



Shifting role of parenting from Mom's to Dad's : a case study of a Mix Culture Families

Yenie Wulandari

Badan Kependudukan dan Keluarga Berencana Nasional
Banten, Indonesia, 42171
ywidyaiswara@gmail.com

Abstract

The discourse on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic tends to focus on the health and economic aspects. Even though the secondary impact of this pandemic has also resulted in conflicts of cultural values. This qualitative study tried to get a comprehensive picture related to the dynamics of their shifting role of parenting and its impact on their children. This study used social role theory, social judgment theory, and social exchange theory. The subjects were three inter-ethnic married couples: Javanese-Minang, Bantenese-Madurese, and Javanese-Sundanese in Banten province, Indonesia. This research used data collection techniques through in-depth interviews and stays for one month with each family. The result showed that although the parents did not affect by society's judgment through their acts there was a tendency to impact the child's development after they were reaching their teenage years.

Keywords: *shifting role; parenting; Covid 19*

Abstrak

Wacana dampak pandemi COVID-19 cenderung terfokus pada aspek kesehatan dan ekonomi. Padahal dampak sekunder dari pandemi ini juga mengakibatkan konflik nilai budaya. Studi kualitatif ini mencoba untuk mendapatkan gambaran yang komprehensif terkait dengan dinamika pergeseran peran pengasuhan dan dampaknya terhadap anak-anak mereka. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori peran sosial, teori penilaian sosial, dan teori pertukaran sosial. Subjek penelitian adalah tiga pasangan suami istri antaretnis: Jawa-Minang, Banten-Madu, dan Jawa-Sunda di Provinsi Banten, Indonesia. Penelitian ini menggunakan teknik pengumpulan data melalui wawancara mendalam dan tinggal selama satu bulan dengan masing-masing keluarga. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa meskipun orang tua tidak terpengaruh oleh penilaian masyarakat melalui tindakannya tetapi ada kecenderungan untuk mempengaruhi perkembangan anak setelah mereka mencapai usia remaja.

Kata Kunci: *pergeseran peran; parenting; Covid 19*

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INTRODUCTION

The emergence of the pandemic COVID-19 has increasingly changed the social cultural that fabricated our society. Although the discourse the impact of COVID-19 pandemic trends is

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focusing on the health and economic aspect, the challenges of secondary impact that might triggered consequences are cultural values. The impact of this pandemic is related to the use of the Work From Home (WFH) System and also the increase of layoffs which causes unemployment status, especially for male breadwinners.

As of 27 May 2020, the Ministry of Manpower (Kemenaker) recorded the number of workers, including formal and informal workers, apprentices and prospective migrant workers, who were laid off and laid off due to Covid-19 was 3.06 million people. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the unemployment rate is estimated to increase by 3% to 5% (CNN Indonesia, 2020).

The COVID-19 pandemic forces everyone to face all changes and adapt to these changes. Not only men, women also have their own challenges to survive in the midst of a pandemic. This is in line with the shift in various activities that are now carried out at home. When the husband experiences termination of employment, sometimes the wife re-places the role of earning a living while the husband will carry out the role of stay-at-home-dad. Getting started.

The shift in husband status in the phenomenon of the father of the household above has caused various problems for the life of the household and the community. In reality there have been rapid social changes which also caused a shift because the old values relied on by the community could no longer be utilized. The situation is very influential on the changing role played by husband and wife, which impacts the relationship between husband and wife in the family and eventually for their children development. Therefore, in this article, we will discuss about 1) why do they choose to shift role in their family? 2) How does family with this shifting role maintaining their situation? and 3) What is the impact of their decision to shift role especially for their children?.

The implications of this article are as material for new scientific findings and contribute to the development of science, especially in the development of Gender Studies, Family Studies and Child Development. As a reference regarding matters relating to concepts and questions about the relationship of parents and their children, especially in changing roles in the family in improving the quality of parental relationships with their children. Various models of family care and their impact on child development are expected to bring up a policy from the government about the importance of family care for child development. So, it is expected that a prosperous family will be able to provide good care for their children.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a purposive sampling technique which is a data source sampling technique with certain considerations that are considered more suitable and in accordance with the character of the study. The location of this study was Banten Province, Serang and Cilegon district. The locus of this study were families that were experiencing the role shifting. This includes The Dad's, Mom's, and their children. The ethnic of this families were Javaneases, Maduranease-Sundanease, and Sumatranese-Javanease. The source of the data using primer

and secondary data with collection technique using library research and field work research by observation and deep interviews.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSION

Factors Affecting the Shifting

The study focused in 3 big area. Firstly, factors affecting in the shifting role process which consist of Dad experience, Mom experience, and the demand of role shifting. The study found that these three men grew up from quite democratic families. Tio (37 year old, Sundanease) were also raised in a democratic family. His father was working while his mother was a typical housewife. Meanwhile Gani (45 years old, Sumatranese) is from Minangkabau. He grows from a family that adopts matrilinealism.

The status of the head of the family in the nuclear family who adopts the patrilineal system is held by the father, and vice versa in the family that follows the matrilineal system is held by the mother. The Minangkabau tradition indeed understands that women have a high degree. There are large rights that are usually obtained by men, but for the Minang community these rights are obtained by women. Although power is strongly influenced by control over economic assets, men from the family of the woman still hold authority or have legitimacy of power in their community (Thaib, 2008).

Generally, the husband wants his wife to work at home to take care of the household, because the wife's tendency to take over household responsibilities and decisions, if the wife's income is higher than the husband (Treas & Tai, 2012).

But the authoritarian and matrilineal system seemed to influence the way the sees this role changing in their family. With the advancing development of the times and the existence of gender equality movements, more opportunities for women to receive better education and work in the public sector so that women have equal rights with men. They become more open to the concept of working mother and do not hesitate to allow their wives to pursue their job.

This condition was also experienced by Gani. He mentioned, "My mother was a very strong woman, she used to control everything in the family. I also admired her work ethic." When he was questioned with his wife career, he responded, "Since she also has a good career, I do not mind her working."

While in the women participant side have different background. The women from the study grew up from a democratic family. Democratic parents will maintain a balance between authoritarian parenting and permissive parenting. Furthermore, having raised in a democratic family, they have seemed to be more aware of themselves. They became strong and independent women in their own ways. They are given ample room to be able to express and increase their potential. These three women have quite high education and extensive work opportunities because of very strong family support.

These Mom's also had a strong work ethic from childhood. This is influenced by their views on their parents, especially the strong mother figure. The mother of the three mothers is

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described as a hard worker and never gave up. They work and also take care of their daily needs.

Despite growing into strong individuals, these three women still seem to appreciate the role of the husband in the family. These women grew up from families who adhered to the patrilineal system, so they did not behave arbitrarily and hold family control. Even those who provide for their family, big decisions are still held by the husbands and they always ask their husband's opinion will make a decision.

The improvement of social welfare can be identified from three main elements, namely social problems, needs that are met, and opportunities or opportunities that improve people's lives. This is aligned to social exchange theory which stated that people relate to others because they expect something that meets their needs. In social relations there are elements of reward, sacrifice, and profit that influence each other.

Basically, everyone's motivation to work is to meet basic needs for survival. Related to the motivation of women who decide to work is usually related to two reasons, namely motivation for economic needs and the desire to be able to actualize themselves (Wolfman, 1992). First, for economic reasons. This situation arises because the awareness of a single income can no longer be enough to support the family, so many Indonesian women are currently taking part in efforts to support their families.

The Maduranease-Bantenease and the Sundanease-Javanease couple both remembered that it was because of the economic demands. The condition usually started when the Dad's were having difficulty at work such as being lay off from the company and the wives career seemed to take off. For the Maduranease and Bantenease Couple, the incoming of baby also seemed to triggered the condition. The difficulties of finding a perfect fit job and nanny for the children then caused them to made a decision to role shifting.

If they could choose, the Dad's would prefer to be the breadwinner, meanwhile the Moms also wanted to stayed home and take care the children. But in the end, three of this family do not regret the decision that they have made. They already realized the consequences of their action and tried to enjoyed the process.

Dynamic of Role Shifting

Secondly the dynamic of role shifting that discussed the division of role in the family, the conflict, and judgement of the role shifting.

According to William F. Ogburn, the modern family has lost its function because of industrialization (Goode, 2007). The change that happened also influence how these parents handle their parenting style. Whatever the situation became, a child's biological parents reside together or apart, the effort to build a family and doing parenting tasks require collaboration and coordination which suggested a variety of ways to share such tasks (McHale, 1995). These tasks are not easy, since there will be an effect in choosing the step that they chose to make (Parke, 2004). Moreover, the whole may be more than the sum of individual parts, such that the overall

quantity and quality of all family resources that children experience, including interactions among fathers' and mothers' parenting, matters the most for children (Cox & Paley, 1997).

Based on the study, the families are using the role of modern gender. The division of labor in domestic activities in the house usually dominated by husband whereas outside is by wife. For managing family financial expenses, and holding family finances, usually is handle by the wives. The families in this study told that they do not find their family as abnormal. They think it is a way to survive in their situation. Gani (45 years old, Sumatranese) mentioned that when he took the part of parenting, it looked like a perfect fit, because he could easily get close with his first child. He seemed to enjoy his part. His wife then took the role of the breadwinner. She often gives monthly money to him for the expense of the households. His wife always cooked food the family in the morning before she goes to work.

Gottman and DeClaire (1997) assert that father's involvement in adolescents' lives will affect them in their relationships with peers and achievements in school, as well as assist adolescents in developing control and adjustment in their future social environment. Father involvement greatly influences the process of individual development, where fathers who give attention and support to children will give a feeling of being accepted, cared for and have a sense of well-developed.

Although it seemed that the Dads are doing fine, the Moms were having some difficulty since hardest part of this role for the wives, was the sense of guilt when leaving their family to go to work. The study showed that these wives trust their husband capabilities completely in taking care of the house while they are working. This was due to the fact that they have built a good communication in their family. Caring for each other role was the aspect that tried to maintained.

Impact of the role shifting

Thirdly were the impact of shifting role that discussed relationship between spouse, relationship as parents and children, and the relationship with friend, family and the community. The general public considers that women who work outside the home have a negative impact or a bad influence on the family. Many people say that most divorces are caused by working wives. Juvenile delinquency, the consumption of illegal drugs are problems that arise due to working mothers (Wolfman, 1992). There is time they felt conflict that might be triggered from their shifting role in the family. As working wife and a mother, there will always pressure from their self to become a good wife or mother in the house. When arrived at home, these moms have to be ready for their spouse or children.

The double role for a woman is sometime felt stressful and exhausting. These women also sometimes felt the burden of having two roles. Intan mentioned, "When I arrived home from work, I felt really tired and just wanted some 'me time', but it is impossible to do, my children need my attention so I have to be there for them. and I know it is not easy to take care them all day long, so I release my husband 'duty', and let him rest." Intan understand that taking care children is her duty, that is why she pushes herself to take the role.

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From three of the family, the two-family seemed to have full support from their surroundings. Only the Sumatranese-Javanese couple that were receiving negative comment from their social environment. The comment usually comes from their close relative. Their neighborhood also took comment of their situation. There was assumption that the husband has neglected his role as a provider and he seemed to feel too comfortable of letting go his responsibilities.

Although there were people that gave negative comment to their situation, these families also are also surrounded by friends that are open to their situation. And sometimes they are supportive and understanding which made it easier to bear with.

The three families agreed that the role changing did not affect their relationship as husband and wives. Their foundation in their marriage is respect and understanding which made it easier for them to undergo their role. They already anticipate the consequences of their action so that they accept the life that they chose.

Furthermore, in the relationship with their children, the three Dads in this study showed a high involvement pattern with their children. Fiko-Ria (Maduranese-Sundanese) has a two-year-old daughter. He often does the daily parenting routines like taking a bath, play-time, feeding, and even taking her to bed. But in the weekends, these routines became her wife's responsibilities. This also happened with the other family in this study.

Meanwhile as a child, the role shifting seemed to give impact to their personality's development. From the study it was found that when their children were still young (until they entered school), they do not find anything wrong with their situation. But when their children interact with the outside world by entering school, it will then affect their psychology.

The 'idealistic' perspective that governs in the society will eventually be heard and felt by the child when they enter the society. Different parenting patterns between husband and wife sometimes lead to conflict. But furthermore, this can lead to confusion in the minds of children about what he must do, how he should act, to which rules actually applied to him. In school they will learn that idealistic pattern and absorb the information that received. This would lead to a conflicting mindset between their reality and what the societies want.

What seemed to make the shifting works has something to do with how they could block people's opinion. The study showed that participants of the study seemed more individualistic. This could be seen by the personalities of the fathers. The fathers do not use to socialize with others. Their interaction with the outside world were also limited. They only have two until three friends that were also not a close friend.

The main elements of social exchange are cost, reward, and profit. Cost is the behavior of someone who is considered as a cost whether or not expecting a reward. Whereas reward is a reward for cost. From the rewards that a person can get, he can get a greater debt than the cost incurred. This advantage is called profit. However, not all rewards that are earned produce benefits for someone who issues a reward. Because in social exchange a person does not prioritize a lot of profit. Someone just wants a reward for the cost he incurred. Social exchange theory views interpersonal relations as a commercial transaction. People relate to others because

they expect something that meets their needs. In social relations there are elements of reward, sacrifice, and profit that influence each other.

CONCLUSION

The discourse on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic tends to focus on the health and economic aspects. Even though the secondary impact of this pandemic has also resulted in conflicts of cultural values. Based on the study, the families were using the role of modern gender. Their commitment to shift role was also being influence by their parenting experience in the past, personal characteristic and their support system.

It was discovered that, these Mom and Dad pushes themselves to accepted their role although sometime there are the feeling and demand from themselves to fit the patriarchy role. But with intensive communication between spouse, they could manage their situation because it takes a sense of mutual understanding between women and men in order to create a harmonious relationship to deal with conflicts that arise due to the shifting role. Respecting each other, not demeaning to one another, and complementing each other, and sticking to their nature as men and women are attitudes that need to be fostered to fortify themselves from the negative effects of globalization in the concept of shifting roles. Although the study showed that Dad's and Mom's did not affect by the society judgement through their act but there was a tendency to impacted the child development after they were reaching their teenage year. The teen was having difficulty on adjusting themselves in the society which made them withdrawal from society because of shame. Many child delinquency problems begin with family dysfunction. This study also adds that there was a sense of determination to change the pattern of their parents in the future.

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