

Parenting in Multicultural Settings: Experiences of the Indonesian Mothers

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This study was an attempt to explore the experiences of Indonesian women who married to foreign spouses in the course of parenting. Six Indonesian women were interviewed following a semi-structured interview schedule. While all the participants were Indonesian in origin, their spouses were from different countries, that is India, Japan, Netherland, USA, Scotland, and Germany. The participants and their spouses differ in their parenting strategies, which can be attributed to the cultural differences between them. However, it was also observed that the spouses manage these differences by applying several strategies, such as learning from each other, tolerating each other's standards, and mixing up the cultural values. The acculturation effect of the partner's culture is being discussed in this study.

Keywords: multicultural, parenting, cultural difference, management of differences

Penelitian ini bertujuan mengetahui pola pengasuhan anak yang dilakukan perempuan Indonesia yang menikah dengan pria asing. Enam perempuan Indonesia berpartisipasi dalam penelitian yang menggunakan metode wawancara semi-terstruktur. Keenam partisipan berasal dari Indonesia, sedangkan suami mereka berasal dari berbagai negara, yaitu India, Jepang, Belanda, Amerika Serikat, Skotlandia, dan Jerman. Partisipan dan pasangannya memiliki perbedaan dalam strategi pengasuhan anak yang disebabkan perbedaan budaya di antara mereka. Namun, hasil penelitian juga menunjukkan bahwa pasangan tersebut dapat mengatasi perbedaan yang muncul dengan mengaplikasikan beberapa strategi, seperti saling belajar satu sama lain, menoleransi standar masing-masing, dan melakukan pencampuran nilai-nilai budaya. Pengaruh akulturasi dari budaya asal pasangan juga didiskusikan dalam artikel ini.

Kata kunci: multikultural, pengasuhan, perbedaan budaya, manajemen perbedaan

Parent is a term which usually being defined in the frame of biological and genetic relationships. Nonetheless, Oates, Lewis, & Lamb (2005) argued that the biological part of parent in regard to the term of parenting could be just the beginning. Typically, parenting is thought of as involving a long-term commitment to nurturing an infant into a child, into an adolescent, and then onward into adult life. Therefore, parenting is generally believed as a very significant factor that shapes one's personality, or in other word is shaping one's emotional, relational life, and its individuality.

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The role of parenting in the development of the child was then being explored by several researchers. One of the well-known parenting researchers was Baumrind, who categorised the parenting styles into four: authoritarian, authoritative, permissive, and nonconformist (Oates, et al., 2005). She argued that the manifestation of each of the parenting style will have different impact in the child's development. Moreover, she argued that the authoritative parents, who tend to be warm, encouraging independence, and using explanations in parenting their young children, will encourage their children to become socially responsible.

Nevertheless, it seems that the theories of parenting cannot be universalized in every culture. Every individual will experience different process of socialization based on the cultural context. As Greenfield & Suzuki (1998) argued, culture and the child development are inextricably intertwined. On the other hand, socialization is the process of accepting values, standards, and customs of