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MOTHER'S EXPERIENCE IN RAISING CHILDREN BASED ON DANI TRIBE CULTURE IN WALELAGAMA DISTRICT, JAYAWIJAYA REGENCY

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Abstract

Parenting is a fundamental factor in the formation of character, social behavior, and physical and psychological development of children. In the context of indigenous peoples such as the Dani Tribe in Jayawijaya Regency, parenting practices are influenced by cultural values, kinship systems, and hereditary traditions. However, children in this region still face a variety of real health problems, especially nutritional problems. This study aims to analyze the experience of mothers in the parenting style of children based on the Dani Tribe, especially in fulfilling the basic needs of children, which include food, health, medical care, clothing, board, and education in Walegagama District, Jayawijaya Regency. This study uses a qualitative approach with a phenomenological design. The informants amounted to 14 people, consisting of 10 mothers as the main informants and 4 supporting informants. Data was collected through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation, then analyzed through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing by validity test using triangulation. The results of the study show that strong social, economic, and cultural conditions influence the parenting style of children in the Dani Tribe community. Meeting food needs still depends on local food sources with limited variety. In the health aspect, mothers make simple efforts such as feeding and visiting posyandu, although clean and healthy living behaviors are still limited. In the search for treatment, people combine traditional and medical medicine. The fulfillment of clothing and board needs is carried out simply according to family economic conditions. Parenting is communal, involving extended families and social environments.

Keywords: Parenting, Local Culture, Dani Tribe

Introduction

The family is the first institution for children, which has a very important role in providing good parenting teaching. Toddlerhood is a very important time in the physical growth and development of children. In children, the growth and development process depends on parental parenting [1,2]. Parents are the main and first educators for their children, because it is from them that children first receive education. The educational situation is realized thanks to the existence of associations and relationships that influence parents and children reciprocally [3–5].

In childhood, this is located at the age of 0-6 years, at this age, the child's brain development is very optimal. At this stage, children have the ability to capture very good knowledge; therefore, it is very decisive in the child's next development. It can be determined that the family is the first educator for children, and as parents need to support educational activities for early childhood [2][6].

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In providing stimulation for children, parents can start doing it while the child is still in the womb to stimulate the child's development. Various stimulations can be given and done by parents to their future babies, such as inviting communication, listening to music, and other stimulation [2,7].

The parenting pattern that exists in the family environment is none other than to educate children from birth to the formation of the child's personality. Because the essence of this parenting process is a place where character, personality, and ethics are formed, which aims to ensure that children behave well and do not deviate, and in accordance with the rules, norms, and values embraced by the local community. That way, it is better for the involvement of parents in parenting children to introduce the values that exist in the community [2,8].

Parenting in children is influenced by the ethnographic background, namely the living environment in the form of habitat, sedentary patterns, social environment, history, livelihood systems, religious ceremonies, and so on [9]. Therefore, it can be proven that the way of raising children in various community environments and cultures differs. The existence of childcare patterns in each community is in the context of the process of enculturation and socialization, which is based on the local knowledge of the community concerned. In this case, an individual adjusts his attitude to the customs, norms, and rules that exist in his culture [4][2].

Based on research by Syaropah, based on the results of a literature study on parenting patterns in early childhood in the Dayak tribe, it shows that parents in the Dayak tribe provide parenting to their children using permissive parenting, but more apply democratic (authoritative) parenting [2,10]. Permissive parenting is a parenting style that provides leniency and tends to be liberating, less demanding, and not controlling. Meanwhile, parenting with a democratic or authoritative style is a parenting style that provides freedom or surrenders everything according to the child's wishes, but will always be supervised by parents. And with parents who apply this parenting style, children tend to be more open to parents and have a good and cheerful personality [11].

Based on research by Armawati, the results of the research obtained during the research took place in Latimojong Village, Buntu Batu District, namely (1) the way parents manage the time of childcare in coffee farmer families at the PGRI Angin-angin Kindergarten, Latimojong Village, Buntu Batu District, namely parents can work in the garden and at home from morning to evening, then for childcare and education can be done at night until a certain time (2), The form of parental care for their children at PGRI Angin-angin Kindergarten, Latimojong Village, Buntu Batu District, is by providing education to children guided by the Qur'an [12].

The researcher chose the title of the research because parenting is a fundamental factor in the formation of character, social behavior, and the physical and psychological development of children. In the context of indigenous peoples such as the Dani Tribe in Jayawijaya Regency, parenting practices are influenced by cultural values, kinship systems, and hereditary traditions. However, children in this region still face a variety of real health problems, especially nutritional problems. Based on data from the Indonesian Nutrition Status Survey (SSGI), stunting is still a major problem in toddlers, which is influenced by parenting factors, child feeding, and limited access to health services [13]. The geographical condition of the Jayawijaya area, which is in the form of mountains, also causes difficulty in accessing health facilities and food distribution, thus having an impact on the limited fulfillment of children's nutrition. In addition, SSGI shows that there are still problems in the diversity of children's food consumption that can affect the nutritional status of toddlers. These problems show that the children of the Dani Tribe in Jayawijaya face challenges in meeting basic needs, so that the parenting style applied by mothers is an important factor that needs to be studied in depth in the local social and cultural context.

Method

Types of qualitative research with a phenomenological approach. Informants as many as 14 oramg were taken with Purposive Sampling Technique.

Results

1. Characteristics of Informants

Table 1. The number of informants in this study is as follows :

No.	Informant	Type of informants	Frecuency
1.	Mother	Key Informants	10 person
2.	Husband	Supporting Informants	1 person
3.	Health Worker	Supporting Informants	1 person
4.	Chief	Supporting Informants	1 person
5.	Health Cadre	Supporting Informants	1 person

Source: Primary Data, 2026

2. Parenting in Fulfilling Basic Health Needs

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it is known that mothers have an important role in maintaining children's health through various simple efforts that are adjusted to environmental conditions and knowledge. Here are the results of the interview:

"So that children don't get sick, food must always be there." (Informant 2)

"We always take children to the posyandu for immunization." (Informant 7)

"If the child is still young, we usually tie it with a cloth, put it to sleep and then take it to the garden." (Informant 6)

"If the child is still young, he often takes a bath, but when he is an adult, he usually waits for it to be dirty before being told to take a bath." (Informant 5)

In general, the results of the interviews show that parenting in meeting the health needs of children in Walelagama District emphasizes simple prevention efforts, such as feeding, maintaining cleanliness, and participating in posyandu activities. However, the practice is still carried out on a limited basis and has not fully paid attention to the overall health aspect.

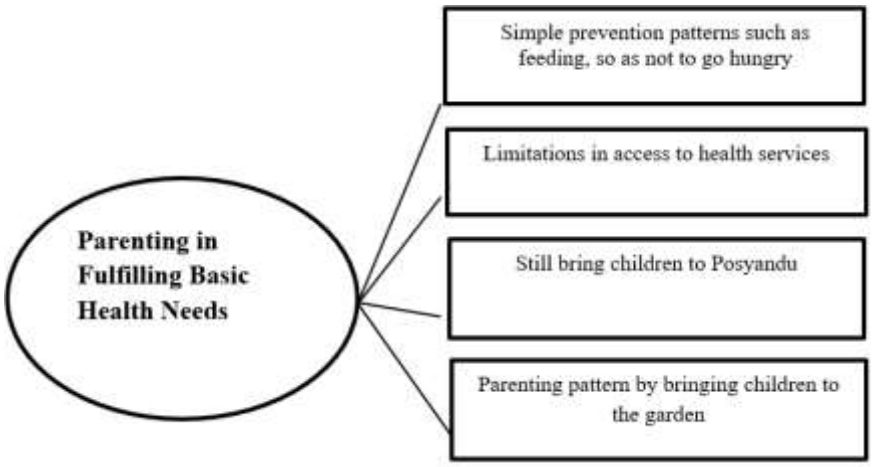


Figure 1. Thematic Chart of Parenting in Meeting Food Needs

3. Parenting in Meeting Food Needs

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it is known that the fulfillment of children's food needs in the community in Walelagama District is still highly dependent on local food sources available in the surrounding environment. Most of the informants said that the food given to children was in the form of sweet potatoes and vegetables obtained from the garden, as well as fish obtained from ponds or water sources around the residence. Here is an excerpt of the interview:

"We often eat fish because there is a pond behind the house." (informant 1).

"If we have a little money, it is difficult to buy tofu and eggs because it is far away and there is no vehicle." (Informant 2).

"If you eat chicken and pork rarely, at least once a month, because it is expensive." (Informant 3)

"If there is a stone burning event, we save a little meat for the children, because children love to eat meat." (Informant 4).

In general, the results of the interviews show that mothers emphasize meeting their children's food needs so that they do not go hungry, without considering the aspects of diversity and nutritional adequacy.

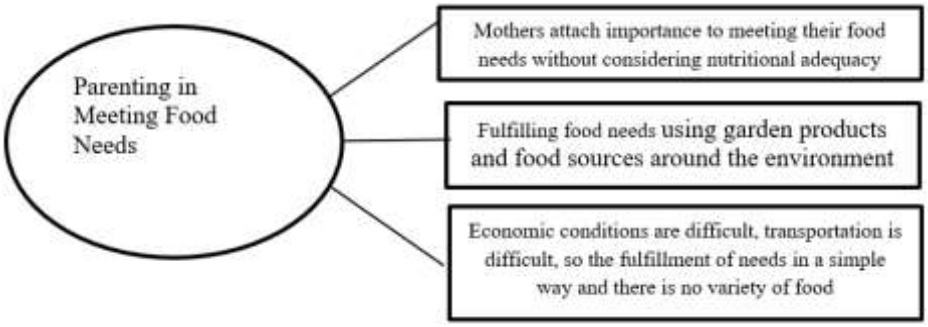


Figure 2. Thematic Chart of Parenting in Meeting Food Needs

4. Parenting in Meeting Clothing Needs

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it is known that the family's experience in meeting children's clothing needs is carried out in accordance with the family's economic conditions and the availability of existing resources. Most mothers said that children's clothes are obtained simply, either through purchases in the market or from the help of family or relatives. In daily life, the clothes used by children prioritize the function of body protection rather than appearance.

As stated by several informants:

"For children's clothes, we buy them if we have money, but sometimes we also get them from the family. The important thing is that children can wear them and not get cold." (Informant 8).

In meeting the needs of children's clothing, the main consideration used by mothers is the factor of basic needs, namely the comfort and protection of the child's body. Parents do not emphasize clothing models or trends too much, but rather on the function and usefulness of these clothes in supporting children's daily activities. In addition, economic limitations are also a factor that influences decisions in buying clothes, so parents tend to buy clothes according to their financial capabilities.

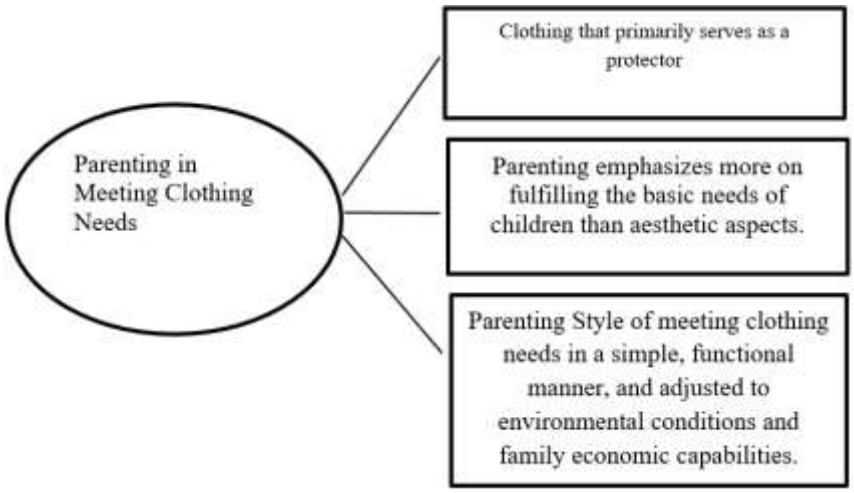


Figure 3. Thematic Chart of Parenting in Fulfilling Clothing Needs

5. Parenting Patterns in Fulfilling Housing Needs

Based on the results of interviews with informants, it is known that the fulfillment of the needs of children's boards in the community in Walelagama District is carried out simply and contextually, adjusting to geographical conditions, economic limitations, and cultural values embraced by the Dani tribe. The home is not only seen as a physical residence, but as a social space that has the function of protection, togetherness, and the formation of children's character.

Most of the informants said that the house occupied by the child was built simply and emphasized more on the basic function as a shelter from cold and rainy weather. As stated by the informant:

"*Our house is simple; the important thing is that the children can live, sleep, and not get cold." (Informant 8).*

However, in the context of Dani tribal culture, the concept of planks cannot be separated from the existence of honai as a traditional traditional house. Honai not only serves as a place to live, but also as the main space in family interaction and the process of socialization of children. Children who grow up in a honai environment indirectly learn about the value of togetherness, emotional closeness, and respect for family members. As the informant revealed:

"The children used to sleep in the honai with their families, there we also gathered and told stories." (Informant 6).

Here are the results of the interview:

"If you cook usually in the kitchen, the children go with you, sometimes sitting by the fire." (Informant 5).

This phenomenon can be explained through social learning theory, where children learn through a process of imitation and observation of the behavior of the adults around them. Thus, the kitchen is one of the important spaces in the process of internalizing life values, such as independence, cooperation, and the division of roles in the family.

On the other hand, the physical condition of the house, which is still limited, such as a narrow space and a large number of family members in one house, causes children to sleep with parents or other family members.

"The children sleep together with us, sometimes in one house with many people, but the important thing is that it is safe." (Informant 6).

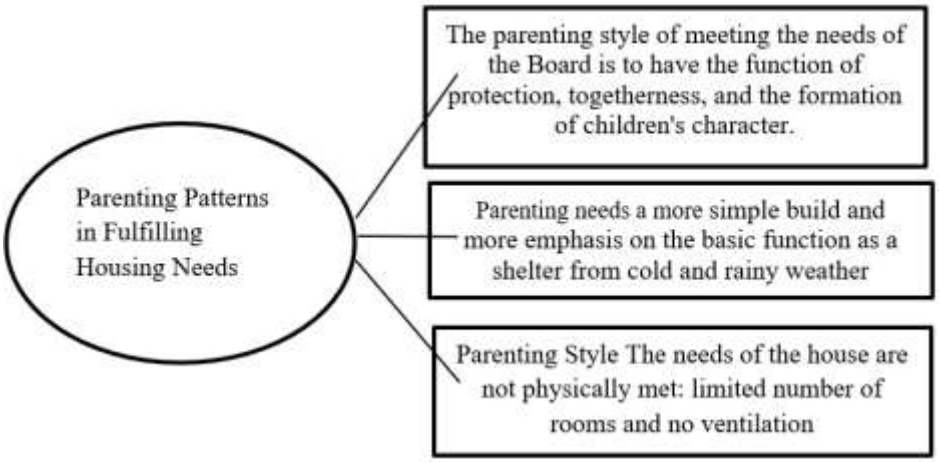


Figure 4. Thematic Chart of Parenting Patterns in Fulfilling Clothing Needs

Discussion

1. Parenting in Fulfilling Basic Health Needs

These findings show that parenting in meeting children's health needs is greatly influenced by environmental conditions, mothers' knowledge, and habits that develop in society. Mothers try to maintain their children's health according to their abilities, although there are still limitations in the implementation of clean and healthy living behaviors optimally.

The results of this study are in line with Hasmi's research [(14)] which states that in the Papua region, the practice of childcare in the health aspect still faces various challenges, such as limited access to health services and low understanding of the importance of fulfilling child nutrition and hygiene. In addition, the research [(12)] also shows that child parenting is greatly influenced by the daily activities of parents, where mothers have to divide their time between work and childcare. The fact in the field is that giving in terms of material is considered sufficient in providing care for children until the time parents spend more time working than taking care of children [(15)].

Parental parenting in guiding children's learning independence has been widely researched by experts. According to Santrock, parents play a big role in the development of children's character and personality, including fostering an independent attitude from an early age, and also for their health [(16)].

However, this study found that mothers in Walelagama District still have awareness to maintain children's health through simple ways, such as ensuring that children are not hungry, taking children to posyandu, and keeping children under supervision. This shows that there is a form of community adaptation in meeting children's health needs in the midst of existing limitations.

2. Parenting in Meeting Food Needs

These findings show that parenting in meeting children's food needs in Walelagama District is greatly influenced by economic conditions, limited geographical access, and the availability of local resources. Mothers try to meet the basic needs of their children in a simple and realistic way, according to existing conditions, namely by utilizing garden products and food sources around the environment.

The results of this study are in line with the research of Nesa et al., which stated that in the Papua region, the fulfillment of children's nutritional needs still faces challenges in the form of limited food variety and low consumption of animal protein due to geographical factors and access to food [(17)]. In addition, Armawati's research also shows that parenting in the family is greatly influenced by the economic conditions and daily activities of parents [(12)].

However, this study found that the Dani Tribe people have their own strategies in meeting children's food needs, such as utilizing local resources and storing food at certain moments, such as

traditional events. This shows a form of community adaptation to environmental conditions while reflecting cultural values in childcare practices.

3. Parenting in Meeting Clothing Needs

These findings show that the fulfillment of clothing needs for children in Walelagama District is still functional and simple, and is greatly influenced by the environmental and economic conditions of the family. Parenting in the aspect of clothing emphasizes meeting the basic needs of children more than aesthetic aspects.

The findings of this study are in line with Armawati's research (2023 which states that parenting in the family is greatly influenced by economic conditions and daily activities of parents [(3)]. In addition, Agustin's research also shows that in the context of Papuan society, the fulfillment of children's basic needs, including clothing, is still influenced by limited access and family socio-economic conditions.

Thus, the parenting style in meeting the clothing needs of the Dani Tribe community in Walelagama District reflects the efforts of parents in meeting the basic needs of children in a simple, functional manner, and adjusted to environmental conditions and family economic capabilities.

4. Parenting in Meeting Board Needs

If viewed theoretically, this condition shows that parenting in meeting the needs of the board is not only physical, but also psychosocial, as stated by Lestari (2025), that parenting includes the fulfillment of physical and non-physical needs at the same time. In this case, honai serves as a space that allows the formation of attachment between the child and the family, which is an important aspect of the child's emotional development [(18)].

In addition to the honai, the kitchen, which is generally separate from the main house, also has an important role in child rearing. The kitchen not only serves as a place to cook, but also as a space for interaction between mother and child. Children who are around the kitchen when their mothers cook indirectly experience the process of social learning through observation and involvement in daily activities

From an environmental health perspective, this condition has the potential to pose risks to children's comfort and health, such as a lack of ventilation and housing density. However, in the socio-cultural context of the Dani people, these conditions are not necessarily seen as a problem, but as part of communal life that strengthens social relationships and a sense of security in the family.

These findings show that there is a quality in board parenting, namely, on the one hand, there are limitations in physical and facility aspects, but on the other hand, there are strengths in social and cultural aspects that support child development. This is in line with the view that parenting in indigenous peoples cannot be judged solely on modern standards, but must be understood in the context of prevailing social values and systems.

Overall, the results of the study show that parenting in meeting the needs of children's boards in Walelagama District is a form of community adaptation to existing environmental conditions and limitations. The existence of honai and kitchen as part of the family room structure not only meets the needs of the living room, but also acts as a medium in the process of parenting, socialization, and inheriting cultural values in children.

Thus, it can be concluded that the fulfillment of the needs of the board in the Dani Tribe community is not only oriented to the physical aspects of the building, but also to the creation of a safe, collective, and cultural environment that supports the holistic growth and development of children.

The findings of this study are in line with the research of Maarang et al., which shows that the parenting style of children in a society based on local culture is not only oriented towards meeting physical needs, but also on instilling social and cultural values in daily life [(19)]. In addition, research by

Muspita et al. also revealed that the family environment and social interaction have an important role in the child's learning process through hands-on experience [20].

However, this research has its own peculiarities, namely emphasizing the role of honai and kitchen as parenting spaces that are not only physical, but also as a medium for character formation and internalization of cultural values in children in the context of the Dani tribe.

Conclusion

1. Parenting in fulfilling basic health needs is a simple prevention pattern, namely, feeding so as not to be hungry. There are limitations in access to health services, still bringing children to posyandu, and parenting patterns by bringing children to the garden.
2. Parenting in meeting food needs is that mothers attach importance to meeting food needs without considering nutritional adequacy, fulfilling food needs, utilizing garden products, and food sources around the environment. Economic conditions are difficult, transportation is difficult, so there is no variety of food.
3. Parenting in fulfilling clothing needs, namely parenting, is prioritized only as a protector and does not pay attention to aesthetic aspects, a simpler functional that adjusts to environmental conditions
4. Parenting in fulfilling the needs of the board emphasizes the function of protection, togetherness, and character formation, but is not yet physically qualified. There are still limited spaces and no ventilation.

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