

# The Effect of Parenting and Fathers Involvement in the Early Childhood Emotional Social Development Proses

Dominggus Lero Bili\* Sugito

Yogyakarta State University Graduate Program, Street, Colombo No. 1 Yogyakarta 55281, Indonesia

## Abstract

This study aims to determine: 1) the influence of parenting and father's involvement in the process of early education to the social development of children's emotions; 2) the influence of social caring for children's emotional development; 3) the effect of the father's involvement in the process of early education to the development of children's social emotions. This research uses quantitative methods through ex-facto research style. The authors use purposive sampling with 146 fathers and 146 children. The data were collected through questionnaires and observations: the questionnaires to collect data for parenting style and father involvement in the process of early education, while the observation sheets to determine the achievement of social emotional development of children observed. The results of this study indicate that the involvement of fathers in parenting and early education process have significant impact to children's emotional development at the level of 0.651. The results also show a significant impact on the children's social and emotional development to the level of 0.643. Therefore, the involvement of fathers in parenting and children's early education effects significantly toward children's social and emotional development at 0.477.

**Keywords:** Child Development, Father Involvement, Parenting

## 1. Introduction

Development is a series of progressive changes as a result of the process of maturity and experience through by each individual (Hurlock, 1980, p. 2). The development it self is a process on biological, cognitive, and socio-emotional changes that begins since birth and keep going during our live (Santrock, 2008, p. 40). Social and emotional development are two different aspects yet same in some cases, in which social development is related to the children's emotional development, although each of children have their own character and specialty but, they are still correlated each other (Rasyid, Mansyur, & Suratno, 2012, p. 101). This is in line with King (2013, p. 166) who explains that children's social development is a kind of interaction through socialization from people around them such as parents, siblings, friends, and teachers. As what Parke & Alison (2011, p. 3) said that social development is a picture of children's social behavior that shows greater changes in their family such as parents, siblings, and peers.

The social context such as living space and people around children can affect children's development, it is called microsystem and mesosystem (Bronfenbrenner, 1979, p. 210). It means that microsystem is an environment where children can spend their time with parents, family, peers, school, and their surroundings. Thus, it cannot be separated from mesosystem since the relationship between family and school experience can help child to interact and affect their socio-emotional development. Hurlock (1978, p. 250) explains that social development is one of children's ability to behave in accordance with social demands, thus becoming qualified community who are able to socialize which requires processes.

In a study by Tong, Shinohara, Sugisawa, Tanaka, Maruyama, Sawada, & Anne (2009) they explain that parenting with warm interactions, genuine concern, and compassion will improve child's social and emotional development. Parents especially father should do an effective parenting, positive involvement, and build good communication, therefore children's development can improve time by time (Akin, Yan, McDonald, & Moon, 2017). This is in line with what Villar, Huang, & Calzada (2016) said on parenting that is done by family or parents results better implication than school supports.

Parenting is a process of action or interaction that is done between parents and children, where it is a process in which both parties should intervene each other to grow children (Brooks, 2011, p. 11). This is in line with Ninivaggi (2013, p. 154) who explain that parenting is effort carried out by someone with a generous and intelligent efforts to care for children and realize the importance of responsibility in accordance with the reality of life. Parenting is also a pattern of interaction between parent and child which was built starting from children to adults ages (Boivin & Bierman, 2014, p. 258). The goal is to stimulate the development of cognitive skills and the ability to control the child, both of which can be seen by parents to prepare children in school. Given the important role of parents as caregivers are responsive and sensitive to stimulate the socio-emotional and cognitive development. It thus supported the research done by Diaz (2014) in which it explain that the views of father on parenting can influence self-assessment and behavior of father in building relations between father's experience that warm and the quality of father's parenting that seen to help stimulating children's socio-emotional and cognitive development.

The involvement of parents in children's early education is one of factors that interesting to be studied.

However, there are researchers studied on this issue yet forgetting the involvement of father. That is the reason why the authors want to conduct a study on this case.

Parent's involvement is the whole activity related to children's education to support process and result of education that will be pass by each children (Epstein, 2013, p. 24). This is in line with a study by Fantuzzo, Christine, & Marlo (2004, p. 1) that parents' involvement is the initial success of children in improving their academic achievement, by doing so children will be motivated. Understanding of parents in their involvement on children's early education is affected by some issues such as ethnicity, social classes, education level, and languages so that children's socio-emotional could not be developed optimally (Cardona, 2008, p. 1).

The involvement of parents on children's early education have an important role to boost their academic achievements especially to stimulate social and emotional development to make the children better than before (Hakyemez, 2013). This is in accordance with Blair, Mckinnon, & Daneri (2018) who conclude that if children's social and emotional competences well-developed by the parents, therefore their academic, social, mental, and health achievements will increase significantly. Gottman & DeClaire (2003, p. 29) said that parent's involvement in children's life is an opportunity to influence the emotional intelligence of their children to help in studying the behavior of their children.

In a study by Fox & Bruce (2011) said that the involvement of father is one of the factors that had an impact on the social emotional development of children. The father's involvement can be measured in several dimensions: (1) responsiveness; to what extent the fathers embrace warmth, affection, and supportive attitude; (2) Harshness; to what extent the father uses grumpy attitude, punish and doing inconsistent approach; (3) Behavioral engagement; to what extent the father actively engages to his children; (4) Affective involvement; to what extent the father wanted and loved his child. Father's involvement in parenting tend to affect child's social and emotional development, in which children will interpret a good academic achievement in their school (Guterman *et al*, 2017). Again, the study is in line with other studies by Meuwissen & Carlson (2015) who said that parents, especially father, who done a good parenting style will be the base to put children's cognitive and socio-emotional development and they tend to be easy going in the future.

Father's involvement can affect children's development, where the role of father can bring positive implication: such as father's involvement in parenting, giving warmth, and safety relations toward his children (Deklyen, Speltz, & Greenberg, 1998). As what they said in their study which is father's involvement in the style of interaction between father and child would invrease positive outcomes for them, where the father can affect child's development to be a better person (Barker, Iles, & Ramchandani, 2017). This is in line with result of study conducted by Kim (2018) that said a father can be a medical assistance by giving attention to children's health quality, in addition father can give supports in social, emotional, mental, and information so that the child will grow and have good behavior. By saying that parenting that is done with warmth, genuine concern, and compassion will improve social and emotional development of children.

## 2. Research Methods

This research used quantitative method through ex-post facto research style which aim to look for the effects or relations between one variables to the others. In this research we inlove 12 kindergartens in two sub-districts which are Tambolaka and Loura and the sample are 146 fathers and 146 students of the schools. To determine the sample we were using sampling purposive by considering the fact that there are fathers who are taking care of their child because the mothers are working, divorce, thus these reasons fulfilled criteria to determine who would be the sample in Tambolaka and Loura sub-districts, Southwest Sumba.

The process of data collection in this sample use questionnaires and observation sheets: the questionnaires to collect data for parenting style and father involvement in the process of early education, while the observation sheets to determine the achievement of social emotional development of children observed. The students asked to bring questionnaires home so that their father would fill it and return it within one week. The questionnaires use Likert scale with range of score 1 to 4. Meanwhile the observation sheets used to observe child's emotional and social achievement during learning process, the range of score is same which is 1 to 4.

After the data is collected, then it would be tabulated and analyzed by using statistical data analysis program. The data were analyzed with multiple regression and partial regression, it means that all of the data would be analyzed together and then one by one to know the implication of each data and variable.

## 3. Results of Research

The result of descriptive analysis and hypothesis test of this research are as follows:

### 3.1. Descriptive Result

Descriptive analysis of parenting and father's involvement in children's early education towards their social and emotional development in Tambolaka and Loura is resulting very good result. For more details you can see the presented table below:

**Table 1. Parenting**

No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Less	15	10.0
2	Good	46	31.5
3	Very good	85	58.2
Total		146	100.0

According to Table 1, we can see that in general parenting style observed are very good with 58.2%, good with 31.5%, and poor with 10.3%.

**Table 2. Father's involvement in children's early education process**

No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Very Less	1	7
2	Less	32	21.9
3	Good	52	35.6
4	Very good	61	41.8
Total		146	100.0

In Table 2 we can see that father's involvement in children's early education is very good with 41.8%, good 35.6%, poor 21.9%, and very poor with 7%. Therefore we can conclude that most of them are very good.

**Table 3. Children's social and emotional development**

No.	Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Undeveloped	1	7
2	Begin developing	32	21.9
3	Growing as expected	51	34.9
4	Well developing	62	42.5
Total		146	100.0

From Table 3 we can see that social and emotional of the children which is very well developed is 42.5% from all, developing as it expected 34.9%, began to grow 21.9%, and 7% of them are underdeveloped. It means that overall children's development is very good. Therefore, according to the descriptive result on each variables above indicates a very good level in Tambolaka and Loura, Southwest Sumba Regency.

### 3.2. Hypothesis Test Result

Statistical analysis of hypothesis in this study shows that parenting and father's involvement in children's early education process bring significant effect on child's social and emotional development. The data were analyzed together between variables for parenting and father's involvement, then we analyze the data separately among those two variables.

The influence of parenting and father's involvement toward children's social and emotional development. The result shows significant implication, therefore it proves that both of the data can affect social and emotional development of children up to the level 0.651. The percentage of high number of parenting and father's involvement is at the determination coefficient R2 with 0.432 or 42.3%. We do also conduct double significant regression test to compare the  $F_{count}$  and  $F_{table}$ . After the test we knew that the result of  $F_{count}$  is 52.506 sig to 0.000 mean while  $F_{table}$  is 0.05. So  $F_{count}$  is greater than  $F_{table}$ . ( $52.506 > 0.05$ ) that means parenting and father's involvement during children's early education consecutively bring strong implication on child's social and emotional development.

The effect of parenting toward children's social and emotional development. The result of analysis between parenting have significant effect on early childhood education shows at the point of 0.643. Therefore, the level of result significance through partial correlation process is greater  $r_{count}$  than  $r_{table}$  ( $0.643 > 0.05$ ) so that the partial correlation shows significant results. So that the partial regression coefficient can be seen from  $t_{count}$  at 6,553 and sig at 0,000.  $Sig < \alpha$  or ( $0.000 < 0.05$ ). It is known that parenting has determination coefficient R2 at 0.357 or 35.7%, it means that the percentage of parenting variables toward child's social and emotional development are 35.7%. If parents, especially father, could do good or improved parenting style, therefore they will get a good child in return and vice versa. The result of analysis determines that parenting style have strong contribution on child's social and emotional development.

The effect of fathers involvement toward children's social and emotional development. The result of father's involvement involvement in early childhood education shows at the point of 0.477. Therefore, the level of result significance through partial correlation process is greater  $r_{count}$  than  $r_{table}$  ( $0.477 > 0.05$ ) so that the partial correlation shows significant results. In conclusion, the partial regression can be seen from  $t_{count}$  at 6,553 and sig at 0,000.  $Sig < \alpha$  or ( $0,000 < 0,05$ ). It means that good father's involvement in early childhood education

will result at good child's achievement on social and emotional development.

#### 4. Discussion

The results show that father's parenting greater implications toward children's development rather than their involvement in early childhood education. This study emphasizes the previous studies which also resulted good correlations between father's involvement in parenting and child's development. On the study by Guterman *et al* (2017), they conclude that father's involvement in parenting affect child's emotions, where there is a big tendency that children will reflect at good academic achievement. The authors found fact that father's involvement also boost children to behave accordingly, responsible, independent, and have good self-control. Parenting seems to have strong effect for child's social and emotional development. In the study by Tong *et al* (2009), they said that warm parenting will improve child's social development. As what Stahlschmid *et al* (2013) said in their study that if father can maximize their role therefore their children will have significant life. This argument was supported by Akin *et al* (2017) who said if parents, especially father, can do an effective parenting style with positive involvement and good communication, therefore their children will grow as a good person.

A study by Opondo *et al* (2017) said that most of studies on parenting and child's development have emphasized much on the role of mother to improve academic as well as cognitive achievements, however, the role of father is also important. Parenting is an interaction between parents and children. This is a process where both of the parties should change each other to educate children to become a good adult then (Brooks, 2011, p 11). This is in line with Boivin & Bierman (2014, p. 258) who said that parenting style is an interaction pattern between parents and children that was built ever since the childhood to adult age. The aims is clear which is to stimulate child's self-control and cognitive development, it can be achieved by send the children to the school. As what Levine (1976, p. 65) said that parenting is a role or work done by parents and other family members to grow, guide, and take care of children.

Kurtulmus (2016) explained that parents' involvement during early childhood education can affect children's development, especially for their social and academic development. Kurtulmus ask for parents to keep improving their involvement in child's education so they will earn a good child in the future. That was also supported by Qilong (2015) who concluded that parents' involvement and interaction in early will result in children's academic achievements. That also in line with what Red & Edward (2017) wrote which is parents have very important role to stimulate children's development, as well as to embrace a good parenting style to improve children's pre-academic development.

The involvement of parents in early childhood education is a process to help child so that they will develop their potential skills through education programs (Morrison, 2015, p. 929). Morrison emphasize there are several types of parent's involvement which are: knowledge and skill of parenting, communication, volunteering, supporting children to study at home, involvement in decision making and advocacy, and collaboration with the society (Morrison, 2012, p. 375). In a study by Epstein & Susan (1991) they said that teachers can involve parents in early childhood education to establish a good relation and the teachers should always show motivations in assisting parents to do that. Grolnick *et al* (1997) argue that parents' involvement in early education can affect children's cognitive, social, and manner development. As well as Epstein (2005, p. 24) who said that the involvement is a whole activity related to child's education to support process and result of education it self. Hilado (2013) also explained that parents' involvement is the most important component to prepare children's future. Again, the same arguments were told by Lee (2015) which is the relations between teachers and parents will help child's social and emotional, if both parties can establish a good partnership in giving education, therefore the development of children would be improved significantly.

However, father's involvement in the early childhood education toward their development just give little contribution compare to father's parenting style, their involvement will help children to grow, yet. This is in line with a study by Stevenson & Crnic (2012) who told that father's involvement has a unique implication, especially in child's social relations where the father can affect child's self-control. Muh *et al.* (2016) in their study explain that father's involvement in parenting give positive contribution on child's development, therefore the parenting and involvement is very important. Donwer & Mendez (2010) explained that father's involvement can affect children's life in preparing for their pre-school education, yet their involvement is important for assisting children during school age.

In a study by Fox & Bruce (2001) it was say that father's involvement is one of affecting factor toward children's social and emotional development, it can be measured through several dimensions such as: (1) responsiveness; to what extent the fathers embrace warmth, affection, and supportive attitude; (2) Harshness; to what extent the father uses grumpy attitude, punish and doing inconsistent approach; (3) Behavioral engagement; to what extent the father actively engages to his children; (4) Affective involvement; to what extent the father wanted and loved his child. It was also supported by Guterman *et al* (2017) by saying father's involvement in parenting tend to affect child's social and emotional development, in which children will interpret a good academic achievement in their school. Then the same conclusion was told by Deklyen *et al.* (1998) who said that

father's involvement in parenting can affect children in positive way such as: giving warmth and positive relations between children and their father. Barker *et al* (2017) also emphasized on their study which is father's involvement by using typical father's interaction will improve positive development of the children, affect their development to achieve greater result as well.

Father's involvement is an activity done by father to interact with their child in a positive manner and put attention toward child's development, give protections, and establish good relations within them (Allen & Daly, 2007). This is in line with Duvall (1997, p. 13) who said that some people realize that a man should be responsible for their family, while a mother is expected to do house chores. In fact, the role of father in parenting is also needed to stimulate children's development but, there are obstacles causing fathers have low awareness in parenting. Shapiro (2013) said that there are factors that affect father's involvement, such as: (a) Level of awareness to be involved: fathers tend to have strong relations with his child, yet keeping distance among them. Some of fathers feel comfortable with their teen child. Those who establish strong and deep relations will result in child's future life; (b) The willingness of mothers to share in growing children: the willingness of mother to do any house chores most of them will not giving their children to others so that it limits the involvement of fathers; (c) Parents' relationship: parents' relationship is the most important factor in growing child. Loving and understanding each other will be imitated by child's through their psychological experiences; (d) Economic factor: this is a factor that very important and have strong implication toward child's development, most of fathers think that giving money for their family should be priority so they work all day long and sacrificing their quality time with the child. Balancing the life between work and family is a hard think for some fathers; (e) Legal status of the fathers: for fathers who have no access on parenting their child will result in limited time to see each other, and vice versa, if a father grows his children by himself then the father should do some adjustment in his daily life activity.

## 5. Implications

The results of this study give implication that father is an essential factor to shape and maintain his child's development, especially the social and emotional. As a result, father's involvement in parenting need to be improved through some kind of interactions within the house, surrounding, as well as school. However, the involvement of parents in early childhood education can help children to develop their skills and interests through many activities in the school, by doing so we hope that children's social and emotional development could be increased. Therefore, this kind of behavior can be applied in child's daily activity through pro-social manner, independent, responsible, and good self-control.

## 6. Conclusion

There are significant implications between father's parenting and involving in child's early education process with their social and emotional development. In conclusion we can assume that father's parenting and involvement in child's education have good contributions to help child developing their social-emotional, cognitive, language, physic-motoric aspects, as well as religious values and arts. The result of this study should be utilized by parents, especially fathers, teachers, and society to give more attention on developing skills and interests of the children as well as stimulate them in the house, school, or surrounding.

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