


The Effect of Fatherless on Children Social Development

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Abstract	A person is said to be fatherless when he does not have a father or does not have a good relationship with his father. The purpose of this study is to determine whether there is an effect of fatherlessness on children's social development. The research is a quantitative study with simple linear regression analysis involving 40 samples consisting of grades 5 and 6 of State Elementary School 4 Metro Barat. The sampling technique used simple random sampling technique. The results of the data analysis showed that the significance value was $p < 0.05$. The findings of this study indicate that there is an effect of fatherlessness on children's social development.	
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INTRODUCTION

Talking about fatherless, the overlapping role of fathers in childcare has recently become an interesting study. On the other hand, the cause of fatherlessness is the high divorce rate. Divorce is one of the main causes of fatherlessness in Indonesia (Majid & Abdullah, 2024; Wahyuni et al., 2023). Indeed, fatherlessness has a negative impact on the development of a child. Children who grow up without a father are more prone to emotional problems. In fact, children who grow up without a father are more prone to emotional problems, such as anxiety, depression, and antisocial behavior (Anesti & Abdullah, 2024; Fajriyanti et al., 2024).

Based on a preliminary study, it was found that a child with the initials R was victimized by his parents' divorce. As a result, the child became quiet and had difficulty concentrating on learning and even associating with peers, even though he sometimes felt afraid. This is because children who grow up without a father do not have a father figure who can be a source of love, support, and guidance. Parents play a very important role in caring for children. Not only mothers, but fathers are also very important in terms of care (Marco-Gracia, 2021; Wulandari & Shafarani, 2023). A person is said to be fatherless when he does not have a close relationship with his father and loses the important role of the father in his parents' marriage due to divorce or other problems. Fathers have an influence in several specific areas of child development, namely teaching freedom, broadening children's views, strict discipline, and role models for children (Freeks, 2022; Syahrul & Nurhafizah, 2021). In this study, researchers focused on the influence of fatherlessness on children's social development.

Social development is a process that develops a child's ability to adjust in a broader social field (Chaer & Octofrezi, 2021). In this process, children are expected to understand others and be able to put themselves from the point of view of others without losing themselves (Dasalinda & Karneli, 2021). A child's social development can be influenced by many factors, both internal factors and external factors, such as family and environment (Nandwijawa & Aulia, 2020). These external factors consist of the context or circumstances in which they live and the social context or how they interact with the social environment around them (Fitri, M., & Na'imah, 2020). Examples of external factors

include culture, poverty and government policies. As for internal factors that come from within the individual, examples include the death of the father, divorce and illness. It is important for parents to understand the internal and external factors that can affect children's social development. By understanding these factors, parents can provide appropriate support for children to develop optimally in their social aspects (Aurelia et al., 2022; Muali & Fatmawati, 2022).

In the parenting pattern it self, there are different forms of support and characteristics between father and mother parenting. The difference in the characteristics of fathers and mothers in the parenting model is one of the factors that has led to many comments in society that mothers who should be successful in their roles and duties are able to raise, guide and educate their children to be successful in education and encourage their children to achieve success (Chang et al., 2023; Nurmalasari et al., 2024). Likewise, the role of a father is very important in helping children grow and develop. The role of mothers and fathers has a great influence on the development and success of children at all stages of their development. If a family where the cooperation between father and mother is good, conflicts are rarely heard in it, then the child's socialization can run smoothly, because there are no factors that affect the child's socialization process (Freeks, F. E., & De Jager, 2023; Hayati & Mamat, 2014).

Children's social development is an important thing to pay attention to. It is important for parents, especially fathers, to understand their roles and responsibilities in supporting children's social development (Hayati & Mamat, 2014; White et al., 2021). It can be said that the psychological development of early adolescents is seen because they begin to build self-identity, the ability to understand ideas, develop creativity. Not only that, in this age range, early adolescents also begin to show independence so as not to continue to depend on parents (Nandwijiwa & Aulia, 2020; Sobari, 2022).

Rationale of Study

Family is the smallest social unit that plays an important role in shaping children's character and personality. The presence of parents, both father and mother, is very important in the process of child development, especially in social aspects. Fatherlessness can be caused by various factors such as divorce, death, neglect, or situations where the father is physically absent from the child's life. This study is important due to the increasing number of fatherless cases in modern society, which affects various aspects of child development including children's social development.

Aims and Hypotheses

This study aims to determine the effect of fatherlessness on children's social development. The hypothesis proposed in this study is that there is an influence of fatherless on children's social development. This research is expected to provide insight into how fatherless affects children's social development such as social interaction, communication skills, and children's ability to form healthy relationships with others.

METHOD

Research Design

The research used is quantitative research. The research design that researchers use is correlational research with linieir seideirhana reigreition analysis.

Participants

The sampling technique used is simple random sampling technique. The number of samples of this study were 40 children consisting of grades 5 and 6 of West Metro 4 State Elementary School.

Instrumentation

This study utilized a quantitative research instrument (questionnaire) that uses a scale like the fatherless scale to analyze children's fatherlessness and social balance. The fatherless scale consists of 20 statements with 5 answer options on each statement, namely Strongly Agree (SS), Agree (S), Neutral (N), Disagree (TS), or Strongly Disagree (STS). The child's social development scale consists of 20 statements with 5 answer options for each statement, namely Strongly Agree (SS), Agree (S), Neutral (N), Disagree (TS), or Strongly Disagree (STS). The results of the validity test of the 2 scales used amounted to 0.312 so that it can be said to be valid. While the reliability test results show a Cronbach's Alpha value of 0.816 on the fatherless scale and 0.857 on the child's social balance scale. Thus the 2 scales are declared reliable.

Data Analysis

In accordance with the problems discussed, where researchers examine the influence of fatherlessness on children's social development at SD Negeri 4 Metro Barat. So to analyze the quantitative data that will be obtained using statistical analysis techniques using the linear regression equation formula.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The research results can be seen in table 1. Based on the simple linear regression equation test, the correlation value R is $r = 0.330$ and it is interpreted that the relationship between the two variables is in the strong category. Furthermore, in table 2. also obtained the Adjusted R Square value or $R^2 = 0.85$.

The level of significance or linearity of the regression criteria can be determined based on the significance value test (Sig.) provided that the value of $r < 0.05$ then the regression model is linear. In this study, the significance value of $r = 0.000$ was obtained; $r < 0.05$. Thus the regression equation for this research data is significant. From the description above, it can be concluded that H_0 is rejected and H_1 is accepted in this study, which means that there is an influence of fatherless on children's social development.

Furthermore, based on table 2. the obtained correlation / relationship value (R) is .330 and table 2. the coefficient of determination (R Square) is .109 which can be concluded that the fatherless variable (X) has a positive effect on the child's social development variable (Y) by 10.9%.

Discussion

The results of this study show that there is an influence of fatherlessness on children's social development. This study proves that fatherless conditions have a significant impact on children's social development. This is in line with previous research that children who grow up without a father tend to experience greater emotional problems compared to those who have an active father in their lives (Hadi et al., 2024). Losing a father figure can cause children to feel less secure and stable, potentially leading to anxiety, depression and self-esteem issues. These children often feel less loved and worthless, which can hinder their social development (Fajarrini & Umam, 2023; Junaidin et al., 2023).

Furthermore, father absence also affects children's social skills and interpersonal abilities. Without a father role model, children may have difficulty in understanding and imitating positive social behaviors. They may show difficulty in interacting with peers, managing conflict, and forming healthy and sustainable relationships. Research shows that children from fatherless families are more likely to experience social isolation and have few close friends, which may exacerbate their feelings of loneliness and self-confidence (Alfasma et al., 2022; Dasalinda & Karneli, 2021).

Tabel 1. Results of Simple Linear Regression Test

Variable	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
Fatherless	73.072	14.698		4.972	.000
Social Development	-.431	.200	-.330	-2.155	.038

Tabel 2. Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
Fatherless	.330	.109	.085	9.01533
Social Development				

In academics, children who grow up without a father figure often show lower achievement. Research has found that father absence can reduce a child's motivation to perform well in school and participate in extracurricular activities. The lack of emotional support and guidance from a father figure can make children feel less driven to pursue academic goals. In addition, the emotional problems that fatherless children face can also affect their concentration and performance at school, resulting in poor learning outcomes (Kiromi, 2023; Nurmalasari et al., 2024).

Children's behavior and discipline are also affected by father absence. Research shows that fatherless children are more prone to aggressive and delinquent behavior. Without the guidance and supervision of a father figure, these children may have difficulty in understanding boundaries and the consequences of their actions. They are also more likely to engage in high-risk activities, such as drug and alcohol use, and experience problems with authority in their school and social settings (Utami, 2021; Wuda et al., 2023).

However, it is important to remember that the presence of a surrogate figure can help mitigate the negative impact of the absence of a father figure. Surrogate figures such as grandparents, uncles, or mentors can provide the emotional support and guidance that children need to thrive. Children who have support from these surrogate figures tend to have better social and emotional outcomes compared to those without such support. Interventions that encourage the involvement of surrogate figures can be an effective strategy in helping fatherless children (Damanik & Ritonga, 2024; Darwati, 2023).

Social and economic factors also play an important role in the impact of the absence of a father figure. Limited economic resources often accompany fatherless situations, which can exacerbate the negative impact on children's social development. Children from families with limited resources may not have access to the quality education, extracurricular activities and mental health services they need (Chang et al., 2023; Nurmalasari et al., 2024). Therefore, support from social policies and community programs that provide needed resources and services can help alleviate some of the challenges faced by fatherless children, allowing them to reach their full potential.

Implications

Based on the research that has been presented, there are several important implications that can be drawn, namely the need to increase self-awareness and accept the situation they face. Need to seek social and emotional support from positive adults, such as mothers, grandparents, teachers, or counselors. Need to develop healthy coping strategies to deal with stress and negative emotions. Need to be active in positive activities and build self-confidence. It is important to remember that

every child is different and has different needs. Therefore, it is important to apply strategies that suit the needs and situation of the child. With the implementation of appropriate strategies and support from various parties, it is hoped that children who experience fatherlessness can grow and develop into healthy and happy individuals.

Limitations and Future Research Direction

This research is inseparable from a limitation during the implementation process, such as the delay in the time that researchers use for research due to time constraints, allowing the work to be not maximized. However, the limitations in this study are expected to be input for future researchers. In addition, this study also has the advantage that the distribution of questionnaires was carried out by the researchers themselves in classrooms 5 and 6 without being accompanied by the class teacher.

CONCLUSION

Overall, fatherless has a significant impact on children's social development. However, various factors can moderate this impact, and appropriate interventions can help children overcome the challenges they face. Further research continues to be needed to understand these complex dynamics and develop effective strategies to support the optimal development of children experiencing fatherless.

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