DEMOCRATIC PARENTING OF SINGLE-PARENT MEN AND WOMEN IN INSTILLING SOCIAL INTERACTION IN CHILDREN

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Abstract

This study aims to determine how a single parent with a democratic parenting style instills social interaction in their child. This type of research is qualitative research data used in the study are the activities of democratic parenting of single-parent men and women related to children’s social interactions. This research was conducted in Makmur Hamlet, Padangrie Simatahari Village, Kotapinang Sub-District, South Labuhanbatu Regency, North Sumatra. This sample was taken using a purposive sampling technique. Data collection techniques in this study are observation, interviews, and documentation. Data analysis techniques are reduction, presentation, conclusion drawing, and verification. The results of this study show seven stages of the democratic parenting style, which include: agreeing to speak politely, using words such as please, sorry, and thank you, speaking in a low tone, using friendly expressions, mutual understanding, cooperation, openness, empathy, motivational support, and positivity. These stages involve agreeing to understand and support each other in decision-making, working together to maintain cleanliness and comfort, giving full trust to the child while correcting dishonest behavior, teaching the child to complement and embrace others, prioritizing life goals, avoiding toxic friendships, and encouraging independence and a sense of sufficiency while incorporating religious teachings. This research concludes that the parenting of male and female single parents has successfully educated children to interact well with their parents and the environment.

Keywords
Democratic parenting style, Single parenting, Social interaction

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INTRODUCTION

Parents and children in a family have different positions. Parents' views on children are the foundation of the baby, who must be educated and maintained to form a good character, the quality that is useful for the future; parents are responsible for maintaining and instilling social values in children by providing parenting (Anisah, 2011). The behavior given by parents when interacting with children uses the method of educating, maintaining, training, and instilling social values in children (Utami & Santoso, 2021). Because parenting reflects parental attitudes, what actions and methods should parents give in building a child’s personality (Ayun, 2017). Therefore, to help the development of the character of children, the role of parenting is very important (Latifah, 2020). Previous research on parenting when guiding and accompanying children is very influential in leading to a child's success (Dewi & Khotimah, 2020). Furthermore, parenting is defined (Fitriyani, 2015) as a role that can develop the quality of education and personality of a child by educating children with discipline and shaping children's attitudes to reach the maturity process.

Someone who nurtures, raises, and cares for their children without the support and presence of their partner. A child will grow psychologically healthy if raised in a happy family environment (Suprihatin, 2018). Circumstances that arise in human life will certainly not always go as expected. In marriage, losing a spouse is a situation that cannot be avoided or referred to as a single parent (Pitasari & Cahyono, 2014). The end of a marriage, whether it is death or divorce that causes the loss of a spouse, will certainly experience changes to normal life. Single parents worry about a future that will not align with what is desired (Pranandari, 2008). Children living with single parents tend to experience problems and disturbances regarding education and daily life compared to children with complete parents (Andani, 2020).

The form of parenting style originated from the concept of previous researchers, namely Baumrind, who divided it into several types; democratic parenting, authoritarian parenting, permissive parenting, and uninvolved parenting. The researcher discusses further democratic parenting; according to Baumrind (1967), democratic parenting is a style of parenting that is positively given to children so that it can make children more independent, freeing children but still under supervision, giving children freedom in choosing their choices but still given limits and using a warm relationship with children. This parenting can be concluded that parents support children well and nurture them properly, later making the child a more mature, self-controlled, cheerful, and intelligent individual.
There are several parenting patterns, one of which is Democratic Parenting, where parents can combine, such as not being angry but still firmly educating children and being consistent. Rules made in the family are agreed upon and carried out together. This parenting can make children confident, dare to express opinions, and be open. Democratic parenting is the best parenting type, where it prioritizes common interests over individual ones (Suyanto, 2010). The key to shaping a child’s character is of them using democratic parenting intolerance (Marintan & Priyanti, 2022). Not only that, but democratic parenting is also very influential on children’s learning outcomes (Gara, 2022).

In general, children with democratic parenting have good achievements and are big-hearted, independent in responding to things, and smart in learning. It is different when democracy is played by a single parent, where this can affect children’s academics and achievements. Children and adolescents in Padangrie Simatahari village with single-parent supervision and upbringing have good achievements and good social interactions, but some have poor social interactions, such as abusive communication; this certainly has a huge impact on children’s social relationships at school and friendships at home into a toxic environment, in the child himself will cause a mental down because he has an environment that is less supportive and bad for him which starts from himself. This happens due to the lack of parental affection and attention from both parents.

Single female parents are required to complete all the various needs in the family, the needs of children, and even the needs for themselves are called single-parent women (Pranandari, 2008). If this condition continues, it is feared that it will cause pressure on single female parents (Rachman & Pramono, 2017). A mother tends to lack patience regarding her child when doing something where it must be done correctly (Andani, 2020). The role of a mother as a single parent tends to have inconsistencies in instilling discipline which will certainly affect the character of independence and has limitations in the process of child development (Suwinita & Marheni, 2015).

Single parents are played by a father with the demands of replacing the mother’s role figure (Ayuwanty, 201 by 8) doing household chores and meeting the needs of children both physically and psychologically, and none other than earning a living for the family is referred to as a male single parent (Sari, 2008). There are three dimensions of the role of parenting a single father, and one of them is the responsibility of involvement to what extent the single father provides care and the time given to the child (Ramadhanti & Nasution, 2022). The conversation of a father with a heart will be easy to communicate so that children can rely on and support the development of social interaction
for the child (Suwinita & Marheni, 2015).

When the self adapts to the environment, it is called social interaction. A person who lives in a group, be it in a large or small community, is a relationship between humans (Efendi, 2017), where the group is a social relationship whose nature is dynamic and related to individual relationships with community groups (Yusra, 2020). Social interaction is a relationship or bond between two or three people or more. And can be developed through group guidance (Sahputra, 2019). This social interaction can be formed through pressure so that the relationship leads to positive things, so interaction with the community develops in the social life system (Mushfi, 2017).

Another research conducted by (Musdalifah & Indriani, 2017) states that the main problem affecting social interaction also comes from smartphone users. The role of parents is very important in supporting children’s growth and development. In the social development of children, the interaction of people around will have a major influence in shaping the social and emotional behavior of the child (Pasaribu, 2016).

Research related to parenting patterns of single parents has been researched quite a lot before (Ramadhanti & Nasution, 2022), explaining how the description of parenting patterns of fathers as single parents in educating and raising their children alone. Research results (Pranandari, 2008) discuss adversity quotients regarding problem-based and emotion-based coping in single female parents to discover the differences in problem-focused and emotion-focused coping in single female parents. Another study conducted by (Suprihatin, 2018) discusses the impact of single-parent parenting on adolescent development, the care given by single parents of permissive parenting, and the impact on the inability to control emotions and behavior. And other research conducted by (Ramlan, 2016) discusses how single father parenting and single mother parenting in parenting. It discusses the differences in parenting between single fathers and single mothers.

Based on the four studies above, it can be concluded that being a single parent is not easy because single parents are required to have a dual role and must fight hard to support the family and meet the needs of various aspects of educating children so that children do not feel less about their parents’ upbringing. Judging from the many who have examined how single-parent parenting affects children, this attracts researchers to conduct research different from previous studies. What makes this research different from the four studies above is from various contexts; the above research tends to use research designs and experimental quantitative method designs in terms of theoretical citations, subjects, and, of course, where the research was conducted. Novelty in the
research that researchers do describes how the role of parents parenting in fostering social interaction in children; this study focused on single male parents, single female parents, and children as supporters, while in this single parent, research using a qualitative method descriptive approach. In addition, the theoretical reference cited by researchers in the discussion of social interaction indicators makes a difference from previous research. Miraningsih (2013) states that social interaction indicators are: conversation, mutual understanding, cooperation, openness, empathy, providing motivational support, and positive feelings.

Every parent wants a child whose social interaction skills are good and broad. Children with good social interactions will help them lead a good social life until they become adults. But achieving this is not easy and requires several stages. Therefore, with the above problems, researchers are interested in discussing how single parents, both women, and men, instill attitudes of social interaction towards their children to know the success of democratic parenting played by single parents towards children in educating their academics and social interactions. The importance of this research is raised to become a reference for readers to know the form of good parenting to children, especially in fostering children's social interactions.

**METHOD**

The method used in this research is qualitative research using an ethnographic approach where this research in its meaning and process is prioritized to observe, pay attention, see, explore, and explain directly the conditions related to the discussion under study. This research was conducted in Padangrie Simatahari Village, Kotapinang sub-district, Labuhan Batu Selatan District, in March 2023. This research was conducted with 16 people from the single-parent population and the intended sample of 11 people. This sample was taken with a purposive sampling technique. Purposive sampling is a technique used to determine samples based on certain considerations (Nugrahani, 2014), which tends to make researchers choose informants according to the right criteria with the research being conducted. The criteria used by researchers to determine the sample are single parents who are not elderly, disabled, or physically unsupportive and single parents who still have children under five. The data collection techniques used are first observation, carried out in the Makmur Hamlet of Padangrie Simatahari Village, Kotapinang Sub-district, Labuhan Batu Selatan district in March 2023 with a discussion of single parent parenting related to children's social interactions, second interviews conducted with a sample of 11 people, namely one male single
parent with the initials (SH) with four children where each child is already in high school, university students and already working. Furthermore, two female single parents with the initials (AM) and (ID). AM has two children, each at the high school and university levels. As a female single parent, the ID has two children, each at the elementary and high school levels. And third, documentation in the study is based on data registered at the village office regarding the correctness of the single-parent status of the informant.

The data analysis was done through data reduction, presentation, conclusion drawing, and verification. Data reduction, namely researchers reducing data on the parenting patterns of single-parent men and women in Padangri Simatahari Village, presenting data, namely researchers presenting specific data related to the democratic parenting of single-parent men and women in Padangri Simatahari village in instilling social interaction in children, concluding. Namely, researchers conducting a dialogical critical analysis of data on the parenting patterns of single-parent men and women and dialoguing it with Baumrind’s 1967 democratic parenting theory and comparing it with several similar research results, and finally verification, namely researchers verifying data from all observations, interview and documentation data collection techniques.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The following are the research results found in the field using interviews with three single-parent women, men, and eight children based on the seven stages of single-parent parenting on children's social interactions on March 26-27, as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Stages of Male and Female Single-Parent Democratic Parenting in Instilling Children's Social Interaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Stages</th>
<th>Short Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Conversations</td>
<td>Each female and male single parent uses a similar way of teaching children in the conversation stage not to speak harshly; speak kindly and politely in speaking to parents by using the words please, thank you, and sorry. as well as using a slow tone and using a friendly expression, listening to parental advice, and looking politely at the interlocutor. Related to the answers from the single-parent interview results discussing conversation, the child's answers are synchronous to the explanation of the parenting given by his parents.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Understanding</td>
<td>Third male and female single parents teach children to...</td>
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understand each other in the family by giving understanding to children so that they are not only selfish but must also be able to understand others, such as related to busyness as single parent parents in dividing time to work for the family so that children can understand and appreciate in the decisions agreed upon in the family, supporting this by the opinion of the child’s interview results.

3. Working Together

Related to the interview regarding "working together", the agreement taken by single parent parents with children is regarding the completion of homework by dividing the work in maintaining the cleanliness and comfort of the house equally, cooperation in arranging the division in taking the time to interact more closely with children, and teaching children to learn to listen and be heard, embrace each other and teach children to encourage others, supporting this by the opinion of the child’s interview results, Parents educate children to be independent and responsible.

4. Openness

In the interview results regarding "openness", single parent parents teach children to tell the truth in all the activities they do by giving them freedom and trust, but still under supervision; however, sometimes there are still lies made by children; related to this, single-parent parents cannot avoid feeling disappointed, but parents will still advise children not to lie and to be open to parents to create a family full of openness. The results of interviews conducted with children as a form of support in the study are the answers to interviews with single-parent.

5. Empathy

The three single-parent parents provide space for their children to empathize with their siblings and teach children to avoid arguments by limiting toxic friendships. As well as trying to always be there beside children who are experiencing problems by providing entertainment and embracing them so that children remain enthusiastic. This is also to the recognition of the results of interviews conducted with children that their parents are always there in every child’s condition and advise how to empathize with their environment.

6. Positive feelings

Regarding a sense of positivity, the three single-parent parents teach children and provide examples always to be grateful and feel enough in life to make children more independent. Single parent parents also give appreciation for children’s achievements so that they can continue to arouse children’s enthusiasm. This is clarified by the child’s answer that his parents always instill a sense of gratitude for all conditions and become an independent person.

7. Provide support/motivation

In providing support or motivation, three single parent parents provide support in the form of healthy and nutritious food, support children's achievements both outside and within the school environment, and support
children to appreciate their friendly environment. This is reinforced by the child’s answer in the interview, namely, his parents, who are always ready and provide support in any form.

Based on research conducted by researchers related to single-parent parenting, it can be concluded that being a single parent in a family does not become a barrier for parents in educating children to become active figures in interacting with their parents and other people. Statements from the three informants, namely Mr. SH and Mrs. AM, ID explained that they still educate children what and how it is in polite and polite speech, understanding each other both with family and with others, compact and cooperating, being honest, embracing each other, always be grateful and provide motivation and appreciation, where the statement is supported and reinforced by the child’s statement regarding how his parents educate him about how to interact socially correctly and well with parents, fellow siblings, and the social environment.

Discussion

From the results of the research conducted above that democratic parenting at the conversation stage instilled by parents to children at the conversation stage, namely, both female and male single parents teach children not to use harsh language, namely speaking kindly and politely to parents, and using a soft and polite tone, using friendly expressions in speech. Based on the results of research (Miraningsih, 2013), it would be nice if parents could ensure that the conversation they address is right with the child at the right time. The child listens to their parents when talking, speaks politely to parents, does not use harsh words, uses a low tone mimic, and uses friendly expressions. Based on the results of previous research (Mar’atus Sholikhah et al., 2021), the conversation is a communication activity carried out by two or more people, namely by chatting with family, especially mothers. Where conversations are carried out not too far from speech acts that include correct speech in speech, from the description above, it can be concluded that the results in the field of parenting given by single parent parents, both women, and men, to children in the conversation stage when interacting tend to have similarities with relevant theories and research that in conversation it is very important to prioritize children’s politeness to parents so that the interaction process can run smoothly.

Furthermore, the results of research at the second stage, namely mutual understanding in the field, namely both female and male single-parent parents provide understanding to children in the form of busyness as single-parent parents in dividing time for family and for work outside the
home so that children can understand, appreciate in every decision agreed upon in the family so that they do not feel ignored. The results of research (Miraningsih et al., 2013) say that in the family, it is necessary to carry out interpersonal communication to understand and understand each other to create harmony. Previous research conducted by (Nur, 2011) showed that True mutual understanding is a closely related understanding that can be understood by each other related to family ties in language. Related to the description above, based on the results in the field and based on existing theories and previous research regarding mutual understanding in social interaction needs to be instilled. If you want a harmonious family, you can start by communicating personally with your children. That way, we can better understand and understand the meaning of every word spoken to understand each other.

Then on the results of the stage of working together in the field is an agreement taken in the family, namely single parent parents, both women, and men with children, related to completing homework by equally dividing each job in maintaining cleanliness, comfort the house, cooperation in making time to gather always to take the time to share stories and teach children to respect and embrace each other. Cooperation is a means that is raised to be a sign of the quality of a group that is a gathering place for people in an organization (Miraningsih et al., 2013). Previous research (Ayun, 2017) found that learning information can be applied in the family. If the person’s quality has confidence, the meaning is expanded in the family so that the influence will be very large, and the goals sought can be achieved by working together. Based on the description above, the stage of working together in the field and based on theory and based on previous research is important to apply to create a good interaction process so that in making decisions, each party does not feel disadvantaged and even feels proud to be able to unite every difference of opinion.

The results in the field related to the openness stage are that single parent parents, both women, and men, give trust to children so that children do not feel constrained and want to tell the truth about the activities they do. However, when parents find out that their child is less honest, the first feeling that parents feel is disappointment. However, parents must still give children advice and warnings to avoid repeating the same thing. What is meant by the openness stage is the willingness between the two parties to open themselves, react to others, and feel the feelings and thoughts of other individuals (Miraningsih et al., 2013). This is reinforced by the results of previous research conducted (Irani & Laksana, 2018), openness is an individual’s ability to disclose information that is personal about himself to others in the form of appreciation, trust, and honesty.
to expand opportunities for mutual sharing. Self-openness assists in self-adjustment, where the higher the self-openness, the higher the self-adjustment. From the description of the research results above based on theory and previous research, it tends to have in common that female and male single-parent parents need to give trust to each child so that the child can be open he dares to tell the truth, conveying the sadness of disappointment he feels so that it can prevent children from feeling internalized and not damage their psychology. By instilling openness in every family, its members must feel happy and become a harmonious family.

As for the results of the empathy stage in the field, female and male single parents provide space for their children to empathize with their siblings, teach children to avoid arguments anywhere, in both home and school environments, and limit toxic friendships. Then female and male single parents always teach children to accompany siblings who feel sad or are experiencing problems to embrace and encourage them again. The empathy that exists in a person can move the heart and behavioral attitudes in assisting (Miraningsih, 2013). Meanwhile, previous research conducted by (Hutasuhur, 2020) stated that not all behavioral attitudes that have goals with others are based on empathy or sympathy motives. This is also possible because there are other goals, such as wanting to get gifts or praise. Based on the results of the description in the field, relevant theories, and research, it can be concluded that in the interaction process, it is necessary to instill our sense of empathy for others such as providing entertainment, providing assistance, and expressing condolences so that friends or people in our environment do not feel alone, are not disappointed with themselves and others, and can be re-energized to live the days ahead.

Furthermore, the results in the field related to providing motivational support are providing support, for example, in children's achievements, one of which is by providing additional education outside of school hours, not criticizing children too much, providing healthy food, giving gifts and always supporting positive children's choices, and instilling helpfulness, respecting the friendship environment such as lending each other stationery at school to create harmonious friendships. Providing support by doing something that helps but does not criticize much fosters enthusiasm and creates loyalty (Miraningsih et al., 2013). In previous research conducted by (Novi Nitya Santi, 2019), motivational support from peers plays an important role, so the formation of high self-motivation is useful for fulfilling needs, acceptance, and affection and providing encouragement in the form of assistance to do new things that have not been done. Based on the description above, the conclusion is that parents need and must provide support in the form of motivation to children,
need and deserve to be applied in parenting children. That way, it can make it easier for children to get a good association. It can even add self-motivation to become a person who is light-handed in helping to embrace others to achieve a good process of interaction and friendship.

The last result found in the field regarding the stage of positive feelings is that parents need to make habituation so that children become independent, such as showing a sufficient life and instilling a sense of heart. However, if the child quarrels with his friend, parents need to give time so that the child can tell the actual incident so that they can provide advice and give appreciation when the child gives happy news. Positive feelings are someone who has strong beliefs when experiencing difficulties and making decisions that are feasible for life (Miraningsih, 2013). Positive feelings are also pleasant emotions, such as things that will last a long time by being grateful for happiness. Even if it is dim, we will still be able to maintain positive thoughts so that it becomes a habit, and (positive) gratitude is a form of cognitive response characterized by recognizing the kindness received. It brings us more toward the positive things we have (Aisyah & Chisol, 2018). It can be concluded that from the findings of researchers, theories and previous research include similarities where instilling a sense of positivity is important for each person; parents need to instill a sense of positivity in children from a young age so that it can become habituation and inherent in the child so that the child can grow into a positive figure in his environment.

Related to the research conducted in this study, the results in the field are positive, where parents who hold the role of a single parent are not a barrier in educating, eroding children in instilling social values in interaction. How in general, we know that a single parent is a situation where a person cares for and supports a child without a partner, who imagines it feels unable to how heavy the status is. However, female single parents (AM) and male single parents (SH) as single parents are still eager to support, take care of, and prioritize children’s education by providing democratic parenting since childhood so that they become good children, wise, polite in speech and can sow positive things in their environment.

As reviewed by Baumrind (1967), democratic parenting has characteristics that do not escape the following; parents and children both undergo their respective obligations and rights, always involve children in making family decisions, children are required to have good and correct social and intellectual abilities, give children punishment by their mistakes, always guide children to achieve their potential. This is also relevant to research conducted (Apriani et al., 2022) regarding democratic parenting with the title of middle-class parenting in building the social behavior of
adolescent children. This study also said that parents with democratic parenting could make children's social interactions good communication. With the results of this study, it is sustainable that the research conducted by researchers has a close relationship regarding democratic parenting to strengthen the research conducted on democratic parenting played by single parents.

CONCLUSION

Based on research on democratic parenting of male and female single parents in instilling social interaction in children in the conversation stage, female and male single parents educate children to communicate properly and politely, using friendly expressions and polite tones. Then at the understanding stage, children are taught to understand single parent parents in managing time between work and caring for the family. Furthermore, at the stage of working together, female and male single parents educate children to be independent and responsible, cooperate in completing homework, and teach children to embrace each other. In the stage of openness, the three female and male single parents teach children to tell the truth in all their activities by giving freedom and trust. The empathy stage in the field shows that female and male single parents embrace children always to be enthusiastic and urge children to avoid arguments at school and maintain friendships so that they are not toxic. In the positive sense stage, female and male single parents teach children and provide examples, to always be grateful and feel enough in life to make children more independent. Female and male single parents have the right to give appreciation for children's achievements so that they can continue to arouse children’s enthusiasm. The last stage is providing support/motivation; single parents provide needs to children through healthy and nutritious food, support children's achievements both outside and within the school environment, and support children to appreciate the friendly environment.

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