

FATHER'S ROLE

(A Study of Fathers in Bandung)

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Abstract

The research found that the father's role was important in many aspects of children's life. Father's roles were viewed differently in several countries. According to the research conducted in a country that holds family tradition, the father figure became strong when the father had access to wealth. It can be concluded that material and financial aspects hold an important role. Another research found a different result in another country where fathers were viewed as neopatriarchal father, failed father, and father substituted by others. Bandung is a city that represented Sundanese family values and also represented diversity. Therefore, this research was aimed to investigate father's roles based on their own perspectives. The subjects were 100 fathers in Bandung obtained by multi-stage sampling. The quantitative method was used to explain the role of the father, while the data collection method used was questionnaire. The data analysis used was descriptive statistics. This research concluded that there were 3 father's roles that were viewed as important roles, i.e., father as a model, as a teacher, and as an encourager.

Keywords: Father's role, father figure, parenting

1. Introduction

Family resilience is the capacity of a family to manage resources and solve problems to fulfill its members' needs (Sunarti, 2005). According to Sunarti (2005), family resilience is influenced by physical, social, and psychological resilience. Physical resilience is the capacity of a family to maintain the health and development of its members by providing nutritional intake and doing physical activity to strengthen the body. Psychological resilience is the capacity of a family to create a psychologically conducive atmosphere. For example, understanding each other's needs and characters, helping and strengthening each other when facing problems, and supporting each other. Whereas social resilience is the capacity of a family to build a relationship with the environment outside of the main family, can adapt to the conditions and needs in the environment, such as in the neighborhood, big family, school, and work.

According to the research conducted by Harmaini (2014), school-age children's needs in relation to father are affectional needs as much as 36,7%, nurturing care as much as 35,5% and financial support 15,4% and 12% other needs. This result shown that the perspective stated that the father's role were only as the breadwinner of the family were no longer relevant. Allen dan Daly (2007) stated that the concept of father involvement is not only in the form of positive interactions with their children, but also paying attention to the development of their children, being close and comfortable, a rich father-child relationship, and being able to understand and accept their children. Parenting with these characteristics involves the ability to understand the child's condition and needs, the need to opt for the most appropriate response for the children

both emotionally, affectively, and instrumentally.

Mak (2017), in the research about the influence of family role in the quality of social relationships, revealed that rejection from a father figure led teenagers to experience social anxiety and loneliness. It shows that fathers also have the role of establishing a sense of security in the social context. This means that the father's role is considered important in several stages of the children's life.

Curtis, C.A., Grinnel-Davis, C., & Alleyne-Green, B. (2017) stated that in a particular ethnic group, fathers have an important role in their children's academic achievement. However, it is contrary to the result found by Meyer, K. (2018) who stated that the father's involvement in parenting does not have a positive correlation with the children's grades at school.

So how should the world view a father's role? Father's role is viewed differently in several countries. The research conducted by Loepeng, B., & Langan, M. (2017) stated that in North Africa, the father figure became strong when the father had access to wealth. It can be concluded that the father figure is still viewed from the material aspect and financial provider. A different result was found in France; according to Berton, F., Bureau, M.-C., & Rist, B. (2017), the father's role was viewed into three categories: a neopatriarchal father figure, a failed father figure, and a father figure substituted by others. Bandung is a city that represented Sundanese family values and also represented diversity. Therefore, it is important to find out the father's role perspective from the fathers.

2. Method

This research used a population of fathers in Bandung. From this population, the fathers respondent was taken as sample from each district in Bandung.

This research applied a multi-stage sampling technique. This technique were used when the sample is relatively homogenous, the number of the population is very big, and the population occupies a very large area. Therefore, the researchers decided to choose 100 respondents from every region in Bandung as the representatives of fathers in the city.

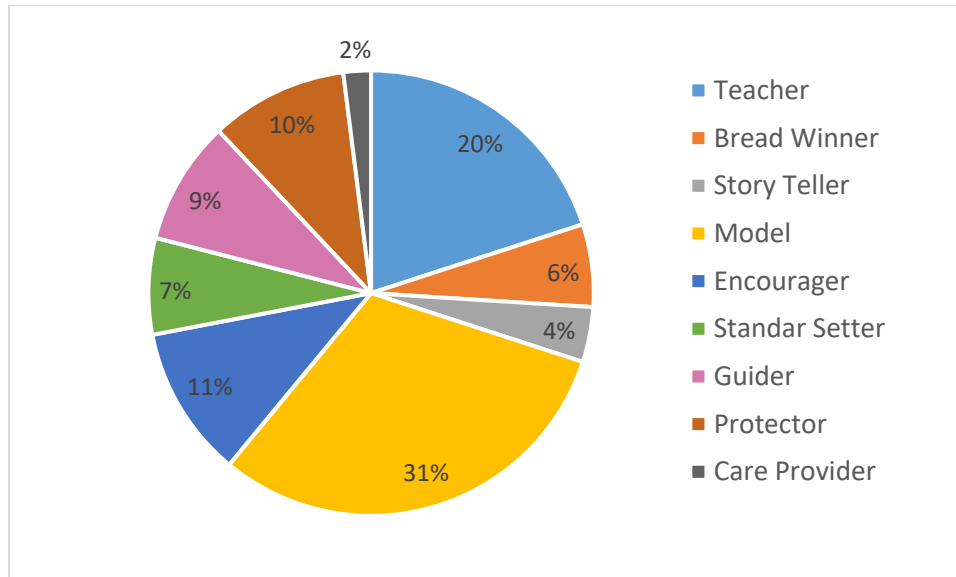
The data collection technique used in this research was a questionnaire. A questionnaire is a technique of collecting data by using a set of written questions addressed to research respondents, and the answering method were in written form (Arikunto, 2009). The scale used was the Likert scale, divided into four: very suitable, suitable, not very suitable, and not suitable. Measuring instrument adapted from the theory of Father Roles by Berger (1998). The measuring instrument consists of 54 items and 8 dimensions, namely Teacher, Bread Winner, Story Teller, Model, Encourager, Guider, Protector, dan Care provider. The validity test result on the Father Role measuring instrument showed 51 valid items out of 54 tested items, while 3 were invalid. At the same time, the result of the reliability test revealed that the measuring instrument has a high-reliability score that is 0.967.

After the validity and reliability were found, the score of the Father Roles measuring instrument would be counted. The measurement result is the score that reflects the father's role toward their children. Suppose the total score in one dimension that becomes the average score is higher than that in other dimensions. In that case, it reflects the respondent's perspective about themselves in their role as a father for their children in one dimension of father roles.

The data analysis used was descriptive statistics. Descriptive statistics will describe or illustrate the data taken by looking at the average score (mean), variant, standard deviation, maximum, minimum, range, etc. The descriptive technique provides data information and does not mean to test the hypothesis (Ghozali, 2011:19).

3. Results and Discussion

The following are the results of data processing on the role of fathers in the city of Bandung:



Father Role Data Chart

Based on the picture above, the data can be obtained from the total data of fathers in the city of Bandung. It shows two types of data: data with the highest percentage of dimensions and data with the lowest percentage of dimensions. Firstly, the percentage in the highest category is in the Model Dimension with the percentage of 31% and the dimension in the lowest category is the Care Provider Dimension with a percentage of 2%. For other dimensions, the data obtained were the Teacher Dimension with a percentage of 20%, the Encourager Dimension with a percentage of 11%, the Protector Dimension with a percentage of 10%, the Guider Dimension 9%, the Standard Setter Dimension 7%, the Bread Winner Dimension 6%, and the Story Teller Dimension 4%.

The results of the study stated that 31 percent of fathers felt their role as role models. This is the highest percentage which means that the majority of fathers feel their children will imitate their behavior. Then the second-highest percentage is as much as 20 percent as a teacher. This means that fathers felt responsible for academic achievement and make sure their children understand the rules and norms. Then the third, as much as 11 percent are encouragers, namely fathers feel that they play a role as a supporter when their children have difficulties and provide opportunities for their children to experience new things. It can be said that the priority of fathers in their role is in the aspect of competence. They view that the priority of their role is so that the children imitate their behavior and they have to teach certain abilities and provide support for their children. Meanwhile, roles that are more emotional in nature, such as the dimensions of care provider and storyteller become the last priority. The unique thing is that the father's role as a breadwinner is not seen as a priority role as in other countries.

With the role as a role model in the highest category, it can be confirmed that the fathers are aware that their behavior will be imitated. This situation makes fathers become more cautious with their behavior and make sure that they become good role models for their children.

4. Conclusions and Suggestions

The majority of fathers in Bandung view their role as individuals who will be the role model for their children, feel responsible for academic achievement and make sure that their children know and follow norms and rules. Only a few of them pay attention to the warm relationship with their children.

The researchers only took questionnaire data and only measured one aspect. Therefore, it is suggested that further research can measure other variables that contribute to fathers in the city of Bandung.

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