

# NURTURING CHILD PERSONALITY: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF PARENTAL INFLUENCE

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## ABSTRACT

Parental influence on a child's personality development is paramount, as children are greatly shaped by their immediate environment, particularly the family. The family, being the smallest unit of society, serves as a fundamental arena for personality development. This paper explores the significance of parental roles in shaping a child's personality, emphasizing the impact of familial interactions and dynamics. Drawing from qualitative research methodology, this study delves into existing literature to analyze the multifaceted nature of parental influence on personality development. The findings underscore the crucial role of parents in fostering a nurturing environment conducive to healthy personality growth in children. Despite challenges such as busy schedules and technological distractions, parents must prioritize involvement in their children's lives, providing attention, affection, discipline, and guidance. By instilling values and fostering family harmony, parents play a pivotal role in shaping children into well-rounded individuals capable of thriving in society. Thus, understanding and actively engaging in parental roles are essential for facilitating positive personality development in children, ultimately contributing to their overall well-being and success in life.

**Keywords:** parental influence, child personality development, family dynamics, challenges in parenting

## INTRODUCTION

Parents play an important role in every development of their children, one of which is in the development of the child's personality. Children develop greatly influenced by their closest environment, namely the family environment. The family is the smallest unit that is part of society consisting of father, mother, brother / sister, the family will always meet and interact at all times. So between family members it can influence each other, especially in children who learn things faster based on what they see or experience. Many who still do not know also consider it unimportant about the role of parents or family environment on the development of a child's personality, when in fact it greatly affects the development of a child's personality even for provisions when they are adults.

The family is a place to develop the most basic personality. The family is an educational center, a religious center, a cultural center, and a place for practice in applying them. That is why in the family must be harmonious, help each other, love each other, and cooperate so that in the family it is fun and also makes the child mentally healthy because he does not experience painful things when he is young. Unlike if it is a family whose parents fight every day or an older brother who is rude to his younger brother who will later make the child behave like that also towards others, because he thinks it is normal because he grows up in that way.

The role of parents is very influential on the process of personality development because parents are the ones who prepare everything. Parental support can help children adjust everything in the present or future. As parents, you must get used to good things for children since childhood to form a personality to become a good child. Parents must also be an example so that children follow and understand what is right and wrong (Samsudin, 2019). As the Prophet said, both parents and the environment children grow up in can shape the personality and character of children. In this case, parents and family have a role that is not small in shaping the personality and character of a child. The influence of the family environment unconsciously can become a habit that is carried out, such as how to speak, language when speaking, how to dress, how

to worship, and much more done between family members. Through that habit, it will slowly form on the child's attitude and if it has become stronger it will stick to become part of the child's personality.

According to Ezrad (2018: 417) a child's development depends on internal factors (talents, interests, and potentials) and external factors (society, culture, and nature). So parents should consider which environment their children live in because it can affect the development of the child. If a child is not given full attention and love from his parents, later he will find it difficult to develop and grow mentally and mentally healthy and normal children, even though this can affect the personality of a child (Sukaimi, 2016: 82). Actions that are often done by parents to the child may later become the personality of a child in the future. These actions will become experiences in the soul and will later grow and become part of the personality in him.

## **METHOD**

This research employs qualitative research methodology or a descriptive approach. Qualitative research is a process conducted through literature review, wherein a study is carried out by examining various sources such as books, articles, journals, and other related materials. The investigation involves reading from these relevant sources, comparing them with other references, and then developing insights based on the author's opinions. The purpose of this research is to analyze the importance of parental roles in the development of a child's personality. Qualitative research methodology allows for a deep exploration of the subject matter, offering insights into the intricacies and nuances of parental influence on a child's personality development. By delving into existing literature and synthesizing various perspectives, this study aims to uncover the multifaceted nature of parental roles and their impact on shaping a child's character. Through qualitative analysis, researchers can identify recurring themes, patterns, and underlying factors that contribute to the formation of a child's personality within the familial context. This approach facilitates a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics between parents and children, shedding light on the complex interplay of factors that influence developmental outcomes. Moreover, qualitative research allows for flexibility and adaptability in data collection and analysis, enabling researchers to capture rich, detailed insights from diverse sources. By incorporating multiple viewpoints and voices, this study seeks to provide a holistic understanding of the significance of parental roles in nurturing and shaping a child's identity. Overall, qualitative research serves as a valuable tool for exploring the intricate relationship between parental roles and child personality development. By employing a descriptive approach and drawing upon a diverse range of literature, this research aims to contribute to a deeper understanding of the complexities involved in the parent-child dynamic and the crucial role parents play in fostering healthy personality development in their children.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Personality**

Personality, derived from the ancient Greek word "persona," meaning "mask," refers to the behavior exhibited in social environments and the desired self-impression that one wishes to convey to others in that social setting (Hasanah, 2018: 111). Personality is the behavior an individual exhibits to regulate their actions to be liked or disliked by those around them, distinguishing them from others because personality is the core of an individual with distinct characteristics (Rahman, 2018: 77). Therefore, personality is how we behave when interacting with others, automatically adjusting our behavior based on the personality we encounter. For example, our behavior towards parents, teachers, or friends differs from when we are alone or interacting with ourselves.

Personality traits, according to Larsen & Buss (as cited in Giyati, 2016), are a set of psychological traits that influence how humans adapt to their social environment. Characteristics such as aggressiveness, shyness, laziness, ambition, yieldingness, and loyalty are indicators of someone's personality. Personality traits can be considered as an individual's characteristics that help them exhibit behavior to survive.

According to Riskiani, A. (2019), an individual's behavior can be predicted in specific situations by measuring characteristics related to initial situations, with early detection focusing on identifying 16 personality factors seen as primary traits. There are several personality traits that serve as strong predictors over a 10-year period. These traits include agreeableness and conscientiousness for social interaction and situations to achieve success that stimulates positive experiences. Another personality trait is openness to experience regarding intelligence, which has a weak relationship with subjective well-being. Subjective well-being refers to an individual's psychological condition regarding satisfaction with life, pleasant experiences, or unpleasant ones. The relationship between personality traits and subjective well-being can be influenced by environmental and hereditary factors, with individuals exhibiting high levels of openness having an open-minded attitude towards experiences, which significantly affects positive affect and low negative affect.

Personality manifests in the behavior patterns of every individual. These behaviors can be influenced by environmental and genetic factors or inheritance. Cognitive, affective, cognitive, and psychomotor aspects are sectors that can develop from behavioral patterns. An individual's behavior in social environments is strongly influenced by their personality type because every person has a unique personality type, and understanding these types is essential to prevent misunderstandings. According to Eysenck (as cited in Putri, I. K., 2019), personality types are divided into two categories: extroverted and introverted personality types. These two types exhibit contrasting behavior, with each having its uniqueness in displaying character or interacting with the social environment. Extroverted personality types tend to enjoy socializing, thrive in crowds, prefer collaboration, and require the presence of others to improve their situation when they are not doing well. In contrast, introverted personality types are the opposite of extroverted ones; they have a reserved nature, dislike collaborative activities, prefer solitary activities, avoid crowds as it drains their energy, and recharge by spending time alone. There are several approaches to analyzing human personality types. According to Susanto, E. & Mudaim (2017), classifying human personality types can be done by observing the tendency of reactions to given stimuli, known as the projection approach. The Myers Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) is a commonly used tool for classifying personality types, with MBTI categorizing personality types into 16 for analysis, constructed from four opposing dimensions. MBTI is suitable for adolescents in high school, and individual data analysis can be presented through computer development during research. In human life, there are four main psychological functions: intuition, feeling, thinking, and sensation. MBTI aims to understand an individual's personality or potential. The four dimensions of human personality types based on human characteristics are as follows. First, the dimension of extroversion and introversion is attention focus. Extroversion refers to personality types that favor the external world, while introverts prefer their inner world. This dimension considers an individual's energy from external or internal sources. Second, the dimension of sensation and intuition involves understanding external information acquired. Sensation processes rely on actual facts, reality, and data, while intuition involves assessing potential outcomes, thinking imaginatively, focusing on future events, and recognizing patterns. Third, the dimension of thinking and feeling pertains to drawing conclusions and making decisions. A thinking individual tends to analyze decisions using logic, while a feeling individual uses empathy and values they believe in to make decisions. Fourth, the dimension of judging and perceiving involves lifestyle patterns. A judging individual systematically bases their actions on plans, while a perceiving individual acts randomly, spontaneously, and adaptively to predict various opportunities. There are 16 human personality types based on these dimensions, with MBTI aiming to understand and recognize oneself, and personalities may change over time. Therefore, various personality tests can be used to understand oneself.

### **Family Can Influence Child Personality**

An individual's personality can develop and grow due to various related factors, including environmental, cultural, individual capabilities, family, and parental attitudes or roles. There are external (external) and internal (internal) factors influencing personality development. External factors are derived from external influences on an individual, while internal factors originate from within an individual. According to Elizabeth B. Hurlock (as cited in Mujahidin, N. 2018), personality can also be influenced by genetic or hereditary factors, as well as social relationship influences at home or outside the home. According to Stern's convergence theory, a child's development from any aspect is the result of interaction between social factors in their environment and hereditary factors or inherited traits. For healthy personality development, both factors must cooperate, and the child's abilities will function as a result. An individual's personality development is shaped by external influences and developed internally through their inherent capabilities. The environmental factor also encompasses a wide range, including the family environment, immediate surroundings, school environment, and beyond.

The family environment can influence a child's personality development. Every day and even every moment, interactions between family members always occur directly. Therefore, habits from one member to another can influence every other family member, and vice versa. These habits, when frequently performed, can become ingrained in an individual's personality. According to Fratama, G. M. (2020), personality can be categorized into three aspects. The first aspect is physical, which includes outward behavior visible to others, such as how someone acts or speaks. The second aspect is psychological, which includes how someone thinks and is not visible to others. The last aspect is spiritual, which encompasses abstract concepts such as beliefs and life philosophy. This aspect includes value systems that are ingrained in an individual's personality. According to Saputro, H. & Talan, Y. O. (2017), children may experience issues such as socialization deficits. Psychosocial problems in children manifest in behaviors such as increased silence due to fear of doing something wrong. If this problem persists, it can negatively impact a child's personality development, potentially leading to disruptive behavior or extreme introversion, which can be influenced by the family environment.

### **Challenges for Parents in Shaping and Educating Children**

In today's advanced technological age, parents face challenges in educating and guiding their children due to busy schedules and advancing technology. According to Dwi, C. R. (2019), the busy schedules of working parents hinder direct parental guidance and education for their children. Sometimes, busy working parents have limited time for their children, resulting in a gap between parents and their children. Parents may not be aware of their children's activities because they are not under supervision. Another challenge for parents is the lack of affection towards their children, inability to set a good example, and lack of responsibility towards their children.

### **Role of Parents in Child Personality Development**

Parents play a crucial role in their child's development. As parents, they must shape their child to have good character and personality from a young age. Personality development depends on the experiences a child receives or undergoes during their childhood, influenced by both internal and external factors. Parents are expected to be a friend to their child, meaning they should guide or direct their child without coercion. According to Ardiati, R. K. (2018), what parents can do during their child's personality development is to provide sufficient attention. Many consider this trivial; however, attention from parents to their children is essential because studies show that a happy family is one filled with love. This results in a good relationship between parents and children. Additionally, parents should provide education to their children. Before a child enters elementary school, parents should provide guidance and direction at home. Parents must show attention, affection, discipline, and responsibility because they serve as role models for their children to

reflect upon. Children tend to emulate those closest to them, and parents can influence them quickly, especially with their immediate environment. Furthermore, fostering family harmony is essential for children to develop their personalities well and avoid misunderstandings. If parents are strict and their attention to their children is lacking, it can lead to negative personality traits in children. Parents must also instill honesty in their children. Instilling honesty in children from a young age will make them honest individuals as adults. It is a challenge nowadays due to many examples of dishonesty, but it is still possible to continue shaping children to have an honest personality. In addition to honesty, disciplining children is crucial. Disciplining children helps them understand right from wrong through rules or discipline. Children should understand that discipline is vital for understanding the truth and what needs to be done. Parents must also teach children to socialize in their surroundings with etiquette and manners required for living in society. To make friends and be liked by others and accepted in the community, children should interact with others with etiquette and politeness. According to Ayun, Q (2016), in parenting, it is also necessary to provide advice in their education. Educating children by providing advice has a significant impact. Giving advice aims to encourage children to have awareness in something to motivate them to have high dignity and moral behavior. Besides preparing them socially, the method of providing advice is also effective in shaping a child's personality.

## CONCLUSION

The intricate interplay between personality development and various influencing factors, including genetics, environmental influences, and family dynamics. Personality traits manifest in unique behavior patterns shaped by both internal and external forces, with the family environment playing a pivotal role in shaping a child's personality. However, parents face challenges in navigating the complexities of modern parenting, including busy schedules and technological distractions. Despite these challenges, parents hold a critical role in nurturing their children's character and personality, providing attention, affection, discipline, and guidance. Fostering a supportive family environment and instilling values such as honesty, responsibility, and social etiquette are essential for promoting positive personality development in children. Ultimately, by prioritizing parental involvement and creating a nurturing environment, parents can significantly influence their children's development and help them become well-rounded individuals capable of thriving in society.

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