



PARENTING STYLES IN SHAPING THE CHARACTER OF PRESCHOOL CHILDREN IN HASAHATAN JULU VILLAGE, BARUMUN BARU SUBDISTRICT, PADANG LAWAS REGENCY

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Abstract

Parenting patterns are the attitudes and ways of parents in raising their children to support and guide them so that they can live independently, parenting patterns towards children really reflect the nature of the child itself. This study explores how parenting patterns shape the character of early childhood in Hasahatan Julu village, Barumun Baru sub-district, Padang Lawas district. The method used in this study is descriptive qualitative by collecting data through interviews, field observations, and documentation supplemented by a literature review that includes books, journals and relevant scientific sources. The results of this study show the many parenting patterns applied by parents in Hasahatan Julu village to their children, namely democratic parenting patterns by strengthening the relationship between children and parents, permissive parenting patterns are parenting patterns that allow children to make decisions without guiding children and authoritarian parenting patterns are characterized by high demands from parents but with low responses to the needs of early childhood.

Keywords: parenting patterns, children's attitudes, character, early childhood, Padang Lawas

INTRODUCTION

Education is one way to develop human potential. It serves as the primary means of humanizing people through the development of their various abilities. In this way, a person's nobility and humanity can be further explored and developed. Therefore, education plays a vital role in the process of developing various human potentials. (Amal et al., 2021). A child's education is of utmost importance throughout their life, beginning in the womb and continuing as they grow into adulthood and become parents themselves. The success of a child's education is greatly influenced by the family. The family is the smallest unit in society that plays a role in providing guidance and direction to children.

Parental parenting styles play a crucial role in the education of young children, particularly in their emotional, social, intellectual, spiritual, and physical development. Parents have the responsibility to educate and guide their children in accordance with religious teachings (Lelo & Liutani, 2023). In raising young children, parents bear a tremendous responsibility for their children's education. During early childhood, a child's first education comes from their parents and the family around them. Parental parenting styles during early childhood greatly influence a child's character development. Therefore, parents should provide sufficient stimulation that is appropriate for the needs of young children. A lack of stimulation can hinder social, language, and fine and gross motor skills. In addition, a supportive environment plays a crucial role in fostering early childhood growth and development. Children's growth and development occur at a rapid pace and can influence their future lives. During this period, a child's personality development is typically influenced by genetic and environmental factors (Santoso, 2021).

Young children are individuals undergoing a process of very rapid growth and development, as explained by Purwanto (Makagingge et al., 2018). Hastuti, as cited by Ayun & Tengah (n.d.), explains that young children—often referred to as preschoolers—are those within the 0–6-year-old age range. Providing good parenting practices is crucial, especially for young children—particularly those aged 3–6 years—because during this period, children's five senses are still highly responsive. At this age, children also begin to exhibit various behaviors, such as misbehavior or a tendency to defy their parents' wishes. Sometimes children use inappropriate words, such as swear words. Therefore, parents should

provide appropriate parenting during this period, as it is a critical stage in the child's character development. This period is also known as the "golden age"—a time that is particularly valuable compared to later stages of life (Ambariani & Rakimahwati, 2023).

At this age, children easily pick up on and imitate the behaviors of those around them. Therefore, parents must be able to raise their children well, as parental habits significantly influence a child's character development. However, it is not only the family that plays a role; the environment also has a significant influence on the process of instilling good verbal communication skills in children. There are many cases that demonstrate instances of children exhibiting inappropriate behavior toward their own teachers (Nasution et al., 2025).

Parenting styles refer to the attitudes, methods, and forms of interaction used to guide children so they can develop from dependence toward independence and responsibility. According to Gunarsa, parenting styles encompass parents' efforts to prepare children to make decisions and act independently. In line with this, parenting styles are also understood as the ways parents guide and support children to live independently and shape their character through daily interactions.

Character is reflected in children's behavior and actions in daily life, which are shaped by habits formed within the family, by parents, and within the surrounding community. Therefore, parents play a crucial role in providing guidance from an early age so that children's character can develop properly.

The purpose of this study is to identify and describe parenting styles in shaping the character of young children in Hasahatan Julu Village, Barumun Baru Subdistrict, Padang Lawas Regency. Specifically, this study aims to identify the types of parenting styles practiced by parents, as well as to understand the roles of democratic, permissive, and authoritarian parenting styles in the character development of young children. In addition, this study also aims to describe parents' child-rearing practices in daily life, which are influenced by the social, cultural, and religious values of the local community.

Various previous studies have examined the relationship between parenting styles and the development and character formation of young children. A study (Ambariani and Rakimahwati, 2023) showed that parenting styles influence children's discipline and sense of responsibility. A study (Lelo and Liutani, 2023) also showed that a democratic parenting style is better for children's social-emotional development than an authoritarian parenting style. Furthermore, (Nasution et al., 2025) concluded that the family environment and parenting styles influence character development in early childhood.

Nevertheless, these studies still have several limitations. First, most studies focus primarily on the influence of parenting styles on specific developmental aspects, such as discipline, social-emotional development, or children's behavior, but have not thoroughly described how parenting practices unfold in daily life and how these processes shape children's character over the long term. Second, research on parenting styles is generally conducted in urban contexts or formal educational institutions, so the characteristics of rural communities—which have strong cultural, traditional, and religious values—have received relatively little attention. Third, there is still a limited number of studies examining the integration of family values, local culture, and religion into parental practices as factors influencing the character development of young children.

First, most studies focus primarily on general contexts or educational institutions and have not yet thoroughly examined parenting practices in rural environments characterized by strong social, cultural, and religious backgrounds. Furthermore, the actual interactions between parents and children in daily life have not been described in much detail. Therefore, this study aims to fill this gap by directly examining parenting practices in shaping the character of young children in Hasahatan Julu Village, Barumun Baru Subdistrict, Padang Lawas Regency. This study emphasizes actual parenting practices as well as the influence of family values, customs, and religion, thereby complementing and enriching the findings of previous research.

Based on these conditions, a research gap was identified: there remains a scarcity of studies that comprehensively describe parental parenting practices in shaping the character of young children in rural communities with distinctive sociocultural and religious characteristics. Therefore, this study was conducted to examine parenting practices in shaping the character of young children in Hasahatan Julu Village, Barumun Baru Subdistrict, Padang Lawas Regency.

This study also offers novelty in its effort to provide an in-depth exploration of parenting practices in shaping the character of young children through a contextual approach focused on rural community life. Unlike previous studies, which generally emphasized the influence of parenting styles on child development or were conducted in the context of educational institutions, this study highlights the parenting processes that take place in families' daily lives and their connection to local cultural values, customs, and religious teachings prevalent in the community.

This study is also significant because its findings can provide insights and practical guidance for parents in developing appropriate parenting styles to shape the character of young children. Furthermore, this study is expected to contribute academically to the study of the relationship between parental parenting styles and the character development of young children, particularly in Hasahatan Julu Village, Barumun Baru Subdistrict, Padang Lawas Regency.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study is a field study that is, research conducted directly and intensively on real-world conditions in the field, whether involving individuals, groups, or communities (Sugiyono, 2021). A qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to gain an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of parenting styles in shaping the character of young children based on experiences, behaviors, and interactions that occur in daily life. The approach used is descriptive, which is a research method aimed at describing and interpreting the subject matter in accordance with actual conditions (Rukminingsih, 2020).

This study was conducted in Hasahatan Julu Village, Barumun Baru Subdistrict, Padang Lawas Regency, focusing on parenting practices in shaping the character of young children. This location was chosen because its community strongly upholds family, cultural, and religious values in the child-rearing process, making it relevant to the study's focus.

The research subjects consisted of five informants selected using purposive sampling—that is, the deliberate selection of informants based on specific criteria deemed capable of providing information relevant to the research objectives. The criteria for informants included parents of young children who were directly involved in the child-rearing process, and be willing to provide information regarding the parenting practices used within the family.

In this study, the data sources consisted of primary and secondary data (Sugiyono, 2020). Primary data were obtained directly through interviews, observations, and documentation, which were then analyzed by the researcher (Sugiyono, 2009). Observations were conducted to examine parental caregiving behaviors as well as the interactions between parents and children in their daily lives. In-depth interviews were conducted using a semi-structured interview guide to enable the researcher to gather broader information regarding the parenting styles parents employ in shaping the character of young children. Meanwhile, documentation was used to supplement the research data in the form of photographs, field notes, and other documents related to the research subjects. Secondary data, on the other hand, was obtained from various written sources, such as books and other references relevant to the study (Sugiyono, 2009).

Data analysis in this study utilized the Miles, Huberman, and Saldana model, which consists of three stages: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions and verification (Miles and Huberman, 1994). To ensure the validity of the data, the researcher used triangulation techniques (Moleong, 2021), namely methodological triangulation and source triangulation. Methodological triangulation was conducted by using various data collection techniques to obtain similar data, while source triangulation was conducted by comparing information from various research subjects. With this approach, it is hoped that the study can provide a comprehensive picture of the role of parenting styles in shaping the character of young children in Hasahatan Julu Village.

RESULTS AND FINDINGS

Based on interviews conducted with five informants in Hasahatan Julu Village, Barumun Baru Subdistrict, Padang Lawas Regency, it was found that parents' parenting styles in shaping the character of young children are influenced by their values, life experiences, and understanding of the goals of parenting itself. Although each informant has a different approach to parenting, in general, all

informants share the same goal: to raise children to grow into individuals of good character who are obedient, responsible, and possess strong moral and religious values.

The first informant, Mrs. Linda, explained that in shaping her child's character from an early age, she employs a parenting style that tends to be firm and demanding. Religious values are introduced to the child through consistent practices, such as praying on time and reciting the Quran every night. According to Linda, religious obligations must be enforced strictly so that the child becomes accustomed to discipline and does not rely on personal whim (Linda Harahap, 2026).

When it comes to honesty, Mrs. Linda emphasizes that lying is an act that cannot be tolerated. Children are guided to understand that honesty is more important, even if it means facing consequences. Reprimands are delivered in a firm tone so that children learn their lesson and do not repeat the same mistake. A similar approach is applied in instilling responsibility and discipline, where children are required to complete their chores and follow established daily rules.

Mrs. Linda realizes that her approach is considered strict, but she believes this parenting style is necessary to raise children who are obedient, disciplined, and resilient in facing life's challenges. An emotional bond with the children is maintained by meeting their basic needs, though a certain distance is preserved to ensure the children continue to respect their parents.

The second informant, Mrs. Ulfa, also practices a firm parenting style in daily life. Religious values are instilled through clear rules without giving the child many choices. Mrs. Ulfa believes that too many choices can actually make a child lazy and irresponsible toward the duties they must fulfill (Ulfa, 2026).

In instilling honesty and responsibility, Mrs. Ulfa emphasizes the importance of consistency and firmness. Children are given regular responsibilities both at home and at school. If a child is negligent, a reprimand is given immediately so that the child understands the mistake made. Discipline is also fostered through a strict daily schedule, with the goal of establishing habits of an orderly lifestyle from an early age.

Although known as a strict parent, Mrs. Ulfa still strives to maintain a good relationship with her child by showing care through her actions. In her view, being firm does not mean being indifferent; rather, it is a form of parental responsibility in raising children so they do not stray in their social interactions and daily lives.

The third informant, Mrs. Ros Aminah (35 years old, farmer), practices a democratic parenting style. Religious values are introduced through setting a good example and lighthearted dialogue with her child. The child is encouraged to understand the reasons behind each obligation, so that an inner awareness grows within the child to fulfill them. In fostering honesty, Mrs. Ros creates a safe environment so that her child feels confident to speak the truth without fear. Responsibility and discipline are instilled through mutual agreement, not merely coercion. According to her, emotional closeness makes it easier for parents to direct and guide their children without having to resort to harsh methods (Ros Aminah, interview, May 12, 2025).

Similarly, some parents in Hasahatan Julu Village practice an authoritarian parenting style by demanding full obedience from their children to every rule set by the parents, without allowing room for dialogue with the children.

The fourth informant, Mrs. Yanti, revealed that she strongly emphasizes character building through discipline and obedience. Religious values are instilled through strict routines, and even coercion is used if a child displays laziness. According to Mrs. Yanti, good habits must be formed from an early age through patient guidance and dialogue with the child (Yanti Marlina Lubis, interview, April 28, 2025).

In fostering honesty, responsibility, and good manners, Mrs. Yanti employs a firm approach and shows no tolerance for violations. Children are required to follow established rules, and any form of defiance is immediately reprimanded. Mrs. Yanti believes that firmness will raise children who are obedient and less likely to defy their parents.

Nevertheless, care for the child is still demonstrated through meeting their needs and close supervision. For Mrs. Yanti, maintaining parental authority is an important part of the parenting process so that the child grows up with a sense of respect and responsibility.

The fifth informant, Mrs. Nur Hasibuan, adopts a parenting style that tends to be permissive due to time constraints resulting from her busy work as a farmer. Religious values and honesty are instilled,

but supervision is not always consistent. The child tends to be disciplined only when the parents are at home (Nur Hasibuan, interview, May 5, 2025).

When dealing with defiant behavior, Mrs. Nur Hasibuan acknowledges that because of her busy schedule working in the fields, she is not always able to supervise and guide her children consistently. This situation leads the children to tend to behave less disciplined when their parents are not at home.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the above results regarding the five informants, three main parenting styles practiced by parents in Hasahatan Julu Village were identified: authoritarian, democratic, and permissive. These three styles can be explained as follows.

The democratic parenting style (practiced by Mrs. Ros Aminah) has proven effective in strengthening the parent-child bond and supporting optimal child development in early childhood. This reflects parents' concern for the spiritual aspect of their children's development as part of their parenting responsibilities (Avelina et al., 2024).

The permissive parenting style (practiced by Mrs. Nur Hasibuan) typically struggles to set adequate boundaries on children's activities and allows children to make decisions without sufficient guidance, which can lead to inconsistent behavior—meaning children will only be disciplined and well-behaved when their parents are at home (Nasution et al., 2025). This finding aligns with the situation experienced by Mrs. Nur Hasibuan, where time constraints due to a busy work schedule result in inconsistent supervision of her children.

Authoritarian parenting (practiced by Ms. Linda, Ms. Ulfa, and Ms. Yanti) is characterized by high parental demands but little responsiveness to the needs of young children. Parents in Hasahatan Julu Village who practice this parenting style have very high expectations for their children but provide little emotional support during the early childhood care process. Parents who practice authoritarian parenting believe that parenting decisions rest solely with the parents, without considering the child's opinions. This approach is also often characterized by physical punishment and strict restrictions on children's behavior (Lelo & Liutani, 2023).

Home and family are the primary pillars in shaping a child's personality. Parents are the most dominant figures in influencing a child's personality, making it crucial for them to be the primary caregivers, educating them with love and responsibility.

From the explanation above, it is clear that parents are responsible for their children and their families, from guiding and implementing parenting styles from early childhood through adulthood. Parents must be able to educate and look after their children, as there are many instructions regarding parenting patterns regarding the character of early childhood contained in the Al-Qur'an. One of them is found in Surah At-Tahrim verse 6:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا قُوا أَنْفُسَكُمْ وَأَهْلِيكُمْ نَارًا وَقُودُهَا النَّاسُ وَالْحِجَارَةُ عَلَيْهَا مَلَائِكَةٌ غِلَاظٌ شِدَادٌ لَا يَعْصُونَ
اللَّهَ مَا أَمَرَهُمْ وَيَفْعَلُونَ مَا يُؤْمَرُونَ

translation: "O you who believe! Protect yourselves and your families from the fire of hell whose fuel is people and stones; the guardians are angels who are rough, tough, and do not disobey Allah in what He commands them and always do what they are commanded."

This verse explains the command for parents and believers to protect themselves and their families from hell whose fuel is people and stones, and is guarded by harsh angels. This verse also emphasizes the importance of parents' responsibility in educating their family or children to obey Allah SWT.

In raising children, parents must be able to discipline their children from an early age so that the children can be disciplined until they grow up. Efforts to discipline children from an early age are carried out with love, namely by providing clear, consistent and loving rules. This is in line with Allah's word about discipline in Surah An-Nisa verse 59:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أَطِيعُوا اللَّهَ وَأَطِيعُوا الرَّسُولَ وَأُولِيَ الْأَمْرِ مِنْكُمْ فَإِنْ تَنَازَعْتُمْ فِي شَيْءٍ فَرُدُّوهُ إِلَى اللَّهِ وَالرَّسُولِ
إِنْ كُنْتُمْ تُؤْمِنُونَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ ذَلِكَ خَيْرٌ وَأَحْسَنُ تَأْوِيلًا

you who believe, obey Allah and obey the Messenger (of His), and those in authority among you. Then if you differ in opinion about something, refer it back to Allah (the Qur'an) and the Messenger (his sunnah), if you truly believe in Allah and the Last Day. That is better (for you) and more favorable in outcome." (Q.S. An-Nisa: 59) (Depag RI Al Hikmah, 2005).

Allah has commanded human beings to obey Allah SWT and His Messenger. Discipline is one form of obedience to rules, especially those established by Allah SWT. Attitude is a characteristic that distinguishes one individual from another. In psychological terms, a trait refers to relatively stable (or nearly stable) behavioral characteristics in each individual, which reflect a person's general disposition, particularly in terms of feelings.

Overall, the results of this study show that parenting patterns in Hasahatan Julu Village play a very significant role in shaping the character of early childhood children. Although there are differences in how parenting is applied, all informants share the same goal: raising children to grow into individuals with good character, obedient to their parents, responsible, and able to adapt to their social environment.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

Based on the research findings, parenting patterns in shaping the character of early childhood children in Hasahatan Julu Village, Barumun Baru Subdistrict, Padang Lawas Regency, it can be concluded that parenting patterns play a very important and determining role in the formation of children's character from an early age. The parenting patterns applied by parents are influenced by life experience, religious understanding, and parents' perspectives on the goals of child-rearing.

The research results show that most parents tend to apply a strict or authoritarian parenting style, while others apply a democratic parenting style or a combination of both. The strict parenting style is applied by emphasizing compliance, discipline, and obedience to rules established by parents. Meanwhile, the democratic parenting style places greater emphasis on communication, providing understanding, and emotional closeness between parents and children.

In dealing with children who begin to show defiance, parents with a strict parenting style tend to give direct reprimands and set consequences so that children do not repeat the same mistakes. Conversely, parents with a democratic parenting style prefer a dialogue and communication approach to understand the causes of the child's defiance. This difference in handling approaches shows that each parenting style has its own characteristics and objectives in guiding children's behavior.

Overall, this study concludes that although there are differences in the parenting patterns applied by parents in Hasahatan Julu Village, all of these parenting patterns aim to shape children to grow into individuals with good character, noble morals, obedience to parents, and the ability to adapt to their social environment in accordance with local religious and cultural values.

Suggestions

Based on the research findings, it is suggested that parents in Hasahatan Julu Village continue to balance firmness with communication and warmth in raising their children, so that children are not only obedient because of rules, but also understand the reasons behind them. Parents also need to better understand the causes of children's defiance before giving reprimands, so that the approach taken is more appropriate. In addition, future researchers are advised to expand the research location and the number of informants in order to obtain more comprehensive results.

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