



Tunanetra's Parenting on Early Age Children

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Abstract

This study aimed to describe: (1) the practical application of blind parents' parenting on early age children, (2) blind parents' problem during their practical parenting on early age children. This study used a descriptive qualitative approach with the subjects of the study of blind couples who have children aged 6-7 years old, their family members and their neighbors. The method of data collection was gained through observation, interviews and documentation. The data analysis technique used was data reduction, data presentation and conclusion drawing. The data was validated through triangulation technique. The results showed that in parenting practices, blind parents could conduct their role as parents well, for example by providing adequate and nutritious food, accompanying children's activities such as school, and educating good manners to their children. The problem faced by blind parents during their parenting is when the child is sick. For this problem, they will usually ask for help from those who can see.

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INTRODUCTION

The background of this research is that there is still stigma on people with disabilities, especially blind people. Whereas in their rights and needs they are the same as common people, namely there is a desire to build a family and continue their descent. Although in some cases blind people will experience difficulties and obstacles. Febriana et al (2016) in their study entitled "Parenting Disabilities for Normal Children" mentioned that the basic difficulties experienced by blind parents are when monitoring children's daily activities and when accompanying children to study at home. This is related to the condition of the parents who have vision disabilities. Parents with visual disability will definitely experience physical limitations which impacted on their parental activities.

The number of blind people in Banjarnegara are quite numerous, based on the statement of the Head of the Banjarnegara Social Service as there are around 775 blind people in Banjarnegara Regency. Based on these data, the researcher felt the need to do a research on the practical parenting on early-age children experienced by blind parents. Moreover, early-age parenting is an important phase in a child's life, of which parents must aware, including blind parents. There is also a previous research that examined the parenting style of blind parents. The difference between this study and the previous study can be seen from their field of study. The previous research concerned on blind couple's parenting in adult children while in this study, the researcher will examine blind couple's parenting on early-age children who are 6-7 years old.

Parenting cannot be separated from the relationship or interaction between children and their surrounding environment. The child's environment includes family, school and community, but from these three environments, family has the main role. The process of interaction between children and other family members such as father, mother, brother or sister will shape children's behavior. Because during these interactions, a child will observe everything and various behavior carried out by their surrounding environment. Therefore, family has a big role in the process of fulfilling all the needs of the children or we can usually call it as parenting.

The practice of parenting has an important role for the development of children from their childhood to adulthood. Because in the practice of parenting, parents have a managerial role, where parents will try to fulfill everything their

children's need. Thus, the behavior formed in children cannot be separated from what is taught by parents. Santrock (2007) stated that a child depended on how people in their surrounding can meet their needs, which then made it important for those who took care for them to consistently provide positive and caring parenting style.

Hasan (2009) explained that in the golden age, the practice of forming a basic nervous system has already occurred. In this phase, a connection happened among the nerve cells. The quantity and quality of this connection will greatly affect the intelligence of children. The development period of early-age children is very limited, but it will determine the future of the child. It was limited because it was only up to the age of 6-7 years. This period is very important thus it is called as the golden period (golden age). Starts from this golden period, the development of neurons will begin to decline and stop at a certain age (Masnipal, 2013).

Based on those descriptions, it can be understood how important the parenting in early-age children. However, in fact, not all people are born with perfect conditions both physically and mentally. There are some people who are born or in the process of growth and development have physical or mental limitations that cause some of their sensory functions to be disrupted. People who have this limitation are called people with disabilities or are now better known as disabled.

Someone with a disability / disabilities will experience various obstacles that will affect them on interacting with others. Although they have limitations, people with disabilities, in this case are blind people, also have rights that they must fulfill such as the right to have a family to continue their descent. As explained in Article 8 of 2016 about People with Disabilities, the right of privacy for People with Disabilities includes the right to form a family and continue their descent through a legal marriage.

Blind people are taken from two words, namely tuna (tuno: Java) which means loss which is then further interpreted as lost, damaged, disturbed, impeded, non-existent and net (netro: Java) which can be interpreted by the eye. However, the word blind is a unity of meaning that cannot be separated, which means loss caused by damage or the existence of problems in the organs and eye function (Hadi, 2005). Purba (2016) in her research stated that, "someone with visual disability has the same needs as humans in general. They also have the need to get married, have a home and get offspring". In line with this statement, they should also be prepared to become parents.

With the physical limitations that they have, specifically in carrying out their role as parents, they will pass many challenges and obstacles.

The number of people with visual disabilities in Banjarnegara Regency reaches 775 people. The highest number of people with visual disabilities is in Bawang Subdistrict as it reaches as many as 98 people (Radar Banyumas, 2015.<http://radarbanyumas.co.id/fokus-utama/banjarnegara/page/92/>, 31 January 2018). Based on the data in the field, the researchers were interested in conducting research on "Early Childhood Care Practices by Disabled Parents in Banjarnegara District". Of course, those with visual disability have their own methods in educating their children. Especially in order to create a qualified PAUD (Early-Age Children Education), family involvement is needed.

METHODS

The method used in this study is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. The target subjects in this study were couples with visual disability who could not see at all or having poor vision, blind family members and blind's neighbors in Banjarnegara District.

The population in this study were all blind parents in the Banjarnegara district. From the data of the Banjarnegara District Social Service, there are 775 blind people. The sample in this study were blind parents who had children who were in early-age or around 6-7 years old. In this study, the researchers took a sample of three pairs of blind parents. The sampling technique used in this study is Purposive Sampling. Sukmadinata (2009) claimed that a purposive sample was chosen since it is indeed a source and usually contains a lot of information about the chosen phenomena.

Data collection techniques used are observation, interviews, and documentation. The main instrument used in this study was the researchers themselves who were assisted by interview and observation guidelines, as well as documentation. Furthermore, after the data were collected, data analysis was carried out. This analysis process included searching and compiling the data obtained from interviews, observations (field notes), and other supporting materials, so that they can be easily understood, and the findings can be informed to others (Sugiyono, 2015). In this study, to determine the validity of the data, the researcher used data triangulation which included time triangulation, technique triangulation, and source triangulation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Practice of Parenting Blind Parents in Early Childhood.

The results of the study showed that during the practice of nurturing their children, blind parents tried to carry out their roles well. Blind parents also realize that their role as fathers and mothers is not easy, in the process of educating and raising children. Especially in the midst of their limitations. Therefore they try their best to provide the best care for their children.

The various efforts that parents do for example, father works as a blind massager to fulfill all his children's needs such as education, food, clothing and a decent place to live. Through their skills as massagers, in one massage they can get 60,000 - 70,000 rupiahs. They can use it for paying tuition fee, house rent and buying food. Even though their conditions do not allow them to see, parents still trying to carry out their roles properly, such as cooking, preparing breakfast for children, bathing and accompanying their children while studying, and so on. Mothers also helps to fulfill all the needs of their children by working as massagers.

Blind parents also try to give love and attention to their children. Forms of affection which were given through giving hugs, greeting children first and asking about children's activities at school. So, it was shown that during the interaction between children and their parents at home, blind parents have no significant obstacles. Children is aware of the condition of their parents who cannot see while blind parents also realize that they cannot always know what their children do or need. Blind parents will usually be more active in asking or offering things to their children. The way parents build closeness with their children is no other than through a warm communication.

During parenting, blind parents was not only meet the needs of children physically, but they also taught an educational character which was also become their concern. Based on the results of interviews with one of the mothers, stated that in today's age there were many smart people but rarely were honest. Thus, they try to raise their children with character education values as well as religious education from an early age.

According to Santrock (2007), a child depends on how people around meet their needs, so it is important for people who care for them to consistently provide positive and attentive care. This was also being considered by the blind parents during their parenting practices on early-age

children. Not only trying to meet their needs physically, blind parents were also very concerned about giving a religious education from an early age, for example such as the habit of praying and reciting. Some parents even teach their own children directly, even though their condition does not see. Parents believe that religious education will be a provision when children live their lives later. Especially in this current modern era where socialization is increasingly free, the religious education must be taught on early age children.

Indeed, in the practice of parenting, especially here blind parents are required to be able to facilitate all aspects of child development. Unfortunately there are still many parents who do not understand the importance of aspects of development in early childhood care practices. Besides physical needs that are he but there are still many other aspects that parents must develop such as cognitive, social emotional, language and art. As Latiana (2010) stated in the journal of Dewi (2016), "the parenting process will include the interaction between children, parents and the environment, adjusting the needs of life and the temperament of children with their parents". So to be able to provide appropriate care to children according to the stage of development, it requires the cooperation of all parties such as parents, teachers and the environment surrounding.

Parents should understand the goals of early childhood education, and the early-age children's growth and development, pay attention to, facilitate and motivate children's growth / development, which will be directly related to nutrition, immunization, body hygiene and environment, treatment, exercise, and play-time. Parents are also required to create a sense of security and comfort for children and provide a stimulus for children's development (Latif et al, 2013). Based on this theory, it is very clear that the role of parents has a big influence in the process of child development.

The practice of parenting cannot be separated from the role of father and mother. Therefore, in the process of raising a child there must be cooperation or equality of goals between father and mother. Because different forms of care or two directions will have an impact on the child's response. The child will be confused and the stimulus that can be given to the child correctly becomes not optimal. Judging from the collaboration, in parenting techniques, blind parents still have differences. There are those who feel the intensity of the mother's role is greater and much tolerates the child while the father tends to be firm. But in some cases, they realize the

importance of collaboration between father and mother, especially for major decisions relating to children like determining which school would be great for their children to attend.

Cooperation between father and mother is important in the practice of parenting. Good cooperation between father and mother is also expected to be able to make children obedient and understand that the relationship between their parents is harmonious. As Masnipal (2013) argues that "the family is the first environment for children to learn. The harmony of the relationship between mother, father and brother becomes an important factor, giving, loving, and advising so as to create a warm, comfortable, carefree, and happy atmosphere.

Problems of Blind Parents in the Practical Parenting for Early-age Children.

Every parent will certainly be faced with various difficulties during the practice of educating and raising their children, and so do blind parents. Mangunsong (2009) stated that "visual information has a large role in a concept, in directing and stimulating behavior, and in general in the accuracy of information obtained by someone from his environment that is associated with what is in his mind. If someone experiences damage to their vision, we can imagine the limitations experienced should be had".

The condition of parents, who have vision disability, will influence their practice of parenting. Especially in the practice of raising children, parents must be able to monitor all children's activities while on the other hand, visual ability is one of the main components that support parents in educating children.

According to Windiarti (2014), "being a parent is not an easy job. Parenting means parents have a role during the life of a child. And every parent certainly has a strategy in educating children so that children can be happy and successful in the future." In fact, during the practice of parenting, parents will face various challenges and problems. The main problem faced by blind parents in parenting practices is when children are sick, usually parents will have difficulty to decide when they should give drugs and take children to the hospital. Parents will also usually take advantage of their massage skills to examine children. Another difficulty is deciding when you should take the child to the posyandu (clinic for children and pregnant woman) while it takes quite a distance from the house. To overcome these difficulties, blind parents will usually ask for help from relatives, neighbors or eldest children.

During the practice of parenting, blind parents also try to fulfill the child's basic needs, such as foster care (biomedical needs). Blind mothers were also breastfeeding their children, provide immunizations, balanced nutrition and routinely invite their children to the posyandu. The main difficulties they face were usually when the child was given medicine after immunization, parents will ask for help from others. In addition, if it takes too far to go to Posyandu, parents will be assisted by their eldest child to deliver his/her brother to the posyandu.

But regardless with the process of parenting practice, such as changing children's clothes, giving food and bathing them, some blind parents conveyed that they have no difficulties on parenting process. This can also be seen by the author when observing in the home of a blind family. During the observation, researcher saw the parenting process on the early-age children done by blind parents were very skilled and deft. Although by groping, the results will be the same as parents in general such as cooking, washing and bathing the child.

So based on all the explanations above, it can be concluded that during the practice of parenting on early-age children, the difficulties experienced by blind parents were when they want to give drugs to children after immunization. Another difficulty is when you will take the child to the posyandu but it turned out that the posyandu was far from the house.

CONCLUSION

The practice of parenting in early-age children played by blind parents became the same process as parents in general. Even though parental conditions are limited in vision. Blind parents continue to strive to raise their children well, such as providing nutritious food, accompanying children's activities such as school, studying and instilling good character or character to children. The difference is in some matters relating to child care, blind parents will experience difficulties such as when children are sick and have to take medication. In addition, it is related to the supervision of blind parents who cannot be maximal in

monitoring all the things done by children. Therefore during the parenting process parents try to build warm and loving communication with the child. So even though parents cannot always monitor children's activities visually, parents can still understand their children's needs well.

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