



# Phenomenology of Parenting Patterns in Forming Children's Character in Muslim Families

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## Abstract

The main character education for a child is the family environment. A child's character can be determined through the parenting style applied by his parents. Basically, each family's parenting style varies from one family to another. Differences in parenting styles in families make each individual or child have a different character. This research aims to describe the parenting patterns applied by parents in shaping children's Islamic character. This research uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. Data sources were taken from six informants consisting of parents and children, with data collection techniques using interview and observation methods. Overall, the results of the analysis show that there are many factors that influence parents' parenting patterns in cultivating their children's Islamic character at home, namely the level of parental understanding of religious knowledge, the level of parental education, and the environment.

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## INTRODUCTION

Parenting methods are strategies implemented to support children's development and growth through care, guidance and education, so that children can achieve independence (Fawaid & Hasanah, 2020; Lilawati, 2020; Haloho, 2022). Essentially, parenting methods include behavior and activities carried out by parents, including providing food, providing stimulation, and providing affection so that children can develop optimally (Ariyanti, 2016; Anawaty, 2022; Khadijah et al., 2022).

Each family carries a unique parenting style in guiding children, often inherited from previous generations (Zen et al., 2022; Febriani et al., 2022; Sabrina et al., 2023). Parenting includes interactions between parents and children, including the fulfillment of physical needs (such as food, drink) and psychological needs (such as security, affection), as well as the introduction of social norms to help children adapt to their environment (Al-Muthahar et al., 2015; Andesta, 2018; Effendi, 2020; Rohmah & Amar, 2020; Haq, 2020).

The family environment has a central role in the growth and development of a child, providing a strong influence on the formation of personality and character (Wulandari & Kristiawan, 2017; Lubis et al., 2021; Alwi et al., 2022). The family is the

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first environment that influences children's development, followed by the influence of school and society (Subianto, 2013; Rasyid et al., 2020). Every family has its own unique characteristics, from parenting methods to economic situations. Historical inheritance, values and family traditions unconsciously shape children's character. The role of the family is very important in forming the basis of a child's personality, with a harmonious family tending to form children who are more developed physically and mentally. Therefore, the tough task of parents is to create a safe and comfortable family environment for their children, so that the home becomes a place where children can develop optimally in all aspects of their lives (Sultanik et al., 2022; Hadiati et al., 2023).

The role of parents as primary educators is very important in shaping children's character (Andhika, 2021). The parenting approach applied at home has a significant impact on the formation of children's character (Firmansyah, 2019; Saputra & Yani, 2020). The most fundamental character education for children comes from the family environment (Fauzi'ah, 2019). The role of education in the family has great significance as the main foundation in forming a child's character. The family, as the smallest social unit, is primarily responsible for educating its children. Education provided by parents should be the basis for children's understanding of the socialization process and life in society.

Each family has a unique parenting style, which creates differences in characteristics and morals between individuals or children in everyday life (Roini, 2018). Basic understanding of education comes from the family environment, which is the key to forming morals. To ensure that the process of moral formation is in accordance with Islamic teachings, serious dedication is needed from parents. Therefore, the role of parents has a very important meaning and is the most important factor in this process.

The influence of adolescent religiosity is strongly influenced by gender and parental parenting, while factors such as parental age, education level, socio-economic status and cultural background do not have a significant influence (Khodijah, 2018). In this case, parental parenting is the most important factor influencing the level of adolescent religiosity.

Providing teaching to children to recognize that Allah SWT is the only God worthy of worship, without associating partners with Him with anything, teaching the obligations of filial piety and good morals to both parents, guiding children in performing the five daily prayers, avoiding arrogance and arrogance, and teach children to communicate gently and use kind words. This is part of a parent's parenting style which is very important for improving a child's personal qualities.

Parenting styles in shaping children's character at an early age have a very important role. Education provided by parents in the family is the main foundation in forming a child's character. Children who are taught religious values, culture and social norms from an early age tend to have order in life, a positive outlook on life and attitudes that are meaningful to themselves, society, nation and state.

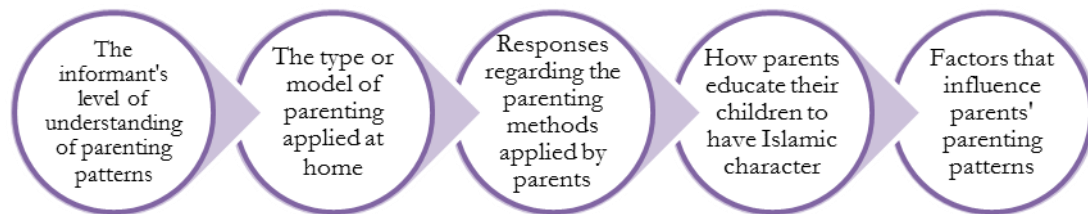
## METHODS

This research uses a qualitative method with a phenomenological approach. The data source was taken from six informants through interviews. The informants selected had fulfilled four criteria, namely understanding the problem under study well, having time to provide information to researchers, and providing information in accordance with the facts that occurred in the field (Ramadhani et al., 2018; Anggraeni & Kusuma, 2019). After the researcher carried out observations and interviews, the author then carried out analysis using the qualitative analysis software NVivo 12. According to Protogerou et al., (2014); Quigley & Cyr, (2017); Nurisma &

Aliyyah, (2023); Aydin et al., (2024) thematic analysis with NVivo software is an effective way for a researcher to analyze interview results so that they can be seen in detail and depth (Syafri et al., 2021; Engkizar et al., 2021; 2022; Efendi et al., 2023).

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the results of the author's interviews with six informants (parents and children), there are several models and factors that influence parents' parenting patterns towards their children at home as seen in the following figure.



**Fig 1. Parenting Patterns in Shaping Children's Character in a Muslim Family**

To make it more interesting, below the author will describe quotes from interviews with informants based on the five themes as explained above. The description of the interview that the author will display is a quote from a short statement from the informant when the interview was conducted. Even though the interview quotations were conveyed by informants in slightly different language, they actually have more or less the same aim and meaning.

The first theme concerns the informant's level of understanding of parenting styles. According to one informant, parenting style is one of the methods or strategies used by people to educate their children and parenting style is also how parents behave towards their children or vice versa (reciprocal relationship between parents and children). This theme was stated by two informants as quoted in the following interview.

*...according to the mother, parenting style is the method that mothers use as parents to be able to educate children at home (I-1); ...according to the mother, parenting is the relationship or attitude that the mother shows to the children at home, because how the mother behaves at home is what the children will emulate at home (I-3)*

The second theme concerns the type or model of parenting applied at home. According to informants, the parenting style applied is a parenting style that is appropriate to the child's age and also does not burden the child. The informant also said that the parenting style applied at home should be in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic religion, and should not be too liberating for the child, such as giving several rules that the child must obey at home. This theme was stated by two informants as quoted in the following interview.

*...the parenting style that mothers can apply at home is appropriate to the age of their children at home, because according to mothers the way to raise young and adult children is different. And it is best if the method you apply does not burden your children at home so that they do not feel constrained by the parenting style that you apply (I-2); ...a good parenting style is in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic religion, as a parent you should not be too liberating to your child and you should make several rules that must be obeyed and these rules are in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic religion...(I-3)*

The third theme, responses regarding the parenting methods used by parents. According to the informant, the way parents look after them at home is very good, parents do not restrain them from playing but will remind them if they have lost track of time. The informant also said that parents at home gave several rules that

had to be obeyed and if they were violated they would be punished. Another informant said that he accepted all the rules implemented by his parents at home, because the rules implemented were good for him. This theme was stated by three informants as quoted in the following interviews.

*...in my opinion, the way my parents raise me at home is very good, because at home my parents never restrain or forbid me from playing, but my parents still remind me if I forget the time to play...(I-4); ...in my opinion, the way father and mother parent at home is very good, even though father and mother give several rules. But I think the regulations given also have a good impact on me...(I-6)*

Fourth theme, regarding how parents educate their children to have Islamic character. According to the informant, the right way to educate their children to have an Islamic character is to accustom their children to carry out Allah's commands contained in the Alquran and also tell them about things that are prohibited in the Islamic religion. The informant also said that sending his child to a religious school was one way for parents to shape their child's character in an Islamic way, because the religious education he received at home was not as good as the religious education he received at school. This theme was stated by two informants as quoted in the following interview.

*...according to the mother, the appropriate way that can be done to shape the mother's children to have an Islamic character or attitude is by teaching and getting used to carrying out God's commands contained in the Alquran, such as prayer and fasting...(I-1); ...according to the mother, the most appropriate way is to send your child to a boarding school, because at the boarding school he can learn religious knowledge better than what you teach at home, because the mother's religious knowledge is not as much as that of the teachers at home. Islamic boarding school...(I-3)*

The fifth theme concerns factors that influence parents' parenting patterns. According to the informant, the factors that really influence Islamic parenting are environmental factors and understanding of religious knowledge. If the environment around the child is a community environment that applies religious teachings then the child will indirectly follow it and also the level of understanding of religion as a parent is also a problem. One supporting factor in being able to implement parenting patterns that can shape children's character in an Islamic way, the more parents understand religious knowledge, the more they can teach their children about it. Other informants also argued that the level of parental education can also influence parenting patterns, parents who have only graduated from high school have different parenting patterns from parents who have an education level of up to a bachelor's degree or more. This theme was stated by two informants as quoted in the following interview.

*...according to the mother, one of the factors that influence parenting patterns in forming Islamic character is the environment around where you live, if you live in an environment where the people apply good Islamic teachings, then you can easily apply Islamic parenting patterns, and also according to the mother the level of parental understanding regarding religious knowledge can also influence parenting patterns, because if parents do not understand religious knowledge, how can they teach and shape their children's character in an Islamic way (I-1); ...according to the mother, the factor for Islamic parenting is the level of parental education, because parents who have graduated from high school have different parenting styles if they have a bachelor's degree, such as those who have only graduated from high school can only apply the parenting patterns that parents usually use. mothers then and now mothers apply it to your children. But so that your child can understand more about religious knowledge, that's why you send your child to an Islamic boarding school so that the religious knowledge they get is better and the teachers at the Islamic boarding school can shape their child's character into an Islamic character...(I-3)*

As the author mentioned previously, basically the parenting patterns applied by parents in shaping their children's Islamic character are different. There are several parenting patterns applied by parents at home, such as democratic, authoritarian and

permissive parenting. Then there are also several factors that influence parents' parenting patterns, such as the environment, parents' understanding of Islamic knowledge and parents' level of education. So, through several questions that the author asked informants through direct interviews, some of them were of the opinion that parenting styles have a big influence on their children's Islamic character at home. However, some informants also believed that sending their children to religious-based schools such as Islamic boarding schools was the right thing to do, because the religious knowledge that children received at school from competent teachers was better than that received by children at home.

The parenting style applied by parents at home is appropriate to the child's age and should not be a burden on the child and the parenting style applied at home should be in accordance with the teachings of the Islamic religion, and should not be too liberating for the child such as giving several rules that the child must obey at home and The right way to educate your child to have an Islamic character is to familiarize your child with carrying out Allah's commands in the Alquran and also telling them about things that are prohibited in the Islamic religion.

## CONCLUSION

This research has succeeded in revealing the models and factors that influence parental parenting in shaping children's Islamic character. Parents are the first teachers who double as mothers and fathers who are not only tasked with earning a living but are also tasked with forming their children's Islamic character by introducing and teaching the Islamic religion to their children. This research can be used as a reference or the latest issue from different aspects of the problem for further research.

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