibilities in specific religious communities. Therefore, this research aims to fill this gap by conducting a theological, ethical analysis of the role of parents in educating children in the Gmim Marturia Ratatotok Congregation environment, highlighting the intersection between religious teachings, ethical principles, and parental practices in shaping children's parenting patterns. This work aims to examine the ethical theological role of parents in educating children in the Gmim Marturia Ratatotok congregation.

## 2. METHODS

Researchers use Qualitative research methods to achieve the suitable targets for this scientific work. Creswell (1998) states that qualitative research is a complex picture, examining words, detailed reports from respondents' views, and conducting research in natural situations. (Levitt et al., 2018; Ramsook, 2018). Qualitative research is also natural research. The researcher is the key instrument. Lexy Moleong

also added that the qualitative research method is a research method that solves problems using empirical data and is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of spoken or written words from people whose behavior is carefully observed. (Masruroh, 2023).

The data collection techniques used in this research include observing the behavior and interactions between parents and children in the GMIM Marturia Ratatotok congregation. Conduct interviews using unstructured interviews to extract relevant information from respondents. Respondents interviewed included parents of children in the GMIM Marturia Ratatotok congregation, church leaders and pastors who have a role in children's education, Sunday school teachers, and other church staff involved in children's education. Literature Study: Reviewing literature relevant to the research topic to strengthen the theoretical foundation. Documentation Study: Collecting related documents, such as church records, children's education programs, and church policies. Research Sample: Select a representative sample from the population of parents and children in the GMIM Marturia Ratatotok congregation.

The data analysis technique is carried out in several stages of data reduction: selecting, focusing attention, simplifying, and transforming raw data obtained from the field. Irrelevant data will be deleted, while relevant data will be arranged systematically. Data Presentation: Arranging data in descriptive narratives, tables, graphs, or matrices to facilitate understanding. Drawing Conclusions and Verification: Drawing conclusions based on the findings that have been analyzed and verifying these conclusions through data triangulation. Triangulation is carried out by comparing data from various sources and methods to ensure the validity of the findings.

### 3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

#### *The Role of Parents in Educating Children in the Gmim Marturia Ratatotok Congregation*

In the theological, ethical study of the role of parents in educating children in the GMIM Marturia Ratatotok congregation, research was conducted through observation and interviews with several carefully selected sources. This research explores parents' and children's understanding of good education, their views on parents who play less of a role in educating children, and the Church's efforts to overcome the role of less effective parents in educating children. The research results found that parents have the same understanding of the importance of quality education for children. They agree that good parenting must include positive values like love, mutual respect, honesty, and patience. Parents must be role models for their children and teach these values with love and patience.

However, there is also awareness that some parents do not pay attention to their role in educating their children. Some causes that arise include busy work and a lack of understanding of the importance of parents in shaping children's character. However, this was recognized as a failure to fulfill his responsibilities as a parent. From the child's perspective, it seems they feel the negative impact of the lack of attention and affection from parents who are busy with work. Some children feel lonely, disappointed, and even encouraged to look for fun outside the home as a substitute for their parents' lack of attention.

In this context, the Church is important in reminding and increasing parents' awareness of their responsibilities in educating children. Through sermons, family prayers, activities, and seminars on the role of parents, the Church seeks to provide moral and spiritual support to congregation families. From all the research results, it can be concluded that the role of parents in educating children is significant and cannot be ignored. Parents must understand that children are a gift from God who must be respected and educated with love. Being busy with work is not a reason to ignore this role because children need parents' time, attention and love to grow into reasonable and responsible individuals. As a spiritual institution, the Church is also responsible for reminding and supporting parents in their role as children's first educators. Thus, collaboration between family and the Church can be a strong

foundation in shaping children's character according to the spiritual and moral values God desires.

From the interview above, the researcher analyzed that education for children is essential to continue to be given to children because even though there is teaching, there are still children who do not listen to directions from their parents. We can also see the attitude of parents towards their children who do not provide enough love or even good parenting to their children; some children accept it, but some do not. Some parents know that their child is not showing good behavior.

Regarding parents and even people around them, of course, there are feelings of anger and disappointment, so there are acts of violence committed by children because they are emotional about their parents' attitude. Apart from committing acts of violence, some parents ignore their love for their children and do not want to acknowledge their children, and some parents allow their children to do evil deeds. However, some parents do not want to see their children do things that are not good for other people, and some parents support their children in dealing with these problems so that the child's psychology is not disturbed and he is not disturbed. Feel depressed. Researchers also analyzed that parents do not provide enough understanding or teaching about good parenting patterns because parents only prioritize their work rather than giving love to their children. Parents should still provide teaching to children, but parents only take this for granted. Therefore, children will ignore the teaching and learning process. Advice from parents because children have more free association and knowledge than their parents, so children prefer to follow their thoughts rather than following directions from their parents. Here, researchers also found that some parents did not control their children's social interactions so that there were no restrictions from parents in socializing and parents were still neglectful in providing an understanding of good education. Some parents have or always remind them to socialize well and correctly, but their children do not want to listen to their parents.

Researchers also analyzed that parents do not play an active role in children's lives, so children do bad things and misbehave with their parents or the people around them. Parents should be able to play an active role in educating children so that children can feel complete love from their parents and a good and correct education. In this way, children can differentiate between what is good to use and what is not to do.

Researchers also analyzed that elements make a child commit immoral acts, including fighting with parents, dropping out of school, and even marrying young, because of love, comfort, and affection that are not found in the family. Some are influenced by very free relationships so that the fear of their parents no longer exists, there is only resistance to their parents. Therefore, it is a lesson for every parent to learn how to provide comfort, calm, and love to their children.

Researchers also analyzed children's feelings when their parents no longer provide a good education or love. Children realize that their parents no longer pay attention, children feel sad and even disappointed with their parents, and children feel they are no longer appreciated and are always ignored just because of their jobs. However, some children feel pressured by their parents' attitude because they are angry and ridiculed by people around them, and some children prefer to leave the house because their parents do not accept their children misbehaving.

Researchers also analyzed children's responses when they saw their parents only prioritize their work rather than paying attention to their children. The child's feelings are sorrow, disappointment, and anger, so they think their parents only prioritize their work and put aside the child's educators. The child experiences emotional disturbances such as rebellion because the child feels that his parents do not care about him, but as a child, whatever mistakes his parents make will be forgiven. However, some children are filled with anger that they still cannot control, so they may be unable to forgive them.

#### ***Theological Theological Study of the Role of Parents in Educating Children in the Gmim Marturia Ratatotok Congregation***

According to Franz Magnis Suseno, ethics is not just teachings or rules that are concrete and ready

to use. On the other hand, ethics is more of a science that invites us to reflect critically and rationally on the values and norms that govern human life. This includes considerations about how humans should live as good humans, as well as considering the moral values and norms generally accepted in society. Furthermore, ethics also includes a collection of moral principles or values manifested in various ethical codes, such as codes of ethics for teachers, journalists, doctors, or hospitals. Thus, ethics becomes a guide for humans to live a meaningful and moral life and face various life challenges and problems based on generally recognized values.(Rici et al., 2021; Saumantri & Bisri, 2023).

Parents have an essential role in their children's lives(Cohen, 2018). They are the first and foremost educational institution for developing a child's personality. When parents guide and educate their children positively, they instill positive traits that shape their children's behavior within and outside the family. However, many parents prioritize their personality over the development of their child's character, neglecting their responsibility to be role models and examples of righteous living. Parental responsibilities include guiding and modeling good behavior rooted in the Christian faith. Teaching children about Christianity must start at home, as emphasized in Deuteronomy 6:4-7. An early understanding of faith builds a foundation that helps children face life's challenges with spiritual resilience. By introducing children to Jesus early, parents equip them to face temptations and difficulties with confidence.

Unfortunately, inadequate parenting often creates social and family challenges. Parents who fail to fulfill their role in shaping their child's character can feel emotional pressure and a sense of failure. Some children may even seek refuge outside the home due to discomfort or dissatisfaction with the family environment. The Bible underscores the importance of parental guidance and discipline in Ephesians 6:4. This emphasizes the need for parents to teach their children God's teachings and counsel rather than provoking them to anger. Proverbs 29:17 further highlights the benefits of good parenting and suggests that disciplined children bring joy and peace to their parents. Every child desires love and good education from their parents. However, it is the responsibility of parents to communicate actual values to their children, starting from a young age. Proverbs outline the principles for effective parenting, emphasizing that discipline produces wisdom, whereas undiscipline brings shame.

Parenting is a big responsibility that shapes a child's future. Every child longs for the presence and guidance of their parents in the hope that they will instill good values and wisdom. However, the course of life is unpredictable, and not all plans go smoothly. Difficulties may precede success, but goodness always comes in the nick of time. Violence perpetrated by parents against their children reflects a lack of parenting and care. Such behavior stems from personal failure and negligence in providing necessary affection and attention. As a result, children feel forgotten, which leads to disappointment and discord in the family. Jesus' teachings about love, which emphasize the importance of compassion, provide a guiding light in family relationships.

Living according to divine principles guarantees a harmonious existence. Galatians 5:22-23 describes the fruits of the Spirit, highlighting love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control as essential virtues. Aligning one's life with these values ensures an existence that is purposeful and directed by divine wisdom. Today's society is witnessing an alarming trend of parental neglect due to personal interests, prioritizing personal interests over caring for children. However, effective parenting is essential for developing children's character, instilling respect for God, and a tendency to do good. As Christians, the responsibility to guide children toward truth is paramount, as stated in Matthew 18:6, a warning not to lead them astray.

Parents play an indispensable role in shaping their children's character and require divine wisdom to fulfill this task effectively. Learning from mistakes and embracing change will encourage personal growth, ensuring parents become better role models. Deuteronomy 6:7 emphasizes the importance of consistent guidance, urging parents to teach their children diligently at home and on the road.

Failure to educate children will perpetuate the destruction of society, thus emphasizing the

importance of parents taking advantage of every opportunity for guidance. As Christ stated, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." Therefore, parents must realize that the opportunity to care for their children is only temporary and utilize it effectively. Parenting is a sacred responsibility entrusted by God, requiring unwavering commitment and divine guidance. By embodying the values of compassion, kindness, and patience, parents can shape their children into honest individuals who contribute positively to society. Through careful education and reliance on Divine wisdom, parents can fulfill their mandate to raise a future generation filled with truth and goodness.

Parents play an essential role in shaping their children's lives. They are the leading and most influential educational institutions for a child. If parents provide positive guidance and education, children will likely develop positive traits in the family environment. Therefore, parents' responsibility in educating children is enormous. They must teach their children to distinguish between right and wrong. However, many parents prioritize their personality over developing their child's character, thus neglecting their obligation to instill good values. Often parents are too busy with their careers that they forget their role as educators. This neglect can cause children to grow up without proper guidance and discipline, lacking the necessary moral compass.

Parents must realize that their children are the future generation and, therefore, require proper attention and education to develop their potential. Families and educational institutions play an essential role in providing guidance and direction to ensure the development of competent and qualified individuals in the future. Several factors cause a decrease in parental involvement in child care, including a lack of understanding about character formation, good education, and social interaction. The negative impact of technological advances and peer influence can further exacerbate this problem.

The Bible emphasizes the importance of parental guidance and discipline. Ephesians 6:4 commands parents not to provoke their children to anger but to educate them in God's discipline and teaching. Proverbs 22:6 advises parents to train their children in how they should go; when they are old, they will not deviate from that path. Ultimately, every child wants love and proper education from their parents. The responsibility of parents is to provide guidance and instill good values in children so they can become responsible and moral individuals. By following the Bible's teachings and focusing on their children's well-being, parents can ensure a brighter future for the next generation.

The researchers' analysis highlights the importance of ongoing education and care for children. Even though there is teaching, some children still neglect to heed their parents' guidance. This can be caused by various factors, including inadequate affection or positive parental reinforcement, resulting in a lack of emotional support. As a result, children may engage in violent behavior, influenced by their parents' emotional responses. Additionally, neglect or rejection of affection from parents can cause emotional distress in children, potentially manifesting in violent or delinquent behavior. Some parents may even forgive or ignore their children's bad behavior, while others actively support them in facing such challenges to prevent psychological harm.

This study shows that some parents fail to instill essential values or education because they prioritize their careers over caring for their children. As a result, children may ignore parental guidance, influenced by liberal social interactions and their knowledge, which they perceive as superior to their parents.

In addition, researchers identified parental apathy or ignorance towards monitoring children's social interactions, resulting in a lack of boundaries. This lack of guidance contributes to children's bad behavior and weakens parents' role in instilling good values. Further analysis revealed underlying reasons why children engage in negative behavior, including defiance of parental authority, dropping out of school, or early marriage. Factors such as lack of family affection and liberal social influences contribute to this behavior, emphasizing the need for parental involvement and emotional support.

Children's emotional responses to parental neglect or prioritization of work over caregiving are profound, ranging from sadness and disappointment to anger. Some people may feel unappreciated and ignored, leading to emotional turmoil and rebellious behavior. In conclusion, researchers emphasize the critical role of parents in providing emotional support, affection, and appropriate guidance to their children. Ignoring these aspects can have a detrimental impact on a child's emotional well-being and behavior. Therefore, parents should prioritize parenting and education alongside a career that will spark healthy development in their children. In line with research conducted by those who say parental involvement positively affects children's academic and emotional development. Lack of parental involvement causes emotional problems in children (Cao et al., 2019; Desforges & Abouchaar, 2018; Fan & Chen, 2021; Kim & Hill, 2015). This study shows that an authoritative parenting style is associated with better academic and emotional adjustment in children. Neglect by parents causes increased behavioral problems (Berthelsen & Walker, 2018; Sener & Yildiz, 2023; Tabachnick et al., 2022). The research results show that the role of parents is significant in shaping children's moral and spiritual development but is often hampered by work commitments and a lack of understanding of the parent's role.

#### 4. CONCLUSION

This research aims to determine the ethical awareness and involvement of parents in educating children within the GMIM Marturia Ratatotok congregation, focusing on the theological and ethical dimensions of the role of parents. The research results show that the role of parents is significant in shaping children's moral and spiritual development but is often hampered by work commitments and a lack of understanding of the parent's role. The Church plays a vital role in supporting parents through various activities and seminars, helping parents instill Christian values such as love, respect, honesty, and patience. Despite the challenges, family and Church collaboration is a strong foundation for children's moral and spiritual education. This research implies that parental neglect or ignorance can cause emotional stress and negative behavior in children. Therefore, parents must actively participate in children's moral and spiritual education. This research recommends developing programs designed to increase parental awareness and involvement in children's education and strengthen collaboration between parents and churches. Future research could explore more deeply effective strategies for overcoming parents' challenges in educating children in a congregational environment.

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