THE ROLE OF SINGLE PARENT IN EDUCATING CHILDREN'S RELIGION
(Case Study in Sawahan Hamlet)

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Abstract

For single parents, their tasks and responsibilities are so extensive. They have multiple roles in assisting children alone. This study aims at finding out how single parents give their children a religious education. The subjects of the research are 8 single parents situated in Sawahan hamlet. In this study, the researcher utilized a qualitative approach with interview, observation, and documentation methods. Moreover, the data analysis methods were descriptive analytics and triangulation. The study findings reveal that single parents in Sawahan hamlet offer guidance on religious matters, emphasizing politeness and fostering a spirit of mutual assistance. Additionally, they impart socialization skills to their children, facilitating their integration into society. Various educational approaches are employed by single parents, including setting examples, modeling behavior, instilling habits, repetition, and motivation. Challenges encountered by single parents encompass suboptimal child care due to the absence of a spouse, insufficient support and encouragement from relatives, and the burden of sole responsibility for meeting economic needs.

Keywords: *Parents' Roles, Single Parents, Religious Education*

1. INTRODUCTION

The family is the smallest major social group in which there are parents and children, and a child will socialize with family members before he or she associates with the surrounding environment. A child's future development will be greatly influenced by the child's early interactions with the family. In addition, the family will teach its members correct behavior, politeness, and daily routines. Children grow and develop in the family first and foremost if they are raised in a positive environment, they will also develop positively (Haderani, 2019). Parents are people who have committed to marriage and are ready to take on the responsibilities of parenthood. Parents are humans known as fathers and mothers who carry out daily obligations in the household (Sulastri & Tarmizi, 2017).

The role of parents in educating children in the form of religious education in the family is the instillation of faith into the child's soul, and for the implementation of this maximally can only be done in a domestic environment. Then parents play a role in guiding and directing their children to further explore the meaning of faith. The role of parents in religious education is in the form of providing good examples of the strength of faith in God in the family (Witro, 2019). The task and role of parents is the first unit in society where the relationships in it are mostly direct relationships. That is where the formation of stages and the beginning of development begins to interact, in the family parents play a very important role because in a child's life most of the time is spent outside the environment. Thus, the family or parents are an important factor in educating their children both religious, social and individual angles (Cholil, 2013). Single parent people

who perform parental duties (father or mother) alone, due to loss / separation from their partner.

Single parent itself is caused by two things that are desired or intentional, there are also unwanted things that can occur due to tragedy. In deliberate conditions, it is usually embraced by women who demand equality and rights with men. In these conditions, women have usually prepared themselves thoroughly, as well as in terms of finance and have principles that are held in living their lives as single parents (Sulistyowati, 2014). Based on interviews conducted by the authors with single parents in Sawahan Hamlet, there are 8 family members who have single parent status across the following villages: Karanggondang, Sawahan, Sakulan, and Bakalan. Many Single Parent families are formed because one of the parents passes away, leaving behind children who are still attending school (Desy, 2015). Kids who grow up with single parents sometimes become disobedient and may not participate in community events. Undoubtedly, this can be attributed to the influence of both mothers and fathers who raise them (Denny & Palupi, 2016).

In this study, there are three main goals. The first one is to understand how Single Parent parents contribute to the religious education of children in Sawahan Hamlet. The second objective is to explore the different methods that Single Parent parents use to educate their children about religion in Sawahan Hamlet. Lastly, the study aims to identify the challenges and obstacles that Single Parent parents face when it comes to educating their children about religion in Sawahan Hamlet.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses qualitative research methods According to Sugiyono, qualitative research methods are research methods based on philosophies used to research on scientific conditions (experiments) where researchers are instruments, data collection techniques and qualitative analysis emphasize meaning (Zuchri, 2021). Qualitative research methodology aims to analyze and describe phenomena or research objects through social activities, ready and perceptions of people individually or in groups (Sugiyono, 2018). Research subjects that researchers can do in the form of people or information because informants in research are important data sources in this study. In this study, researchers determined sampling by looking at the criteria for research subjects, there are the criteria for researchers in choosing research subjects: First, residents who are single parents (widows or widowers) (Emzir, 2014). Second, residents who have children who are still in school or teenagers. Third, residents who are Muslim. This study uses several data collection techniques to obtain information or data. This is needed by the author to help answer and explain the problems in this study.

The author employs various data collection techniques in the study, including observation, interview, documentation, data reduction, data exposure, and conclusion drawing. Observation involves direct observation of the subject under study, which can be systematic or sensory-based. Interviews are structured, semi-structured, or unstructured conversations aimed at gathering specific information. Documentation entails gathering data from existing reports or official documents. Data reduction involves simplifying collected data to extract essential information for analysis. Data exposure ensures clarity and comparability of the gathered data. Finally, conclusions are drawn

based on thematic analysis, aiming to ascertain accuracy through techniques like triangulation, which involves cross-referencing data from multiple sources, using different methods, and considering varying timeframes to enhance credibility.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Sawahan hamlet is situated within the Pendowoharjo sub-district along Jalan Bantul Km 09 and encompasses four villages: Karanggondang, Sawahan, Sakulan, and Bakalan. Comprising 6 RTs (Neighborhood Associations), the hamlet spans from RT 09 in Bakalan Village, RT 10 in Sakulan Village, RT 11 in Sawahan hamlet, and RTs 12, 13, and 14 in Karanggondang Village. Sawahan hamlet boasts a total of 566 households (family cards) and a population of 1,578 individuals. Predominantly Muslim, the hamlet consists of 93% Muslims, 6% Catholics, and 1% Christians. Additionally, Sawahan Hamlet is home to several single-parent households, with the distribution outlined in the following table:

Table 1. Number of Single Parents

No	Hamlet	Total
1	Karanggondang	4 Parents
2	Sawahan	19 Parents
3	Sakulan	2 Parents
4	Bakalan	5 Parents

Source: Pendowoharjo Village Data, 2023

Judging from table 1, it shows that single parents in Sawahan Hamlet are most numerous in Sawahan hamlet, totaling 19 parents.

a. The Role of Single Parents in Educating Children's Religion

The role of parents in educating children is an obligation that must be carried out, educating children's religion is one of them. Because the family is the first environment that influences children, including in terms of belief, therefore parents must have a strong Aqidah before teaching it to children. The following are forms of religious education for single parent parents in educating children's religion:

a) Worship Education

Children's worship includes Al-Quran education, prayer education, fasting education and teaching in carrying out activities with daily prayers. In educating religion related to Al-Quran Education, single parent parents in Sawahan Hamlet, some put their children into the Al-Quran Education Park (TPA) and some are accompanied or guided when reciting the Koran at home (Ulfa & Sopiah, 2015). In educating religion related to prayer education, single parent parents in Sawahan hamlet, that in worship they always remind their children at prayer time and some are still instructed because the children are still small. In educating religion related to Fasting worship education, single parent parents in Sawahan Hamlet, that in carrying out fasting there are those who remind when their children still have fasting debts to replace fasting with sunnah fasting such as Monday & Thursday fasting and then there are also those who only fast during the month of Ramadan. In educating religion related to daily prayer habituation education, single

parent parents in Sawahan hamlet, that in teaching daily prayers there are those who always guide their children to use daily prayers.

The task and role of parents is the first unit in society where the relationships in it are mostly direct relationships. That is where the formation of stages and the beginning of development begins to interact, in the family parents play a very important role because in a child's life most of the time is spent outside the environment. Thus, the family or parents are an important factor in educating their children both religious, social and individual angles (Cholil, 2013). As explained by the following informant:

"For the recitation every afternoon and evening, I always accompany you when reciting the Koran, and I always remind you to always send the letter Al-Fatihah to his father after the evening prayer, if there is still time to wait for the evening prayer, I invite you to recite the Koran together too. Then for the prayer of the first child, Alhamdulillah, it is already 5 times yes, because I often familiarize and remind him to pray, but for the second child, he is still small so he is still inconsistent, but sometimes at school he prays in congregation with his friends. Then for the fasting, it's only during Ramadan, so children also rarely fast when it's not Ramadan. As for daily prayers, I do teach them to the children, the little one is always the one who leads the meal prayer when he is eating with me and his brother. "

The results of the interview show that parents are very concerned about their children in terms of religion, which also happens to be their mother who can recite the Koran. The role of parents in educating children in the form of religious education in the family is the instillation of faith into the child's soul, and for the implementation of this maximally can only be done in a household environment (Pancarrani et al., 2017). Further, parents play a role in guiding and directing their children to further explore the meaning of faith. The role of parents in religious education in the form of providing good examples of the strength of faith in God in the family.

b) *Mu'amalah* education

The role of parents in the matter of *Muamallah* is not only done in the home but also outside the home such as socializing in the village and instilling an attitude of helping others (Rochmah, 2014). Establishing brotherly relations to the association between fellow humans well. Likewise, children who live in the community will definitely feel socializing with other people. As for parents who strongly support and guide their children in terms of helping, of course they also support socializing. But there are also parents who continue to guide their children in terms of helping but some limit their children to socialize. This was conveyed by the following informant:

"In terms of socializing, I still limit my first child, maybe if now he sometimes participates in youth organizations, but for the little ones I still limit it, maybe if he is a little older, I will allow him to socialize. Because I am still traumatized and I also want to protect my child's feelings when hanging out with friends who still have intact families. To fellow orphans my child always gives alms in the form of food or money".

From the interview excerpt, parents in the past still limited children to socialize because they were still traumatized, but for now children are allowed to socialize as explained by Mead that every new member of society must learn the roles that exist in society, a process called role return (role talking). In this process a person learns to know the role he must play and the role that others must play. Through mastering the roles that exist in this society, a person can interact with others. In the socialization stage, a child's interaction is usually limited to a small number of other people, usually family members, especially father and mother. People who are important in this socialization process are called significant others. This is in accordance with the following stages:

1) In the play stage, a young child begins to learn to take on the roles of people around him. He begins to imitate the role played by his parents, for example when the role of other adults with whom he often interacts. Thus, we often see young children who when playing imitate the roles played by their father, mother, brother, and others, but fully at this stage the child does not yet understand the content of the roles he imitates.
2) The game stage a child not only knows the role he must play, but also knows the role that others with whom he interacts must play.
3) The third stage of socialization, a person is considered to have been able to take on the roles played by others in society, able to take on the role of generalized others. He has been able to interact with others in society because he has understood his own role and the role of others with whom he interacts. Then this child has understood the role that parents play. If someone has reached this stage then according to Mead that person has an identity. From Mead's views, it is clear that his stance is that a person's self is shaped through interaction with others (Pusat'Aisyiyah, 2016).

c) *Akhlaq* Education

The role of parents in moral education must also be given to their children, correct moral education both at home and in the environment (Astuti, 2020). Taking care of children with love and affection will bring out noble, gentle and consistent traits. If parents do not provide moral education that is not correct, the child will not be polite and well-mannered (Isma, 2016). Bad morals will lead to bold and hostile behavior. Likewise, children who are successfully educated by parents will grow polite attitudes and speech in communication and good deeds (Jasuri, 2015).

As explained by informant 1:

"When my child wants to go to school or go anywhere, he always says goodbye, then when he comes home late there is also communication with me."

From the interview excerpt that parents are very concerned about children's morals, when children will travel, parents always remind their children to always say goodbye. As explained by D.Lawrence Kincaid and Wilbur Schramm that parents are the promoter (main) factor that determines the development and maturity of a child's thinking power, parental communication to children, among others, aims to direct and educate morals in everyday life (Rahmawati, 2017). Usually, the communication that takes place between parents and children is in accordance with the age level of the child. Communication will

be effective if given in the form of direct examples to children, especially the morals of instilling Islamic values such as instilling *akhlaqul karimah* and noble character in accordance with the Al-Quran and Hadith in children so that they can filter various things in facing challenges when children begin to mature (Hasibuan, 2007).

b. Single Parent's Method in Educating Children's Religion

The method is described as a process or step used in communicating an idea, thought, and insight that is arranged deliberately, planned, and based on theory and concept, according to Abuddin Nata in Moh Haitami S. The methods used by single parent parents in Sawahan hamlet to educate their children: Method of Exemplary, Method of Example, Method of AccustomingEducating children is an effort to teach children about the material and knowledge that will be given to children from childhood to adulthood. Educating is also related to morals and personality when viewed in terms of the process of educating related to providing motivation to learn and also follow the provisions or subsequent rules. Educating in terms of strategies and methods used to educate uses more exemplary and habituation, repetition methods, and motivational methods. As explained by the following informant:

"*Because it also happens that my big child is no longer going to school so I go alone. If you really want to go somewhere after school, you always tell me because I once told you that if you want to go somewhere, you have to tell your mother first if you are not honest about where you want to go, so you lie to your mother, so that children understand their honesty*."

Likewise, another informant said:

"I once told my child, when my child asks for money to buy things, then I first make sure that the child wants to buy the items needed but if later my child does not buy the appropriate items, then I will not give him more money. But for now, my child is always honest when he asks for money to buy things for school. "

From the interview excerpt, it states that parents always foster the nature of honesty to their children so that children form noble morals. As explained by Abuddin Nata and Moh Haitami that in this case it is included in the exemplary method The most effective way of education is exemplary, because children learn from, see, and interact with their parents. Children will develop in honesty and will form noble morals, making them brave and able to escape from behavior that is prohibited by religion, if parents act honestly, are trustworthy, have noble morals, are brave, and refrain from doing so (Widiyastuti, 2019).

c. Constraints of Single Parents in Educating Children's Religion

Constraints that affect families, including single men and women, include feeling lonely, feeling trapped by their responsibilities, caring for children and finding a source of income, lack of time for themselves, becoming tired of having to support and raise children alone, experiencing more economic difficulties, and lack of social support in fulfilling their parental role (Widiyastuti, 2019). Obstacles are something that can hinder an effort, but can also be used as a motivation to make changes. In educating a child as a

parent must have their own obstacles, many of them are single parent parents who are overwhelmed in educating their children, supporting their own children and struggling with the economy. As explained by the following informant:

"In educating children, it must be equalized, especially since children have their own characteristics, so I have to adjust. Then the dual role that I have to do in any case."

The results of the interview indicate that parents must be able to educate and also increase their role as parents. Single parents must take on the role of both parents for their children in order to fill the void left by the absent father/mother, resulting in additional responsibilities for single parents (Dwiyani, 2013).

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion, we can conclude that single parents in Sawahan Hamlet play a significant role in educating their children about religion. They consistently prioritize religious education, which includes worship, morals, and Muamallah. The methods they use to teach their children include setting a good example, modeling religious activities, establishing habits of worship, reminding them to give to the poor, and motivating them to develop positive traits. However, single parents in Sawahan Hamlet face challenges such as the heavy responsibility of childcare without a partner, lack of support from siblings, and economic difficulties as they become the sole provider for the family. These constraints can affect the children's learning support and the overall well-being of the family.

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