

## Social Development of Children with Single Parent Style

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### Abstract

This study focuses on the social development of children raised in single-parent families in Pasawahan District, Purwakarta, West Java. The background of this research is driven by the increasing number of single-parent families in Indonesia, raising concerns about the potential impact on the social development of the involved children. The aim of this study is to analyze the influence of single-parent parenting on children's social development, evaluate the relationship between such parenting and children's social well-being, and develop intervention programs aimed at enhancing the social welfare of children from single-parent families. The research methodology employed includes a literature review, quantitative surveys, in-depth interviews, and observational monitoring. The study also draws on various concepts and theories, such as the Parental Involvement Theory, Social Support Theory, and Resilience Theory, to understand how these factors influence children's social development within the context of single-parenting. The findings indicate that while single-parenting presents unique challenges to children's social development, targeted intervention programs can significantly improve their social outcomes. Further analysis underscores the importance of a comprehensive support system to promote the social well-being of children in single-parent families and the implications for policy formulation and program development. This research also aims to support more effective policies and strategies in enhancing the welfare of children from single-parent families in Indonesia.

**Keywords:** Intervention Programs, Social Development of Children, Children's Social Welfare



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## INTRODUCTION

Children's social development is a fundamental aspect that influences their ability to interact with their environment, build interpersonal relationships, and understand social norms. Within the family context, parenting styles play a central role in shaping a child's social development. The parenting style applied by parents functions not only as an emotional support system but also as the primary means through which children learn essential social skills for their lives.

One particular form of parenting that has attracted the attention of many researchers is single-parenting. This phenomenon is increasingly common in various parts of the world, including Indonesia. Single parenting refers to situations in which a child is raised by only one parent due to factors such as divorce, the death of a spouse, or a decision to raise a child without a partner. This condition presents unique challenges for both the parent and the children involved.

In Pasawahan District, Purwakarta, the rising number of single-parent families has become a significant social phenomenon. According to data from the Department of Population and Civil Registration, there has been an increase in the number of single-parent families requiring special attention regarding its impact on the social development of their children. Children from single-parent households often face limitations in emotional and social support, as the caregiving role is carried out by only one person. This situation has the potential to affect the quality of their interactions within the social environment.

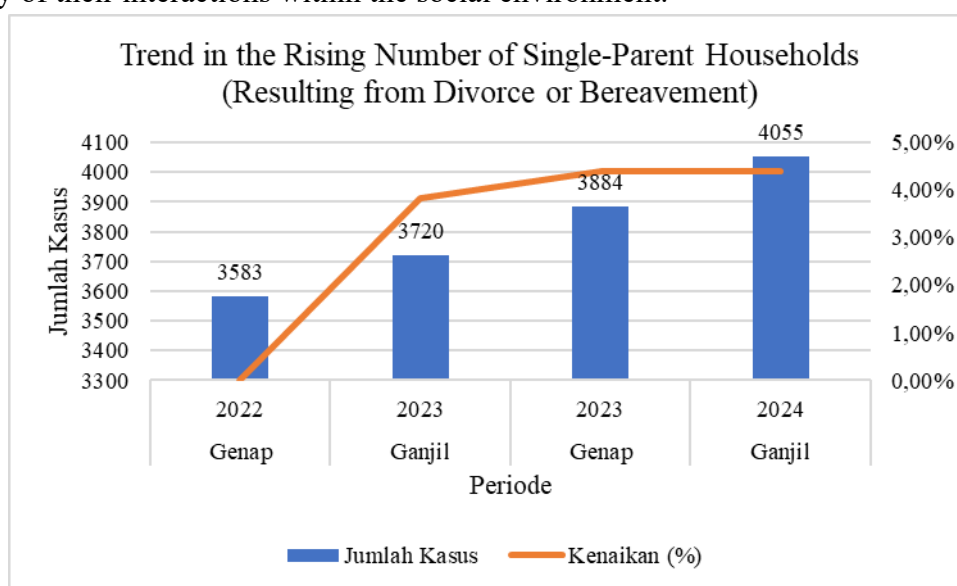


Figure 1. Trend of the Increasing Number of Single-Parent Families (Due to Divorce or Death) in Pasawahan District, Purwakarta Regency, West Java Province

Source: <https://disdukcapil.purwakartakab.go.id/home/dokumen/agregat-kependudukan>

This research is important, based on the reality that children are the future assets of the nation. If children from single-parent families do not receive adequate attention, they are at risk of facing various issues, such as low self-confidence, difficulty in forming social relationships, and a decline in emotional well-being. In the long term, these problems may even affect their ability to adapt to more complex environments, such as school settings and broader community life.

This situation raises an important question: how does single parenting influence the social development of children in Pasawahan District? The answer to this question is not only academically relevant but also holds broader practical implications. A deeper understanding of this issue could serve as the foundation for developing more effective and sustainable intervention programs.

Previous studies have shown that single parenting can have both negative and positive impacts, depending on various factors such as social support, the parent's education level, and access to resources. However, there remains a gap in the literature exploring how these factors operate specifically within the local context of Indonesia, particularly in rural areas like Pasawahan District.

Single parenting also has broader implications for the social well-being of children. Social well-being includes a child's ability to feel accepted within social groups, understand their role in society, and build healthy relationships with others. If these aspects are not fulfilled, children risk experiencing social alienation, which can affect their mental health well into adulthood.

Furthermore, without comprehensive research, policies and intervention programs designed to support single-parent families risk being ineffective. This study is expected to contribute to identifying the specific needs of single-parent families in Pasawahan District and to designing relevant intervention strategies.

The consequences of neglecting this issue could be detrimental. Children who do not receive adequate social and emotional support may become unproductive individuals, have difficulty socializing, or even face psychological or mental health challenges. This not only affects the individual but can also place a burden on society as a whole.

On the other hand, if this research is carried out effectively, its results could provide long-term benefits for both individuals and communities. The findings may be used to design programs that support single-parent families, improve the social well-being of their children, and promote more inclusive policies at both local and national levels.

Thus, this study is not only essential for addressing scientific questions but also carries significant practical value. It is hoped that this research can serve as a foundation for improving the social development of children in single-parent families and offer concrete solutions to the challenges faced by these families in Pasawahan District.

## RESEARCH METHOD

### *Research Design*

This study employs a qualitative descriptive method with a case study approach. This approach was chosen because it allows the researcher to explore in depth the social phenomena within a specific context, particularly in analyzing the social development of children in single-parent families. Case studies enable researchers to examine the complex and contextual social realities holistically, including various factors influencing the conditions of children in single-parent households.

### *Research Target/Subject*

The research was conducted in Pasawahan District, Purwakarta Regency, selected due to a significant increasing trend in the number of single-parent families. The focus of the study is directed toward single-parent families with children ranging from elementary school age to

adolescence. The research subjects include single parents (both mothers and fathers) and their children aged 6 to 18 years old.

### *Research Procedure*

The research procedure involved several stages. The initial stage was preparation, where the researcher identified single-parent families through available data. This was followed by data collection using various techniques, such as interviews, observations, and questionnaires. The collected data were then thoroughly analyzed using thematic and descriptive statistical approaches. The results of the analysis were compiled into a research report. Throughout the entire process, the researcher adhered to ethical research principles such as informed consent, anonymity, and data confidentiality.

### *Instruments, and Data Collection Techniques*

Data were collected using several techniques, including in-depth interviews, participant observation, structured questionnaires, and documentation. The instruments used included interview guides, observation sheets, and questionnaires, all designed based on social development theories such as Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Theory and Social Support Theory. Prior to full-scale use, these instruments were validated through trials with several respondents to ensure their accuracy and reliability.

### *Data Analysis Technique*

Thematic analysis was employed for qualitative data, while descriptive statistics were used for quantitative data. The analysis process consisted of three stages: data reduction, categorization, and data interpretation. To ensure the validity and reliability of the findings, the study used data source triangulation (from interviews, observations, and documentation) and method triangulation (a combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches). Additionally, member checking was carried out by asking respondents to verify the results of the interviews and observations.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Results**

#### **1. Demographic Profile of Respondents**

This study involved 50 respondents who were single-parent families in Pasawahan District. The majority of respondents were single mothers (78%), while the remaining 22% were single fathers. In terms of the children's age, the 7–12 age group was the most dominant (56%), followed by the teenage group aged 13–17 (44%). These data indicate that younger children are more vulnerable to parenting patterns, as they are in a critical stage of social development.

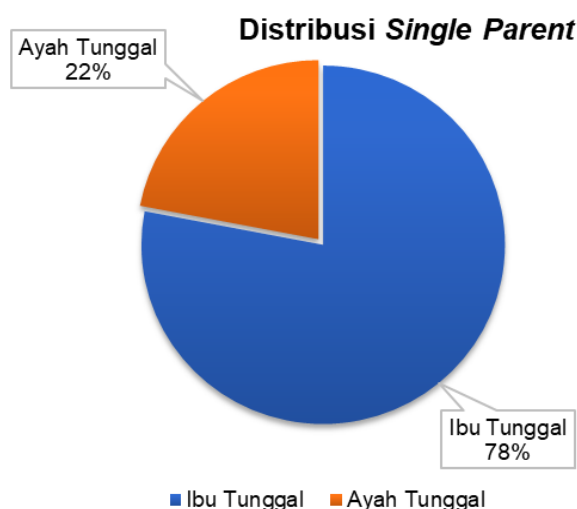


Figure 1. Distribution of Single Parents (Single-Parent Family Respondents)

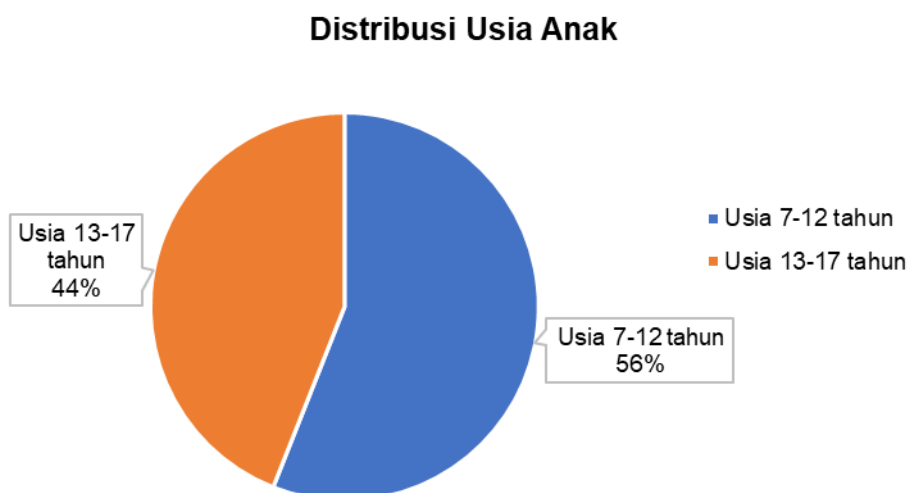


Figure 2. Age Distribution of Children (Respondents by Age Group from Single-Parent Families)

## 2. Parenting Styles and Children's Perceptions

A total of 45% of respondents applied an authoritative parenting style, characterized by a balance between affection and discipline. Children raised under this style demonstrated high levels of social participation, such as active involvement in school and community activities. Conversely, the permissive parenting style, applied by 25% of respondents, tended to result in children with higher levels of social isolation.

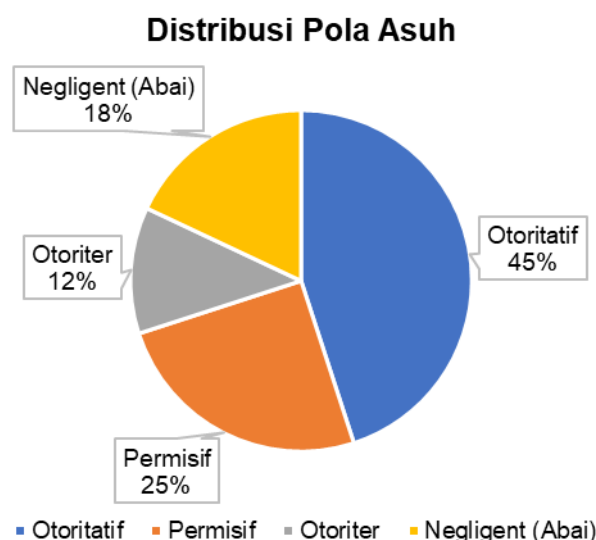


Figure 3. Distribution of Parenting Styles in Single-Parent Families

In the chart above, there are four categories of parenting styles:

a. **Authoritative/Democratic (45%)** – This parenting style combines affection with discipline. Children raised under this approach tend to have high levels of social participation and are active in school and community activities.

b. **Permissive (25%)** – This style is characterized by a lack of rules and boundaries given to the child. As a result, children raised with this approach are more vulnerable to social isolation and often lack self-discipline.

c. **Authoritarian (12%)** – This style emphasizes strict rules and high discipline with little affection. Children raised in this environment tend to be obedient but may lack confidence in social interactions.

d. **Negligent (18%)** – This style involves minimal attention and parental involvement. Children raised with this approach often struggle with emotional and social development.

### 3. Level of Children's Social Well-being

Data show that children from families with an authoritative parenting style exhibit higher levels of social well-being, as indicated by their ability to form healthy relationships, self-confidence, and resilience to social pressure. On the social well-being scale, they scored an average of 80–90 out of 100. In contrast, children raised with permissive or uninvolved parenting styles scored lower, around 50–65, with signs of social anxiety.

### 4. External Supporting Factors

Support from educational institutions and community leaders plays a significant role in children's social development. Programs such as school counseling, study groups, and religious activities at local mosques provide spaces for children to enhance their social skills. However, the study also found that 30% of single-parent families felt they received insufficient support from their environment, particularly in terms of access to child-friendly facilities.

## Analysis/Discussion

### 1. Single Parent Parenting Styles and Their Impact

The authoritative parenting style demonstrated the most positive results in supporting children's social development. Children from such families tend to actively participate in group activities, show high levels of empathy, and are capable of managing interpersonal conflicts effectively. These findings align with Baumrind's (1991) research on the effectiveness of authoritative parenting in fostering adaptive social character in children. In contrast, the authoritarian style—although it instills discipline—often leads to children becoming overly dependent on external rules without developing personal initiative. The permissive style, which lacks emphasis on discipline, tends to result in children experiencing self-control issues and withdrawal from social interactions.

### 2. Correlation Between Parenting Style and Children's Social Well-being

This study found a significant correlation between parenting style and children's social well-being ( $r = 0.68$ ). Parents who are able to build close emotional relationships with their children provide a strong foundation for the development of healthy social relationships. Conversely, the absence of parental attention—whether due to work commitments or psychological limitations—exacerbates the risk of social problems in children.

### 3. Influence of External Support

Support from the environment, such as schools and communities, proves to be a crucial counterbalance for children from single-parent families. Schools offering mentoring or counseling programs help children cope with emotional pressures and build self-confidence. However, this support is not evenly distributed across Pasawahan District, leaving some families unable to access these resources effectively.

### 4. Relevance of Social and Psychological Theories

The findings of this study reinforce **resilience theory**, which emphasizes that children with sufficient emotional support from both parents and the environment are better equipped to handle life stressors. **Bowlby's attachment theory** is also relevant here, suggesting that secure emotional bonds between parent and child form the foundation for the development of confidence and social competence.

### 5. Intervention Programs as a Solution

The study recommends the development of intervention programs, including parenting training for single parents, child mentoring programs in schools, and enhanced involvement of local communities. These programs aim to address the time and attention limitations often faced in single-parent households. In addition, psychosocial support through counseling is crucial in helping children manage stress and build healthy relationships.

## CONCLUSION

This study provides a comprehensive overview of the social development of children raised in single-parent families in Pasawahan District, Purwakarta Regency. The findings conclude that single-parenting styles in this region have a significant impact on children's social development, with the authoritative parenting style showing the most positive outcomes compared to permissive or authoritarian styles. The social well-being of children from single-parent families is strongly influenced by the level of parental attention and emotional support, as well as the vital role of external environments such as schools and communities.



Despite various challenges, the development of intervention programs involving parenting training, psychosocial support, and increased community engagement can effectively enhance the quality of children's social development. These findings offer recommendations for more inclusive policies to support single-parent families and ensure that children can grow in environments that nurture their full potential.

This conclusion affirms that although single-parent families face multiple challenges in fostering their children's social growth, well-planned and collaborative support from families, communities, and the government can create conditions that enable children to reach their best potential. It is hoped that this study serves as a foundation for further research and the development of more effective policies and intervention programs in the future.

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## AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

*Look this example below:*

Author 1: Conceptualization; Project administration; Validation; Writing - review and editing, Formal analysis; Methodology; Writing - original draft.

Author 2: Conceptualization; Data curation; Investigation, Supervision; Validation.

Author 3: Data curation; Investigation, Other contribution; Resources; Visualization; Writing - original draft.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author declares no conflict of interest. This research was conducted independently without any influence from external parties. No funding sponsor was involved in the selection of the research topic, study design, data collection, analysis, interpretation, manuscript writing, or the decision to publish the results.

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