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# Parents' Democratic Parenting in Developing the Moral Intelligence of Children Aged 6-12 Years at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish

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**Abstract:** *The aim of this research is to understand how parents' democratic parenting in developing the moral intelligence of children aged 6-12 years at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish. This study used descriptive qualitative method. This research is conducted at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish, from February to April 2023. The research subjects are selected by purposive sampling. In this study, there are 15 informants consisting of parents and children aged 6-12 who are the research subjects. Data collection techniques are carried out by observing and continuing with interviews with research informants. The data analysis process includes three main stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and research conclusions. The results of the study show that parents' democratic parenting in developing the moral intelligence of children aged 6-12 years has been applied by parents at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish. The development of children's moral intelligence consisting of empathy, conscience, self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance, and fairness at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish has not been fully seen because they are still unable to be fair and unable to control themselves.*

**Keywords:** *Parenting, Moral Intelligence, Children.*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Parenting is an approach used by every parent to direct and educate their children. The parenting style applied by parents in educating their children, either directly or indirectly, is a representation of the approach they apply in educating their children. Direct education refers to the intentional efforts of parents to shape a child's personality,



intelligence, and skills. This can come in the form of directives, boundaries, punishments, creating environments, and rewarding that serve as teaching tools. While the relationships of parents, family, community, and interactions between husband and wife are examples of indirect teaching, daily life includes everything from words to habits and lifestyle (Subagia, 2021). Democratic parenting is an approach in educating children, in which parents set the rules while considering the needs and circumstances of the child. Democratic parenting also highly respects children's freedom, but this freedom is also accompanied by empathetic parental guidance (Makagingge et al., 2019). Parents have a crucial role as agents of forming the main personality of a child, parents are expected to set a positive role model. Every human being will always educate their offspring as perfectly as possible both spiritually and physically (Subagia, 2021). The development of children's moral intelligence, namely expertise in distinguishing between good and wrong from an early age, and having firm beliefs to strengthen understanding, thinking and actions that are consistent with trusted moral principles. Obedience to law and accepting adult consequences is considered part of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years. There are seven main moral forms, including empathy, conscience, self-control, as well as other moral qualities such as respect, kindness, tolerance, and justice, all of which fall under the category of moral intelligence (Pranoto, 2020). God Almighty gives gifts in the form of children who must always be cared for properly and treat them with love, hoping that one day they can provide benefits to others and make meaningful contributions to the country and their dignity must be supported and protected (Tamba, 2016). In situations like this, parents must participate fully in developing moral intelligence for children. The process of moral growth in children requires time and consistent guidance to achieve good development. Children start rebelling, lying, being lazy, having desires of their own, getting angry, or even disobeying their parents at a young age, so the process of moral formation requires patience. However, by maintaining good relations with family members, this situation can be resolved (Kosasih, 2014).

According to Berns (2007), the development of a child's moral intelligence is influenced by three contexts: context, individual characteristics, and influencing social factors.

The decline in moral intelligence in children can be seen from the signs of a decrease in morality, such as losing the respect that children should give to their parents and behavior that deviates towards pornography. This is caused by a lack of understanding or lack of recognition from some parents of the importance of parenting given to children. This can be seen from the fact that many parents currently do not spend enough time with their children to guide and teach their children. Today's parents are too concerned with work so they pay less attention to the needs and relationships of their children. This causes children to seek their own pleasure (Auliya et al., 2022).

Lack of morals in children has an impact on children who will have difficulty understanding variations of choices, lack empathy, are unable to seek justice and experience difficulties in expressing affection and respect for others. Decreased moral intelligence in children can be recognized through signs of moral decline, such as the loss of respect children should show their parents and deviant behavior, including tendencies toward pornography. This is because many parents do not understand or consider the importance of parenting to their children less important. It can be observed



that there are still parents who don't spend enough time with their children to guide and teach their children. Today's parents are too concerned with work so they pay less attention to the needs and relationships of their children. This causes children to seek their own pleasure (Rottie and Karundeng, 2016).

The aim of this research is to understand how parents' democratic parenting in developing the moral intelligence of children aged 6-12 years at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish.

## **2. RESEARCH METHODS**

This study used descriptive qualitative method. A qualitative descriptive method involves a structured or organized approach, with the aim of gaining a thorough understanding of various phenomena of human life in various contexts (Sugiyono, 2013). Qualitative research has a significant role in analyzing data through verbal and written approaches, with the aim of gaining a deeper understanding of social phenomena or events related to the focus of the problem being investigated (Fadli, 2021). This research adopts a descriptive qualitative approach, in which the researcher presents the results of the data or research object in narrative form. This research is conducted at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish, from February to April 2023. The research subjects are selected by purposive sampling. In this study, there are 15 informants consisting of parents and children aged 6-12 who are the research subjects. Data collection techniques are carried out by observing and continuing with interviews with research informants. In order to facilitate the research process and achieve the research objectives maximally, the researcher has developed a research instrument in the form of an interview guide. The data analysis process includes three main stages, namely data reduction, data presentation, and research conclusions. The data analysis phase begins with transcribing the data, identifying the data, classifying the data, and interpreting and describing the data to then generate conclusions from each research object. To ensure the validity of the data, researchers used data checking techniques through triangulation criteria.

## **3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

**Parents' Democratic Parenting in Developing the Moral Intelligence of Children Aged 6-12 Years at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish:** The results of the study show that parents' democratic parenting in developing the moral intelligence of children aged 6-12 years has been applied by parents at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish. Where parents are able to be rational and responsible by helping children solve their problems such as school assignments, parents are objective and firm where when children make mistakes or take actions that interfere with parents reprimand children, parents are warm and understanding where parents can give warm and pleasant words and actions such as praising and hugging children, parents are realistic and flexible in communication where parents help children know their children's weaknesses and potential by giving children such as tutoring and inviting children to dialogue, parents foster confidence and confidence where parents always support, teach, praise and motivate every time the child wants to appear and do something. The development of children's moral



intelligence consisting of empathy, conscience, self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance, and fairness at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish has not been fully seen because they are still unable to be fair and unable to control themselves.

### **Empathy**

**Informants:** I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5 stated that the development of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years in the aspect of empathy had grown in children. Where the child can already be able to feel what is being felt by the people around him such as parents, siblings and school friends. For example, when parents work one day, children may ask "tired mom?" this shows that the child has an attitude of empathy. The results of these interviews support and are consistent with the theory that children who are empathetic generally have the ability to respond with sensitivity to the needs and feelings of others. They are able to accurately recognize nonverbal cues and react accordingly. In addition, they show understanding of other people's feelings, show concern when there is unfair treatment, and show sympathy (Pranoto, 2020).

### **Conscience**

**Informants:** I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5 stated that the development of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years in the aspect of conscience has grown in children. Where children are able to admit mistakes made. For example, not doing school work, not completing homework and when fighting with school friends. When he wants to admit mistakes he has made that he knows his parents will scold him, it shows that honesty is in the child and the parents have also entrusted the homework to the child. The interview results above support and are in line with the theory that children who have a high level of conscience are more likely to recognize their mistakes in behavior, admit it and make amends. Children who have a high conscience usually have an honest and trustworthy attitude, rarely need correction or warning from adults to behave appropriately, accept inappropriate or wrong consequences, and do not blame others (Pranoto, 2020).

### **Self-Control**

**Informants:** I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5 stated that the development of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years on the control aspect did not yet exist in children. At an age that is still classified as a child, aspects of self-control are still lacking where when children are angry they still need the help of other people, they still have to be persuaded by their parents. In the aspect of self-control where the child does not physically attack other people, it is still lacking, because the child still wants to physically attack other people either to friends or relatives. The results of the interviews are not in line with the theory because children who have moral intelligence develop in the self-control aspect, namely children who have self-control usually wait their turn and do not push or interrupt; they are able to control their urges and urges without adult assistance; they can easily calm down when frustrated, upset, or angry; they don't physically attack others; and they rarely need warnings, scolding, or reprimands for good behavior (Pranoto, 2020).



### **Respect**

**Informants:** I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5 stated that the development of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years in the aspect of respect is still lacking. Where children are able to respect and use a polite tone of voice to other people, especially to people who are older than the child but still want to gossip because children will always tell whatever they know and experience to their parents. In respecting the privacy of other people, children are still lacking because at the age when they are still children, they do not really understand everyone's privacy. The results of these interviews support and are consistent with the theory that children who respect others tend to use polite language and tone of voice regardless of differences. They are able to refrain from gossiping about their friends or anyone else behind their backs. In addition, they treat themselves with respect and respect the privacy of others (Pranoto, 2020).

### **Kindness**

**Informants:** I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5 stated that the development of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years in the aspect of kindness already exists in children. Where the child is able to advise his brother or sister. For example, "you can't be stubborn, if you're not a smart person, dude." According to what the researchers saw, at the age of children who are still children, they still really like animals and treat animals well. Where children are still diligent in feeding and playing with animals such as dogs and cats. The results of these interviews support and are in accordance with the theory that children who have strong kindness tend to use kind words that can inspire others without needing to be pushed. They also really care when other people are treated unfairly, and they treat animals well (Pranoto, 2020).

### **Tolerance**

**Informants:** I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5 stated that the development of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years in the aspect of tolerance already exists in children. Where children can meet and make friends with people who have different family backgrounds, religions, and races, this is normal for children where the child still accepts everyone who wants to play and be friends with them. The results of the interviews above are supported and in line with the theory that children who are tolerant of other people tend to respect adults and other authority figures, are open to meeting people from different racial and religious backgrounds, and are tolerant of other people's differences (Pranoto, 2020).

### **Fairness**

**Informants:** I1, I2, I3, I4, and I5 stated that the development of moral intelligence in children aged 6-12 years in the fair aspect is still lacking where helping others is already there because at home the parents also asked children to help with homework such as washing dishes, sweeping the house, etc. but at the age of children today they still have the trait to blame others. In the development of children's moral intelligence in the fair aspect where the child can solve the problem, it is still not because when the child has a problem, for example, fighting, parents still interfere in solving it. The





results of the interviews are not in line with the theory because children who experience the development of moral intelligence in the aspect of justice generally show the following characteristics: they feel happy when they are given the opportunity to help others; they don't necessarily blame others; they have an open mind; they show sportsmanship in sports activities; they have the ability to solve problems peacefully and fairly by following the rules; and they want to recognize the rights of others, which ensures that every individual is treated equally and fairly (Pranoto, 2020).

#### **4. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

The results of the study show that parents' democratic parenting in developing the moral intelligence of children aged 6-12 years has been applied by parents at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish. The development of children's moral intelligence consisting of empathy, conscience, self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance, and fairness at Santo Yosep Delitua Parish has not been fully seen because they are still unable to be fair and unable to control themselves. Based on the research results, the advice that can be given is that parents need to adopt a rational and responsible attitude, create warm and understanding communication, take an objective and assertive approach, and have realistic and flexible communication. It is necessary to focus on cultivating the child's confidence and self-confidence. By applying this democratic parenting style, it is hoped that children will be able to optimally develop empathy, conscience, self-control, respect, kindness, tolerance, and fairness.

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