

Problematics of Single Parenting of Their Biological Children and Its Consequences From the Perspective of Islamic Law (Case Study at the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, Palu City)

Nadya Alwi¹, Lukman S. Thahir², Gasim Yamani³

¹Graduate Student of the Family Law Study Program State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia

^{2,3}State Islamic University Datokarama Palu, Indonesia

ABSTRACT

This study analyzes the challenges of single mother parenting and its legal consequences from an Islamic law perspective at the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Palu City. Using a qualitative approach, data were gathered through interviews, observation, and documentation, then analyzed via reduction, display, and conclusion drawing. The results reveal that single mothers face significant emotional and economic shifts, including limited time with children due to increased work demands. To compensate, these mothers adopt dual roles as both provider and nurturer. The findings indicate that while single parents encounter obstacles in child discipline, they predominantly implement democratic parenting. From an Islamic law perspective, this democratic approach is considered the most suitable for child development. The study recommends that religious institutions intensify family law outreach and counseling specifically for single mothers. Furthermore, cross-sector collaboration between the Ministry of Religious Affairs, social services, and child protection agencies is essential to establish a robust support system for single-parent households.

ARTICLE INFORMATION

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1. Introduction

The family is the most basic social unit, established through a marital bond between a man and a woman conducted in accordance with Sharia by Islamic institutions. Marriage marks the beginning of a shared life between a man and a woman as regulated in the existing laws. Marriage is a general *Sunnatullah* that applies to all His creatures, especially humans. Marriage is a legal relationship that unites a man and a woman who have fulfilled the marriage requirements and will live through the marriage for as long as possible or even until the end of life.

As regulated in Law Number 1 of 1974 concerning Marriage, which states that marriage is a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife with the aim of forming a happy and eternal family or household based on the Belief in the One and Only God (Syaifuddin et al., n.d.).

Marriage and family formation are serious responsibilities and are subject to specific regulations. Islam tends to view the family as something absolutely good and approaching the sacred. In addition to providing tranquility and mutual support, it fosters mutual understanding between husband and wife (Umran, 1997).

The reason the author chose this title is that the author is deeply interested in observing that the responsibility of a single mother is not an easy matter; they perform dual roles within both the family and the community spheres simultaneously, making the role of a single mother in child-rearing crucial in educating and directing children. Furthermore, for a single mother who works, commonly referred to as a career woman, it is certainly not easy as there are various consequences she must face. Therefore, the researcher is very interested in further examining the aforementioned issues.

This research aims to delve deeper into the problems of parenting biological children applied by single mothers and the consequences faced by working single mothers at the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Palu City, subsequently analyzing them through the perspective of Islamic law.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Parenting Style Theory

Parenting style consists of two words: style and care. According to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language (KBBI), style means a pattern, model, system, working method, or a fixed form (structure). Meanwhile, the word care means to look after (nurture and educate) young children, to guide (assist, train, etc.), and to lead (head and manage) a body or institution (RI, 2022).

However, the views of psychologists and sociologists differ. In the view of Singgih D. Gunarsa, parenting style is a description used by parents to raise (nurture, protect, educate) children. Meanwhile, Chabib Thoha states that parenting style is the best method that can be taken by parents in educating children as an embodiment of their sense of responsibility toward the children (Tridhonanto, 2014).

Based on the definitions from several figures above, the researcher concludes that parenting style is an interaction between parents and children, in which parents provide encouragement for children to change their behavior, knowledge, and values considered most appropriate by the parents so that children become mature, independent, self-confident, and have the desire to succeed in the future.

2.2 Forms of Parenting Styles

In general, parenting styles are categorized into three types: authoritarian, permissive, and democratic parenting styles.

a. Authoritarian Parenting

Authoritarian parenting is a parenting style that prioritizes shaping the child's personality by setting absolute standards that must be followed, usually accompanied by threats. The characteristics of authoritarian parenting are as follows:

a) Children must submit and obey the will of the parents. b) Parental control over the child's behavior is very strict. c) Children almost never receive praise. d) Parents are uncompromising, and communication is usually one-way.

The impacts arising from authoritarian parenting include children having a temperament that is easily offended and unfriendly; being fearful, moody, and unhappy; being easily influenced and prone to stress; lacking a clear future direction; having underdeveloped social skills; and lacking courage and creativity in decision-making. Furthermore, the child becomes shy or fearful, occasionally stubborn, possesses a desire to withdraw, lacks firmness in taking action or determining attitudes, and is prone to quarreling (Tridhonanto, 2014).

b. Permissive Parenting

Permissive parenting is a parenting style used to shape a child's personality by providing very loose supervision and allowing the child the opportunity to do things without sufficient oversight.

The characteristics of permissive parenting are as follows: a) Parents show high acceptance but low control; children are allowed to make their own decisions and act according to their own will. b) Parents grant freedom to the child to express their impulses or desires. c) Parents rarely apply punishment to the child, and in some cases, almost never use it.

The impact caused by this parenting style influences the child's traits, such as becoming impulsive and aggressive, rebellious and dominating, lacking self-confidence and self-control, having an unclear life direction, and showing low achievement. Additionally, children may lack an understanding of order or etiquette,

be disobedient and difficult to direct, lack discipline, frequently experience disappointment, fail to respect others, and become manipulative as well as defiant.

c. **Authoritative Parenting**

Democratic parenting is a parenting style in which parents apply treatment to children to shape their personality by prioritizing the child's interests through rational approaches or reasoning. Parents with democratic characteristics treat children according to their developmental stages and pay attention to as well as consider the child's desires.

The characteristics of democratic parenting are as follows:

a) Children are given the opportunity to be independent and develop internal control. b) Children are recognized as individuals by their parents and are involved in decision-making. c) Prioritizing the child's interests while not hesitating to exercise control over them. d) Being realistic about the child's abilities and not having excessive expectations that exceed the child's capacity. e) Providing freedom for the child to choose and perform an action. f) Maintaining a warm approach toward the child (Tridhonanto, 2014).

The impact of this parenting style shapes child behavior, such as having self-confidence and being polite, being friendly and cooperative, possessing self-control, and having high curiosity. Children also have a clear purpose or direction in life, are achievement-oriented, hold great responsibility, and can accept and follow reasonable commands. Furthermore, they can accept criticism openly, have the courage to be initiative and creative, possess stable emotions and a strong social sense, appreciate the efforts or hard work of others, adapt easily, maintain a positive self-concept, and are more tolerant, cooperative, willing to give and take, and possess significant self-control (Mutiah, 2010).

It can be concluded that parenting styles are divided into three types: authoritarian, permissive, and democratic parenting. Authoritarian parenting is a style identical to threats and violence from parents, where everything a child does must comply with the rules established by the parents. Permissive parenting is a style that emphasizes the child's autonomy, where everything is done according to the child's own desires and will, while the

parents merely follow the child's decisions. Meanwhile, democratic parenting is a style that provides opportunities for parents and children to engage in mutual deliberation in decision-making, with parents fully encouraging the child's aspirations.

2.3. *Single Parent*

A single parent is a sole parent who nurtures and raises children alone without the assistance of a partner. A single parent carries a great obligation in parenting and managing their family life. According to Muhammad Surya, a single parent is a sole parent in a family who lives alone, specifically either the father or the mother only. There are several factors that cause a parent to become a single parent, including divorce or death. A single parent is an individual who nurtures and raises children independently without the assistance, support, and responsibility of a partner (Ulfah & Fauziah, 2020). Single parents face different problems compared to intact families, as single parents bear substantial obligations and responsibilities in managing their families. According to Horton and Hunt, a single parent family is a family without a father or a mother, where only one parent performs the roles and functions within the family. The causes include one of the spouses, either the wife or the husband, passing away or a divorce.

2.4. *Causes of Single Parent Status*

Regarding divorce, according to Marriage Law Number 1 of 1974 Article 39 Paragraph 2 and Article 19 of Government Regulation Number 9 of 1975, several reasons can be used as the basis for divorce, including (Dagun, 1990):

- a) One party commits adultery or becomes a drunkard, drug addict, gambler, or other habits that are difficult to cure.
- b) One party leaves the other for two consecutive years without a valid reason or due to matters beyond their control.
- c) One party is sentenced to 5 five years of imprisonment or a more severe penalty after the marriage has taken place.
- d) One party suffers from a physical disability or a disease that results in the inability to perform their obligations as a husband or wife.

- e) One party commits cruelty or severe maltreatment that endangers the other party.
- f) Continuous disputes and quarrels occur between the husband and wife, and there is no longer any hope for living in harmony within the household. (Sastradinata, 2014)

Besides divorce being a reason for becoming a single parent, the death of a father or mother is also one of the reasons. Death is an extremely moving and sorrowful event for all family members. The loss of a father, who is the figure of a leader, protector, and primary breadwinner in the family, makes the wife or mother a single parent whose duties in the family will certainly be heavier. After the death of a husband or father, a mother will perform two tasks at once, namely the task as a mother as well as a father for her children. Likewise, it is the same if it is the mother who passes away (Qaimi, 2003).

Pregnancy outside of marriage is also a cause for a woman to become a single parent in cases where the man who impregnated her does not take responsibility. Uncontrolled social interaction during dating causes women to be swayed and deceived by their partners. After becoming pregnant, the man does not take responsibility or does not marry her, and he leaves, causing the woman to raise her child alone.

Becoming a single parent and performing the roles of both a housewife and the head of the family is not an easy matter for a woman. Both socially and psychologically, there are many problems that must be faced in daily life, especially in terms of being the head of the family, earning a living, and taking care of children. This is because on one hand she must manage the daily needs of the family, while on the other hand she must fulfill the psychological needs of her children such as providing affection, attention, and a sense of security, and she must also meet all the physical needs of her children including clothing, food, shelter, health, education, and other material related needs (Miftahkhuddin & Harianto, 2020).

2.4 General Overview of Biological Children

A biological child is a child resulting from a legitimate marital relationship according to the

applicable laws. According to Islamic law, in the perspective of Islamic law, the distinction between a child and an adult is not based on age criteria .

According to the Great Dictionary of the Indonesian Language (KBBI), a child is a second generation descendant or a human who is still small (RI, 2022). A child can be considered as someone born from a legitimate marriage between a man and a woman.

The regulations regarding childrens rights as described above in Law Number 23 of 2002 in conjunction with Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning Child Protection demonstrate that Indonesia has regulated in such a way and possesses a set of rules regarding childrens rights. It can be concluded that every child, even from the time they are in the womb, is already endowed with various rights.

3 Methodology

This study the researcher uses qualitative research methods or field research. This qualitative method is used to explain every event that occurs in the research conducted by the author as well as to reveal the facts of the events that occur and provide an explanation of the actual conditions of the problems being researched by the author.

According to Bogdan and Taylor, qualitative techniques are research procedures that produce qualitative descriptive data from people in the form of written or spoken words from observed behavior (Sholeh, 2017). This research is a study based on a natural setting with the intention of interpreting the phenomena that occur where the researcher serves as the key instrument. Sugiyono states that the qualitative method is a naturalistic method (Sugiyono, 2013).

The research location is the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Palu City located on Bantilan street, Lere Village, West Palu District. The researcher chose this location because it is where the divorces occurred and all the required data are available at that location.

4 Results and Discussion

4.1 Problems of Parenting by Single Parent Mothers Toward Biological Children and the Consequences

Based on the findings of the researcher in the field, there are 6 six single parent mothers

who work at the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Palu City, including the following:

From the six respondents above, the researcher can conclude as a whole that the most primary problems or obstacles they face are from the aspect of inner feelings when they become a single parent mother. Initially, everything was done together with the husband, but when they divorced, whether due to legal separation or death, everything felt different and all things both inside and outside the home had to be done alone. It is as if they are trying to play a dual role in their family life. Inner feelings such as loneliness and not having a friend to talk to about daily events occur, and they can no longer share the problems they face. They must keep all these matters to themselves because sometimes they try to talk to their children but receive a lack of response, as some children are still in elementary school while others are entering their teenage years.

Another obstacle found by the researcher based on the interview results above is that a single parent mother is unable or less able to divide her time with her children. In this situation, a child might feel they have already lost a father figure, and then because the mother finds it difficult to divide her time while working to support them, the child also feels the loss of a mother figure due to the busyness and lack of time owned by a single parent mother.

Based on the overall results of the interviews with the single parent mothers, the author concludes that the primary consequences they face are economic and psychological consequences. Regarding the economic changes experienced by a single parent when viewed from the economic consequences, there is a significant change in the single parent economy. Upon becoming a single parent, daily needs both of a personal nature and the needs of the children are borne by the single parent mother herself independently.

4.2 Parenting Style of Single Parent Mothers Toward Their Children

Based on the research conducted at the Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Palu City, the researcher found that single parent mothers implement a specific parenting style characterized by the integration of dual roles.

The following are the key findings regarding their parenting mechanisms:

a. Implementation of Dual Roles in Parenting

The research reveals that single parent mothers in this study perform a dual role as the primary caregiver and the sole breadwinner. This condition necessitates a pragmatic parenting style where the mother must balance strict discipline regarding time and education with the provision of emotional warmth. The results show that although these mothers are burdened by economic responsibilities, they prioritize the fulfillment of their children's material and spiritual needs to compensate for the absence of a father figure.

b. Fostering Islamic Religious Education

In accordance with the Islamic perspective, the respondents emphasize religious education as the foundation of their parenting. Parenting styles observed include:

- (1) Instilling Resignation (Tawakkal): Mothers teach their children to accept the decree of Allah SWT regarding their family structure.
- (2) Direct Guidance: Providing religious counseling at home to ensure children maintain their moral values despite the lack of a complete parental unit.

c. Psychological Support and Emotional Comfort

A crucial finding in this study is the effort of single parent mothers to create a "safe haven" at home. Despite experiencing inner loneliness and the absence of a confidant, these mothers strive to appear strong in front of their children. This is intended to prevent the children from feeling different or socially isolated. The parenting style leans toward being protective yet encouraging, as they deal with the unstable emotional states of children entering their teenage years.

d. Challenges in Time Management

The researcher identified a significant constraint in the parenting process: the limitation of quality time. The necessity to work at the Ministry of Religious Affairs often reduces the duration of direct interaction between mother and child. Consequently, some children feel a double loss – the loss of a father through death or divorce, and the perceived "loss" of a mother due to her professional busyness.

