

The Role of Fathers as Single Parents in Student Learning Activities

Didi Hari Purwanto¹, Ana Andriani², Nurdiana Lestari³
{ didihp123@gmail.com¹, ana.andriani@gmail.com², dianadien271@gmail.com³ }

SD Negeri Grugu 02, Kawunganten Cilacap Indonesia ¹
Magister Pendidikan Dasar, Universitas Muhammadiyah Purwokerto ²
SD Negeri Adirejakulon, Adipala Cilacap Indonesia ³

Abstract. Initial observations show that students who have fathers as single parents tend to be passive in class. This study aims to describe the role of fathers as single parents in students' learning activities. The method used in this study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with phenomenological methods. Informants in this study were students, parents, and teachers. Data collection techniques through observation, interviews, and documentation studies. Data analysis techniques include data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The results of the study show that the learning activities of students who have a father as a single parent have an impact on internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are the spirit of learning, independent learning and willingness to learn. External factors include parental attention, parental education, and economic conditions.

Keywords: single father role, learning activities, elementary school

1. Introduction

Education is a human right that empowers and liberates humans to build independent lives individually, within the scope of the family, society, nation and state life. Education is needed so that humans respect, love, are not discriminatory, and are moral, not acting on the results of mere rational considerations and instincts. Education is carried out jointly by the family, community and government in carrying out the state's duties to educate the nation's life, as well as to unite and eliminate social, economic and cultural inequalities. It is hoped that every citizen, especially students, through education can have good character values that can be applied in the life of the nation and state. Student identity will be good if they have good character values.

The education given by parents to their children has a great influence on the condition of children in learning [1]. The education that students receive occurs in three environments, namely the family environment, the college environment, and the social environment [2]. The different backgrounds of parents both in terms of busyness at work, different economic levels, and so on also affect the attention given to their children [3]. The attention of parents in the learning activities of students is expected to create a harmonious atmosphere so that children will feel happy and enthusiastic in learning. Parents with high attention to their children are needed to build a sense of comfort in learning.

Preliminary observations made by researchers found that students at SD Negeri Grugu 02 Kawunganten, Cilacap Regency, who had complete parents, received more attention from their parents before going to school. Parents of students have prepared breakfast and other needs for their children. Parents with high preoccupation with their work result in reduced attention to children, so that it has a negative impact on student achievement in learning, while parents who give full attention to their children's learning activities have good achievements. [4]. Spiritual and physical aspects must be involved in the entire process of learning activities so that behavior can change quickly, precisely, easily and correctly, both related to affective, cognitive and psychomotor aspects. [5].

2. Research Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with phenomenological methods. Phenomenology is a method of research in which researchers describe narratively the nature of human experience about a particular phenomenon [6]. This research was conducted at Grugu 02 Public Elementary School, Kawunganten District, Cilacap Regency. Research conducted for 3 months, namely January-March 2023. The research subjects were a representative part of a population, using certain techniques [7]. The subjects of this study were five students from SD Negeri Grugu 02, Kawunganten District, Cilacap Regency, who had fathers as single parents.

Data collection used techniques of observation, interviews, and documentation studies. Observations carried out in this study aim to obtain data related to the learning activities of students using participatory observation techniques. Interviews in this study were conducted with students, parents of students and teachers of SD Negeri Grugu 02 Kawunganten Cilacap District to obtain information about the learning activities of students with a single parent background. Documentation studies from this study were obtained from facts stored in the form of diaries, activity journals and school profile data. The data obtained from the documentation study is used to gather information about students' learning activities.

The data collected is then analyzed to obtain information that is in accordance with the research objectives. Activities carried out in analyzing qualitative data are carried out interactively and continuously until the data is saturated. Activities carried out in data analysis namely data reduction, data display, dan conclusion drawing/ verification [8]. The researcher reduced the data that had been collected to select the main and important things to provide a clearer picture of the data obtained. Presentation of data is used to facilitate the organization and arrangement of patterns of relationships with narrative texts. Conclusions made by researchers by describing and explaining the findings by answering questions from research about the learning activities of students who have fathers as single parents.

Testing the validity of the data in this study was carried out by testing the credibility using triangulation. Source triangulation techniques are used to compare information from data sources that have been obtained from students, teachers and single parents. Triangulation techniques from interview data, observation, and documentation studies were used by researchers to find out more about the learning activities of students who have fathers as single parents at SD Negeri Grugu 02, Kawunganten Cilacap District.

3. Results And Discussion

The research was conducted to describe the role of fathers as single parents in students' learning activities. The results showed that the learning activities of students at SD Negeri Grugu 02, Kawunganten Cilacap District, had high, medium and low learning activities. Learning facilities equipped by parents, attention, a comfortable family environment, and self-motivation can increase activity in learning.

Students with high learning activity get intensive attention from their parents. Busy parents who work all day do not bother him in giving attention. Every night after work, he always takes the time to accompany his child's studies. Learning activities at school also stand out. The results of observations show that students are always active in participating in lessons and ask the teacher if there is material that is not understood. The results of an interview conducted with one of the children who have a single parent with high learning activity stated that "I always do the assignments given by the teacher. When something can't be done, I ask my parents or find sources of information from books and the internet independently."

The learning activities of students in the medium category indicate that the activities in learning activities tend to be ordinary. Concentration in learning activities at school sometimes gets interference from other friends. His parents, who are divorced and have sufficient economic background, provide opportunities for their children to private tutoring so they can get the maximum education. The results of an interview with one of the teachers stated that "When given an assignment and it was time to rest or go home from school, he continued to complete his task in writing until it was finished".

Students with low learning activity get less attention from their parents. His mother has died since 5 years ago. His father, as a single parent, always works every day to meet the needs of his household. The deprived economic conditions forced his father to work hard, going from morning to evening to work as a farm laborer and construction worker. Communication between father and son was also not well established. The results of interviews conducted with fathers who are single parents with low learning activity state that "I teach children to learn on their own. I'm an underprivileged person, sometimes I come home from work, tired, teach moderately, not routinely, I also feel lazy to guide because I'm tired from work".

Learning activities are activities carried out by students in learning activities [9]. Hamalik's opinion is in accordance with what is carried out by students in learning activities, namely by listening to lessons given by the teacher, conducting questions and answers with the teacher, doing assignments given and seeking information from various sources.

Purwanto, Ngalm argues that the factors that affect activity in a person or student consist of two parts, including internal factors and external factors. Internal factors are all aspects contained within the individual, both physical and psychological aspects. External factors include family circumstances, teachers and teaching methods, learning tools, social motivation, and the environment and opportunities [10].

Purwanto's opinion strengthens the research results which show that internal and external factors have an impact on students' learning activities. Students who have high learning activity are supported by their inner will to be able to understand lessons and do assignments well. Students with moderate activity have limited reading skills, so participating in learning and doing assignments takes longer. The learning activities of students in the low category are due to the lack of desire to be able to participate in learning both at school and when getting assignments at home. Students tend to prefer playing rather than following lessons.

Single parents with adequate economic conditions are able to play an active role in their child's learning activities. After finishing work, he always takes the time to accompany his child to study. Learning facilities such as cellphones are also given to help in doing assignments if you have difficulty doing it. Every day they always communicate and ask their children about the learning process carried out at school. The difficulties faced by children in studying at home are always communicated between parents and children, so that good relations are established during the learning assistance process. The educational background of high school graduates is also a supporting factor when accompanying learning because they have more knowledge to share with their children.

Medium category learning activities are based because the role of parents cannot accompany learning directly. This single parent who is divorced is required to provide for his economic needs independently so he has to work outside the city and his child lives with his grandfather who did not graduate from elementary school. The process of learning assistance is not optimal, because the mother cannot accompany her in learning every day, while the grandfather often goes to the fields to do his job as a farmer, so he cannot control his grandson's learning at home. His parents gave him the opportunity to get additional lessons with private lessons. The tutor always provides information about their child's learning progress, and good communication is established.

Students who have low learning activity are because parents are busy with their work, so parents cannot accompany their children to study well. When I come home from work, I'm tired, so I'm lazy to accompany my child's studies. The educational background that only graduated from elementary school and his wife who had died also made it difficult to teach assignments given by the teacher at home. Every day they have to play a double role as parents who make a living by working as farm laborers and construction workers, they also have to prepare meals for their children who are going to school, so sometimes they don't have time to cook. The child often wakes up late because his father left him for work, so when he goes to school he is often late, does not have breakfast and the child's concentration in learning is disturbed.

This condition is in accordance with what was conveyed by Sudjana who said that active students can be seen from several things, namely participating in carrying out learning tasks, being involved in solving problems posed by the teacher, asking questions to friends or to the teacher when they do not understand the problem. faced, trying to find information from various sources needed to solve the problem, holding discussions with the group according to the instructions given by the teacher, conducting self-assessments and the results obtained, training themselves in solving various problems or similar problems, using opportunities or applying knowledge obtained in completing the tasks or problems encountered [11].

Tirtarahardja said that the role of parents is very important in learning in the family. The role of parents in the family is as a role model, as a teacher, and as an example [12]. The results showed that single parents who have a high level of education will be more able to accompany their children's learning activities at home compared to single parents who have a low level of education. Single parents with high levels of education can provide guidance when their children are studying at home because they have more knowledge and experience than parents with low levels of education. This condition is in accordance with the opinion of Tirtarahardja who states that the role of parents is very important in the family so that parental assistance is needed in the process of children's learning activities.

Hurlock said that single parents are parents who are widowed or widowed due to several factors, namely: 1) the death of their partner; 2) divorce; 3) the birth of children out of wedlock [13]. This opinion is in accordance with the findings of researchers who show students with a single parent background are caused by the death of a partner and divorce. Fathers as single parents who have died or are divorced from their partners find it difficult to carry out two tasks at once, namely as a breadwinner and taking care of the household. Busyness in earning a living triggers a lack of attention from parents in accompanying children to study. Single parents who have high responsibility for their children will always provide the best for education through study assistance and provide opportunities for their children to take private lessons.

Research by Amelia Daniati and Ana Andriani shows that in distance learning it is necessary for parents to accompany and facilitate students, remind students not to get tired, motivate, provide *reward* and *punishment* to students [14]. This condition is in accordance with the results of research which shows that the role of a single parent is carried out well through learning assistance, providing learning facilities for students needed, providing learning support and always providing learning motivation.

The results of the research conducted by Imami, F.Q. shows that single parents can accompany children to study, always provide motivation and advice to children. Constraints are also experienced by single mothers, namely they cannot fully and directly accompany their children when they learn from home [15]. This condition is in accordance with the results of research which shows that students' learning activities are influenced by the attention given by parents due to busyness in work and household affairs because they do not have a partner.

Fathers as single parents must be able to understand their role in their child's learning activities. Fathers who are busy making a living to meet their children's needs, taking care of the household with a double role as a mother because they do not have a partner and the obligation to provide proper education for their children must continue to be in balance so that they can pay attention to their children to increase learning activities.

4. Conclusion

Based on the background of the problem and the results of the research, it can be concluded that the presence of parents is needed by their children in every learning activity carried out. Learning activities have an impact on students internal factors and students external factors. Internal factors include spirit of learning, independent learning and willingness to learn. External factors include parental attention, parental education, and economic conditions. The author hopes that this paper can help parents, teachers, and related parties in overcoming problems that exist in students' learning activities both at school and at home, especially at the elementary school level.

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