



Mother Figure in Children's Education

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Abstract

This research is based on mothers who participate in earning a living or career women, mothers who feel that formal education at school is more than enough, and mothers who do not understand the importance of the home as the main madrasah. This research uses library research with qualitative research. The steps taken in this research are theme/topic selection, information exploration, determining the focus of research, collecting data sources. Data sources are obtained from relevant literature such as books, scientific articles related to the theme. Data collection techniques by looking for data about things in the form of books, articles, and so on. The research instruments used included a checklist of classification of research materials based on the focus of the study, a writing map, and a research note format. The data analysis technique used by researchers is the content analysis method. The results of this study conclude that the role of mothers in educating children includes paying attention to breastfeeding patterns, parenting patterns, and the role of mothers in shaping children's character can be done through stages of coaching and guidance. Premarital coaching and guidance, prenatal coaching and guidance, and postnatal coaching and guidance.

Keywords: *early childhood; mother's role; career women*

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Introduction

One of the obligations of a mother is to educate children. The role of mothers is very important to support children during their growth and development. The fulfillment of children's basic needs will be hampered if they do not get the role of the mother (Fitriyani et al., 2016). In the process of growth and development, children have basic needs that must be met so that their growth and development runs optimally. Among them are physical needs, emotional needs, and stimulation or education needs (Hurlock, 1949). If the basic needs of children are not met, one of them becomes neglected.

The active role of parents, especially mothers, is very necessary, especially when they are at an early age. In educating children, mothers have a role as role models for saving, as fulfillers of children's basic needs, as teachers, as parents, and as supervisors (HALIMAH, 2015). Mothers who act as educators must have awareness and realize how to take care of children properly according to their developmental stages. Mothers are the first people to invite children to communicate so that children can understand interacting with other people and surroundings.

Mothers as child educators have a role in the family as educators of Godhead, role models and are responsible for their children (Syahid, 2015). With the education provided, children will have many skills and personalities. Personality and skills are one of the processes experienced by children to become qualified human beings both physically and mentally.

How important is the role of a mother in educating children and providing love and attention. Because it generates a sense of self-confidence in children during their growing years. Mother comes as a ready and versatile person where her affection, tenderness and attention make her the most needed of all family members (Chamidi, 2011). Mothers are the spearhead in educating their children so that the good and bad of a child is largely influenced by the mother's personality (Habiburrahman, 2009).

A woman forms her maternal identity when she becomes a mother through her commitment and involvement in defining her new self (Mercer, 2004). Other research says that mothers who are not satisfied with their role will show more rejection of children and have children who are difficult to control in the process of child development (Lerner & Galambos, 2013).

The reality in the field is that many mothers cannot carry out their duties and responsibilities properly in the family, do not know how to educate children properly, such as being busy with their careers to hand over responsibilities in education to schools or caregivers (Syahid, 2015). The existing phenomena make this research aims to find out the real role of a mother in educating children.

Methodology

This research uses a type of library research with a qualitative approach. Library research is related to theoretical studies and several references that cannot be separated from scientific literature (Sugiyono, 2013). The steps of this library study research are carried out by preparing equipment, compiling a working bibliography, organizing time, and reading and making research notes (Zed, 2008).

Data sources are obtained from relevant literature such as books, scientific articles related to the chosen theme. The data collection technique used for this literature study research is by searching for data on things in the form of books, articles, and so on. The research instruments used included a check-list of classification of research materials based on the focus of the study, a writing map, and a research note format. The data analysis technique used by researchers is the content analysis method. The aim is to maintain the clarity of the assessment process and prevent misinformation, so interlibrary loan checks and re-reading of literature are carried out.

The literature study research steps in this study can be seen in the **figure 1**.

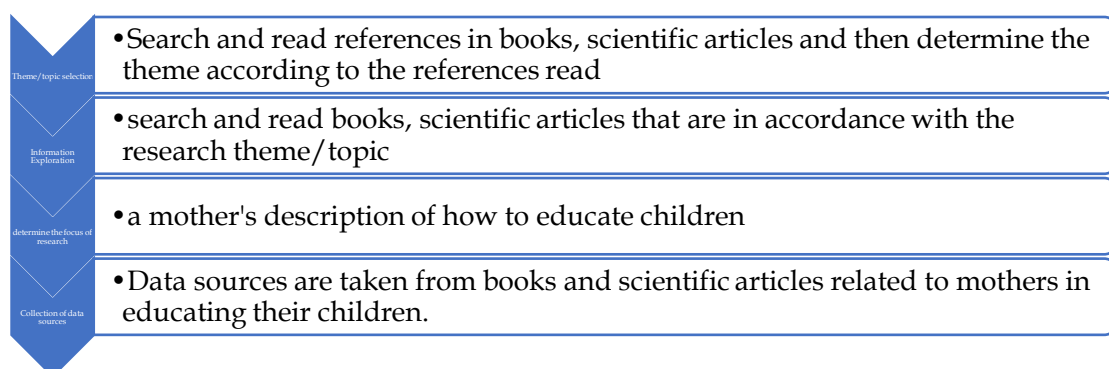


Figure 1. The literature study research

Results and Discussion

Mother of an Educator

In accordance with their nature, structure, and biological completeness, mothers who symbolize women are figures capable of reproducing to give birth to human generations (Jalaluddin, 2016). Giving birth here has a broad meaning, namely that it is able to give birth and build a civilization. By nature it has become something that should be upheld. In the view of Islam, the degree of a mother is more exalted than the father. Even mothers are also referred

to as the first school for their children (al-Umm Madrasatul Ula) (Noor, 2012). Building a civilization that is dignified and civilized requires directed efforts in achieving it. The effort in building a generation is by educating. Because educating is a fundamental way to humanize humans. This shows how important the role of mothers is in educating children.

The word educate has a meaning of demanding all the power of ability and nature that exists in a child so that they can one day become insan kamil and as a member of society can achieve the highest safety and happiness in this world and in the hereafter (NIKMAH, 2020). Achieving safety and happiness in the world and in the hereafter requires a long and consistent effort in carrying it out. Efforts in exploring religious knowledge are carried out as early as possible and require support from life partners.

Education by parents lasts relatively long. Therefore, they determine the child's personality. Parental responsibility for children's education lasts from the time the child is still in the womb until he grows into an adult and is able to develop his personal self (Rusydiyah, 2016). The role of mothers is very central in this case, because mothers are people who spend a lot of time at home with their children. During the golden age children are not utilized properly. Even though the mother is madrasatul ulaa for her child, she should pay more attention and make the best use of this time. This aims to maintain guidance in educating children.

The mother's status as a parent has an instinctual urge to protect, care for, nurture and educate children to become better human beings who are reflected through their morals. This instinct begins to form from the time of pregnancy, childbirth, to breastfeeding. A mother's attention and affection effectively lasts until her child reaches the age of six. In that age range, it can be said that the child is still fully in the care of the mother. Sheikh Sofiudin bin Fadli Zain in Imam Muhammad Syahid, views that mothers have several roles as educators of children in the family, all of which are praying, maintaining behavior, restraining lust, breastfeeding, teaching monotheism, being friends, being role models (Syahid, 2015).

The breastfeeding pattern is a series of stages of the mother as a natural educator. Mother's education is seen through a process approach. During the breastfeeding period, educational activities take place naturally and refer to the formation of emotional relationships, affection, and halal food intake (Jalaluddin, 2016). Physical contact and inner contact are established during this breastfeeding. The closeness of the baby to the mother during the breastfeeding period, helping to form an affectionate relationship.

The child during breastfeeding feels peaceful because when breastfeeding the child's position is attached to the mother's chest close to the heart. He feels his mother's heartbeat, and eventually begins to merge with his mother's feelings. So the emotions and feelings for the breastfeeding mother must be peaceful, serene and happy so that the child's emotions are as well. The love poured out during breastfeeding is influenced by the position of the mother who puts the baby on a comfortable bed and the mother hugs and caresses the child gently.

Infants who are exclusively breastfed for 6 months have a low risk of gastrointestinal infections and can reduce adverse health effects in the first year of life. Furthermore, research conducted in Western Australia shows that infants who are breastfed for more than 6 months can improve IQ development, knowledge and mental health from toddlers to adolescents compared to those breastfed for less than 6 months (Suryana & Fitri, 2019). With this, it is true that breast milk is a nutritional intake for babies that can affect the growth and development of babies.

But in line with the times, quite a lot of mothers choose to work outside the home, becoming career women. Seeing the economic status of the family also requires a mother to work. The shift in position from housewives to career women has unconsciously shifted the role of mothers in educating children, one of which includes the breastfeeding period. The fact shows that a mother who is busy working and becoming a career woman, will affect the pattern of breastfeeding. Facts show that a mother who is busy working and becoming a career woman, will affect breastfeeding patterns. This is because a mother who carries out the dual

role of being a housewife and working mother or career woman is prone to conditions of stress, fatigue, and lack of sleep.

Psychological factors that affect the lack of breast milk production are mothers who are in a state of stress. When there is stress in a breastfeeding mother, there will be a blockade or accumulation of milk in the blood vessels of the alveoli. Because of this, the thirsty baby is not satisfied to suckle (Pratiwi et al., 2018). The role of mothers has always been central in the growth and development of children. Children grow well and healthy if the mother pays attention to the nutrients that the child will consume. Good nutrition is in the form of breastfeeding children from birth to approximately two years, paying attention to the child's growth chart, providing complementary foods. If good nutrition is fulfilled, it will affect the development of thinking intelligence, emotions and behavior in children. Fulfillment of good nutrition must also pay attention to the food intake consumed by the mother.

Parenting is an extension of the mother's education stage that refers to the tools and approaches of educational methods. A study revealed that mothers as educators often use one-way communication technology with children (Rahayu & Haningsih, 2021). As an educational tool, the mother's role refers to a role model for her children. Meanwhile, in the method approach, the mother's role refers to the way she cares for, guides, serves and directs children (Jalaluddin, 2016). Mother as a role model is a child's step in finding a role model within himself to determine all his attitudes and behavior in the future. So in this case a mother is expected to show a good role model in front of the child. A good mother has criteria including, loving not reviling and insulting, being fair not showing favoritism, praying for goodness, educating not ignoring (Aini, 2020). Research says that the level of development of girls is faster than adolescent boys (Nurhasanah & Ningsih, 2023). The method of educating above is the way parents, especially mothers, educate children which refers to guiding, serving and directing children. This is done by parents by looking at the situation experienced by children according to their age development.

Mother's role in shaping children's morals

Morals come from religion, and religion has values for human life as an individual and in relation to social life. Meanwhile, according to Ibn Maskawih in Nur lailatul Fitri, morals are a state of soul that invites a person to do an act without thinking and calculating beforehand (Fitri, 2017). Educating is a way to realize the formation of Islamic morals in children. Morals cannot be formed spontaneously, it must go through various stages and directed and continuous coaching.

The exemplary method is a way that a person takes in the educational process through actions or behaviors that are worthy of imitation. The habituation method can be done by repetition of good habits that are taught and require a long time (Manan, 2017). The reality that is developing today, the younger generation is experiencing a moral and attitudinal crisis. Starting from fights between students, many teenagers drop out of school, drug abuse, alcohol, free sex, theft. One of the factors that influence the problem is that the family does not run harmoniously in fostering and building a household.

Parents are the main factor in educating children and always pay attention and direct the growth and development of a child through other factors so that children can interact and behave properly. The most dominant thing in shaping the value system in an individual is religion (Jalaluddin, 2016). This mindset must be based on an understanding of religion, because religion is the main foundation that contains the rules of life so that a person in running his life is in line with his religion. The state of the human soul or character in general is more likely to follow lust. In connection with this, these morals can be formed in a better direction in accordance with their belief in Allah SWT so that the person has characteristics.

Forming morals must be formed through a process that requires external influence and encouragement through guidance, training, or guidance experience is needed to prepare to form a good person before making a choice of life partner. One study said that one of the

highest problem categories was personality at 44% (Nurhasanah & Farozin, 2019). Efforts in preparing pious children, Islam designs coaching steps since the process of family formation. The mother's potential as an educator has been going on since the baby is in the womb (Jalaluddin, 2016). The Islamic morals of children can be formed while the mother is pregnant or prenatal. This can be done by familiarizing oneself with always listening to the recitation of the Qur'an.

Islamic education during prenatal has been arranged according to the category of Islamic education material in Permana Octofrezi by praying for the fetus and building communication with the fetus (Octofrezi, 2020). This stimulation is a stage in prenatal guidance and guidance with the aim that the fetus receives stimulation signals to train the activeness of the fetus while in the womb. Because since the womb, the sense of hearing has begun to develop. Therefore, at this time stimuli that contain spiritual aspects, will be able to have a positive impact on fetal development.

The essence of the method of educating children in the womb or prenatal is in a simple way, namely by providing stimulation. As for the stimulation of babies in the womb that parents can do, remembering Allah SWT a lot by asking for forgiveness and repentance, doing a lot of worship by doing sunnah worship, reading a lot of the Qur'an, always having good morals, being patient, and respecting family, being confident and happy by tightening relationships with husband and family, calm and positive (Unikotul, 2021). The above stimuli are always carried out by parents, especially mothers, as a form of habituation to apply useful activities and also as a form of maternal interaction in forming inner bonds during pregnancy. And during pregnancy, it is strived to be calm until approaching the period of labor so that labor goes smoothly.

Conclusion

The role of mothers in educating children can be done first through breastfeeding patterns. During the breastfeeding period, educational activities refer to the formation of the basics of personality. Starting from the formation of emotional relationships and affection. Second is parenting, which is the role of the mother more specifically when viewed from the point of view of education as a system. As an educational tool, the function and role of the mother refers to the mother as a role model for her children. Third, the role of mothers in shaping children's character can be done through stages of coaching and guidance. Premarital coaching and guidance, prenatal coaching and guidance, and postnatal coaching and guidance.

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