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PARENTING STYLES AND THEIR RELATION TO TEENAGERS' PERSONALITY PROFILE IN SINGLE MOTHER FAMILIES: A CASE STUDY

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Abstract

This study aims to identify the parenting style and its relationship with the personality profile of adolescents in single mothers' families in Sekolah Dato' Usman Awang, Taman Perling, Johor Bharu. This study involved the use of questionnaire on a total of 82 respondents. a total of 82 The questionnaire was subdivided into three parts. Part A covers the background of the respondents and their mother; part B involves the Parental Behavior Inventory (PBI) which measures the parenting style of single mothers, while part C measures participants' personality profile using Big Five Personality Test (BFI). Data were analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Science (SPSS 16.0). Descriptive analysis is used to answer objectives 1 and 2 by using frequency, percentage, mean and standard deviation, while inferential analysis is used to answer the third objective of the correlation method. The findings showed that parenting style which is most widely practiced in single-parent families is the authoritative parenting style with $M = 1.33$, or 39.70%, followed by authoritarian with $M = 1.03$ or 30.75% and permissive with $M = 0.99$ or 29.55%. In addition, the study also showed the Agreeableness personality is the most dominant personality with $M = 2.99$, or 21.27%, followed by Extraversion personality with $M = 2.80$, or 20.33% and Openness to Experience with $M = 2.79$, or 20.26%. The analysis also reveals that authoritarian parenting style has a significant relationship with Openness to Experience and Conscientiousness personality profiles. However, there is no significant relationship between authoritative and permissive parenting style of single mothers with all other personality profile.

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1. Introduction

Marriage is a sacred bond between men and women and it is sanctioned by every religion in the world. In Islam, marriage is also considered as an act of worship and part of religion. Through marriage, a nuclear family consisting of father, mother and children will emerge. Different forms, compositions and structures of families may influence the personality development of children in different ways.

Each individual family has to play his or he respective role in ensuring that family will live in harmony. In the event of a breach of the obligation, it could negatively affect the marriage and lead to divorce. Additionally, in today's challenging global environment fraught with challenges, the family institution may easily become unstable,

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which again could result in divorces. Thus divorces and single mothers are becoming more prevalent in our society. Having to shoulder family responsibilities alone, families headed by single mothers are considered to be facing multiple problems especially in terms of managing their finance and children.

2. Background of the Study

The challenges single mothers face as head of the family are very arduous because they are not only breadwinners, but they are also the managers cum educators of their children. Among the major challenges faced by single mothers include financial problems, emotional stress, psychological and physical problems in educating and loving the children and also the negative stigma from the society. Being a single mother is therefore a traumatic life experience (Wan Halim, 1995).

Amongst the challenges, stress is perhaps at the top of the list. This is because single mother have to bear many grave responsibilities, which include providing financial resources, managing the household and raising the children (Rani, 2006), as well as gaining full employment in meeting the needs of life (Hittner, 1998).

Most single mothers also suffer from emotional stress because they need a life partner to share love and affection (Nor Ainun; 1997). A recent study found that in order to attain mental health single mother need counselling and professional assistance two to three times more frequently than the norm (Cairney, Boyle, Lipman, and Racine; 2004).

Despite burdened with financial problems and stress, single mothers have to shoulder the responsibility of educating and caring for their children. However, Nor Ainun (1997) found that the ability of single mothers to educate their children is generally low. Most of the children of single mothers are less successful in life because of the pressures faced. Therefore, the status of single mothers may affect their parenting styles; which might have a negative impact on the social and psychological development of their children.

3. Problem Statement

In general, children from single parent families are considered problematic because they do not have enough love, financial resources, education and attention. Billings & Emery Lumann (2000) in Moreno (2010) also explained that children in scattered families are found to have a lot of stress, and increased risk adjustment, achievement, and difficult relationship. According Noorfizah Abdul Malek (2001) in Azizi (2008), children from families with low economic status often have mental problems.

Parenting style plays an important role in the development of children's behavioural, social acumen, and emotion. Different parenting styles can lead to different behaviour depending on the personality and temperament of the children (Abd Rahim, 2006). According to Azizi (2008), the differences or diversity in family structure and composition can influence different personality development in the children. Therefore, what is the parenting style adopted by single mother parents in this country? What is the relationship of parenting style with the teenagers' personality profiles? This study will thus focus on the parenting styles and their relationship with the personality profiles of teenagers in single mother families in a secondary school in Taman Perling.

4. Methodology

4.1. Research design

This study is a quantitative study in a form of correlational in design. According to Azizi et al. (2007), the correlation method involves collecting data to determine the relationship between two or more variables that are scientific. This allows researchers to determine variations that occur in a variable and their relation to variations that occur in other variables. In this study the correlation method is used to determine the correlation between parenting styles with teenagers' personality profile in single mother families. Personality Questionnaire 'Big-Five' (BFI) and Parental Behavior Inventory (PBI) were used to obtain feedback from the participant.

4.2. Sample and population

The population is a large group of individuals or populations from whom we get the data or information on the research work is obtained (Najib, 1999). Based on the selected school's record, 103 students were identified as the populations of children of single mothers in SMK Dato 'Usman Awang, Taman Perling, Johor Bahru. Based on the sample size determination table (Krejcie, RVdan Morgan, DW, 1970), and using a simple random sampling technique, a total of 80 children of the single mothers in Sekolah Menengah Dato 'Usman Awang, Taman Perling were selected as the sample population. Although the minimum sample for the study respondents was 80, the researchers of this study have increased the sample by two more respondents. A total of 82 samples would generate a more accurate value.

5. Findings

Data involving the demographic of the respondents and the respondents' mother were analysed. The data collected showed that majority of the respondents are females (52.4%), with the remaining 47.6% males. The respondents were aged between 13 and 14 years old. In terms of ethnicity, 57.3% of respondents are Malay students, while 20.7% respectively are Chinese and Indians students. For the number of siblings, 39% of the respondents have between 4 and 5 siblings. In terms of academic achievement, 36.6% of the respondents achieved moderate academic achievement, 34.1% of the respondents attained poor academic performance, and 29.3% obtained good academic achievement.

In analysing the personal information of the respondents' mother, the data revealed that majority of the single mothers comprised of widows whose husbands had passed away, with 45 respondents (54.9%), followed by divorcees who had been divorced by their husbands, with 33 respondents. Based on age, majority of the single mothers are women aged between 51 and 60 years, with total of 37 women (45.1%). For their academic qualifications, the data showed that majority of the single mothers, totalling 40 respondents (48.8%) are women with only a primary six education, holding merely a UPSR certificate. In terms of income, majority of the single totalling 40 respondents (48.8%), have a monthly income of between RM500 and RM900. The remaining 32.9% comprising 27 single mother are unemployed and thus do not have a fixed income.

6. Tables

Based on Table 1, a single mother parenting styles were classified into 3 types and the classification of the mean value is taken to explain the score obtained from the study. The highest score was recorded by an authoritative parenting style with a mean score of 1.33. The second highest score is an authoritarian parenting style with mean score of 1.03 and the third score was permissive parenting style with a mean score of 0.99.

Table 1. Distribution of respondents based on single mothers parenting style

Elements	Low	Average	High	Mean	Standard Deviation
Authoritarian	2.4%	95.1%	2.4%	1.03	0.18
Authoritative	2.4%	45.1%	52.4%	1.33	0.35
Permissive	3.7%	92.7%	3.7%	0.99	0.18

Based on Table 2, personality traits are classified into five elements and the mean value is taken to explain the score obtained from the study. The highest personality score is for 'Agreeableness' with mean score of 2.99 and standard deviation of 0.31. The second highest score is 'Extraversion' with mean scores of 2.80 and a standard deviation of 0.37. The third highest score is 'Openness to Experience' with a mean score of 2.79 and a standard deviation of 0.74. The second lowest element is 'Conscientiousness' with a mean score 2.75 and standard deviation of 0.40. Lastly, 'Neuroticism' is the lowest score personality with a mean 2.44 and a standard deviation of 0.39.

Table 2. Personality type for adolescents in single mother families

Items	Low	Average	High	Mean	Standard Deviation
Openness to Experience	20	60	2	2.79	0.74
Conscientiousness	13	68	1	2.75	0.40
Extraversion	8	74	1	2.80	0.37
Agreeableness	1	80	1	2.99	0.31
Neuroticism	30	52	0	2.44	0.39

Based on Table 3, the results show that there is a significant relationship between authoritarian parenting style with openness and conscientiousness personality profiles. However, there is no significant relationship between authoritative and permissive parenting style of single mother with all other personalities.

Table 3. Relationship between Parenting Styles with Single Mothers' Children Personality Profile

	Openness	Conscientiousness	Extraversion	Agreeableness	Neuroticism
Parenting Style					
Autoritarian	P=0.001, r=0.369	P=0.035, r=0.233	P=0.053, r=0.215	P=0.987, r=0.002	P=0.162, r=0.162
Autoritative	P=0.187, r=0.092	P=0.251, r=0.023	P=0.274, r=0.122	P= 0.471, r=0.081	P=0.052, r=-0.215
Permissive	p=0.725, r=-0.039	p=0.446, r=-0.085	p=0.581, r=0.062	p= 0.670, r=-0.048	p=0.940, r=-0.008

7. Discussion and Recommendations

The total number of single mother families is increasing in this country from time to time. Therefore, any relevant further research is recommended for a more comprehensive study on single mothers' parenting style across the country and at the same time identifying its relationship of students' personality profiles and in both academic achievement and student discipline. Other recommendations are:

- i. Single parents must look trying to improve how they communicate with their children and care for the needs of children both in terms of physiology, safety, love and other requirements that should be given to the children especially for the youth. This is to ensure that they will have a high esteem which make them feel confident to communicate and adapt to their friends, society and environment.
- ii. Schools and teachers are the second most important agent after the parents or family who serve as educators to their children as well as the second person who provides guidance and a "role model" to the children in their development. Therefore, teachers must show itself as a "role-model" is best for an example and inspiration to students. The teacher must always be positive and open in communicating with students and at the same time instilling good values in students who are growing up.
- iii. Neighbours and surrounding community need to avoid from having negative views and stigmatizing families and children of single mothers. Instead, such families should be given support and assistance both emotionally and financially in order for them to be equal footing with other families.

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