

## **Grandparents in Strengthening Children's Spiritual Intelligence in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency**

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### ***Abstract***

*Grandparenting is childcare carried out by surrogate parents (grandparents) where grandparents are part of a large family that is trusted by parents to care for their children either temporarily or permanently, in their care grandparents educate their grandchildren in the ability to strengthen spiritual intelligence which is covering a wide variety. This study uses qualitative field research, where data is obtained through interviews. The results of the study stated that the background of the occurrence of grandparents was due to various things: infidelity, divorce, or being left by their parents to work. Then grandparents in strengthening children's spiritual intelligence by familiarizing themselves with religious activities such as: learning the Koran, praying in congregation, and training themselves to be honest in all things. Then the impact of grandparents is being able to strengthen religious traits in everyday life such as worship activities, socializing well, and being able to distinguish between good and bad traits.*

***Keywords:*** Grandparenting, Spiritual Intelligence, Children

### **INTRODUCTION**

The family is a unit formed by interconnected and interacting parts that have a special structure or in other words have ties in the form of marriage and blood relations that influence religion, emotional ties, and customary law (Santrock, 2020) The family environment is the most important environment for children to learn about their cultural norms, values, attitudes, and beliefs so that children can grow into children who have a positive attitude to act in a wider environment afterward (Munsch, 2016). In instilling these traits, the family has a very important role, namely the nuclear

family (father and mother), and extended family (grandfathers, grandmothers, uncles, aunts and other siblings) both of whom influence each other on the spiritual development of children, for example in worship (*hablun min Allah*) (Lasota, 2015).

The family nucleus consists of a father, a mother, and children. The existence of the elderly (grandparents) who live together with the nuclear family, is referred to as a large family or *extended family*. *Extended family* is one of the characteristics of families in Indonesia. The extended family consists of family members not only the father, mother, and children, but also other family members. The *extended family means that the family relationship between parents, children, and grandparents can be said to be very close*. So that the duties and responsibilities in caring for children are gradually given to grandparents who have entered their final age or are elderly because the child's parents are working or so on. Cases of divorce and death are other factors that reasons for children to be cared for by grandparents besides being busy working to fulfill the family's economy (Arini, 2018). In addition to caring for grandparents, grandparents also instill spiritual qualities in their grandchildren which are useful for embedding themselves in perfect religion, such as: reciting the Koran, praying at the mosque, or something else.

Mlaten Village is a village where grandparenting occurs due to many things such as infidelity, divorce, and being left to work abroad so that parents are not directly involved in raising children, the task of caring for children is transferred to grandparents who mostly work as farmers. Therefore, the description of the problems above is the reason for researchers to study more deeply about *grandparenting* in the spiritual development of children. in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency.

## RESEARCH METHOD

The research in the article above uses field research. Field research is research in the form of descriptive analysis, namely research that is focused on certain events to be observed and analyzed, and researched. Data analysis in qualitative research begins with preparing and organizing data, where data is taken from interviews, observations, and others (Creswell, 2007).

According to Moleong, the qualitative data analysis process begins with reviewing all available data from various sources, such as interviews, and observations that have been recorded in field notes, personal documents, official documents, photographs, and drawings. After reviewing, the next step is data reduction, unit arrangement, categorization, and finally data interpretation (Sodik, 2015).

## FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### Background of the Occurrence of *Grandparenting* in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency

Forms of parenting grandparents can influence the formation of a child's personality after he becomes an adult. This matter is due to the characteristics and elements of the character of an individual maturing long before the seeds are already implanted into the soul of an individual from the very beginning, that is when he was a child. That is, the treatment of grandparents of their grandchildren since childhood will have an impact on their social and moral development as they growing age (Ayun, 2017). It is this social-moral development that will shape character the nature and attitude of the child later, although several other factors influence the formation of reflected child attitudes in his character. Such as the main factor in the occurrence of *grandparenting* which was stated by Mrs. Nurul Wahidah in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency.

*“Because his parents (father) had an affair with another woman, but*

*his father still provided for his child. After this incident, his father divorced his wife and then married Siri to his mistress. Therefore, to make a living for his child, his mother was willing to work as a migrant worker in Arab Saudi”.*

Some researchers have grouped Affairs into two types, among others sexual infidelity and emotional infidelity in which individuals share an emotional bond deeply with someone who is not a partner (Baucom, 2004) According to Guitar when someone is in a relationship or marriage and engage in sexual activity with other individuals who are not partner, it can be said that the individual is having a sexual affair. Some of the things included in This affair are having the intention to have a relationship sexual intercourse with other people, engaging in pseudo-sexual behavior (*flirting*), engaging in activities of sexual intercourse and intimacy with other people, either directly or through electronic devices by sharing things of an erotic nature.

Then, someone is said to do emotional infidelity if the person has created emotional distance from the main partner and spending too much time with or thinking about other people outside of the relationship, in other words, the main partner becomes neglected or emotionally rejected.

According to Guitar that was included in the affair above type is deceiving a partner about his feelings towards someone else, dedicating yourself emotionally to others, not emotionally satisfying your partner compared to others, falling in love with others, lying to a partner, discussing relationships with other people, and having romantic feelings for other people outside partner (Kurniasih, 2021)It is not only infidelity that causes *grandparenting*, but also divorce, as interviewed by Sumarti’s mother as follows:

*“Because the father and mother are divorced, then the father is not responsible for providing a living for his wife and children. Therefore, to make ends meet for her children, her mother is willing to work as a female worker abroad (Saudi Arabia)”.*

According to Agoes Dariyo, a divorce is an event that is not planned and desired by the two individuals who are both bound by marriage. Divorce is the breaking up of a family because one or both partners decide to leave each other so they stop carrying out their obligations as husband and wife (Dariyo, 2008). Divorce doesn't only cause emotional disturbances for couples divorced but also the children will be affected. The impact of divorce on children will be heavier than on their parents. Sometimes the child will be feeling caught in the middle when the parents' divorce. Anger, fear, Separation anxiety, sadness, and shame are reactions for most children from the effects of divorce.

Divorce that occurs in a family has an impact that affects the soul and condition of the child. Children experience obstacles in their fulfillment related to love and belonging parents must face the fact that their parents are divorced. The child gets a bad picture of family life. In a child's feelings, divorce is a shameful deficiency. Divorce almost always makes children sad, angry, and weak in spirit, the point is that children are in deep dilemmas and feel various problems psychologically (Novrita Dwi Kurnia, 2017)

On the other hand, the factors that affect *grandparenting* are not only infidelity and divorce but also being left to work by their parents, as said by Mrs. Suwarti and Mr. Muji as follows:

*“Mother and father work and I live with them and my grandchildren”.*  
*“Because the father and mother work every day”*

Working every day or traveling is a normal and very common phenomenon in Indonesia, especially in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency. Community factors for working, especially in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency, are as follows: cultural factors and economic factors. 1). This cultural factor occurs because most of these people choose to migrate or work every day as the main alternative to earning a living. So that wandering becomes rooted and the culture of wandering

becomes hereditary. 2). Economic Factors Another explanation is population growth that is not accompanied by an increase in natural resources that can be managed. If previously agricultural and plantation products were their main source of residence to support their family, now the results from natural resources which are their main source of income are no longer sufficient to provide results to meet their common needs, because they must be divided among them. several families.

### ***Grandparenting in Strengthening Children's Spiritual Intelligence in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency***

Strengthening the spiritual intelligence of children is important in growing the religious side of each child. The development of spiritual intelligence in children depends on the child's environment, the wrong one is the family environment (Novrita Dwi Kurnia, 2017) Spiritual strengthening is the intelligence of the soul that helps a person to develop himself as a whole by creating the possibility to apply positive values. The child's spiritual intelligence will affect the child's development toward maturity so that the child can grow and develop into a complete human being.

Spiritual intelligence is different from emotional intelligence, deep and self-aware. On intelligence Emotionally, humans are viewed and analyzed within psychological and social boundaries. While in spiritual intelligence, humans are interpreted and viewed as their existence reaches the *noumenal (fitriyah)* and *universal planes* (Nurhayah, 2020). So, grandparents who can think and have spiritual intelligence and know something inspirationally can be passed on to their grandchildren, just as the spiritual intelligence applied by Mrs. Nurul Wahidah and Mrs. Sumarti and some residents of Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency include:

*“Values such as diligently studying worship, getting used to learning the Koran after maghrib and children going to their places of*

*recitation, because the location of the recitation (Musholla) is close to home, during the fasting month I order fasting as well”*

*“The importance of spiritual values in the form of being diligent in worship, willing to recite the Koran and trying to behave honestly”*

Thompson and Randall explain that according to them, the spiritual strengthening of children is included in the literal-mystical belief stage. This stage occurs between the ages of 6-12 years. At this stage, the child has begun to see causal categories, space, and time. More advanced cognitive development makes children more capable of forming conscious interpretations and understandings of the spiritual dimension. At this stage, the child learns about the concepts of the spiritual dimension from people who have authority in their environment. At this stage, forms of spiritual understanding and enlightenment are obtained by children, which will further develop if they receive positive input from their environment. The following are things that help strengthen children's spiritual intelligence(Adams, 2008),

- a). Someone who wants to develop a child's spiritual intelligence must also have good spiritual intelligence. The person must be able to interpret the values and goals of life,
- b). Invite children to identify the existence of meaning and value in everyday life,
- c). Recognizing that very young children are capable of interpreting their spiritual experiences in what they describe as problem-solving mechanisms about the meaning and values of life,
- d). Someone who develops a child's spiritual intelligence must pay attention to opportunities to develop a child's self-awareness through activities related to art, such as drawing, playing drama, or playing music. These activities can develop children's self-awareness,
- e). Invite children to often ask "why?" or "what if?" and look for basic answers when solving problems,
- f). Provide opportunities and rewards for children to show good behavior and empathy,
- g). Teach children to try to overcome pain and suffering,
- h). Provide opportunities for children to think about the meaning and values of life in

calm and solitude.

Not only does the above understanding strengthen children's spiritual intelligence, but also instills an attitude of honesty that can be carried out through simple daily activities and as a habit for young children, namely behavior that can distinguish personal property and that of others. The basic ability to differentiate is the basis for being honest (Zuriah, 2011). Honesty is stated as a positive value because this behavior is beneficial both for those who commit it and for other people who are affected by it. Honesty is one of the principles that must be upheld by everyone as early as possible, not only important for students, students, and students. Honesty is very valuable for oneself, society, people, or a nation. Honesty will bring peace, inner peace, and even happiness to someone in society (Burdah, 2013). So that people judge as someone good, not only in the family but to the wider community, as applied by Suwarti's mother in strengthening the spiritual intelligence of her grandson.

*“Invited to socialize with new people in terms of goodness, an example of joining jam'iyah, and little by little introduced to the obligation of prayer, and often advised not to lie, try to tell the truth wherever he is”*

According to Baumrind, the above parenting style is included in the *demandingness* dimension. Dimensions *demandingness* is a dimension related to caregiver demands regarding the desire to make children part of the family, hope for mature behavior, discipline, provision of supervision, and coping with problems in child behavior. These demands are the hopes and efforts of caregivers so that children can fulfill their standards of behavior, attitudes and social responsibility are high or have set. Claims vary depending on the degree to which caregivers maintain, supervise, or try to make the child meet the demands (Damayanti, 2019).

Spiritual strengthening does not only introduce worship but motivates people to do good because humans have spirits that sometimes go up and

down, so when humans are in a state of low spirits they need to be motivated. Humans have the potential that when motivated they will show even better performance because motivation has a very good and positive impact on the development of the human soul, especially the development of children's education. Childhood is a period of ups and downs in terms of learning, so we must always provide motivational methods, as expressed by Mrs. Nurul Wahidah and Mrs. Suwarti in motivating their grandchildren in spiritual strengthening as follows:

*“I often motivate my grandchildren about this incident, in terms of patience in dealing with all problems”*

*“Give motivation, and respect to others. Don't like lying, be honest and from your parents also give awards when you can memorize prayers or short letters”*

Motivation can be defined by everything that drives demanding behavior or encourages someone to meet his needs. At this point, motivation becomes the driving force of behavior as well as a determinant of spiritual (Shaleh, 2004) Motivation and enthusiasm are the same units in strengthening the spirituality of their children because enthusiasm is a condition to take an action to be motivated, so enthusiasm has a function as a driving force for the human mind to act with strong determination. Self-motivation is also very necessary in *grandparenting* to raise grandchildren, where is the parenting style? in *grandparenting*, this also has an impact on grandchildren (Eriyanti, 2019).

### **The Impact of *Grandparenting* in Strengthening Children's Spiritual Intelligence in Mlaten Village, Mijen District, Demak Regency**

The form of parenting grandparents to their grandchildren is carried out according to the experiences and insights of grandparents. Grandfathers and grandmothers provide opportunities for their grandchildren to carry out their activities, make light work schedules and give verbal rules to their

grandchildren with the hope that children will obey them. However, in applying the oral rules, grandparents include explanations that use words that are good and easy for children to understand, so that harmonious interactions are created between grandparents and children and with people around their environment (Hidayah, 2013) Like the parenting applied by Suwarti's mother in educating her grandson as she has expressed:

*“There is a significant impact, quicker to understand, responsive, and quicker to accept new things than his age “*

From this expression it can be interpreted as a comprehensive understanding of early childhood, needed to achieve the goals of each child that will be carried out (Hidayah, 2013) Ki Hajar Dewantara as a national education figure pays great attention to the development of educational typologies for early childhood. The spiritual formation of children can be done based on two things, namely cognitive development and social development.

#### 1. Cognitive Development

According to Jean Piaget, the concrete operational stage occurs between the ages of 7 and 11 years. At this stage will be able to think in terms of the logic of events which are concrete and classify objects into different forms (Marinda, 2020) Concrete operations make children able coordinate multiple characteristics, so it's not only focused on one quality object. At the operational level concrete, children mentally can do things that only they could before physically, and they can reverse this concrete operation. What matters is the ability of the concrete operational stage is classified or divide something into its distinct sub-distinct and understand their relationships (Mu'min, 2013)

#### 2. Social Development

According to Elizabeth B. Hurlock, Social Development means the acquisition of abilities that behaves according to social demands.

Becoming a capable person by socializing requires three processes one of which is learning to behave socially acceptable, play acceptable social roles received, and develop social traits (Hurlock, 1995).

Using spiritual intelligence means functioning with the ability to have an impact and meaning of worship on every behavior or activity through steps and thoughts that are natural, towards a complete human being, and have an intergalactic and principled mindset only because of Allah (Kazemi, 2011). all of that has been done by Sumarti's mother in spiritual development for her grandchildren as follows.

*“Grandchildren can study the Koran and perform prayers at the mosque”.*

From the expression above, there are several steps to grow and develop a typology of children's spiritual intelligence, namely independence (*autonomy*). Instilling independence in children from an early age may be so that the child is detached from the character-dependent personality of others and providing motivation in children is the most important thing in growing children's courage in knowing knowledge through a caregiver (Susanto, 2017)The actions carried out by these children can be categorized as character-building values which have several components including:

1. Religious

Religion is an aspect related to the level of connection which includes the frequency and intensity of several behaviors, where the behavior has been determined by religion such as procedures for carrying out worship and religious rules. So it can be said as behavior in worship is determined by religion such as procedures for carrying out worship and rules in religion. In this case, the religious character of a child who is raised by his grandmother is expected to be used to diligently carry out worship daily and can develop his religious values (Eriyanti, 2019).

2. Advice

This advice can open children's inner eyes to the essence of something, push it toward the situation sublime, decorate it with noble character, and equip it with Islamic principles. In cultivating prayer worship or studying the Koran in children and always giving advice so that children understand the importance of carrying out worship such as praying and studying the Qur'an (Rubama, 2021).

### 3. Discipline

According to Hurlock said that Discipline is behavior and discipline following the rules and objectives to train and provide direction for children to be orderly, cooperative, and have noble character. So it is disciplinary behavior following rules that exist around or in the life child every day. The discipline itself can be seen through diligence and adherence to disciplinary conduct applied such as praying in congregation and learning to study the Koran (Eriyanti, 2019).

Discipline education is very important in a child's life. Disciplined children will be successful in In their life and life in society, discipline will reflect calm and serenity. Conversely, children who are not disciplined will lose their life and harm others. Method good at giving understanding to children in the discipline of prayer is to provide an understanding of fiqh about good prayer and true, performing prayers is guided by good discipline time, and obedience (Mufid, 2002)

Discipline is control over the behavior of a person to always obey the rules of other people or yourself. Instilling principles so that children have a firm stance is a very important part of the strategy for upholding discipline and not just choosing friends, because friends can eliminate discipline if children are influenced by a bad culture. As for the method of enforcing discipline carried out by Mrs. Nurul Wahidah and Mrs. Sukarti to their grandchildren as explained by her:

*“There is a positive impact from my grandson, with my firmness and supervision, my grandson does not dare to hang out with naughty friends”*

*“Because I educated him firmly and hard, the impact was that he was more independent, and diligent at school and studying the Koran”*

According to Baumrid, this form of parenting suggests that family care for their grandchildren is an authoritative form, namely encouraging children to be independent but still applying limits and controls to their actions (Santrock, 2007). Authoritative grandmother show fun and support in response to her granddaughter’s constructive behavior. they also expect the behavior of their grandchildren to be mature, independent, and age-appropriate. Grandchildren who have an authoritative grandmother are often cheerful, self-controlled and independent, and achievement-oriented. They tend to maintain relationships friendly with peers, work together with adults, and can cope with stress well (Setiawan, 2006)

In the pattern of care above (authoritative), this parenting has rigid rules for raising her grandchildren. Each violation will be subject to punishment, is pushy, and tend to be uncompromising and deep one-way communication. Caregivers apply this parenting style when interacting with grandchildren, caregivers provide directions to grandchildren firmly without any resistance from the child himself, but when directed given is positive it will have a good impact on grandchildren, and if the direction given is negative, it will have a bad impact on grandchildren in their daily interactions.

## **CONCLUSION**

Grandfather is the activity of caring for, raising, and educating grandchildren in survival. Some of the factors for the occurrence of grandparents are cases of divorce, the occurrence of affairs, and doing work

every day. Then the identification of grandfathers in strengthening children's spiritual intelligence above is religious education such as: reciting the Koran, diligently carrying out worship at the mosque, and being able to instill honesty in all matters.

Then the impact of grandparents in Mlaten Village, Mijen Subdistrict, Demak Regency, is always carrying out their obligations as Muslims, namely worshipping at the mosque, getting used to reciting the Koran, and being able to choose friends who can be invited to join. they. good and not bad, grandchildren who are cared for by grandparents can also live independently and be disciplined, and have the same abilities as children who live with both parents.

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