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## The Role of Parents in Preventing Children from Being Addicted to Playing Gadgets in Kuyanga I Village, North Tombatu District, Southeast Minahasa Regency

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**Abstract.** The aim of this study is to learn more deeply about the role of parents in preventing children from being addicted to playing gadgets in Kuyanga I Village, North Tombatu District, Southeast Minahasa Regency. In achieving the research objectives, qualitative research methods are chosen, with data collection methods such as observations and interviews. The results of the research show that has been carried out, the conclusions from the results of this research are the role of parents is to look after, protect and finance in preventing children from playing with gadgets, which is very important, where gadgets, apart from having a positive impact, can also have a negative impact on children whose use is not controlled by each parent. Apart from being mentally damaging, it can also affect children's health. So apart from limiting how they use gadgets, parents must also be wise in giving cellphones to their children so that they don't waste their time just playing with gadgets but also invite children to play together at home.

**Keywords:** Role, Parents, Preventing Children, Being Addicted, Playing Gadgets

### A. Introduction

Individuals and families come together to form societies because they have a strong sense of unity and commitment to unity, thus producing a very close bond (Dolonseda et al., 2022). The family is a social unity headed by the head of the household (Umaternate et al., 2023). Families play an important role in relationships between family members because they can educate and understand other family members, injecting social values into societies that are the source of family values (Hamsah Hamsah, 2022). The socialization of children in the neighborhood will develop more when they are taught social values in society (Kumajas et al., 2023).

Parents are the child's first environment that has an influence on the growth and development of the child or young generation (Lusiana & Mesra, 2024). According to the Indonesian Great Dictionary, parents in a special sense are father and mother. Parents are a family component consisting of fathers and mothers who consciously educate their children to reach maturity. Parents have a heavy responsibility in giving guidance to their children, the father and mother characters perform the first task is to form the child's personality with full responsibility within the atmosphere of mutual understanding between parents and children. Parents also play an important role in trying to develop a child's character (Mamonto & Mesra, 2023).

A qualified character needs to be formed and built from an early age (Hidayat & Mesra, 2022). Early life is a critical time for character formation. Failure to cultivate character in a person from an early age, will

form a personality that is problematic in adulthood. Since a child is a person who always passes through various stages of development, parents should be able to provide guidance appropriate to the child's developmental stages. Because, parents are the primary responsibility in the lives of their children (Lanawaang & Mesra, 2023).

Children are educated in such a way that they can prepare themselves for the future. Besides, parents have an important role over their children. Simply put, the role of a parent can be described as a parent's duty to the child (Salainti et al., 2023). Among them are parents who are obliged to fulfil the rights of their children. Giving an example and educating a good and right child is the duty of parents who will later imitate what their parents do. The role of parents in educating their children will have a major influence on their mindset and behavior (Mesra et al., 2022).

Kuyanga is one of the villages in Tombatu North district, Minahasa Tenggara district. Where families in this village of Kuyanga have problems in the education of their children especially in the marriage of children who are still sitting in the First Secondary School (13-15 year). Because of the addiction to the gadget, which includes social media apps such as Tiktok, Facebook and the virtual world apps offered this makes their children addicted to the gadgets, children can spend hours and hours so often forget time because of the over-focused gadget, even the gadget has to be under anywhere.

It makes children late eating and forget to learn, and do not do other activities like helping parents, or play out of the house, they prefer to spend time at home while playing the Gadgets, even imitating the scenes paid through the apps they watch so it is not uncommon when this is a lot of events or events that are quite very concerned both from the world of education or in the wider society, starting from bullying fellow schoolchildren and even mimicking the styles that are bad in dressing for example teenagers who are not ashamed to show how to date and still many more negative things that are imitated by the children themselves in this village of Kuyanga.

Of course, the elders in Kuyanga Village are very concerned about this, and they must act quickly to take the necessary action to stop the moral degradation of the youth of the village. One of the fastest growing means of communication in Indonesia is the gadget. Through the integration of additional technology into devices, the gadget industry continues to bring new innovations. People communicate with each other through gadgets, making gadgets a distinct phenomenon that emerges in society, especially in the countryside.

People can now meet their needs more quickly and easily by leveraging the advanced features of the gadget. As time passes, gadgets are no longer just used for everyday life; on the contrary, gadget allows people to acquire boundless new insights and knowledge. Gadget users are exposed to both positive and negative impacts.

Family education plays an important role in shaping the child's personality. From an early age, parents have instilled knowledge in their children through the example of daily family behavior and routine. Whether or not the example is given, the child's mental development will be influenced by the parents' daily lifestyle choices. Because they always want to follow parents' instructions as they grow up, children often imitate their parents' routines. In the world of education, it's called "children learn by imitating".

Both blood and social relationships can be used to define family. In terms of relationships, a family is a group of people who are connected to each other through blood. A family can be classified as a core family or a large family depending on the degree of blood connection. In the context of social relations, the family is an unity that is connected through mutual relationships and influences each other. Psychological and pedagogical family is a term used to describe families based on aspects of social relationships.

Based on the background that exists for it I am interested and would like to do research with the title The Role of Parents in Preventing Child Addicted Playing Gadgets in the village of Kuyanga I Chechai Tombatu North Kab.Minahasa Tenggara.

## B. Method

In this research the method used is qualitative. Qualitative research method is a method based on the philosophy of postpositivism, used to investigate the conditions of natural objects, where the researcher is the key instrument (Sugiyono, 2012). The method of qualitative study is often called naturalistic because its research is carried out on natural conditions (natural Setting), also called the ethnographic method, because initially this method was used for research in the field of cultural anthropology (sugyonono. 2011:8) explains that quality research is naturalist research, because researchers are interested in investigating events that occur naturally.

Data collection is carried out in the following ways, (1) defining the scope of the study, (2) collecting data or information through: observations and interviews.

### 1. Observation

At this stage, researchers are directly involved in the process of identification, data collection. Observation as a data-gathering technique has specific features compared to other techniques, such as interviews and questionnaires. If the interview and questionnaire always communicate with people, then observation is not limited to people, but also other natural objects. According to Sutrisno Hadi, it is a complex process, a process composed of various biological and psychological processes. Two of the most important are the processes of observation and memory.

### 2. Interviews

Interviews are used as data collection techniques when researchers want to forget the preliminary study to find the problem to be investigated, and also when prosecutors want to know things from more in-depth respondents and the number of respondents is small. These data collection techniques are based on reports about themselves or self-reports, or at least on personal knowledge and/or beliefs. Sutrisno hadi (1986) submits that the assumptions that researchers need to hold in using the method of interview and also keusioner (angket) are as follows.

In this phase, the use of open interviews means that the researcher gives the freedom to the informant as the source of the information about what the intentions and purposes of the researchers are, until encouraging the informants to speak extensively and in depth about the objects studied in this case concerning the guidelines of the interview used only as large lines of the problems to be asked.

Data analysis techniques are the process of systematically searching for and organizing data obtained from the results of interviews, field records and other materials, so that it can be easily understood and everything can be informed to others. Qualitative data analysis according to Milles and Huberman (1992: 16 - 19) covers three components of analysis namely:

#### 1. Data reduction.

Data reduction is a form of analysis that focuses, directs, categorizes, eliminates the unnecessary, organizes data in such a way that conclusions can eventually be drawn and verified, the way used in data reduction can be through a long selection, through a summary of short descriptions and classifying it into a broader pattern.

#### 2. Data presentation (Display).

Data presentation is limited so that as a set of information is organized that gives the possibility of conclusion and analysis. Better data presentation is a primary way for valid qualitative analysis.

#### 3. Conclusion withdrawal

The researchers try to find the meaning of things, record the order, patterns of explanation, kionfigurations, causes and consequences, and propositions. Conclusions are always tested for their truth, their compatibility, and their suitability, which is their validity.

## C. Result and Discussion

### 1. Result

#### **The role of parents in Kuyanga I Village, North Tombatu District, Southeast Minahasa Regency is to prevent their children from becoming dependent on playing gadgets**

##### a. Parental strategies to prevent children from getting addicted to gadgets

Informant L.L revealed,

"...because nowadays children are often and even dependent on playing with gadgets, for me the strategy is not to buy your own gadget, if you borrow it from your parents, you have to use the time."

Informant S.A also added,

"...limit the use of playing on your cellphone, for example you only give yourself 10 minutes a day or study first then play on your cellphone."

Informant O.M explained,

"...encourage children to play so they don't focus on their cell phones because as parents of course you have to have time with your children, not just focus on your cell phone."

##### b. Reasons why children like playing with gadgets

Informant L.L revealed,

"... one of the reasons why children like playing with cellphones is because their parents make it a habit, for example, so that children who want to study or want to eat are given cellphones as a diversion."

Informant S.A also added,

"...because there are no friends at home to play with."

Informant O.M explained,

"...parents often give cell phones to their children as a means of communication so that the children don't bother their parents because they don't have enough time together."

##### c. The negative impact of playing with gadgets on children

Informant L.L revealed,

"...children don't know their surroundings and don't have friends to play with."

Informant S.A added,

"...you can't study well if you're not supervised because you're playing on your cell phone."

Informant H.T also explained,

"...I don't study and I don't even have time to communicate with my parents more seriously because I'm focused on my cellphone."

##### d. The positive impact of playing with gadgets on children

Informant L.L revealed,

"...for children the positive impact is that they can learn via cellphone, especially last year's pandemic."

Informant S.A also explained,  
"...if it is for studying, the impact may be very good, but if used continuously it can damage children's eyes."

Informant H.T revealed,  
"...make it easier for them to access information related to learning material".

e. Duration of use of gadgets in children

Informant L.L revealed,  
"...there are no restrictions because I feel that if I stay at home the children are safer."

Informant S.A also said,  
"... usually when I give my children time to play on their cell phones is after studying and doing school assignments."

Informant H.T added,  
"...I don't count but when I think I've had enough I will take the cell phones from the children."

## 2. Discussion

Children nowadays cannot be separated from gadgets or what people generally call cellphones. Moreover, today's cellphones can not only be used by adults, but even children aged 5 years can access various game features and even games from their parents' cellphones. The children in Kuyanga I village, North Tombatu subdistrict, are no exception.

Continuous use of cellphones without parental supervision will certainly have a negative impact on children who use gadgets or cellphones not for learning purposes but for fun or playing games. The family environment is the first environment that influences aspects of a child's development. The conditions and procedures for family life are a conducive environment for children. Parents play a special role in terms of information and reflection about a person's self. Parents are the first educators and have a great influence on the child's development process.

The personality of the parents, their attitudes and way of life are elements of education which will naturally enter into the personality of the growing child. Parents in the family have a very large role in implementing children's prophetic education methods. The loving care of parents and the education they provide about life values, both religious and socio-cultural, are factors that are conducive to preparing children to become healthy individuals. Among family members, the mother is the most dominant and important towards her children. This is because from the moment the child is born, the mother is the person who is always beside him.

A mother's education for her child is basic education that cannot be ignored at all. Therefore, a mother should be wise and clever at educating her children. However, the reality is that in Kuyanga village, there are still parents who, based on research data that have been conducted, are not aware of the negative impacts of prolonged use of gadgets. Even mothers who have children still like to use gadgets as a means to entertain their children while they are busy doing household chores. This is done so that children are quiet and only focus on playing without leaving the house without limiting things that children should not be able to access.

The mother's role is to be a source and giver of love, look after and care for others, organize home life, guide personal relationships, and provide emotional education. Meanwhile, the father is the internal link between the family and society, a source of power, a provider of security to all family members, a defender from external threats, a decision maker in family disputes, and a decision maker. which provides

rational education. So this does not mean that having a cellphone or gadget replaces the role that parents should play, for example playing time with children, communicating directly with children is replaced by buying cellphones for children and no longer playing or having time with children play.

This is one of the triggers for children in Kuyanga village to become dependent on gadgets. Rather than playing with their peers, they prefer to stay at home and access the features offered on their cellphones. Because children see their parents as the best role models to follow, parents have a significant influence on moral development. Children tend to imitate everything their parents do. Gunarsa's parenting style is characterized by how parents treat children in social situations, including how they exercise authority and respect their requests.

In the current era of globalization, technological developments are increasingly sophisticated and developing. This causes various influences on human life patterns, both thought patterns and behavior. One of the technological developments that can influence the human mind is gadgets. Gadgets are media used as a means of modern communication. The many benefits of gadgets and the demands of today's era require every human being to use gadgets from an early age. So currently most young children are familiar with using gadgets. Children generally use gadgets to watch videos, play educational or adventure games. However, it is feared that introducing it too early will have an impact on the child. This impact can be a negative impact or a positive impact and can make children addicted. In gadgets there are various kinds of content that can be accessed easily by children. A gadget is defined as a tool used to access or run a particular program.

Meanwhile, according to Marton, he defines a number of certain conditions that must be met by an adequate functional analysis. First, he determined that only standard social units were worthy objects of functional analysis. Second, the analysis must distinguish between explanations of dispositions and unplanned consequences of objects. Third, unintended or unplanned consequences must be described as a network of balance between various positive and negative, manifest and latent consequences. Fourth, functional consequences must be linked to certain structural units whose conditions must be made the object of a separate analysis. Fifth, the analysis must provide a satisfactory discussion of the mechanisms through which such conditions are met regarding possible functional alternatives of actions or processes that could provide the same results with different means and structural constraints.

Thus, after completing all the tasks above that can be safely trusted, Marton examines and assesses the role played by the relevant functional relationships in the dynamic process and its ideological implications. In building his social theory, Merton was very interested in the state of social structures and social functions like living organisms. The explanation of this functional theory as stated by Durkheim and Spencer, he saw that society is a structured building and various subsystems which are interconnected and support each other.

So the resulting theory is called functional structural theory. Merton's functionalist theory was also influenced by positivist theory, because what was studied were objective facts from people's lives. According to Merton, the social functions studied are things that are observable. The basic unit of a positivistic theory is sociological concepts which provide the basis for empirical testing. Turner (2012:164).

## **D. Conclusion**

Based on the results of the research that has been carried out, the conclusions from the results of this research are the role of parents is to look after, protect and finance in preventing children from playing with gadgets, which is very important, where gadgets, apart from having a positive impact, can also have a negative impact on children whose use is not controlled by each parent. Apart from being mentally damaging, it can also affect children's health. So apart from limiting how they use gadgets, parents must



also be wise in giving cellphones to their children so that they don't waste their time just playing with gadgets but also invite children to play together at home.

Parents and children have their respective roles. Parents play a role in ensuring that their children are healthy and safe, providing facilities and infrastructure to develop abilities as provisions for social life, and as a medium for instilling socio-cultural values as early as possible. Good upbringing from parents will create good character in children too. The role of children is as family members. A child's duty is to learn and respect their parents. Functional relationships will run normally if each role is carried out well.

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