The Influence of the Role of Parents and Parenting Patterns in the Use of Gadgets on the Social Behavior of Children

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ABSTRACT

This study aimed to examine the influence of parent's roles and parenting patterns with gadgets on the social behavior of children. A total of 147 children aged between 5 and 6 years in Raudhatul Athfal, South Amuntai District, were used as samples. The results showed that the role of parents as well as the use of gadgets and social behavior were included in the high category. Democratic parenting was mostly adopted and had a significant influence. Furthermore, the influences of parental role and patterns on the use of gadgets were 0.548 and 0.336, respectively. The influences of parental role and patterns on social behavior were 0.288 and 0.258, respectively. Moreover, the use of gadgets had an influence of 0.218 on social behavior. The relationship between parenting role and social behavior mediated by the use of gadgets scored 0.119. Likewise, the relationship between parenting patterns and social behavior mediated by the use of gadgets scored 0.073.

Keywords: Role, parenting, gadgets, social behavior

Introduction

Social behavior is a developmental aspect that needs to be trained from an early age. During this time, children imitate behaviors from their surroundings. Children guidance on and instilling good social behavior development with positive values fostered around their environment is essential to suppress negative characters. Freud (in Fadillah & Lilif, 2016) explained that children's adulthood is affected by social development at an early age.

Various factors influenced children's social behavior, including family, maturity, mental certainty, gadgets usage, and social status (Susanto, 2007). The family primarily and psychological relationships contributed to the children's social attitudes behavior patterns and shaping the personality. Moreover, the parents-children relationship influenced future lives development for children.

According to Khusniah (2018), parents had functional roles in children's social development as sources of adopted behavioral codes, traditions, and established interpersonal relationships. Lisina (Rompas et al., 2018) stated that parents determine children's nature in interacting with peers and adults. Additionally, children's social behavior was influenced by the parenting patterns used to care, educate and provide guidance to behave and interact with their peers and adults.

According to Baumrind (Damayanti F., 2017), parenting consists of 3 types, including 1) the authoritarian and characteristics of parenting emphasizing the rules to be obeyed by children, 2) democratic parenting is characterized by the balanced position of parents and children. Children had the freedom to be responsible under the parents' supervision, and 3) the permissive parenting patterns and characteristics had freedom of action. Parents do not supervise children resulting in arbitrary behavior.

The parents and parenting roles at home should guide to instill moral values and children's attitudes (Indrijati's, 2017). The children first learn to identify personality as a
social existence from the family and its environment that shapes and nurtures personality. The use of electronic gadgets convenient for communication affects children's social behavior. These gadgets affect the parents' and children's social interaction behavior (Hana, 2017).

Gadgets primarily impact human life, and children are actively involved in knowing the outside world. Addiction negatively affects social behavior during growth and development. Therefore, parents should be more creative in providing facilities to educate children to play and learn using educational media adjusted to growth and development. (Sunita & Mayasari, 2018).

Raudhatul Athfal, in the Hulu Sungai Utara Regency study, indicated that some children disassociated with friends became disrespectful and selfish. This happened because children preferred using gadgets to play with their peers. Additionally, children became busy with gadgets when they met, resulting in difficulty in controlling them. The parents' role and parenting guidance are influential in shaping children's social behavior. This study purposed to describe and analyze parents' role and parenting patterns in using gadgets and social behavior.

**Methodology**

This study used an explanatory survey method with a quantitative approach through correlation and path analysis. The samples included the Raudhatul Athfal, South Amuntai District children aged between 5-6 years. Specifically, there were 232 people though only 147 remained after using the non-probability sampling technique.

The data was collected by distributing questionnaires in the form of questions shown directly to selected respondents. The results were analyzed using path analysis techniques used in testing correlation coefficient between variables as follows:

1. The parents' role (X1) on gadgets usage (Z).
2. Parenting patterns (X2) on gadgets usage (Z).
3. The parents' role (X1) on social behavior (Y).
4. Parenting patterns (X2) on social behavior (Y).
5. The gadgets usage (Z) on social behavior (Y).
6. The parents' role (X1) on social behavior (Y) through the use of gadgets (Z).
7. Parenting patterns (X1) on social behavior (Y) using gadgets (Z).

Meanwhile, the path analysis model carried out can be seen in the following figure:

![Path Model](image)

Figure 1
Path Model
Findings and Discussion

This study discussed four variables in Raudhatul Athfal, South Amuntai District. Descriptive statistical tests showed that the parent's role was 47% in the high category. According to Fadlilah's (2012), the family environment is essential for a child's behavior and development depending on parents' behavior. Additionally, Novrinda et al., (2017) established that parents were responsible for children's development and should provide encouragement, guide, and examples of behaving well with peers and adults around children.

Parents were to know the crucial roles as the family's foremost and first children educator (Adrian & Syaifuddin, 2017). Children's education goals were realized through the effort and firm determination of every parent. Parents used an 82.3% democratic parenting pattern characterized by an open attitude between parents and children.

The results showed that democratic parenting was the best style because it respected children's freedom with parents' guidance (Rahmawati et al. l, 2020). Democratic parenting emphasizes the educational aspect in children's guidance to provide understanding, explanation, and reasoning Hurlock (, 2014).

According to Masni's (2019), democratic parenting makes children criticized, respect others, have high self-confidence, and be responsible in their social life.

Democratic parenting encouraged children to stand alone, responsible and confident in themselves. Moreover, children were creative because parents promoted the initiative Muhadi (2015). Parents planned family activities to encourage children to grow and develop and provide opportunities to make decisions according to their abilities.

75.59% had high classification, and children played with gadgets. Furthermore, the children shifted from playing with others because they were offered the gadget as playmates' substitute. They became addicted because of the long hours spent on gadgets. Moreover, the gadgets quickly satisfy children with the knowledge they acquire from the internet and technologies. According to (Mayenti and Sunita, 2018), traditional learning was used to
explore many things, unlike the internet that encourages shallow thinking.

51.02% had high classification, and social behavior described the relationship of non-individualism. Children's social behavior development was characterized by an interest in activities with peers and an increased desire to be a member of a group. Children's social development was no longer satisfied with playing alone at home or with siblings. During peer interaction, children select the same age and accepted them.

**The influence of the role of parents on the use of gadgets in children**

The results indicated a significant influence between the role of parents and the use of gadgets in children with a value and magnitude of the correlation coefficient of 0.000 <0.005 and 0.548, respectively. The information development technology revolution resulted in the global spread of communication. Parents were required to accompany and supervise children not to have deviant behavior while using the new technology. According to Elhui Katz, Jay G. Blumler, and Michael Gurevitch, early childhood was exposed to gadgets for entertainment content for children making it feel normal.

Adults used gadgets for 1-3 hours in a day severely while in early childhood, it was limited to avoid addiction resulting from lack of restriction. Therefore, limiting children's gadget usage was necessary to avoid problems.

**The influence of parenting patterns on the use of gadgets in children**

The study showed a direct influence between parenting patterns on the use of gadgets in children with a significance value and the magnitude of the correlation coefficient of 0.000 <0.005 and 0.336, respectively.

Appropriate parenting was important during children's early age because it influenced their character. According to Indian and Mayasari research (2019), parenting patterns educate children. Parents supervise and directed children in utilizing facilities when using the gadget. Furthermore, parents should concentrate on the developmental period in children.

In democratic parenting, children had the freedom to use the gadget to choose and do anything with parents' supervision to have a positive impact. Contrastingly, permissive parenting on using the gadget negatively impacted children because parents did not control their activities. In authoritarian parenting, children were demanded to obey their parents' orders. Therefore, democratic parenting was the most effective in educating children in the digital era (Rahmat, 2018). This parenting style supported gadgets and focused on educating children on their positive and negative effects.

When parents' direct children, they responsibly use gadgets. However, parents lacked knowledge of children's social media, resulting in limited parental knowledge on social media functioning. Social media knowledge for parents was necessary for the correct usage of these platforms.

**The influence of the role of parents on children's social behavior**

The multiple regression analysis showed there was a direct influence between parents' role on children's social behavior. Parent role had significant value and magnitude of the correlation coefficient of 0.000 <0.005 and 0.288, respectively.

Children interact with their parents as their first educators at home to develop socially by inviting them to uphold friendship, Nandwijiwa and (Aulia 2020). A child acquires positive social development and vice versa from a good environment.

Parents determine children's interaction with adults and peers depending on how they are related using active positioning. Therefore, children's development depends on the primary point in activities with parents, B. Volling and Merrera (2020). According to Setyawati (2020), children's social behavior information at home was done by increasing their parents' moral judgment based on freedom, equality, and mutual acceptance.

**The influence of parenting patterns on children's social behavior**

Parenting patterns influenced children's social behavior with significance and correlation coefficient values of 0.001 <0.005 and
0.258, respectively. The parenting patterns of educating and raising children affect their social development in the future. According to Wood and Zoo (Madyawati, 2016), parenting is an interaction pattern between parents and children, including behaving well with peers and adults around children, applying rules, teaching values/norms, giving attention and affection show good attitudes and behavior so that they can be used as role models for children.

Mujahidah (2015) stated that family affects children's cognitive, social and emotional development greatly. It is the first model children see and imitate, and their social development results from parents' treatment. According to Harahap (2015), parenting is characterized by educating and fostering children influencing their social development from childhood to adulthood.

The effect of using gadgets on children on children's social behavior
There was a direct influence between parenting patterns on the use of gadgets in children with a multiple regression analysis obtained with significance and coefficient values of 0.023 < 0.005 and 0.218, respectively.

Gadgets had unlimited access to a positive contribution to children's insight and knowledge. However, addiction negatively impacted children's social development. According to Sari and Marlina (2021), gadgets had bad effects on children, including those with fixed minds, irritated eyes, inactive and cyberbullying threats. Additionally, gadgets negatively impact children's social behaviors. Individualized child development caused insensitivity to the environment.

Febrianto (2017) stated that lack of social skill is the significant effect of using gadgets on children. Addicted children never cared about the environment because of failure to understand social ethics. Besides, they were more emotional due to rebellion.

Violence and Gore (Mubarok, 2013) stated that gadgets lead to anti-social behavior in children. This occurred from gadget addiction, making one forget the environment.

The indirect influence of the role of parents through the use of gadgets in children on children's social behavior
Sobel test showed that the z-value was 5% more significant than the z-table indicating the indirect parents' role in using gadgets was positively and significantly related to children's social behavior. The roles of the parents and children's direct relationship magnitude in the social behavior are 0.288 was much greater than the indirect relationship between the parents and children's roles independence through children's social behavior of 0.119. Therefore, variable-used gadgets for mediating (intervening) strengthen the parents' role and behavior in children's social relationships.

Children's social development was not separated from factors affecting them, Chamidah (2009). The family provided stimulation that aimed at stimulus to achieve optimal social development maturity. According to Wijanarko (2016), children in a conducive environment were ascertained optimal growth and development.

Those who grew up directed to social stimulation quickly developed than children who lacked proper stimulation. Soetjiningsih (2020) stated that playing is used in children stimulation. Play stimulated children's development, including exercise, speaking, thinking, independence and socialization. The lack of parents and environmental stimulation to children led to quietness, hindering communication of those around them. Tudiningrum (2011) stated that children's interaction with electronic technology reduced movement activities because it is used for human life facilitation limiting various activities.

The indirect effect of parenting through the use of gadgets in children on children's social behavior
The Sobel test showed that the z-value was 5% greater than the z-table. Therefore, indirect parenting using children's gadgets was positively and significantly related to their social behavior. Parenting and social behavior's direct relationship was greater (0.258) than indirect relationship (0.073). Variable used gadgets in children to mediate (intervening)
failed to strengthen parents’ and children’s social behavior relationship.

According to Santrock (2007), the parent-child relationship is an emotional foundation children used to explore and enjoy peer relationships. The child’s peer relationship is affected how they related with their parents. Therefore, appropriate parenting was critical in reducing smartphones usage, and parents offered positive knowledge on using with their positive and negative impacts. Damayanti et al. (2020) stated that children misuse smartphones due to parents’ lack of information and direction.

**Conclusion and Recommendation**

The conclusion from the study was as follows:

1. People’s role in using gadgets was directly influenced.
2. Parenting with gadgets usage was directly influenced.
3. The parents’ role in social behavior was influenced directly.
4. Parenting style influenced social behavior directly.
5. There was a direct influence of The use of gadgets influences social behavior directly.
6. Indirect parental role influenced social behavior through the use of gadgets.
7. The use of gadgets led to indirect effect of parenting on children’s social behavior.

The results indicated that several suggestions could be submitted to the parties, including:

1. The results can be used to maintain the condition of the parents’ role, parenting patterns, use of gadgets, and social behavior in children who have been categorized as high.
2. The results can be an alternative or an input in raising children by paying attention and observing their socializing behavior. Children should be emphasized according to teachers’ wish to make them capable and independent in socializing in life.

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