



Analysis of The Impact of Fatherlessness on The Religious and Moral Development of Early Childhood in Tanjung Deah Village

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the impact of fatherlessness on the religious and moral development of children in Gampong Tanjung Deah. The research method involved surveys and interviews with affected parents and children. The results indicate that fatherlessness significantly affects the religious and moral development of children in the area. Children growing up without fathers tend to struggle in acquiring strong religious understanding and moral values. The discussion encompasses factors influencing these impacts, such as social support, economic factors, and education. The conclusion highlights the importance of the father's role in shaping the religious and moral foundation of children, highlighting the need for community support and policies to assist affected families. Without the presence of a father, children tend to lack a crucial figure in acquiring a strong understanding of religion and morals. Factors such as social support, especially from family and the community, can play a significant role in helping children overcome these difficulties. Additionally, economic aspects also influence this, as a lack of resources can hinder children's access to adequate religious and moral education. Therefore, efforts to improve social and economic support for affected families are crucial. Education also needs to be strengthened in providing religious and moral understanding to children without paternal presence. Through a deep understanding of the factors affecting the impact of fatherlessness, communities and governments can develop more effective strategies to support the religious and moral development of children in such situations.

INTRODUCTION

Early childhood is a child aged 0-6 years, this age is a very determining age in the formation of a child's character and personality, including early childhood is a child aged 0-6 years (Faizatul Faridy & Widia Wati 2023). This research introduction has high urgency because it relates to actual conditions and problems that must be resolved. In this context, the problem studied is the impact of fatherlessness on the religious and moral development of early childhood in Gampong Tanjung Deah. The phenomenon of fatherlessness or the absence of a father figure in the family has become a significant issue in society, including in Indonesia (Wuryaningsih & Prasetyo, 2022). The absence of a father in the parenting process can influence the development of religious and moral values in children, these aspects are very crucial in shaping a child's character. Therefore, the aim of this research is to explore the consequences of fatherlessness and provide solutions or suggestions that can solve this problem (Kholila & Khadijah, 2023).

The phenomenon of fatherlessness raises serious questions about how the absence of a father figure affects children, especially in terms of religion and morals. A number of studies have been conducted regarding the impact of fatherlessness. However, understanding of its influence on the growth of religiosity and morality of young children in Gampong Tanjung Deah is still limited. This study is aimed at covering this deficiency by specifically examining the influence of the absence of a father figure on the religious and moral dimensions of young children in this area. Previously, research on fatherlessness tended to be more general in scope or focused on other aspects such as academic achievement or psychological aspects.

Therefore, this research is very important because it looks closely at the influence of fatherlessness on the growth of religiosity and morality in young children (Wahyuni et al., 2021). It is hoped that this study will provide deeper insight into this issue and produce useful suggestions for the community and institutions interested in dealing with this problem.

In looking at the gaps in previous research, this research notes that a number of studies have been conducted related to the impact of fatherlessness. However, there is still a lack of understanding the specific impact on the evolution of religion and moral values in early childhood in Gampong Tanjung Deah. Most studies conducted previously tended to be more general in nature or focused on other aspects such as academic achievement or psychological states. Thus, this research aims to overcome these shortcomings by specifically examining the influence of fatherlessness on the development of religious and moral aspects in early childhood in Gampong Tanjung Deah. According to Nurmalasari et al., 2024, Difference: This research is more general in its focus, not limited to religious and moral aspects. Meanwhile, the title *Analysis of the Impact of Fatherlessness on the Religious and Moral Development of Children in Gampong Tanjung Deah* is more specific. Similarities: Both discuss the impact of losing a father figure (*Fatherless*) on child development, although with different approaches and scope of analysis. According to Nurjanah et al., 2023, Difference: The main focus of this research is on the impact of Fatherlessness on children's learning achievement, while research in Gampong Tanjung Deah considers its impact on religion and morals.

Similarities: Both discuss the impact of Fatherless, although in different aspects According to (Harti, 2023) Difference: This research aims to examine strategies for developing religious and moral values broadly, while the study conducted in Gampong Tanjung Deah focused more on the influence of losing a father on the development of religious and moral values. The similarity that can be seen is that these two studies both emphasize aspects of the development of religious and moral values, even though they use different approaches. Other opinions follow (Munjiat, 2017) Difference: This research emphasizes an Islamic perspective in studying the impact of Fatherlessness on children's character, while research in Gampong Tanjung Deah is more general in approach. Similarities: Both consider the impact of the loss of a father figure on the development of a child's character and values, although from different perspectives.

This research aims to find solutions to recognized problems by investigating the factors that influence the effects of fatherlessness on children's religious and moral development. Apart from that, this research will also look for effective strategies or interventions to minimize the negative impacts of fatherlessness and strengthen religious and moral development in early childhood in Gampong Tanjung Deah.

The aim of this research is to produce a better understanding of the impact of fatherlessness on the religious and moral development of early childhood in Gampong Tanjung Deah and to provide recommendations that can help the community and related institutions in overcoming this problem. Thus, it is hoped that this research can make a positive contribution in improving the welfare and quality of life of children in Gampong Tanjung Deah.

The impact of fatherlessness is not only individual, but also has broad social implications. The family is the basic unit in society, and the absence of a father figure can disrupt the overall family dynamic. Thus, it is very crucial to understand the impact of fatherlessness on children's evolution in various aspects of life, including in matters of religion and morality (James Sinurat, Musnar Indra, Daulay, 2020).

Religious and moral aspects in children's growth and development are key elements that shape their character. Religion can provide a strong moral foundation for children, while morality forms the basis of their behavior in interacting with the surrounding environment (Jamiatul et al., 2020). The presence of a father figure in this process has a significant impact. Fathers often serve as role models in families, providing moral and spiritual guidance to their children. However, the absence of a father figure can result in deficiencies in fulfilling children's emotional, social and spiritual needs. This can impact children's understanding of religion and morals, as they may not receive consistent examples or sufficient guidance (Nihayati, 2023). Therefore, it is very important to examine the impact of fatherlessness on children's early religious and moral development. Gampong Tanjung Deah was chosen as the research location because it provides an opportunity to explore the influence of fatherlessness in a specific cultural and social context. Each region has different family and social dynamics, which can influence the way fatherlessness affects children (Aprida & Suyadi, 2022). By understanding the local context, it is hoped that this research can provide a deeper understanding of this phenomenon and help in designing appropriate interventions according to the needs of local communities.

Furthermore, this research will also explore various strategies or actions that can be implemented to minimize the negative effects of fatherlessness and to enrich the religious and moral development of young children in Gampong Tanjung Deah. This can involve a cross-sectoral approach involving families, communities, and educational and religious institutions. For example, family support programs, parent training, or developing a more inclusive religious curriculum.

This research aims to gain a deeper understanding of the influence of fatherlessness on the religious and moral development of young children in Gampong Tanjung Deah. In this way, it is hoped that solutions or recommendations can be found that can help the community and related institutions in overcoming this problem. It is hoped that the positive impact of this research will be felt by children and their families, as well as by the Gampong Tanjung Deah community as a whole.

This research focuses on age restrictions for children, highlighting the influence of fatherlessness on the religious and moral development of children aged 5 and 6 years in Gampong Tanjung Deah. This age of children represents a critical phase in their development, where religious and moral foundations usually begin to be formed. Therefore, limiting the age of the study to children aged 5-6 years allows the research to focus more on this critical period and how fatherlessness affects their religious and moral development (Waroka, 2022).

METHODS

This section explains in detail the research process carried out. First, we will explain the research design used. Second, we will discuss the population and sample that are the research targets. Third, data collection techniques will be described, including interviews with mothers of fatherless children, documentation, observation, and instrument development. Fourth, the data analysis techniques that will be used include three aspects, namely data reduction, data visualization, and drawing conclusions/verification. This research design adopted a qualitative descriptive approach. This approach was chosen to allow researchers to gain an in-depth understanding of the experiences and perceptions of mothers who have children without fathers, regarding the religious and moral development of their children. Through this qualitative approach, this phenomenon can be explored thoroughly and contextually (Sri Suharti & Karoma, 2023).

Population and Sample (Research Target): This research focuses on mothers in Gampong Tanjung Deah who have children who grow up without the presence of a father. To select the sample, a purposive method was used with specific criteria: mothers whose children were 5 and 6 years old, had lost a father figure, and were willing to take part in the research. The sample size was adjusted to capture variation in mothers' experiences and perspectives.

The data collection method involved in-depth interviews with mothers whose children grew up without fathers in Gampong Tanjung Deah. The interviews aimed to understand mothers' experiences and perceptions regarding their children's religious and moral development. Documentation is used to support information from interviews, recording children's religious activities and daily observations. Observations were carried out to pay attention to children's behavior in the context of their religious activities and daily activities (Sri Suharti & Karoma, 2023). Instruments such as interview guides and observation checklists were developed to ensure the relevance and accuracy of the data collected. **Data Analysis Techniques:** **Data Reduction:** The data collected was analyzed by identifying main themes and gaining a deeper understanding of mothers' experiences related to children's religious and moral development. **Data Display:** The results of the analysis are presented in the form of narratives, direct quotes from interviews, and images depicting the main research findings. **Conclusion/Verification:** Conclusions are drawn based on the data analysis that has been carried out. Verification is carried out by comparing the findings with relevant theories and triangulating the data to ensure the validity of the research results.

RESULT

The results of this research confirm the impact of the absence of a father or fatherlessness on children's development. These findings are based on data analysis that has been carried out.

Table 1. Analysis of the impact of fatherlessness

No	Developmental Aspects	Description of the impact of fatherlessness
1	Development of Religion	Children may have difficulty understanding and consistently practicing religious teachings.
2	Moral Development	The absence of a father figure can affect the formation of moral values in

children. They may have difficulty understanding and implementing moral values in their daily activities.

(source: results from research on religion and morals)

The following are the results of the discussion regarding the influence of the absence of a father on children's religious and moral development:

This research reveals that the absence of a father has a significant impact on the religious and moral development of young children in Gampong Tanjung Deah. The results of field observations show that children who do not have a father present often experience difficulties in understanding and internalizing religious values. They also show a tendency to face challenges in understanding and applying moral norms in everyday life.

Interviews with 5 parents or guardians who care for children in the absence of fathers revealed that they often find it difficult to provide consistent and in-depth religious education to their children. They noted that the role of a father is very important in providing examples and direct teaching related to spiritual and moral values.

Documentation from educational and social institutions in Gampong Tanjung Deah reinforces these findings by showing that fatherless children often experience greater social and emotional difficulties, which have the potential to impact their overall development.

Field observations carried out in this research showed several relevant results regarding the impact of the absence of a father on the religious and moral development of early childhood in Gampong Tanjung Deah:

1. **Limited Understanding of Religion:** Children who do not have a father present often face difficulties in understanding religious concepts. They tend to have limited knowledge about spiritual values such as prayer, religious rituals, and the meaning of the religious stories taught.
2. **Difficulty in Practicing Religious Values:** These children also show difficulty in practicing religious values in everyday life. For example, they may not be actively involved in religious activities such as worship or religious group activities that can strengthen their understanding and appreciation of religion.
3. **Challenges in Understanding Moral Norms:** Observations also reveal that fatherless children often have difficulty understanding and applying moral norms. They may lack direct guidance in dealing with complex moral situations or making decisions based on instilled ethical values.
4. **Emotional and Social Impact:** These children may exhibit more problematic social behavior patterns or have difficulty managing their emotions well. The absence of a father as an authority figure or strong example in influencing their moral behavior and social relationships can affect their interactions with their surrounding environment.

This observation provides a real picture of how the absence of a father can affect the understanding and practice of religion, as well as the development of moral values in young children in Gampong Tanjung Deah. The implications of these findings highlight the important role of fathers in providing consistent spiritual and moral guidance for optimal development of children in these communities.

In its conclusion, this research highlights the important role of fathers in shaping children's character and moral values. The presence of a father not only provides financial support but also plays an important role in providing the moral and spiritual guidance necessary in the development of early childhood.

DISCUSSION

In this article, researchers analyze the impact of fatherlessness on individual religious and moral development. The analysis was carried out taking into account previous research and the proposed hypotheses (Mile & Qothrunnada, 2023). The findings of this analysis have far-reaching and significant implications which are carefully discussed in the appropriate context. Researchers also highlight future research directions that could expand understanding of the impact of fatherlessness on religious and moral development.

In exploring their findings, researchers found that some results were consistent with previous findings. This can emphasize the importance of the father's role in forming religion and morals in individuals. However, there are also results that show an impact that is contrary to previous research. For example, researchers found that some individuals were without a father figure (Safitri et al., 2019) can develop a strong value system, highlighting the complexity in the factors that influence religious and moral development. The implications of these findings are broad, including contributions to understanding of the importance of fathers' roles in religious and moral development, (Nurwita, 2019) as well as its relevance in practical contexts such as parenting and social interventions. As for future research directions, researchers suggest further exploring factors that can reduce the negative impact of fatherlessness and understanding the mechanisms underlying the relationship between the presence of fathers and religious and moral development (Nurwita, 2019).

However, the researcher acknowledges that there are several limitations in this research, including the data collection methods and limitations of the sample used. This indicates the importance of further research to deepen understanding of the influence of fatherlessness on religious and moral development. Overall, the analysis presented in this article makes an important contribution to our understanding of the vital role of fathers in shaping religious and moral values, while revealing the complexity of this phenomenon and offering promising new research avenues for further exploration.

"The Impact of Fatherlessness on Early Childhood Development" from the Journal of the Early Childhood Education Study Program, 2021, may relate the research results to several relevant theories in developmental psychology and early childhood education. One of them is attachment theory or bond theory, which states that a child's relationship with the main guardian figure, including the father, greatly influences the child's social, emotional and cognitive development. In this context, such research may find that the absence of a father figure can interfere with the formation of secure attachments in children, which then has an impact on their religious and moral development. In addition, theories about the role of models in learning and identification are also relevant. Children often imitate the behavior and values they see in the adults around them. With a lack of father presence, children may miss out on models that are important in developing a solid understanding of religion and morals. These theories can help explain how the impact of fatherlessness affects early childhood development in terms of religion and morals.

"The Phenomenon of Fatherlessness in Families from a Legal Perspective" by Ezra Salwa Wahyu Zarkasyi, USRAH Journal, Volume 4 Number 2, October 2023, may relate the research results to several theories of family law and sociology. One relevant theory is the theory about the role of fathers in the family from a legal and social perspective. This research may address how the absence of a father in the family may affect family dynamics, children's rights, and parental responsibilities under the law. This theory can also consider the concept of parental

responsibility and the division of gender roles in the context of family law. In addition, this study may also relate its results to theories about the social and psychological impact of the absence of a father in the family. These theories discuss how the absence of a father figure can affect children's well-being, family identity, and patterns of interpersonal relationships within the family. Through this analysis, the research can provide insight into how the phenomenon of fatherlessness affects families legally and socially, as well as its implications in the broader societal context.

CONCLUSION

The conclusion from the research is that the presence of a father in the family is a key factor in guiding children in understanding and internalizing religious and moral values. Without a father present, children often face difficulty in developing a solid understanding of moral and spiritual principles. These findings highlight the need for community support to strengthen the role of fathers in the formation of children's character. Therefore, social and family intervention measures that strengthen fathers' involvement in children's lives can be an effective strategy in improving the welfare and moral development of children in Gampong Tanjung Deah. Thus, collaborative efforts between families, communities and local governments can help create an environment that supports children's holistic development, which in turn will have a positive impact on their future as moral and responsible individuals.

In the context of analyzing the impact of fatherhood on the religious and moral development of early childhood in Gampong Tanjung Deah, the presence of fathers in the family is a key factor in guiding children in understanding and internalizing religious and moral values. Without a father present, children often face difficulty in developing a solid understanding of moral and spiritual principles.

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The author hopes that this paper can become a source of information for readers. We realize that nothing is perfect, including this paper. Therefore, we acknowledge that there are deficiencies in this journal that can be corrected in the future.

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