Problems in Millennial Parenting Phenomenological Study in Indonesia

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ABSTRACT: This study aimed to describe the problems in parenting to the Millennial generations and the solutions done by their parents in Millennial caregiving. It was qualitative research. The informants of this research were families; fathers, mothers, and children in millennial generation age namely mothers and fathers as primary informants and children as secondary informants. Criteria of primary informants were mothers and fathers whose children were born between 1995 and 2010. Then the children were those who are closely attached to technology (mobile phones, tablets, computers, etc.). There are 4 mother as main informants. The data collection technique in this study was a semi-structured interview. The data were collected through voice recording devices using mobile phones and stationery. Data triangulation techniques were used as data credibility testing. the finding, it could be concluded that the parents found some problems in their millennial children who liked to play mobile phones, such as they become handphone addicted, difficult to control, lazy, and stubborn. Their lazy habit was started from the intensive use of mobile phones. They discovered many more interesting things from the virtual world than the real world. As a result, when the parents ordered them to do something, they were procrastination on the requests because they did not want to miss interesting things from their cell phones. Problems arising in care come from internal and external influences. The influences can be the guilt of the parents themselves, the last education achieved insight and knowledge. Lack of insight into technology becomes its obstacle. Parents who were low understanding of technology would find it difficult to keep up with parenting because it is the era for the parents to master it. On the contrary, the external influence comes from the environment and culture around the family. An active environment with technology forces children to follow the environment. Parents of the Millennial generation can make their children discipline in using cell phones in various ways namely, confiscating cell phones directly so that children get a strong deterrent effect and advising them wisely in using cell phones.

KEYWORDS: Parenting, Generation, Millennial Generation.

I. INTRODUCTION

Children are a gift from God that is entrusted to a mother and father. Where they have the responsibility to care for him into adulthood. Based on the Convention on the Rights of the Child in the Child Welfare Composite Index or IKKA (Imawan & Ahnaf, 2016), there are 4 categories of children's rights, namely (1) the right to survival, the right to preserve and maintain life and obtain the highest standard of health and the best care - the good; (2) protection rights, to obtain protection from discrimination, exploitation, violence, and neglect; (3) the right to grow and develop, obtain education and attain a standard of living that is adequate for physical, mental, spiritual, moral and social development; (4) the right to participate to express an opinion in all matters affecting children.

Children are educated and cared for so that they can carry out their responsibilities and obligations to their parents when they grow up, which will also be passed on to their children. Thus, parenting itself means all aspects of behavior from adults to children that are intended to protect, care for, teach, discipline, and guide them (Matsumoto, 2009). By achieving parenting in advancing children's well-being, adults offer children the best opportunities to develop character and competencies that lead to successful adult life (Bornstein, 2005).

Lestari, (2016) explained that parenting is doing something to the child so that the child becomes like a human being. Parenting itself is the main responsibility of parents, such as meeting the child's basic needs, then practicing the most basic life skills, providing the child's material needs, fulfilling psychological and emotional needs, and providing opportunities for children to be able to take proper education. Parental care is a way of fulfilling children's rights that must be given. Sunarti (2004) explained that parenting is a process that parents do to children such as nurturing, caring for, teaching, guiding as a form of application of their affection so that children can live a good life. Therefore, parenting is very important for children (Bussa et al., 2018), because it is an attempt by parents to shape the child's character physically, intellectually, or socially.

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The first aspect of parenting according to Baumrind (cited Surya, 2015), control, is an attempt to influence children's activities excessively in order to achieve goals, create dependence on children, become aggressive children, and increase strict parental rules. The second demand for maturity, emphasizes the child to reach a level of ability intellectually, socially, and emotionally without giving children the opportunity to discuss. Third, Engagement Support is an interaction developed by parents that are characterized by parental care, warmth, approval and various positive feelings towards the child. Fourth, communication between children and parents, lack of communication between children and parents, such as parents not asking how children think and feel if they have problems that must be resolved. Fifth, compassion, is the absence of warmth, care, love and feelings of compassion, and involvement which includes appreciation and praise for children's achievements. Sixth, closeness and the seven points of discipline, are usually done so that children can master a competency, carry out self-regulation, can obey rules, and reduce deviant or risky behavior.

In general, parenting has several styles. The determination of the style used by parents is influenced by many things such as environment, experience, educational background or others. However, it returns to the beliefs of each parent, which parents will apply (Sawitri, 2010).

Parents have their expectations for their children, therefore the application of parenting has a different style. In the process itself, it is not certain that what parents do to their children will be imitated in the future by their children. Parents are required to find new things in parenting their children, the development of the era demands them to lead to a more modern direction. Sawitri (2010) states that parents are required to be more creative in finding ideas in their upbringing, this generational difference requires parents to better balance the development of their children so that language continuity is maintained between parents and their children.

Generation studies are based on differences in value orientation, different experiences, life experiences and generally related judgments. This study describes community and social problem testing which means acceptance of simple principles, which involves cohort-based research (groups from birth years), the results of which can be understood as differences in behavior within groups (Törőcsik, Szűcs, & Kehl, 2014)

Generally, the term generation refers to the average distance between the births of the parents and the birth of their offspring. This definition refers more to sociology, but at present, it does not fit. Because cohorts have changed very rapidly in response to new technologies, changing careers and study choices and social value sharing, two decades are very far from extending a generation (McCrindle & Wolfinger, 2009). Kupperschmidt's (cited Smola & Sutton, 2002) reveals that the meaning of generation is a group of individuals who have group criteria based on the same age, year of birth, location, and events in the life of that group of individuals who have a significant influence on their growth phase.

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"Generational experts William Strauss and Neil Howe agree that generations are shaped by a particular period:" A Generation is a group of people who share a time and space in history that lends them a collective persona "they also say that the" span of a generation is roughly the length of a phase of life ". (McCrindle & Wolfinger, 2009)

That is, William Straus and Neil Howe agree that the form of generation is time-sensitive: A generation is a group of people who divide time and space in history which lends them a collective persona, then they also agree with the assumption that generation time is vulnerable more or less throughout life. According to this theory, each specific period can be grouped according to major events at that time which resulted in the similarity of behavior in the group for a certain period. Some of them are Generation Z or commonly known as the Millennial generation, this generation is a generation born between 1995 - 2010 (McCrindle & Wolfinger, 2009). In this generation, the world has begun to be introduced to advanced technology, and at this time technology is being intensively produced on a large scale and continues to be updated until now such as cellphones, TVs, laptops etc.

Each generation has its own characteristics that are quite different. In Bencsik & Machova's research (in Bencsik, Juhasz, & Csikos, 2016) the results show that there are differences in the characteristics of the Millennial Generation that stand out from the previous generation, these differences are in the mastery of technology and information. More completely, the characteristics that have been researched are such as the factor. This generation's view is that there is no sense of commitment, is happy with what they have and live for this time. In their technology factor Intuitive, then the value factor - the value of quick reaction to everything, initiator, courage, access to information and fast search content. Other characteristics such as different points of view, lack of thinking, happiness, fun, divided attention, less thought about consequences, no desire to make things happen, boundaries of work and entertainment overlap, feeling like home anywhere.

Suwarno et al. (2018) revealed that the character of the Millennial generation is an attractive person, open and enthusiastic about new things, able to convey what they like and don't like as they are. In addition, what stands out from this generation is their expertise and interest in technology, then they are more target-oriented so they do not enjoy the process or are called "Instant Generation". Tend to complain more quickly at strenuous tasks and then take shortcuts if they get stuck. This minimalistic and target-oriented attitude has become a generation that has broad and not deep insights. Many know (could be) but shallow.

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Based on the description of these problems, researchers conducted a preliminary study by interviewing three mothers who have children with the Millennial generation. The first informant, the cell phone that the child is holding is still used together with the parents, but the child often takes the cellphone outside the house to play games with friends. Children are more difficult to manage, when asked for help from parents because they are often fixated on cellphones. In addition, children often don't let go of their cellphones in various activities such as cooking.

The second informant, the habit of his child who is done at home after school is playing on his cellphone, according to the parents' explanation, he is often lazy and his wishes often have to be obeyed instantly. For the third informant, children prefer to play games so they often struggle, when told by their parents.

Based on the results of the preliminary study, some problems are felt by today's parents, children who are fixated on cellphones and behavior that looks different from the previous era. This difference in behavior makes it difficult for parents to care for them, on the other hand, the demands of the times must be adjusted but also the care must continue as it should.

Based on this preliminary study, the researchers found problems that might be further looked at have something to do with parenting for the Millennial generation, like what problems are experienced by mothers with millennial children ?. The purpose of this study is to describe the problems arising from parenting in the millennial generation

II. METHOD

This study used qualitative research methods. Qualitative research emphasizes the most important thing from the nature of a good / service, in the form of social events/phenomena, where the meaning behind these events can be used as valuable lessons for the development of theoretical concepts (Satori & Komariah, 2011). While the approach used is phenomenology or an approach that seeks to understand an event related to the people in that situation. The focus of this research is what problems are found in the care of mothers in the Millennial generation. The informants of this study were 4 mothers who had millennial generation children or children born between 1995 - 2010.

Data collection techniques using semi-structured interview with interview guides that have been prepared beforehand. In the preparation of interview guidelines, the study refers to 7 aspects of parenting, namely: Control, is an attempt to influence children's activities excessively in order to achieve goals, create dependence on children, become aggressive children, and improve strict parental rules Maturity demands emphasize children to reach a level of ability intellectually, socially, and emotionally without giving children opportunities to discuss. Support Involvement is an interaction developed by parents that are characterized by parental care, warmth, approval and various positive feelings of the parent for the child. Communication between children and parents, lack of communication between children and parents, such as parents not asking how children think and feel if they have problems that must be resolved. Affection, is the absence of warmth, care, love and feelings of compassion, and involvement which includes appreciation and praise for children's achievements. Closeness and Discipline, usually done so that children can master competency, do self-regulation, can obey rules, and reduce deviant or risky behavior.

Before conducting interviews, informants filled out the informant consent form as one of the qualitative research ethics. In the data collection process, researchers used a recording device (mobile phone) to interview informants. Data triangulation techniques were used as data credibility testing, and data analysis techniques using interactive analysis techniques.

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

A. Control Aspects

Informant 1 said that in the control aspect, he often advised children and carried out direct and indirect supervision. Informant 1 also felt a little difficulty in controlling the child because he felt tired of advising children who only answered yes but did not necessarily do it and the dilemma between the behavior that was carried out was often contrary to the heart because he did not have the heart. In Informant 2, the control aspect of children dressed neatly and teaching manners was then asked to study religion by reciting the Koran, the informant was also fairly strict in looking after children when going to play or studying groups must be picked up if the distance was far In Informant 3, the control aspect that arises is the supervision of children while playing by looking for children's playgrounds where, to control their own children, sometimes punishments such as hitting children. For Informants 4, the control aspect is by giving the advice to be more independent and teaching manners as initial behavior control. Meanwhile, the difficulty felt by informant 4 was that it was difficult for children to obey orders. Therefore, informant 4 gave a gift/reward to the child if he could do what the parents asked him to do, this was one of the informants' ways to control the child, besides that there was a reduction in pocket money if he could not do it according to the agreement. Informant 4 also sometimes threatened children to report to their father if the child did not obey.

Of the four informants, two of them stated the similarities in the difficulties faced, namely children who did not obey parental advice, were easily influenced and often rebelled, were found in Informant 1, informant 2 and informant 4. Whereas informant 3 once gave a soft hit while raising his voice.

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B. Aspects of Maturity Demands

Informant 1 for the aspect of maturity demands, a way to teach maturity by instilling moral values to dress modestly and being responsible for what is done. Informant 2 often advised their children to give in more often to their younger siblings, Informant 3 directed and guided children to be more mature and informant 4 led children to be more able to help their parents.

Each informant has their respective goals in demanding the maturity of children by advising, directing and guiding in being responsible with what is done to make them more mature to their younger siblings. Of course this depends on the parents' program in educating their children.

C. The Support Aspect of Engagement

Informant 1 on the aspect of support is involved in supporting children trying to realize children's needs, especially those that are material in nature, but the obstacles faced are related to the economic situation of the family. Informant 2 said that support is usually done when children ask for help with their homework and provision of needs from the school, Informant 3 is participating in helping provide children's needs such as necessities from school assignments or children needing materials for cooking, then the informant stated that honest son. Whereas for Informant 4 the involvement support provided by informant 4 for children was buying school supplies, even though the obstacles often encountered by informants were related to the family economy.

The support provided by all informants was mostly material, namely the fulfillment of children's facilities, especially in school matters. The obstacle in this aspect is more due to the economic condition of the family. The non-material support provided by the informants was directing children to be true to be humble and to be honest when experiencing problems.

D. Communication Aspect

Informant 1 In the communication aspect, the informant feels that there are no difficulties in communicating with children. children often tell stories about their daily lives outside the house with informants. In Informant 2, the Communication Aspect does not seem to have any difficulties, the informant said that the second child who is talkative often tells stories then for the first child rarely tells, but the informant continues to supervise maybe there is a problem so that communication continues. Informant 3 did not experience any problems because children used to open up to informants, usually while watching TV together or at bedtime, children began to tell stories about anything. In Informant 4, on the communication aspect, it seems that there is no difficulty, the informant used to talk to his child asking how activities at school or outside of school.

In this aspect, it was found that there were no difficulties in communicating with children. Overall, informants often asked their children about activities at school or outside of school. There was no specific time for communication, informants used the available free time to chat with children such as after school, watching TV or before bed.

E. Aspects of Compassion)

Informant 1 said that the aspects of affection such as joking, hugging, or children's desires could still be realized by the informant and the partner. On the informant 2 aspects of affection, namely by stating that to maintain family warmth by fluent communication. Cooking the child's favorite food is also a form of affection, but the informant gave the children the conditions before doing it. In Informant 3, the aspect of affection for what is usually done is the same as informant 3, which is like cooking the food you like, the youngest child, especially the food, is still picky, so informants often ask what they want to cook first. The same was done for Informant 4, the informant, namely by cooking the child's favorite food.

We can see that all the informants prefer the form of affection for the children by cooking the children's pleasures, then invite them to play or maintain communication with the children. The aspect of compassion in this study is very limited in what parents can do. In this case, it is a daily habit in the form of cooking foods that are preferred by children.

F. The Aspect of Proximity

Informant 1 In the aspect of closeness, informants communicate more often as a way for children to be open, informants themselves feel that their first child needs a more approach than their younger siblings. Informant 2, informants who have no difficulty in this aspect. Informant 3 In the aspect of closeness, it is stated that children are closer to informants in their daily life. In Informant 4, it can be seen from the statement that children like to talk to their parents when there are problems. In this aspect, there were no difficulties for the informants, all the informants. This is evidenced by the usual family activities they do together.

G. Disciplinary Aspects

Informant 1 said the disciplinary aspect was by advising and disciplining which is usually done in everyday life. Informant 2 in the disciplinary aspect of children, namely being firm with what the child wants, that his requests are not always obeyed. In the disciplinary aspect of Informant 3, the informant experienced difficulties because the children played more on their cellphone both alone and with their friends, especially their first child, when asked for help by the child informant they often did not immediately carry out orders or often delayed first. The informant's way of disciplining children is by giving advice. Whereas for Informant 4, the disciplinary aspect is usually carried out by the informant by advising the child, even though sometimes the child likes to rebel against it, the informant usually gives small threats such as complaining to the father as one of the children's efforts to comply with orders.

Generally, the environment always affects the development of every child, so it is not surprising that the environment also plays a role in providing various ways of caring (Edwards, in Wulandari 2016). This can explain why friends are very influential on children's habits.

Three out of four informants said it was difficult to discipline children such as asking to do something (telling children) but the response was given by delaying work. The informant stated that the reason for children delaying work was due to the use of cellphones so that they felt lazy. Troubleshooting informants is more about silencing children, confiscating cellphones, and scolding them.

Other findings are based on interviews, namely the difficulties felt by the informant as a mother, namely, children who procrastinate, are "naughty", and are fixated on their devices. In parenting, there are external and internal influences. Educational background is an internal influence from the parents themselves, how broad the knowledge of parents is to raise children. The lack of parental education, which is only limited to high school graduates, means that the teaching or care given to children is also limited, especially in today's conditions. This is in accordance with Edwards' statement (in Wulandari, 2016) which states that parental education is one of the factors that can affect parenting. Edwards also explained that child care will be influenced by education from parents. Some ways that parents can do to be better prepared in carrying out their role of caring for children include: engaging with children's educational activities, observing children's activities and all things related to children, always trying to spend time playing with children to foster trust and closeness with children.

Parents are required to understand technology better than their children so that they can direct, educate, and nurture their children to be able to adapt to the times well. Then the immediate environment greatly influences the state of care, the atmosphere, the culture that helps build children's character influences parenting, this is what makes parenting different for each parent.

IV. CONCLUSION

Mothers as parents experience difficulties, this is caused by children who like to play on cellphones, children become unruly, lazy, and stubborn. This behavior starts with more intense use of cellphones than before because according to children, many things are more interesting from the virtual world than the real world. As a result, children when asked for help by their parents often postpone their requests rather than do it directly because they don't want to miss interesting things that are being watched from their cellphones. Problems arise in parenting influenced by internal and external influences. The influence of guilt from one's parents, the latest education achieved, the insights and knowledge possessed are one of the factors that trigger the problem. Parents who do not understand technology will find it difficult to keep up with the times. Lack of insight into technology is a barrier in itself. Then the environment and culture around the family can cause problems as well, including the child's character is also an influence. An active environment with technology forces children to follow environmental conditions. Parents themselves in disciplining or controlling children must be wise in using them.

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