

The Implementation of Parenting on Children of Female Inmates

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ABSTRACT

The main subject of education is children. Children are a gift from God to be nurtured and taken care of due to their vulnerability to negative exposure that needs serious attention. Imitating or emulating on children is as the process of learning. Thus the environment where the children grow and develop should be able to support the learning process. The absence of a mother role at home would be a serious problem, especially when related to the parenting of the children left since it may result in stress, behavioral changes, and anti-social attitudes. Accordingly the researcher took interest in conducting a study on the implementation of parenting on children of female inmates. The formulation of problem in this research are: 1) How the process of parenting on children of Bolangi Makassar female inmates takes place, and 2) How the implementation of parenting on children of Bolangi Makassar female inmates is carried out. As for the aims of the research are to find out: 1) the process of parenting on children of Bolangi Makassar female inmates, and 2) the implementation of parenting on children of Bolangi Makassar female inmates. Qualitative descriptive analytic approach was employed in this research and observation, interviews, and documentation study were administered for the sake of data collection techniques. The data collection procedures included the stages of orientation, exploration, and member check. The data were obtained from participants/informants that were female inmates, relatives who took care of the children of the female inmates, as well the children of the female inmates. The findings of the research are as follow: 1) in the process of parenting shows two caregivers with regular activities in preparing the basic needs only, while two other caregivers not only met the basic needs but also instilled good habits and psychological fulfillment on the children of female inmates. 2) The implementation of parenting in terms of discipline strategies, warmth in parenting process, communication style, and the control of caregivers on children of female inmates tend to be on the Permissive-Uninvolved Parenting pattern.

Keywords: Parenting Implementation, Children of Female Inmates

1. Introduction

The essence of education is the process of shaping the human character. Education is the process by which individuals can learn and develop some skills, attitudes, and other forms of behavior in society. Education can be viewed as a social process, in which an individual will be exposed to certain and controlled environmental conditions and some influences, either in formal educational institutions or non-formal and informal, so the said individual experiences optimal development.

No doubt that the first and the principal education for children comes from family as an informal education. As a skillful imitator, children always imitate whatever they see at home, school, and their social environment. Indeed, according to Bandura (1999), imitating for children is a learning process. Thus the environment where the children grow and develop should be able to support the processes of learning in order to provide values that contribute to the fullest forms of children's cognitive, psychomotor, and behavior. Therefore, to suppress the culture of violence that is likely attached to the current generation, the improvement in children environment is a need, especially in their first environment that is family.

To improve the quality of family environment for children, parents take the responsibility of parenthood in the family and should figure out a proper upbringing for their children. Behaviors and interactions taken place in family will be a learning condition that greatly affects the children's behavior, especially their social behavior.

National Socio-Economic Household Survey in 2012 (Ministry of Women's Empowerment, 2013) revealed that one of the factors of the failure of national development in various aspects, among others, is due to the lack of government and public attention and concerns to family existence. The attention and treatment focused on "the family as a base and a system of empowerment" which become the main pillar of life of the nation currently have not yet been a shared commitment and serious efforts of all parties. In fact, a healthy, strong, intelligent, and qualified society of a country certainly grow and develop from a healthy, strong, intelligent, and qualified family environment.

The facts indicate that the members of family are influential greatly on children's behavior, especially from the parents. The fundamental question is when one of the parents or the mother cannot fulfill her role as being separated from their children since they are committed to crime and imprisoned.

Mother is as the first and foremost educator for children. Thus it becomes a problem when the mother has criminal charges, and is imprisoned, that require them to be apart from their children. Ironically, a lot of female inmates are the mothers whose role and existence are desperately needed by their children. Data from Ministry of Justice show that the number of adult female inmates in Indonesia per January 2016 is 5.495 people. 108 of the number are the inmates of penitentiary class 1 Makassar (Head of Bimpas Bolangi). Based on the data, 93 inmates are married and have children (Head of Bimpas Bolangi).

The data show that a considerable amount of women as mothers well as caregivers, nurses, and educators of their children cannot fulfill their role when they have to be separated from the children. In all conscience, the mother is a model closest to their children. The next question is who can replace the mother role when they need to be separated from their children.

When a mother is committed to crime and should go to jail, the image of a criminal will eventually be attached to her. The children of female inmates that are left by the mothers require special care so that later they could be able to deal with the social antipathy from their surroundings that will affect them psychologically. So far more concern are focused on the mothers, who are found guilty, to get some guidance, and yet no one considers the need to pay attention to the children who are left; where the children abandoned without parental guidance are very close to crime and criminality.

According to Murray, Ferrington, and Oslo (2009) if based on the theory of social control, that when one of the parents is imprisoned, it will be possible causes of delinquency in children due to the decline in quality of parenting and supervision of the children. Similarly the theory of labeling indicates that the social stigma and official bias due to parental imprisonment may lead to an increased probability of children charged or convicted of criminal behavior.

2. Research Problem

The absence of a mother at home will cause serious problem especially related to the care of children left. The children whose mothers incarcerated would be five times more likely to enter the foster care system (coparenting) than those whose fathers are imprisoned [Bloom and Steinhart (Barry, 2001)]. Consequently, the decision to imprison a woman with young children often cause problems directly on the children welfare system as it relates to parenting.

The female inmates who are a mother as well as caregiver, nurse, and educator of their children cannot fulfill the role when they have to be imprisoned and live separated from their children. The children of female inmates left behind by their mothers require special attention so that later they could be able to deal with the social antipathy from their surroundings that would probably affect them psychologically.

The impact arising from separating parents with their children causes stress, behavioral change, anti-social attitudes, and the declining performance in school. In most cases, the replacement of the mother (usually a grandparent or other family member) for years serves as the main caregivers of children prior to their mother imprisonment. Besides, the practice of parenting provided by adults or family members to the children of imprisoned parent need to be analyzed to obtain information on the extent of parenting practices that could improve the social behavior of the children who must be separated from their parents due to criminal cases. So far the government and social institutions lay more attention on guiding the inmates. No one is paying attention to the children left behind by the parents imprisoned, whereas those abandoned children are very close to the crime and criminality.

3. Literature Review

3.1 The Concept of Parenting

Understanding parenting will refer to some of the components involved in it. In parenting will be pointed out the involvement of a mother, father, or someone who will lead and provide guidance in the children's early life as a caregiver well as a protector. Parent is someone who accompanies and guides all stages of children's growth, as well as who takes care of, protects, and leads the children's early life in every stage of their development (Brooks,2011:1). In this study, the parenthood and its role is not held by the biological mother, but the person who replaces the mother's role and takes charge of care due to the real mother's condition that require them to leave their job as the caregiver. According to Santrock (2007) the

current parenting pattern is called coparenting, where the other members of family or relatives working together to conduct the parenting duties to the children.

Hoghugh (2003: 5) states that parenting includes specific activities aimed for children to be able to develop optimally and can survive favorably. The principles of parenting according to Hoghugh put no emphasis on who (the doer) but rather on the activities to provide the children education and development. Therefore the parenting includes physical, emotional, and social rearing.

In the other hand, Kagan (2009), a developmental psychologist, defines parenting as a series of decision makings on the socialization of children that include what is to be done by parents or caregivers so that children could be responsible and able to contribute as a member of society as well as what the parents or caregivers should do when the children are crying, angry, lying, or not doing their responsibility properly (Berns, 1997: 1).

Berns (1997: 1) states that parenting is a process of interaction that takes place continuously and influences not only the children but also the parents. In line with Berns, Brooks (2011: 11) also defines parenting as a process that refers to a series of actions and interactions the parents do to support their children's development. Parenting process is not a one-way relationship where the parents work on their children, it is more than that; parenting is a process of interaction between parents and children influenced by culture and social environment where the children are raised.

Gadeyne, Ghesquiere, and Onghena (2004) emphasize on parenting as follows:

Parenting depends on the behaviour and attitude of parents. Parenting is a psychological construct which represented standard strategies parents use in raising their children. The term is a complex activity that includes many specific behaviors that work individually and collectively to influence the child.

Based on the notion, parenting given to the children depends on the behavior and attitude the parents show to their children. Parenting is basic psychological standards of how the parents raise their children. Those standards consist of complex activities including certain individual and mutual behaviors to influence the children.

The parenting styles may differ among families; it is under the influence of the aspects of culture, personality, family size, parental background, socioeconomic status, level of education, and religion. In a family, there also occur different parenting styles between the mother and the father that may cause confusion and conflict in their child-rearing strategies. There is no single model of ideal parents suitable for all kinds of families. Each family requires a unique assimilation of their own parenting styles to meet the needs of children and parents in fostering a good relationship.

The definitions of parenting reviewed indicate that the concept of parenting encompasses some basic understanding, as follows: (i) parenting aims to stimulate an optimal development of the children both physically, mentally, and socially, (ii) parenting is a process of constant interaction between parents and children, (iii) parenting is a socialization process, and (iv) as a process of interaction and socialization, parenting process cannot be separated from the social culture where the children are raised.

3.2 The Process of Parenting

Parenting is an action or process of interaction between parents and children (Brooks: 2011, 10). It implies that both parties mutually transform one another as the children grow into more mature figure. The action taken by the parents or caregivers takes place continuously throughout the children's growth and development towards maturity.

Parenting process is a set of activities carried out all the time by parents or caregivers as an attempt to meet physical and psychological needs of a child in order to achieve their development stages (Nicholas Long, 2003). As a process, there are several aspects that influence parenting, namely: a) the reasons a person becomes caregiver, b) the role of children, c) the role of parents, and d) the role of society.

Here is presented a few aspects:

3.2.1 The reasons to become a caregiver

One of the factors that influence parenting process is the reasons why people play the role of parents and serve as caregivers. For the children of inmates, the reasons of relatives becoming their caregivers will greatly affect the parenting process taken place in the family.

According to Brooks (2011, 7) there are a number of reasons why a person is ready to take the parent's role to provide parenting for children, among others:

- 1) To be able to love and be attached or feel close to, 2) to feel the pleasure of seeing the children growing and developing new capabilities, 3) to feel a greater understanding about their growth, 4) to satisfy the society's expectations for their role as someone who is mature and responsible, and 5) to fulfill the spiritual and moral expectations.

3.2.2 The role of children

The presence of children as subject of parenting will indeed have a major impact on the parenting process. Every child has needs of food, housing, clothing, and warmth feeling as the same basic needs. However the ways to meet those needs will vary depending on environment and cultural values of society where they live. The psychological and social needs of children are complex and not the same in every child (Brooks: 2011, 11).

The role of children as subject of parenting who have diverse needs is exactly what helps parents or caregivers to be able to act or interact adjusting to the needs of children. In addition to those needs, individual quality of a child such as gender, temperament, and physical needs also influences the parenting process carried out by a caregiver. Another factor in the process of parenting is the health and goodness of fit of both nature or characters of children and parents as well as family (Brooks: 2011, 13).

Accordingly, children play an important role in fulfilling their parents' basic needs of proximity, a sense of accomplishment and maturity in life.

3.2.3 The role of parents

The fundamental role of parents according to Brooks (2011) is being responsible for the rearing of children. Society gives primary authority on parents to provide and fulfill the needs of children because parents are considered to know what best for their children. Parents bring a series of complex needs and quality in the parenting process. Unlike children who are undergoing the process of parenting in the new circumstances and without any prior experience, in the process of parenting parents invest some aspects that affect the quality of rearing (Brooks, 2011), as follows: (1) Gender and temperament, (2) Quality of personality such as intercommunication and self-esteem, (3) Relationships with parents and relatives, (4) Level of physical health and psychological stability, (5) Relationships created with other individuals, (6) Relationships with broader social network in larger family, friends, and colleagues, (7) Problem-solving ability, and, (8) Job skills and satisfaction with work.

3.3 Dimensions of Parenting

According to Barbieri (2012) there are seven dimensions of learning in the parenting process that should be a concern, as follows:

- 1) Discipline Begins with Adults, then Children, 2) Move Beyond Punishment-and-Reward Systems of Parenting, 3) Parent Talk: Your Words are Important, 4) Children Need a Showering of Unconditional Loving Guidance, 5) Children, Like Adults, Learn from Their Mistakes, 6) Countering the Stress of Busyness and the Loss of Creative Play, 7) Put the Relationship First.

Parenting activity is a system where all the aspects are essential and mutual support to achieve goals. In line with Barbieri, Baumrind (2001) argues that there are at least four significant dimensions of parenting: "1) Disciplinary strategies; 2) Warmth in nurturance; 3) Communication styles; 4) Expectations of maturity and control." According to Baumrind, the four dimensions which are strategies of discipline, warmth and nurturing, styles of communication, and expectations of maturity and control could be identified as important and significant dimensions of parenting. The followings are presented on Baumrind's four important dimensions of parenting.

3.3.1 Disciplinary strategies

The term discipline is defined as imparting knowledge and skills, as in other words is to teach. Discipline is employed by parents to teach their children about expectations, guidelines, and principles. Children need to be ansar disciplined in regular basic and to be taught what is right from what is wrong and for them to stay safe. In disciplining children, rewards and punishments can be involved to practice self-control, increase expected or desirable behaviors, and decrease unwanted behaviors in children.

In the most common sense, discipline refers to systematic instruction given to the children. To shape disciplinary behavior requires instructions from someone, of the parenthood, which instruct the children to follow a certain code of conduct. The purpose of discipline on children is to develop and establish social habits expected

from a child, further the ultimate goal is to foster ethical and moral assessment so the children develop and maintain desired self-discipline throughout their lives.

3.3.2 Warmth in nurturance

Warmth in nurturance refers to what extent the parents establish some attachment or closeness and provide loves for their children. The rearing is defined as any treatment and care the parents carried out in raising their children. Further the referred communication style is a series of behavior and emotional conditions in their communication.

3.3.3 Communication styles

There are a lot of things can be done by family, especially the parents and caregivers, to be some more effective communicators and further to improve the quality of their relationships. Family can improve their communication skills by following a few suggestions for building effective family communication. One of the most difficult challenges most families currently have to deal with is finding time to spend together with their children.

3.3.4 Expectations of maturity and control

Baumrind (Cherill, 2007: 20) defines parenting style (PS) as a model of control in the parenting that becomes a consistent pattern of parents interacting with their children along two dimensions: demandingness and responsiveness. Demandingness refers to the parents' effort to integrate their children into family by means of high demands with a strict time, supervision, discipline, and willingness to deal with behavioral problems. Responsiveness refers to the extent to which the parents encourage and stimulate individuality, self-regulation, and self-assertion by approving or appreciating and supporting the children's needs and demands (Baumrind: 1991). Baumrind classifies three models of parenting styles (PS) based on the degree of demandingness and responsiveness administered by parents in rearing their children as: authoritarian, authoritative, and permissive.

4. Research Method and Findings

This research was conducted using qualitative descriptive analytic approach. Qualitative approach was employed in order that the researcher could describe the event, the behavior of an individual or a situation in particular place, which in this case, on the implementation of parenting applied to the children of female inmates.

The female inmates in question are the prisoners of Penitentiary Bolangi Makassar in Sungguminasa Gowa. Sources of data in this study are in the form of verbal information and the behavior of informants interviewed and observed. In this qualitative research the data is primarily in the form of words and conducted actions, and other data such as written document tracking as supporting data.

The source of data participants in this research is classified as follows.

The children of female inmates living in a family of three siblings: one child was taken care of by the father, one child was reared by the grandparent, and the last one was taken care of by another family member.

The adults who were being responsible for the rearing of the children left by their imprisoned mothers, namely father, grandparents, other family members or close relatives of the children.

In-depth interview and observation on the participants were administered for the sake of data collection techniques. The obtained data were analyzed qualitatively.

The results showed that the parenting process conducted by caregivers on children of female inmates tend to be limited merely to preparing the physical needs as foods, while the affection that should be given to the children was constantly replaced with pocket money. When the children crying or sulking to attract some attention and win affection, giving pocket money was the mostly way the caregivers did to stop the crying. Nevertheless there was one child of a female inmate being taken care of by the grandparent through the parenting process that tried to meet the basic and psychological needs of the child. Accompanying the child before and after bed was one of the rearing processes in which provided the child with an abundance of love and protection. Moreover the grandparent drop and picked the child to and from school; those actions can give a sense of protection to the child and also show the grandparent's concern (towards the child) to public.

Further the findings of this study related to the implementation of parenting on children of female inmates were examined based on the following indicators: a) discipline strategies, b) warmth in nurturance, c) communication styles, and d) expectations of maturity and control. The purposes of the four indicators are as follows:

a) Discipline strategies applied by caregivers on the children of female inmates were marked by the low degree of rules given to the children. The tendency also led to poor discipline strategies towards the children.

Commonly the rearing relatives had too much mercy on the children to let them be burdened with rules, while they also were not able to closely oversee the children they took care of; b) warmth in nurturance provided by caregivers (parenthood) were generally still deficient. This is indicated by the scarcity of parents accompanying their children in everyday life, especially when they need their mother's presence as when studying, watching TV, or at bedtime. The warmth that should be established is mostly replaced with the material (pocket money); c) the communication style employed by caregivers tended to be less assertive and too soft-hearted, and only one caregiver delivered a firm and clear pattern of communication with children; and d) the expectations of maturity and control in the children of the female inmates were likely poor. Only one of them was fairly high. However on three respondents, the control given by the caregivers tend to be permissive; while on another respondent, the control provided was more likely to be Equaliter/ authoritative.

5. Conclusion

The process of parenting on children of female inmates tends to be confined to the sheer fulfillment of basic needs without regard for other psychological needs such as affection. The implementation of parenting in terms of discipline strategies, warmth in parenting process, communication style, and the control of caregivers on children of female inmates tend to be on the Permissive-Uninvolved Parenting pattern.

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