
**IMPACT CONDITION *FATHERLESS* ON CHILD PSYCHOLOGICAL
DEVELOPMENT**

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Abstract

The phenomenon of fatherlessness refers to the absence of the father's role in a child's life, either physically or psychologically, which has become increasingly prevalent in modern families, including in Indonesia. The absence of a father's role may lead to various negative impacts on children's psychological development and personality formation. This study aims to examine the impact of fatherlessness on children's personality development from the perspective of developmental psychology and Islamic teachings. This research employs a qualitative approach with a descriptive-analytical method based on library research. Data were collected from reference books, scientific journal articles, and previous studies related to fatherlessness and paternal involvement in child-rearing. Data analysis was conducted using content analysis techniques. The findings indicate that fatherlessness contributes to low self-esteem, emotional and social development problems, and declining academic achievement in children. From an Islamic perspective, the father plays a crucial role as a leader and educator within the family; Therefore, balanced involvement of both parents is essential in fostering healthy psychological, social, and spiritual development in children.

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INTRODUCTION

Children are the nation's next generation so they need attention and education which optimal. Education character on child ideally started since age early childhood education is crucial, as instilling positive values and behaviors early on will shape a child's attitudes and personality later in life. Conversely, a lack of guidance and character development from an early age can potentially lead to behaviors inconsistent with positive values. A child's positive personality reflects the success of parenting, education, and guidance. A family is often described as a company with a leader, and the leader in a family is the father (Maryam Sobari, 2022). However, based on the phenomenon that happen in Indonesia, not all child can feel presence figure father in their lives. This condition is caused by various factors, including divorce, marital conflict, the death of a father, health problems, and the demands of a father's job that requires him to work outside the area. These various conditions are known as fatherlessness (Hidayah et al., 2023).

The phenomenon of fatherlessness in Indonesia tends not to be visible to the naked eye, but own impact which real to development child. Even, according to Minister Social Republic Indonesia, Khofifah Indar Parawansa, Indonesia including in the country with level lost role father which enough tall in world. Indonesia often categorized as country with level fatherless which enough tall (Mayangsari & Umroh, 2014). The term fatherless is relatively unknown to the Indonesian public, which generally more familiar with draft single mother or broken home. In fact, phenomenon fatherless in Indonesia classified as significant, even Indonesia is known as the third most fatherless country in the world. This designation does not refer to the physical absence of a father figure, but rather to the suboptimal role of fathers in family life and childcare (Saif, 2018).

The phenomenon of fatherlessness is inseparable from the influence of local culture, which shapes the paradigm of parenting within the family. Cultural stereotypes still influence the view that men do not have the primary responsibility for caring for and nurturing children, so fathers' involvement in the parenting process is often considered unimportant. Unconsciously, the activities of caring for, nurturing, and educating children are more closely associated with the role of the mother, even though fathers' involvement also plays a significant role in child development. The balance of roles between fathers and mothers in the family is a crucial factor in creating a harmonious and prosperous family.

In the context of Indonesian family culture, the existence of fatherlessness often goes unnoticed. This phenomenon can be likened to "fire in the chaff," meaning it's not immediately apparent on the surface, but can slowly give rise to problems and harmful impacts. Absence role father in family often covered with effort mother take over role father. Not all mother openly explaining the reasons for the father's absence to the child, considering that the child does not yet have the emotional maturity to understand the family situation. As a result, the family environment appears to perceive no problems, while the child remains questioning the father's whereabouts, which can ultimately create an emotional void within the child.

The term "fatherlessness" refers to the physical and psychological absence of a father in a child's life. This absence does not always mean the absence of a biological father, but rather a lack of optimal father involvement in the child's upbringing and support. Fatherlessness can arise from various factors, such as the father's death, parental divorce, marital conflict, work demands, or social and cultural factors that limit the father's role in the family. In this context, the child still has a formal father, but lacks a father figure who functions emotionally and educationally in their daily lives.

Fathers have an important and strategic role in raising children. Father not only limited on fulfillment need economy family, but also includes educational, affective, and protective roles. Fathers' involvement in parenting includes providing affection, learning support, establishing discipline, as well as giving example in behavior and values life. Father also plays a role in building a child's sense of security, courage, and independence. Thus, active and ongoing father involvement contributes significantly to a child's emotional, social, and moral development.

A child's personality is formed through the interaction between innate and environmental factors, especially environment family. Family is environment the first and foremost role for children in the process of personality formation. The parenting patterns applied by parents, quality emotional relationships, as well as exemplary behavior which given will influence the child's attitudes, values, and behavior. Children who grow up in a family environment with balanced parental involvement tend to have stable personalities, good self-confidence, and more optimal social abilities. On the contrary, absence one figure parent, especially father, potential cause inequality in development personality child.

The phenomenon of fatherlessness has broad implications for children's psychological development. Children who experience the absence of a father tend to face various problems, such as low self-esteem, difficulty managing emotions, behavioral problems, and obstacles to social and academic development. In boys, fatherlessness can influence the formation of personal identity and masculinity roles, whereas in girls it can affect interpersonal relationship patterns in adulthood. This condition shows that the presence and involvement of fathers have a significant contribution in maintaining the psychological balance of children.

This section outlines the relevant theories underlying the research topic and provides a review of several previous studies that are relevant and provide a reference and foundation for this research. If there is a hypothesis, it can be stated implicitly and does not have to be in a question sentence.

METHODS

Study This use approach qualitative with type descriptive-analytical research. Descriptive-analytical research aims to describe systematically And objective phenomenon fatherless as well as analyze the impact towards the formation of personality child based on study theoretical And results study previous. Source data in study This is data secondary Which obtained through studies literature (library research). Data collected from various reading sources, like book reference, article journal scientific national And international, and documents scientific other Which relevant with topic study.

Search literature review was conducted through base data academic, between other Google Scholar, DOAJ, And journal repository college tall, use ensure validity And credibility source Which used.

Data Which has collected Then analyzed use analysis content (content analysis) with analysis stages which include: first, data reduction, namely sorting and choose literature Which most relevant with focus study. Second, presentation data, namely grouping draft, theory, as well as findings study related phenomenon fatherless and its influence to development psychological as well as personality child. Third, drawing conclusions, namely formulating an analytical understanding of the impact of the father's absence in parenting on the formation of the child's personality.

This research does not involve the subjects and research locations directly because nature study literature. For guard validity data, used source triangulation, that is with compare various reference from researchers And background different scientific backgrounds. Through this approach, research is expected to provide a comprehensive and analytical picture of the phenomenon of fatherlessness and its implications for children's personality development.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the literature review show that the phenomenon of fatherlessness influences the formation of children's personalities, both emotionally, socially and academically. Absence Father, Good in a way physique and psychological, cause Children lose figures who play an important role in providing a sense of security, firmness, and motivation in everyday life.

Several studies show that children who experience fatherlessness tend to own level trust self Which low And prone to experience emotional problems, like flavor Embarrassed, angry, as well as feeling No valuable. Besides That, The absence of a father in parenting also has an impact on children's academic achievement due to the lack of support and motivation that should be provided by the father.

Socially, children who grow up without paternal involvement tend to have difficulty interacting and adjusting to their environment. This condition can also affect the development of a child's identity, in both boys and girls. The phenomenon of fatherlessness in Indonesia is generally driven by a parenting culture that positions the father as the primary breadwinner, thus limiting paternal involvement in parenting (Permadi, 2025).

Understanding *Fatherless*

The term "*fatherless*" in Indonesian means the absence of a father's role in a child's life. This absence can be physical or psychological in a child's daily life. The physical absence of a father due to death make child orphan status. Temporary That, absence father caused by factor work in outside area or conflict in wedding parent can result in child experience condition orphan in a way social And psychological prematurely Sundari & Herdajani (2013), A person can be categorized as experiencing a *fatherless condition* if he does not have a father figure or does not have an optimal relationship with his father, either due to problems in the parents' marriage or economic factors that cause the absence of the father's role in the child's life. Over time, the father's function in the family tends to be narrowed down to only two main roles, namely as a breadwinner and as a giver of permission in marital matters. Meanwhile, the father's role in educating and guiding children is often not carried out optimally, so that children do not get figure Father in a way intact in process its development.

Condition This is one of the factors that triggers the emergence of the *fatherless phenomenon* in families. Besides influenced by factor culture, phenomenon *fatherless* Also triggered by the increasing material needs in society. This condition makes work a top priority in family life to meet economic needs and achieve certain goals. As a result, time spent together between fathers and children often has to be adjusted to accommodate the father's busy work schedule, and children often experience disappointment due to unfulfilled promises of togetherness. Fathers' efforts to improve the family's quality of life and social status indirectly impact the quality of interaction and emotional closeness between fathers and children (Li et al., 2023).

Based on research conducted by *The University of New Jersey* , children who have high levels of interaction with their fathers show higher levels of intellectual intelligence (IQ) compared to children who rarely interact with their fathers. The presence of fathers in the parenting process also contributes to increased self-confidence and courage in children in facing various life challenges.

Furthermore, in girls, a lack of emotional closeness with their fathers has the potential to encourage the search for a substitute father figure in another male figure as they enter adulthood.

Impact *Fatherless*

The phenomenon of *fatherlessness* is not only a national problem, but has also developed into a global issue. This condition is found in various countries, such as English, Portugal, Africa, Dutch, Finland, American Union, And Australia.

In Western countries, the phenomenon of *fatherlessness* is generally triggered by the increasing number of couples having children outside of marriage ("Fatherless Country," 2020). That, phenomenon *fatherless* in Indonesia generally caused by by The loss of the father's role in childcare. Fathers are often positioned solely as the family's economic backbone, limiting their involvement in childcare. Deeply rooted traditional gender roles also limit fathers' participation in children's education and support.

Therefore, the phenomenon of *fatherlessness* requires serious attention, considering that the roles of fathers and mothers are equally important in the family. Fathers' parenting styles differ from mothers', and paternal involvement has been shown to have a positive impact on child development, such as fostering courage, assertiveness, independence, problem-solving skills, and compassion (Chaq, 2024). The absence of a father in the parenting process has the potential to cause children to have low self-esteem later in their development. This condition is characterized by: with trend emergence feeling Embarrassed, anger consequence feeling different from other children, and not having the same experience of togetherness with their father as children generally experience (Lerner, 2011).

Impact from phenomenon *fatherless* between other low ability academic performance and the emergence of a lack of self-confidence. In boys, this condition also has the potential to influence the development of their masculine identity (Save, 2013). Fitroh (2014) suggests that *fatherlessness* affects achievement. Study child, especially Because child No get support And motivation to learn from Father. Impact *fatherless* Also expressed by Stephen & Udisi (2016) which state that child Which experience absence role Father tend to face various problems, both in social, academic and psychological aspects, and have the potential to exhibit deviant behavior.

Thus, the absence of a father in the parenting process has the potential to hinder development self child. Although thus, role Mother still has an urgency that cannot be separated from parenting, especially through an attitude of patience, affection, And attention Which given to child. Presence father and mother in balanced care will be absorbed by the child as a positive emotional experience, so that the child becomes more sensitive and able to interact in a way adaptive with the environment. Family own influence which has a significant impact on children's mental health, because in the family environment children receive flavor safe, comfort, And love Darling (Ningrum & Lestarinigrum, 2022).

In perspective Islam, role Father own position Which very important, not only as a leader (imam) in the family, but also as the primary educator. The father's role as an educator also determines the moral quality and well-being of the child. the family that led by him. According to Hart as quoted In Abdullah (2010), the role of the father in the family includes several important aspects, including:

1. Fulfil need child, Good need financial, social, and spiritual.
2. Be a companion for children, including as a playmate and discussion partner
3. play a role in educating, caring for, and giving affection to children.
4. Protect family from various form threat And danger.
5. Support And develop potential child use support success and future.

Role Father in development psychological child

A father's position as a financial provider *is* as important as his role as a protector and role model for his children. A father's involvement in parenting is a form of participation. active And sustainable in accompany child, Which covers physical, cognitive, and affective dimensions. This involvement plays a role in all aspects of development child, covering development physique, emotional, social, intellectual, and morals (Mayra et al., 2022).

According to Heart as quoted in Abdullah (2010), role Father in the family includes several important aspects, including:

1. Fulfil need financial child For buy all needs child .
2. Friend for child including Friend play.
3. Give love Darling And nurse child.
4. Educate And give example example Which Good .
5. Monitoring or supervise And uphold rule discipline .
6. Protector from risk or danger .
7. Help, accompany and defend children if they experience difficulties or problems .
8. Support potential For success child.

These various roles provide assurance, protection and support for children in emotional, cognitive and spiritual matters.

As an illustration, fathers' involvement in educational play activities, such as games *puzzle* Which done in a way competitive with limit time certain, Not only does it instill the values of competitiveness, fighting spirit, and sportsmanship, but it also provides key stimulation in developing problem-solving skills, concentration, patience, and strategic skills in children. Furthermore, fathers' appreciation and praise during and after the activity positively contribute to increasing children's self-esteem and confidence. This praise from fathers can be accompanied by the instillation of spiritual values. like invite child For give thanks to Lord on ability and the intelligence he possesses, and is grateful for the togetherness that has been established.

Through repeated activities together, children are expected to learn while playing, allowing the process of internalizing educational values to occur naturally. In addition to providing educational benefits, these activities also create enjoyable experiences and strengthen the emotional bond between father and child (Murniati & Nurhayati, 2024).

As a parent, one of the fundamental tasks is to carry out function *parenting* or parenting. In a way ideal, Father And Mother It is hoped that we will be able to work together, support and strengthen each other in carrying out role parenting for the sake of grow flower child Which optimal. In carrying out their roles as parents, fathers and mothers have complementary responsibilities in the parenting process. According to McBride et al., as quoted in Abdullah (2010), involvement Father in parenting covers five main aspects, namely:

1. Not quite enough answer to tasks parenting management child.
2. Giving warmth And affection to children.
3. Involvement in settlement work House together child.
4. Participation in activity together Which centered on need and the interests of the child.
5. Supervision person old to development child.

Temporary That, Benetti And Roopnarine as quoted In Abdullah (2010) developed a measuring tool known as *the Parental Involvement Index* , which consists of six aspects of parental involvement, including: *social engagement* , *didactic engagement* , *engagement in discipline* , *engagement in affection* , *parental availability* , and *parental responsibility* . This measuring tool aims to see the extent of the father's efforts in his parenting involvement together with the mother.

Thus, when the father is able to carry out comprehensive parenting responsibilities and share the role with the mother, this involvement is not only functioning in fulfillment tasks parenting, but Also It serves as a means of building emotional closeness with children. This togetherness allows parents to directly instill lifelong educational values through daily interactions, including domestic activities. This is important, given that children tend to learn through imitation of their parents' behavior and speech, rather than solely through one-way instructions.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the literature review that has been carried out, it can be concluded that phenomenon *fatherless* own impact Which complex And significant on the formation of a child's personality. The absence of a father, both physically and psychologically, cause children No get role parenting in a way intact from both parents. While fathers play a crucial role in providing firmness, protection, motivation, and role models in a child's life, this situation makes children more vulnerable to disorders in emotional, social, and academic development.

Children who experience *fatherlessness* tend to have low self-esteem, difficulty managing emotions, and feel the loss of a figure who provides a sense of security and identity. This is further reinforced by the fact that time childhood is a phase important in character formation and personality. If the father's absence is not balanced with adequate care, child potential build draft self Which negative, feel different from the surrounding environment, and experience obstacles in social interaction.

In addition, the phenomenon of *fatherlessness* in Indonesia is not always caused by the physical absence of a father, but also by the reduced involvement of fathers in parenting due to economic demands, patriarchal culture, and the parenting paradigm. put Father only as seeker living. In perspective Islam, Fathers play a strategic role as leaders and educators in the family, so their absence can impact the balance of parenting and a child's personality development. Therefore, *fatherlessness* cannot be viewed solely as an individual or family problem, but rather as a social and educational issue with long-term implications for the quality of future generations.

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