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THE IMPACT OF THE HOE CRAFTSMAN PROFESSION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD CARE

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Abstract

Early childhood care is influenced by various factors, one of which is parental occupation. In Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency, most of the community works as hoe craftsmen with long working hours and heavy physical activity so that it has the potential to influence early childhood care patterns. Based on these conditions, this study aims to: 1) Determine the forms and patterns of care carried out by parents who work as hoe craftsmen towards early childhood in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency; 2) Determine the impact of the hoe craftsman profession on early childhood care; and 3) Determine the obstacles or barriers faced by hoe craftsmen parents in early childhood care. This research is a field research with a descriptive qualitative approach. The research was conducted directly in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency. The research subjects were 10 parents who work as hoe craftsmen and have children aged 3-6 years. The selection of research subjects was carried out using a purposive sampling technique, namely the deliberate determination of informants based on certain criteria that are in accordance with the research objectives. Data collection techniques were carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation to obtain in-depth data regarding the conditions of early childhood care in hoe craftsman families. Data analysis used the Miles and Huberman model which includes data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. The validity of the data was carried out through source triangulation, technical triangulation, and member checking. The results of the study indicate that: 1) The forms and patterns of parenting applied by hoe craftsmen's parents tend to be diverse, including permissive and democratic parenting patterns influenced by the level of education, economic conditions, and the intensity of parental involvement in childcare; 2) The profession of hoe craftsmen has an impact on early childhood care, especially limited interaction time between parents and children, physical fatigue after work, and less than optimal provision of educational and emotional stimulation to children; and 3) The main obstacles faced by parents in parenting include long working hours, physical fatigue after work, minimal knowledge about early childhood care, and limited time to accompany children to learn and play optimally. However, the profession of hoe craftsmen also provides positive values in the form of instilling an attitude of hard work, responsibility, and independence in children through the family environment and the parents' daily work activities.

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Introduction

Early childhood education is the main foundation in building the quality of human resources in the future. The early age period is often referred to as the *golden age* because at this stage there is very rapid growth and development in physical, cognitive, linguistic, social, and emotional aspects (Elizabeth B. Hurlock, 1980). The various basic skills that are developed during this period will be the foundation for the formation of children's character, intelligence, and abilities in facing various life challenges in the future. Therefore, children need an environment that is able to provide the right stimulation, protection, and assistance so that all their potential can develop optimally.

In the context of national education, attention to early childhood has become an important part of human development. Law Number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System emphasizes that early childhood is in the age range of 0–6 years and requires educational services that are able to support their growth and development as a whole. This view is in line with developmental theory which states that the experiences acquired by children in the early years of life have a strong influence on the behavior, personality, and success of individuals in the later stages of development (Elizabeth B. Hurlock, 1978). Thus, the quality of the family environment and the parenting patterns received by children are factors that greatly determine the success of their growth and development process.

A number of experts place the family as the first and main educational environment for children. Hurlock explains that experiences in early childhood have a long-term impact on individual character formation and development. Meanwhile, Montessori (2008) views children as individuals who have extraordinary abilities in absorbing various experiences from the surrounding environment. This perspective shows that parental involvement in children's lives is not only related to the fulfillment of physical needs, but also includes the provision of affection, attention, guidance, and stimulation that supports the child's psychological and social development (Erik H. Erikson, 1963).

In practice, parenting is a complex process because it is influenced by various factors, both internal and external to the family. One of the factors that is widely discussed in the study of child development is the work of parents (R. Naveen Kumar *et al.*, 2021). The profession that parents live can affect the availability of time, the quality of interaction, the level of fatigue, the economic condition of the family, and the communication patterns formed between parents and children (Bagong Suyanto, 2016). On the one hand, work can provide benefits in the form of improving family welfare. However, on the other hand, the high demands of the job have the potential to reduce parents' chances of being directly involved in the parenting process.

This phenomenon becomes even more interesting when studied in the context of rural communities that still maintain traditional professions as the main source of livelihood. One example can be found in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency. Most of the people in this village work as hoe craftsmen, a profession that has been passed down from generation to generation and is part of the social identity of the local community. Hoe production activities require technical skills, precision, large physical effort, and relatively long work time allocation. This condition causes many parents to spend most of their time working so that the opportunity to have intensive interactions with children becomes limited.

On the other hand, the characteristics of hoe craftsman work that are generally carried out in a home environment present different dynamics compared to formal work. The existence of a workplace that is integrated with the family room allows children to witness firsthand the work activities of their parents. This situation has the potential to be a means of social learning for children through the process of observation of the values of hard work, responsibility, discipline, and perseverance. However, these benefits are not always realized if the emotional interaction and communication between parents and children takes place in a limited way due to work fatigue and economic pressure faced by the family. (Abyantara et al., 2025)

The complexity of parenting is increasing because in some families, not only the father is involved in the production activities of the hoe, but also the mother. The involvement of both parents in the same work causes the time available to accompany the child to be reduced even less. As a result, some of the parenting responsibilities are often transferred to other family members, such as grandparents, or close relatives. These changes in parenting patterns have the potential to affect the quality of emotional relationships between parents and children as well as the developmental experiences that children gain at an early age. (Abyantara et al., 2025) (Maulidya & Diana, 2024)

Various previous studies have discussed the relationship between parental work and child development. Maulidya and Diana's research shows that parents who work in the night shift system need adaptive strategies to remain able to carry out parenting functions effectively. found that parental work has an effect on children's parenting and independence. Research reveals that scavenger families tend to apply a democratic parenting pattern in educating early childhood. In addition, research and prove that parental work has a relationship with the level of independence and social-emotional development of children. (Noor Baiti, 2020) (Marissa Julianti Suharto Putri, 2022) (Fansen, 2020)

However, most previous studies have focused more on formal professions or public work and have focused on the statistical relationship between parental work and child development. Studies that specifically explore the impact of traditional household-based professions on early childhood care practices are still relatively limited. In fact, traditional professions have different characteristics compared to formal work, especially in terms of work patterns, family role sharing, intensity of parental involvement, and interaction between the work environment and the domestic environment. The limitations of the study show that there is a research *gap* that needs to be filled through a more in-depth study.

Based on these conditions, this study was conducted to examine how the hoe craftsman profession affects early childhood parenting patterns in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency. This study seeks to identify the forms of parenting applied by hoe craftsman families, analyze the impact of work on the quality of parenting, and uncover the various obstacles faced by parents in carrying out their role as the main caregiver of children. The results of the research are expected to enrich the treasures of science in the field of early childhood education and family studies, especially related to parenting in the context of the informal economy and rural communities.

More broadly, this research makes a theoretical contribution to understanding the relationship between traditional professions and the dynamics of early childhood care, as well as providing practical contributions for parents, educators, and policy makers in designing family assistance programs that are in accordance with the characteristics of rural communities. Thus, this study not only seeks to explain the social phenomena that occur in the environment of hoe craftsmen, but also offers a more comprehensive understanding of the importance of balancing the demands of work and the quality of care for early childhood growth and development.

Methods

This study uses a descriptive qualitative approach with a type of field research which aims to deeply understand the impact of the hoe craftsman profession on early childhood care in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency (M. Iqbal Hasan, 2002). The research informants were selected using *the purposive sampling* technique, namely ten parents who work as hoe craftsmen and have early childhood aged 3–6 years. Data were collected through in-depth interviews, direct observation of parenting activities and family interactions, and documentation as supporting data. In this study, the researcher acted as the main instrument supported by interview guidelines, observation sheets, recording devices, cameras, and field notes (G. Daruhadi and P. Sopiati, 2024). The validity of the data is maintained through source triangulation, technical triangulation, and *member checking* (W. V. Nurfajriani et al., 2024). Furthermore, data were analyzed using the model of Miles and Huberman (2014) which included the stage of data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing and verification to obtain a comprehensive picture of parenting patterns, work impacts, and obstacles faced by hoe craftsman parents in caring for early childhood.

Results

1.1. *Forms and Patterns of Parenting Carried Out by Parents Who Work as Hoe Craftsmen for Early Childhood in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency*

The parenting practices carried out by the families of hoe craftsmen show more permissive parenting characteristics, although in some families the application of democratic parenting is also found. The variation in parenting patterns is closely related to the characteristics of parents' work which requires them to work for a long duration and expend considerable physical energy every day.

The tendency of permissive parenting can be seen from the habits of parents who give children the flexibility to carry out various activities without strict regulations. In many cases, children are given the opportunity to play and do activities independently as long as they do not interfere with their parents' work or cause problems in the family environment. Some parents admit that limited time and tired body conditions after work make them unable to supervise intensively or consistently apply rules to their children.

The findings indicate that low levels of control and supervision are the main characteristics of nurturing practices that have developed in some hoe artisan families. In Baumrind's (1991) perspective, permissive parenting is characterized by a lack of demands and control from parents, while children are given ample space to determine their own behavior. In this study, this tendency did not entirely arise due to parents' conscious choices, but was more influenced by the energy-draining work situation so that their capacity to guide and supervise children was limited.

The results of this study are in accordance with the study of Noor Baiti (2020) who explained that the type of work and working conditions of parents can affect parenting practices and child development. The findings of this study reinforce this view by showing that the demands of work contribute to a reduced quality of parental involvement in children's lives. However, this study provides a more specific perspective because it examines the hoe craftsman profession as a traditional household-based job that has its own characteristics, especially related to physical load and high allocation of working time.

The findings of this study are also related to the research of Marissa Julianti Suharto Putri (2022) regarding parenting in informal sector workers' families. The similarity can be seen in the existence of some families who are still able to carry out democratic parenting even though they are in quite difficult working conditions. However, this study shows that most hoemaker families are more likely to adopt a permissive pattern than a democratic one. These differences indicate that work characteristics, work environment, and family social conditions play a role in shaping different parenting practices in each community group.

In addition to the dominance of permissive patterns, this study also found a number of families who apply a democratic approach in educating children. This is reflected in the existence of well-established two-way communication, the consistent application of discipline, and the active involvement of parents in children's learning activities and daily activities. Parents in this group try to provide special time to interact with their children even though they have a fairly high workload.

The practice of parenting is in line with the concept of democratic parenting that emphasizes a balance between the provision of boundaries, emotional support, open communication, and appreciation of the needs of children. In this pattern, parents not only function as rulemakers, but also as companions who provide direction and support for children's development. The findings of the study show that families that apply a democratic approach generally have a higher awareness of the importance of parental involvement in the process of early childhood growth and development.

1.2. *The Impact of the Hoe Craftsman Profession on Early Childhood Care in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency*

The impact that arises is not only related to the limitations in the implementation of parenting, but also gives rise to several positive values that can support the formation of children's character. The impacts found in this study include:

1. Reduced Intensity of Interaction between Parents and Children

Work activities that take place for a long duration cause parents to have fewer opportunities to communicate and interact with their children. Most of the time is spent completing work so that togetherness in the family does not take place optimally. This condition affects the emotional closeness and quality of the relationship between parents and children.

2. Declining Parental Involvement in Learning Assistance

The high workload that must be lived every day causes parents to experience fatigue when returning home. As a result, assistance for learning, reading, educational play, and activities that support children's cognitive development is less than optimal. This situation has the potential to reduce children's chances of obtaining educational stimulation from the family environment.

3. Limited Supervision of Children's Activities

Busy work causes parents' attention to children's daily activities to be reduced. The observation results showed that children were more likely to play independently around the house and family work area without intensive supervision. This situation can affect the process of forming behavior, discipline, and children's ability to control themselves.

4. Reduced Emotional Support

Deteriorating physical condition after work often leaves parents with insufficient energy to provide optimal emotional attention to their children. As a result, children's needs for psychological support, warm communication, and emotional closeness are not always optimally met.

5. Increasing Tendency to Implement Permissive Parenting

Fatigue and time constraints encourage some parents to give greater flexibility to their children without adequate regulation or supervision. Under certain conditions, parents tend to reduce the provision of rules or controls due to limited manpower and time after work.

6. Limited Child Development Stimulation

High work pressure affects the ability of parents to provide various activities that can stimulate children's language, social, emotional, motor, and cognitive development. As a result, the stimulation process that should be given continuously has not been carried out optimally.

7. Instilling the Value of Hard Work and Responsibility

In addition to the various challenges that have arisen, this study also found a positive impact of the hoe craftsman profession. Children get the opportunity to observe firsthand the work activities of their parents so that they can get to know values such as hard work, responsibility, discipline, perseverance, and enthusiasm in meeting the needs of the family.

8. Formation of Independent Attitudes in Children

The limited assistance provided by parents in some situations encourages children to learn to do various activities independently. Although it needs to be accompanied proportionally, these conditions can help children develop a sense of responsibility and the ability to manage themselves from an early age.

1.3. *Obstacles or Obstacles of Parents Who Work as Hoe Craftsmen in Early Childhood Care in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency*

Obstacles to Early Childhood Care in Hoe Craftsman Families

1. Limited parenting time

Long working hours cause parents to have little opportunity to interact, accompany, and build emotional closeness with their children. This condition reduces the intensity of parental involvement in daily parenting activities.

2. Physical fatigue due to the demands of work

Hoe production activities that require a lot of labor and are carried out for a long time cause physical fatigue. As a result, parents often experience limited energy to accompany their children after finishing work.

3. Low understanding of child development stimulation

Some parents do not have adequate knowledge about the importance of stimulating early childhood development, including in cognitive, linguistic, social-emotional, and motor aspects. This affects the quality of assistance provided to children.

4. Family economic pressure

The economic needs that must be met encourage parents to work longer so that attention to the educational, emotional, and developmental needs of children is reduced.

5. Conflict between the role of breadwinner and caregiver

Parents often have difficulty balancing work responsibilities with childcare obligations. This condition causes the parenting function to not always be carried out optimally.

6. Reduced quality of parent-child interaction

The combination of time constraints and work fatigue results in communication, mentoring, and emotional relationships between parents and children becoming less intensive.

7. Mother's involvement in production activities

The mother's participation in the process of making and marketing handicrafts causes the time available to accompany the child to be limited, so that parenting is often transferred to other family members.

8. Limited attention to children's non-physical needs

The family's focus on meeting economic needs causes emotional, social, and child development stimulation needs to be provided optimally.

Discussion

The results of the study show that the profession as a hoe craftsman has a considerable influence on the pattern of early childhood care in Sumberdalem Village. The majority of parents tend to apply permissive parenting, although some others still apply democratic parenting. This condition is influenced by the demands of work that requires long working time and large physical labor so that parents have limitations in supervision, mentoring, and interaction with children. The findings are in line with Baumrind's parenting theory which explains that permissive parenting is characterized by low parental control and high freedom given to children. The results of this study also support Noor Baiti's research which states that the type of work and working conditions of parents can affect the quality of parenting and child development.

In addition to influencing parenting patterns, the hoe craftsman profession also has an impact on reducing the intensity of parent-child interaction, declining learning assistance, limited supervision of children's activities, and less than optimal developmental stimulation and emotional support provided to children. This condition is in accordance with Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory which explains that the work environment of parents can have an indirect influence on children's development through family conditions and patterns of interaction formed. However, this study also found a positive impact in the form of the formation of the value of hard work, responsibility, discipline, and independence in children through observation of the daily work activities of parents.

This study also reveals various obstacles faced by parents in early childhood care, such as time constraints, physical fatigue, low understanding of child development stimulation, family economic pressure, and difficulties in balancing roles as breadwinners and caregivers. These findings suggest that the quality of parenting is not only influenced by individual factors, but also related to the social, economic, and cultural conditions of the family. Therefore, support from families, educational institutions, and the government is needed through parenting education programs and family economic empowerment so that the needs of early childhood growth and development can be met more optimally.

Conclusion

Based on the results of the research, it can be concluded that the hoe craftsman profession has an effect on the pattern and quality of early childhood care in Sumberdalem Village, Kertek District, Wonosobo Regency. The parenting pattern applied by parents tends to lead to a democratic and permissive pattern, which is influenced by economic conditions, education levels, and time constraints due to work demands. Work activities that are dense and require large physical energy cause a reduction in the intensity of interaction between parents and children, thus having an impact on emotional assistance and stimulation of children's development. However, the family environment of hoe craftsmen also has a positive impact in the form of instilling the value of hard work, responsibility, discipline, and independence to children through the example of parents in their daily lives.

Based on the findings of the study, parents are expected to improve the quality of parenting by providing more quality time to interact and accompany their children despite having a high workload. In addition, PAUD institutions and village governments need to strengthen parenting education programs and family assistance to support optimal child growth and development. Further researchers are also expected to develop similar research with a wider scope and a more in-depth focus of studies in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between the parenting profession and early childhood care.

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