

## Nurturing and Parenting: Dual Role of Parent on the Child Development and Socialization

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**Abstract** Many culture believe that parenting begins with birth, but the mother begins raising and nurturing a child well before birth. In the world of child development and socialization, there are two terms that have close meaning and interconnected. Two of the term is "nurturing" and "parenting". Nurturing refers to all the effort of environments in raising children. In practice includes the care of the food, drink, clothing, and shelter. It could be parent as nuclear family, grandparent, nonparental child care, or the significant others. This term nurturing, basically used to explain that there is other factor that build individual differences beside nature factor. This term want to make it clear that what make us different with others is how our environment treat us. Is where we live around. Usually, we got it from the first social group called "family". **And family, consist of father and mother as parent, that in the end, we call it "parenting". So the term "parenting" used to explain all the efforts of parents in raising children, by fulfilling the basic needs of children, covering the basic needs of growing up as a whole not only in terms of physical, biological, but also in terms of psychological and mental. That basic needs are need of stimulation, need of affection or compassion, and need of physical growth and development of biological care. Of course it includes education and cultivation of values, such as dicipline, respect, responsibility, etc. which is stained in the whole process of child development and socialization.**

*Keywords:* nurturing, parenting, child development, socialization.

### Introduction: Nature and Nurture Overview

The term "nature" (nature, nature) can be interpreted as natural factors, related to bio-physiological aspects, especially offspring, genetic, hereditary. By taking this term, then human development is strongly influenced by heredity. The properties, characteristics and personality which is owned by the parents will be lowered through the elements of the gene to their children. The properties are derived not only physiological (body weight, height, skin color, hair, kind of disease; heart disease, cancer), but also the psychological characteristics (type of personality, intelligence, aptitude, creativity). For example if the parents have a high height, then the child also had a high body anyway. Conversely, if a parent is short, then the child also generally short.

Heredity is a biological inheritance or transfer of individual characteristics of the parents. Heredity or often called innate or endogenous factors or genetic factors or traits are carried by the gene from both parents individual from conception through genetic process. The process begins with the individual genetic chromosomes 23 meeting of the aya and 23 maternal chromosomes. Each chromosome contains genes that carry individual characteristics. These factors include heredity bodily traits, temperament, and talent (aptitude).

The concept of "nurture" are all factors associated with the external environment, such as upbringing, education, socio-cultural, mass media, socio-economic status, religion and so forth. An individual will develop into good adults, independent, intelligent, and responsible, if he is in the environment that supports these developments. This concept was proposed by John Locke, an English philosopher who declared that humans are born in a state of purity, is like the white board that is still clean. Therefore, he believes that the merits of the development of human life can not be separated from the influence of environmental factors.

Environment is everything that exist outside the individual factors. Environmental factors also called exogenous factor, is the factor that comes from outside the individual. The environment includes a physiological environment, psychological environment, and socio-cultural environment. Sociological environment is everything and material conditions that exist inside and outside the body. Psychological environment is all the stimulation received by the individual from the time of conception until death. Sociocultural environment is all the stimulation of interaction and external conditions in relation to the treatment or the work of others.

In this article, **the term "nurturing" refers to all the effort of environments in raising children.** In practice includes the care of the food, drink, clothing, and shelter. It could be parent as nuclear family, grandparent, nonparental child care, or the significant others. This term nurturing, basically used to explain that there is other factor that build individual differences beside nature factor. This term want to make it clear that what make us different with others is how our environment treat us. Is where we live around. Usually, we got it from the first social group called **"family"**. **And family, consist of father and mother as parent, that in the end, we call it "parenting"**. So the term "parenting" used to explain all the efforts of parents in raising children by fulfilling the basic needs of children, covering the basic needs of growing up as a whole not only in terms of physical, biological, but also in terms of psychological and mental. That basic needs are need of stimulation, need of affection or compassion, and need of physical growth and development of biological care. Of course it includes education and cultivation of values, such as dicipline, respect, responsibility, etc. which is stained in the whole process of child development and socialization. But in the core of this article, we can find that what we accept as nurturing or parenting, there is two kinds of role that parent have to do for their children, that is the nurture role and the structure role.

## Parent and Child in a Family: Child Development and Socialization

Nurture is what environment gives to individual differences. Nurturing is all the effort of significant others not always parent, to the child development and socialization. In common, that responsibility taken by parent. And the capacity of parents to nurture their children has been recognized for years as an important variable in terms of predicting positive developmental outcomes for children (Becker, 1964; Baumrind 1969). This parental behavior or construct includes love, warmth, affection, support, responsiveness, encouragement, attachment and acceptance. Researchers have found that nurturance is positively related to many other impact areas evolving through parent-child relationships. For example, Belsky (1984) found that parents who were attentive, nonrestrictive and warm fostered intellectual development in their children. Children have been found to respond to the guidance of nurturing parents more positively than to those parents who are punitive in their parenting practices (Eisenberg, 1992). Additionally, there are indications that a strong linkage exists between nurturing by parents and positive social behaviors of children (Eisenberg, 1992); Main and George, 1985; Zahn-Waxler, et al., 1979). Conversely, there is evidence that the lack of parental nurturing is related to reduced child competence (Cohn, 1990; Denham, 1989).

Research suggests parental nurturing of children may be the most significant **contribution parents can make for their children's positive growth and development**. Children who experience a nurturing home environment are more likely to develop into healthy, capable, fully functioning adults. Parents who are nurturing are warm, affectionate, good at listening, respectful, and attend to the basic care and well-being of their children (Smith, et al., 1994). Term nurturing refers to the way chosen by the parents in educating and raising children. In practice includes the care of the food, drink, clothing, shelter, and ensure the successful growth and development until adulthood. In early childhood, between ages 0-8 years, parenting concerned must cover the basic needs of growing up, that requirement with regard to stimulation or grindstones, requirements with regard to affection or compassion, as well as with regard to the requirement for growing biological or physical foster.

During his entire life span of human life is colored by events. The events are typically digested and faced by each individual based on knowledge, beliefs, values and moral. (Berns, 2010). The attributes possessed by the individual obtained by individuals from the environment. The theory of the revenue from environmental attributes of individuals known as the theory Bioecology triggered by Urie Bronfenbrenner. This theory broadly say that growth of individuals affected by the environment in a way to grow, think, act, and behave. Environmental elements that affect the growth and development of such individuals include biological, psychological, social, and cultural contexts. (Berns, 2010).

Two of the most fundamental things that become the center of attention in theory Bioecology is what is called socialization (socialization) and development of children

(child development). In a study Bioecology mentioned that socialization is "the process by which individuals acquire the knowledge, skills, and character traits that enable them to Participate as effective members of groups and society" (Brim, 1966; Macoby, 2007, in Berns, 2010: 5 ). Socialization is the process whereby an individual to acquire knowledge, skills and innate character that allows him to participate effectively as a member of a community group. Child development itself includes all the growth process of an individual throughout its life span, covering aspects of biological, psychological, social, and cultural contexts. In its application to the concept of child development, socialization concept evolved very spacious. In it includes socialization in the care of the family, daycare, school environment, relationships with peers, neighborhood, and the mass media. (Berns, 2010: 6). Recognizing the magnitude of environmental influences on child development, becomes important to provide a conducive environment in which the child is interacting during the growth process. Because, to prepare a conducive environment for the child, it also means preparing a better future for the child.

In general, Bioecology theory states that human development is influenced by four lifelong neighborhood where he/she lives, which is called the environmental fourth kronosistem (chronosystem). Fourth in chronosystem environment are: microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, and macrosystem. Microsystem include: family, school, daycare, neighbors and neighborhoods, mass media circulating around, as well as peers or friends everyday play. Mesosystem include: family relationship with neighbors, friends playing habits in selecting the type of TV viewing in the media, values developed in school or daycare, etc. Mesosystem is the relationship between the elements present in mikrosistem. Exosystems include: the work of parents, school policy that comes from the government, the economic condition of the city, etc. Exosystems has no direct influence to children but can be felt its impact in child development. Makrosistem include: the condition of the country, religious, technological developments, political ideology, national culture, etc. broader scope.

Growth refers to a process of physical changes (anatomical) is characterized by the increasing size of the various organs of the body, because of the increase and enlargement of cells. Development refers to a process of increasing the ability (skill) in the structure and function of the body that lebihkompleks in a regular pattern and can be predicted, as a result of the maturation process. In general, the development can be interpreted as a change that is permanent and can not be played back (Werner, 1969). Some psychologists distinguish the meaning of the word 'growth' with 'development', but some do not. The growth can be interpreted as increasing the size and weight of pure physical function, whereas more developments could reflect the distinctive nature of the psychological symptoms appear (Monks, Knoers, Haditono, 1982).

In order to achieve optimal growth and development, children's basic needs must be met, which include: a) The need for a physical-biomedical. Including food / nutrition, basic health care, adequate housing, higienene individuals, clothing, physical fitness,

recreation and others. b) The need for emotional / affection. In the first years of life, close relationships, affection and harmony between mother / surrogate mothers with children is an absolute requirement to ensure the harmonious development of the child both physically and mentally and psikososial. kasih affection of his parents will be creating a close bond (bonding) and kepercayaan (basic trust). c) The need for mental stimulation. Mental stimulation is a forerunner in the learning process (pendidikan and training) in children. Mental stimulation is developing psychosocial mental development: intelligence, skill, self-reliance, independence creativity, religion, personality, moral-ethical, productivity and so on.

The family is the first social group where children can interact. Family influence in the formation and development of the personality is of great significance. Many factors affect the families who participated in the process of child development. One factor in keluarga yang have an important role in the formation of personality is a child care practices. This is corroborated by the opinions of Brown (1961) which says that the family is the first environment anak. Orang accept the presence of parents have a variety of functions that one of them is taking care of their child. In caring for children of parents affected by the culture in the environment. In addition, parents are also colored by certain attitudes within nurture, guide, and direct their children. The attitude reflected in the pattern of care to their children different, because parents have certain parenting styles.

Kohn (Taty Krisnawaty, 1986: 46) states that the pattern of care is an attitude of parents to interact with their children. The attitude of these parents, including how parents give the rules, prizes and punishments, the way parents show his authority, and how parents give attention and response to his son. In doing development tasks, people influenced by the role of parents. The role of parents was to provide an environment that allows the child can complete development tasks. Melly Budiman (1986: 6) says that families of compassion is very important for children so that children develop good social behavior. When love is not there, then it is often the child will have difficulty in social relationships, and these difficulties will lead to a wide range of behavioral disorders in an effort to compensation of a child. Actually, every parent that menyangianaknya, but the manifestation of affection is different in its application, the difference would appear in parenting applied. Experts say that parenting parents or even the quality of the relationship between parent and child, is an important factor that would affect the quality of marriage a person, determine the choice of partner, affect patterns of interaction / communication between husband and wife and the children, influencing perceptions and attitudes towards couples, and affects the person's perception of the role itself. In essence, parent-child relationships influence a person in real life marriage in the future.

Kohn, 1986 (in Tarmudji, 1991) says that parenting is the attitude of parents to interact with their children. The attitude of these parents, including how parents give the rules, prizes and punishments, the way parents show his authority, and how parents give attention and response to his son. The family size has an influence on family upbringing

and results dicapai oleh children. Large families and small families qualitatively describe the experiences of development. Children who come from small families receive more attention than children from large families. Research has linked this difference with intellectual development and performance in school performance (Feiring and Lewia, 1984). Chabib Thoha (1997: 109) says that parenting is a way that the best that can be taken of parents in educating children as the embodiment and a sense of responsibility to the child. Khan and Sulaiman (1997: 116) states parenting is the attitude of the parents in touch with their children, this attitude can be viewed from various aspects, among others, the way parents give to children the rules, how to give a gift, and the punishment and the way parents. Parenting is the ability of families and communities to provide time, attention and support to children in order to grow as well as possible, physically, mentally and socially (Soekirman, 2000).

Parenting in the attitudes and behavior of mothers or other caregivers in terms of proximity to children provide food, maintain cleanliness, everything that relates to the state of the mother in terms of health (physical, mental) nutritional status, general education families and communities for knowledge about parenting well, the role in the family or in society, the nature of their daily work, family and community customs split affection and so the same mother or raise children. The factors that affect parenting include:

1. Education Capital. Education is a tool in the community to renew itself in the hold of social life. In essence, education is the effort to develop the personality and ability inside and outside the school that lasted all his life (Suharjo, 1999).
2. Knowledge Capital. Mother's knowledge about health and nutrition is closely linked to education. Child and mother with higher educational backgrounds will allow will have the opportunity to present and grow well (Kardiyati et al, 1987). Raising healthy children is not enough by mere instinct of affection, but she needs a good knowledge and skills. Increased knowledge and skills in caring for children is very important and should be sought by mothers in order to raise their children (Nadesul, 1996). Absolutely no knowledge obtained through formal education, but jugainformasi mass mediated or result from the experience of others (Alex Sobur, 1981).
3. Activities of the mother. A woman needs to duty and off-duty as a mother is different. There are some women who are happy with a particular role as a housewife. For him there is no fun of the padamasa-childhood and adolescence were full of joy to the children (Alex Sobur, 1991). Today may be many mothers besides a double role as a housewife as well as career women to create economic situation that families are more established but also impacting on relationships with family members, especially children. At first, the mother can divide the time, but over time the more challenging task that challenged father raising children to go jump (Soelaeman, 1994). If the mother gets a job either full or part-time, the most suitable person to take her place are people who know the needs of their children eat, to love and to be able to maintain

and nurture. Mothers who do not work can look after their children properly and devote all his affection, and some kinds of food were also more attention, thereby reducing the likelihood of malnutrition in children.

4. Socio-Economic Status. Economic status in the care of children affected by the pattern of style and experience as well as knowledge of receipt. Economic status of parenting couples in the middle and lower skew ibulebih do with a more suitable knowledge by itself is likely to democratic.

Family is a complex system in which there is a bond between its members and a sense of belonging. In the family environment is a process for the establishment of personal care mature to be able to live a life as expected. One of the most instrumental figure in the formation of the personality of course, is an old man. Parents became assistant principal in each of the development of their children. Parents set an example first and foremost for children. Parents do "investment and commitment in the life of a child" to give responsibility and attention (Brooks, 2011). What means the nuclear family is a family consisting of father, mother and child. Father and mother in carrying out the responsibilities as parents and able to fulfill the task as educators. Therefore, the family has played a large role in influencing a child's life, especially in the early stages and the stages of critical, and the greatest role as educators is the mother of his children. The role of a mother in the family, especially children is to educate and keep their children from infancy to adulthood, because the child is not far from the observations of parents, especially his mother. (Asfryati, 2003)

#### The Basic Family Function in Parenting and The Non-Parental Child Care

Berns in "Child, Family, School, Community" said that there is five basic family functions. There are: (Berns, 2010)

1. **Reproduction.** The family ensure that the society's population will be maintained; that is, a sufficient number of children will be born and cared for to replace the members who die.
2. Socialization/education. The family ensure that society's values, beliefs, attitudes, knowledge, skills, and techniques will be transmitter to the parenting.
3. Assignment of social roles. The family provides an identity for its offspring (racial, ethnic, religious, socioeconomic, and gender roles). An identity involves behaviour and obligations. For example, a Jewish person may not eat pork and may feel obliged to give to charity. A Chinese person may eat with chopsticks and defer to the authority of his or her elders. A person born into a high socioeconomic status may be pressured to choose a spouse from a similar family background. In some families, girls are socialized to do housework and be caregivers and boys to be breadwinners.
4. Economic support. The family provides shelter, nourishment, and protection. In some families, all member except very parenting children contribute to the economic

function by producing goods. In other families, one or both parents earn the money that pays for goods the entire family consumes.

5. **Nurturance/emotional support. The family provides the child's first experience in social interaction.** This interaction is intimate, nurturing, and enduring, thus providing emotional security for the child. The family cares for its members when they are ill, hurt, or aging.

That above explains what should be there in a family. Those five basic functions are what will the children get from their family, from their first environment. But how if the children are not nurtured by their parent at sometimes? Berns in the same book provides what she calls non-parental child care. That refers to the care given to the children by a person other than parents during the parts of the day when parents are absent. Bern provides what Clarke Stewart in 1993 and what is declared by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) that there are some certain basics of quality child care: a caregiver who provides warm, loving, care and guidance for the child and works with the family to ensure that the child develops in the best way possible; a setting (home or center) that keeps the child safe, secure, and healthy; and developmentally appropriate activities that help the child develop emotionally, socially, mentally, and physically.

In the same reference, Berns present Skeels' study result. A 30-year longitudinal study completed in 1966 by Harold Skeels demonstrated that it is quality of care (nurture) that affects children's development, not relationship of the person who provides it (nature). This study showed that children need care and nurturance to develop normally, that the care and nurturance can be provided by someone other than the mother; and that infants who are initially deprived can grow up normally if intervention by a caring, nurturing person is provided.

#### Dual Role of Parent: The Nurture Role and The Structure Role

What parents have to do as a parent has been explained in points above. Nurturing the children as a basic family function means providing all of what children need among their development and socialization. From that, we get two roles of parent to discuss.

##### *The Nurture Role*

In the nurture role, parents take care of their children's basic needs, include food, medical care, shelter, clothing, and more of biological needs, as well as give love, attention, understanding, acceptance, time, and support. Parents listen to their children, and have fun with them. Parents make time for their kids, show an interest in them and their activities, and encourage them to pursue their passions. Through their words and actions, parents communicate to their children that they are loved and accepted. Typically, when

parent are in the nurturing role, parent enjoy and accept their children as they are and do not expect any change in behavior.

When parent are nurturing, their children, their children will feel good about themselves, feel lovable and worthy of being cared for, feel listened to—learn their ideas, feelings, and needs are important—and feel that they are understood, become trusting because they know that their needs will be met, learn that they can tackle difficult situations and face challenges because they do not have to face them alone – parent will be there to support them, are able to give back to other people through the emotional support they are given from parent. This builds their ability to empathize with others. It is through loving and supportive early parent-child relationships that the foundations for future healthy relationships are formed. Being valued just for whom they are helps to build their children's self-esteem. This is a very important part of their parenting job. **It is this role that many people know intuitively is critical for their children's healthy development.**

The amount of parental care and involvement needs to be weighed on a scale, as shown below. When parent give too much nurture, parent may be overly protective, too responsive to their children's needs, and too involved in their lives. Under these conditions, children don't learn skills to care for themselves and they don't learn to consider other people's needs. Conversely, when parent aren't nurturing enough, parent are too emotionally distant and not adequately involved in their children's lives. As a result, children don't feel loved or supported and they don't learn to trust other people.

### *The Structure Role*

The other part of their job as a parent is to provide “structure” for children. In this role, parent give direction, impose rules, use discipline, set limits, establish and follow through with consequences, hold their children accountable for their behavior, and teach values. Parent provide the guidance that helps their children to change, grow, and mature. **Responsible behavior, in line with their children's maturity levels, is taught and expected.** It is in the structure role that parent expect change in behavior and increased growth, maturity, and ability. When parent provide this kind of structure, children: their children will feel a sense of safety **that rules will be in place when they can't control their own impulses** – parent will be there to stop them, guide them, and be in-charge of their well-being, learn to tolerate a reasonable amount of frustration and disappointment when they **don't always get their own way, discover that the world does not revolve totally around them.** As a result, they become less egocentric, learn responsible behavior and that they are capable of doing things. They will learn from their mistakes, gain experience to make some decisions, become more self-sufficient and capable as they learn the skills to become independent, and they can internalize their rules and values.

Often parents have more difficulty carrying out this function in a healthy way. Yet **it is vitally important to their children's development that parent discipline them, teach**

them, guide them, provide rules and follow through on the rules, and set reasonable expectations for their behavior. Parent do not have to be mean as parent set limits. For example, if parent sit down with their child to set a schedule for extra-curricular activities, parent are providing guidance. If parent have their son read three pages of a book aloud to practice his reading skills which his teacher has said are below grade level, parent would be providing structure. It may still be a warm and loving interaction, but their goal is to help their child grow and acquire new skills; therefore, parent are providing structure. By holding children to standards and helping them to achieve success, parent help them to feel capable and thereby build their self-esteem.

Just like with the nurture role, the structure role exists on a scale as shown below. When parent provide too much structure, parent may be rigid and use harsh discipline; **children don't learn to think for themselves, and they may either become passive** or they might rebel. When parent give too little structure, their expectations and rules may be **unclear and inconsistent. Children may feel confused; they don't feel that they will be protected; and they don't learn to be responsible because they are not held accountable** for their behaviors.

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