

Parent-Child Relationship in Foreign and Indonesian Families Cross-Cultural Studies: A Review

Shabrina Putri Rizki¹ and Zarina Akbar¹

*Master of Psychology Science, Universitas Negeri Jakarta, Jakarta, Indonesia
{shabrina_1802822005@mhs.unj.ac.id}*

Keywords: Cross-cultural analysis, Foreign families, Indonesian families, Parent-child relationship

Abstract: Every dominant culture in a family influences or builds a parent-child relationship in different ways. Therefore, this study aims to explain how parents and children build a parent-child relationship, then their effects on parents and children traits in cross-cultural context. One of the most common problems in a parent-child relationship is how communication and barriers between parents and children, especially for Indonesian parent with their parenting culture. This research using a Literature Review with electronic databases (Google Scholar, EBSCO, Frontiers, etc) was searched for peer-reviewed empirical studies, published in English. The results of the research show that the form of the parent-child relationship is different for each culture and has benefits for parents, children, or the family.

1 INTRODUCTION

Every dominant culture in a family influences or builds a parent-child relationship in different ways. Therefore, this study aims to explain how parents and children build a parent-child relationship, then their effects on parents and children traits in cross-cultural context. One of the most common problems in a parent-child relationship is how communication and barriers between parents and children, especially for Indonesian parent with their parenting culture. In our research, we found the importance of building good communication to form trust between parents and children, and a healthy parent-child relationship.

Parent-child relationship is a two-way interaction between parents and their children (Robinson, 2015). Besides that, parent-child relationship is defined as a kind of unique and influential relationship established in the process of interaction between parents and their children, which is critical to adolescents' physical and mental development (Zeigler-Hill & Shackelford, 2020). Parent-child relationship to the scope of the social activities of the children, such as: (1) achievement goals at school with higher self-efficacy

(Yuan et al., 2016); (2) benefits based on the order of birth of children (Liu & Jiang, 2021); (3) benefits for parents in old age (Wang et al., 2020); and (4) acceptance of minority culture in the family (Young & Yoo, 2018).

This study uses a cross-cultural approach to understand the differences between parent-child relationships of foreign families and Indonesian families. A number of studies have discussed the forms of parent-child relationships from each country that is the research sample. Results from a collection of literature indicate that there are different forms and effects of parent-child relationships in each culture and family. The results of this study can assist parents in forming parent-child relationships and can see the forms of relationships that can be applied to a family.

2 METHODS

This study used some psychological research results in the form of literature, where the database collection was obtained from Google Scholar, Ebsco, and Frontier.

Focusing on qualitative and quantitative research with the theme Parent-Child Relationship, and published between 2015-2022. The literature search also focuses on international articles or journals that the researcher considers appropriate and suitable for this research. The search strategy aims to identify qualitative and quantitative research literature on Parent-Child Relationships with special attention to Cross-Cultural Studies and uses keywords: Parent-Child Relationship, Foreign Families, Indonesian Families, Cross-Cultural Analysis.

To identify relevant research, researchers apply 3 (three) stages of selection proposed by Meade and Richardson (1997): (1) looking at the research title; (2) looking at the abstract to identify methods, hypotheses, and research questions; and (3) look at the research as a whole. This was done to anticipate discrepancies between this study and previous studies.

3 RESULT

This study discusses several benefits of the parent-child relationship to the scope of the social activities of the children, such as: (1) achievement goals at school with higher self-efficacy; (2) benefits based on the order of birth of children; (3) benefits for parents in old age; and (4) acceptance of minority culture in the family. First, in Yuan et al. (2016) it was stated that a good parent-child relationship improves children academic performance. This is because the child feels that he has a very supportive family environment. Therefore, children feel that their parents will continue to monitor academic development, feel cared for when mood changes occur, and communication between parents and children is better. The research explains the differences in these relationships through 2 (two) cultures: European-American and Asian-American. It was explained that, parent-child relationships in Asian-American families show a higher level of support for children, where Asian culture has a Collectivism dimension (putting importance on group values).

In addition to the support the child receives, it turns out that the order in which the child is born can determine the advantages of the parent-child relationship for the child. This is evidenced by Liu

and Jiang's (2021) on the parent-child relationship experienced by Chinese Junior High School Students in their families. Liu and Jiang (2019) prove that only children have more parent-child emotional relationships than multiple children. It was also explained that only children have more advantages than firstborn for parent-child relationships, but these advantages will be lost when compared to lastborn. Liu and Jiang (2019) also explained that children's gender is able to explain the parent-child relationship but according to the parent's gender. In China, girls have a closer relationship with their mothers, while boys have a closer relationship with their fathers. This explained that in Chinese culture there are gender stereotypes, where boys have to look manliness while girls are gentler and softer.

In addition to the support the child receives, it turns out that the order in which the child is born can determine the advantages of the parent-child relationship for the child. This is evidenced by Liu and Jiang (2021) on the parent-child relationship experienced by Chinese Junior High School Students in their families. Liu and Jiang (2019) prove that only children have more parent-child emotional relationships than multiple children. It was also explained that only children have more advantages than firstborn for parent-child relationships, but these advantages will be lost when compared to lastborn. Liu and Jiang (2019) also explained that children gender is able to explain the parent-child relationship but according to the parent's gender. In China, girls have a closer relationship with their mothers, while boys have a closer relationship with their fathers. This explained that in Chinese culture there are gender stereotypes, where boys have to look manliness while girls are gentler and softer.

4 CONCLUSION

The results of the research show that the form of the parent-child relationship is different for each culture and has benefits for parents, children, or the family. The good quality of the parent-child relationship tends to be a reflection of parental time, energy, and attention devoted to children. It has several benefits to the scope of the social activities of the children, such as achievement goals at school with higher self-efficacy, can help a child manage negative emotional reactions, etc. In addition to the benefits of children, parents also get benefits such as: parents are not depressed and cultural minorities in a family also get acceptance.

REFERENCES

- Liu, C., & Ma, J. L. (2019). Adult attachment style, emotion regulation, and social networking sites addiction. *Frontiers in psychology, 10*, 2352.
- Liu, Y., & Jiang, Q. (2021). Who benefits from being an only child? A study of parent–child relationship among Chinese junior high school students. *Frontiers in Psychology, 11*, 608995.
- Meade, M. O., & Richardson, W. S. (1997). Selecting and appraising studies for a systematic review. *Annals of Internal Medicine, 127*(7), 531–537.
- Robinson, M. (2015). Encyclopedia of quality of life and well-being research. *Reference Reviews, 29*(7), 22-22.
- Shorer, M., Swissa, O., Levavi, P., & Swissa, A. (2021). Parental playfulness and children’s emotional regulation: The mediating role of parents’ emotional regulation and the parent–child relationship. *Early Child Development and Care, 191*(2), 210–220.
- Voestermans, D., Eikelenboom, M., Rullmann, J., Wolters-Geerdink, M., Draijer, N., Smit, J. H., Thomaes, K., & van Marle, H. J. F. (2021). The Association Between Childhood Trauma and Attachment Functioning in Patients With Personality Disorders. *Journal of personality disorders, 35*(4), 554–572. https://doi.org/10.1521/pedi_2020_34_474
- Wang, Y., Zhang, J., Wang, B., & Fu, H. (2020). Social support from adult children, parent–Child relationship, emotion regulation strategy, and depressive symptoms among Chinese older adults. *Research on Aging, 42*(9-10), 281-290.
- Young Park, I., & Yoo, J. P. (2018). The Effects of Korean Fathers’ Acceptance of Immigrant Mothers’ Native Language on Multiethnic Children’s Attitudes Toward Their Mothers’ Culture: The Mediating Effects of Mothers’ Participation in Home-Country Activities and Parent-Child Relationship. *Korean Journal of Child Studies, 39*(2), 27-42.
- Yuan, S., Weiser, D. A., & Fischer, J. L. (2016). Self-efficacy, parent–child relationships, and academic performance: A comparison of European American and Asian American college students. *Social Psychology of Education, 19*(2), 261-280.
- Zeigler-Hill, V., & Shackelford, T. K. (Eds.). (2020). *Encyclopedia of personality and individual differences*. Cham: Springer International Publishing.