

COUNSELING PRACTICES BY PARENTS FOR CHILDREN AMONG FISHERMEN'S FAMILIES IN TANJUNG TIRAM DISTRICT, BATUBARA REGENCY, NORTH SUMATRA PROVINCE

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DOI: 10.29313/tjpi.v12i2.12393

Abstract

This article discusses the existence of counseling practices carried out by parents towards children in fishing families in Tanjung Tiram District, Batubara Regency. The aim is to describe how parents carry out counseling activities for their children, even though it is not formal. This type of descriptive research with a qualitative approach was chosen to describe this problem. Primary data was taken by observation, interview, and documentation methods, while secondary data was taken from a review of several kinds of literature. The results obtained are the implementation of counseling practices by parents of fishing families in the form of loving children, protecting the family with a sense of comfort, respecting the rights and obligations of children and parents, instilling trust, and gathering for family discussions. The steps taken are creating good family relationships, listening wholeheartedly, solving problems, feeling the child's condition, being a good listener, helping to find solutions, and being able to keep children's secrets.

Keywords: Consultant; Islamic Religion Counselor; Taklim Assembly; Talawi District.

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Received July 30, 2023. Accepted November 14, 2023. Published November 16, 2023.

INTRODUCTION

Guidance and counseling are an important part of implementing education in the family (Ahmad & Zadha, 2023). These activities are needed so that children can become people who behave according to family expectations. The formation of a good personality is of course the main target. That way, a child in the family will have a directed, ethical, and fun attitude. This condition is certainly the hope of the whole family or the environment where a child lives. This opinion is supported by Dulahu & Mohamad (2020) who explain that family counseling aims to provide assistance to family members to gain awareness about good connectivity so that interactions that are created can overcome problems that arise.

Related to these needs, parents have a very urgent role in shaping the personality and behavior of children (Samsudin, 2019). Parents who are leaders in the family, have a very big contribution in shaping the character of children (Musawamah, 2021). The consequence of the family as the main educational institution for children appears in this case. The point is that parents become role models for children to be able to do everything. A child's behavior will describe the condition of his family. Parents are required to instill various good behaviors in children, which aim to make a child have a positive impact on the family, community, and environment. Sihabudin (2017) states that good and quality children will emerge from good families. Parents are the main key. Guidance carried out by parents has the potential to provide support to children. For this reason, education carried out by parents also needs to pay attention to two aspects, namely how to educate well (parenting) and fostering good family relationships (relationships).

An important issue in this case is how parents can be role models as well as good educators for children (Ceka & Murati, 2016). Parents already have basic priorities for children, such as positioning children in a good life, prioritizing children's safety in emergency situations, instilling an introspective attitude in children, paying attention to children's future lives and being patient in dealing with children's behavior. In this case, it is clear that the active role of parents is needed as the head of the household and as an educator. This role, of course, must be able to include instilling educational values and character for children. This is expected to be able to bring up children who have good behavior and are directed in society (Erzad, 2017).

In one family, parents will have several roles. One result of research conducted by Mufida et al., (2021) revealed that parents in Kancilan Village, Rembang District, Jepara Regency set an example, taught religion and manners, and instilled honesty. The results of this study illustrate that parents in the village act as role models, educators and mentors, by providing guidance in the form of example, directing and habituating. Meanwhile Fitri (2017) reveals several roles of parents in Gesikharjo Palang Tuban Village in instilling morals in children. The roles he gets are setting an example, familiarizing children with kindness, being involved in children's activities, reviewing lessons and activities, supervising children when they play and fostering discipline and responsibility. The results of the research above illustrate that parents act as role models, educators, supervisors and mentors. Nur & Malli (2022) reveal ways by parents to build children's character in Bontoala Village, Pallangga District, Gowa Regency. The things he does are understand the nature of the children who will be fostered or formed, actively provide examples, teach children to pray and apply good and daily behavior. From the results of this study it can be concluded that parents in the village act as coaches, role models, educators and mentors for children. Sujana et al., (2023) explains that parents have a strategic role in optimizing early childhood character education. Showing exemplary, providing spare time, giving advice, motivating and instilling habits and giving punishment is the way to do it. The conclusion of this study is that parents act as role models, motivators, mentors, educators and decision makers. Meanwhile, the results of Mahmudin (2018) reveal that the role of parents towards children is inviting children to pray to the mosque, motivating them to be diligent in giving alms, providing moral education, teaching greetings and instilling the value of honesty. The conclusion from this study is that parents act as guides, motivators and educators. From some of the research results above, it can be concluded that related to child mentoring activities, parents have a role as guides, role models, educators, supervisors and motivators. This role is carried out by parents when they are dealing with children at home. The

position as a leader in the family makes parents have the ability as educators (teachers) and mentors (counselors). With these abilities, it is clear that parents have a very big influence in shaping the personality of their children.

Fishermen's families in Tanjung Tiram District, Batubara Regency are also inseparable from this interest. They are also required to be able to shape children's behavior well. They also get the basic nature of being a parent as a consequence. The point is that after they have children, the obligation to shape the child's personality is their main task. This task is certainly a form of education for children as part of the family. They expect their children to have good and directed behavior, according to their wishes. Because, of course, it is also not surprising that parents in fishing families also require their children to go to school, recite the Koran, help them and associate with good people. This is expected to have a positive impact on their children. To be able to shape the personality of their children, parents in the fishing families above indirectly carry out several mentoring activities. These activities are more practical, because parents do it only based on experience. Even though it is self-taught, this knowledge and ability is quite sufficient to shape the child's personality and good behavior. Theoretical understanding is very minimal, but habits that are instilled continuously become the effective way. Therefore, the role of parents in educating children is clearly very urgent.

METHODOLOGY

This paper is the result of research on fishermen's families in Tanjung Tiram District, Batubara Regency. Observations and interviews were conducted with several families who had children. Observation sheets and a list of questions are used to get maximum results, and assisted by smartphone communication tools to record sound, take photos and videos. Notes during the research are also supporting information. All of this information is used as primary data. Information from the field will then be collaborated with information from several literatures, and this will become secondary data. This explanation shows the characteristics of descriptive research with a qualitative approach. Moleong (2017) explains that qualitative research aims at phenomena about the experience of the subject and presented holistically how to describe it in words, in natural contexts and methods

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Definition of Counseling

Counseling is the application of principles of mental health, psychology, or human development through cognitive, affective, behavioral, or systematic interactions, strategies that pay attention well-being, personal growth or career development (Awlawi, 2018). Counseling is a process of providing assistance through counseling interviews by an expert to individuals who are experiencing a problem with the aim of solving the problem. The role of counseling is very important in people's lives, especially in families who are experiencing disputes, with the aim of helping families to live a household life correctly, happily and be able to overcome problems that arise in married life. Disputes in the household occur for a number of reasons, including a lack of communication within the family due to busy work so that bland dialogue often occurs which results in less intimate relationships and often disappears, tensions arise and there was a dispute that ended in divorce. Another cause is the economic factor where expenditure is greater than income and lifestyle (Andriyani, 2018).

Guidance and counseling are activities that originate in human life. The fact shows that humans in their lives face successive problems or problems. Humans are not the same as one another, both in nature and abilities. There are humans who are able to solve problems without the help of other parties, but not a few humans are unable to solve problems without the help of others (Amiluddin, 2020). The implementation of guidance and counseling is carried out to the counselee face to face. The essence of guidance and counseling is that there is interaction, involving professional elements, problems and the use of methods and techniques. This concept certainly involves two people who work as counselors and other people who become counsees or clients.

Problems that bother the counselee seek a way out, by giving directions. The counselee is invited to be able to solve the problems he faces with his own abilities. That way the counselee will gain experience solving problems independently (Bhakti, 2017).

Counseling guidance activities are synonymous with an educational institution. This is related to the Guidance and Counseling subject, which involves teachers and students. In this context, the teacher is placed as a counselor in order to provide assistance to students who experience various problems. The results of guidance and counseling are expected to help achieve maximum student learning outcomes. However, in practice guidance and counseling in educational institutions is not only for solving problems, but also for achieving student learning achievements through their talents. In this case a Counseling Guidance teacher is needed.

In the family, counseling has a very urgent role because the family can provide positive and negative influences. Nasution and Abdillah (2019:20) state that various cases that receive guidance and counseling services generally come from the life of the family and community environment. The solution is of course also done by family counseling. An example of its implementation is an individual approach, namely an effort to know the client's emotions, experiences and ways of thinking. Next is the group approach, namely by carrying out discussions led by parents as family counselors.

Purpose of Counseling

The purpose of counseling is to help an individual develop himself optimally according to the stage of development, the positive demands of his environment and the predispositions he has such as his basic abilities and talents, in various existing backgrounds such as family, education, or economic status, makes a person recognize himself by giving information to the individual about himself, his potential, adequate possibilities for his potential and how to make the best use of knowledge, giving freedom to individuals to make their own decisions and choose their own paths that can direct them, in living life making individuals more effective, efficient and systematic in choosing alternative problem solving (Ramlah, 2018).

Counseling aims to provide facilities for behavior change, improve interpersonal relationships and foster mental health, improve skills to deal with problems, provide facilities for developing abilities and increasing the ability to make decisions (Erdiyati, 2018). In the family, the main purpose of implementing counseling is to facilitate communication between family members. The purpose of this goal is that in one family it is possible that there are members who are hampered by communication because they experience problems. All family members jointly try to improve communication between them. The occurrence of communication barriers may be caused by conflicts between family members or problems between individuals in the family (Putri et al., 2022).

Parents of Fishermen's Families as Counselors in Tanjung Tiram District, Batubara Regency

Fishermen's families in Tanjung Tiram District live near the coast. Its area is 173.99 km² (17.399 ha), which is divided into 2 parts, namely land and sea waters. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics for Batubara Regency (2021: 345-346) the number of fishermen in the District reaches 623 people. The total production of their catch is more than 10 thousand tons. Several villages have direct borders with the seaside such as Guntung, Bagan Arya and Bandar Rahmat as well as Tanjung Tiram Village. While other areas are bordered by river channels or estuaries that lead to the sea. These natural conditions strongly support them to work as fishermen.

Fundamentally, parents in fishermen families in Tanjung Tiram District have also become counselors. This can be seen by several efforts to prevent the emergence of child delinquency that they do. The formation of personality or positive behavior is carried out based on life experiences. Consciously or not they have positioned themselves as counselors, when they have given time to children to discuss or exchange ideas. Business and several other reasons did not hinder the counseling activities they carried out, even without being programmed. Listening to children speak

according to their style and trying to understand children according to their behavior is the way that is often done. In this case the parents have done counseling by letting the child express his heart without any pressure. They often do discussions about a problem (even though it's trivial) with children. That way they have carried out the counseling process in a family, both individually and in groups. They have trained children to be brave in expressing their personal problems, and then given directions and input to solve them. Independence in solving these problems is certainly the main target.

In addition, parents in fishing families have also provided guidance to children. Rahman (2015) reveals several activities that can be carried out to guide children, such as: fostering religion and its values, norms and culture, supporting the formation of attitudes, providing freedom in making choices and instilling awareness of the rights, obligations and responsibilities of children as individuals. These activities have also been carried out by fishermen's family parents in order to guide their children. Instructing children to pray 5 times and reciting the Koran and dressing modestly, loving and motivating and respecting children's opinions, cultivating good choices according to the wishes of children, and accustoming children to being responsible for their behavior are examples of this guidance. That way, practically parents of fishermen families have carried out parenting guidance. In this study, not all fishermen's families were observed and interviewed. Limitations of time, energy and ability to be the main obstacle. Several families were used as key informants, while others were only additional informants. From them the authors obtained information and data related to counseling practices among fishing families in Tanjung Tiram District. The informants are writers from those who really live life as fishermen.

Counseling Practices by Parents of Fishermen's Families in Tanjung Tiram District

In line with their position as leaders in the family, parents (especially fathers) have also assumed the role of mentors and directors. The concept of the counselor has been attached to them automatically. Parents will get the task as a person who wants to be invited to communicate with children. This condition will continue to be felt by parents throughout their lives. Several counseling practices carried out by parents among fishing families in Tanjung Tiram District are in accordance with the opinion expressed by Sihabudin (2015). He said that the role of parents in counseling guidance activities to create a child's personality is:

Loves and Cherishes His Children

Loving and caring for children is of course the natural instinct of every parent. In fact, this instinct has appeared since the child was still in the womb, for example, giving the best food to the mother with the aim that the baby is healthy and normal at birth. After birth, the baby will be given a sense of love and affection whose goal is to make him feel comfortable. Hugs, caresses and kisses from parents become behaviors that show this. Furthermore, when the child reaches maturity, parents will give love and affection in a different way. Meeting the needs of clothing and food is the routine task of parents. In addition, shaping children's attitudes by providing attitude and knowledge education on children's cognitive and psychomotor skills is continuously carried out. This is done in the form of direction, motivation and example. This behavior continues throughout the parents' lives. With this feeling of love and affection, the relationship between children and parents will be established. Communication is an important part of forming children according to the wishes of parents. Children will get teaching about the importance of being obedient, obedient and close to their parents. This presentation is in line with statement Nurbayani (2015) which emphasizes that parental affection is very important because it can bring out good potentials in children, both mentally and spiritually. The explanation above was also carried out by parents of fishermen's families in Tanjung Tiram District, Batubara Regency. They have done the above as they should. Children are given love and affection normally, so closeness is felt. Daily feeding, clothing and setting up a house as a shelter are the main forms of this love. This continues to give children cognitive abilities inside or outside the home (schooling, recitation and theoretical knowledge about living as a fishing community), psychomotor skills (life skills such as swimming,

driving and cleaning boats, cleaning the house, cooking, catching, sorting and selling fish, as well as academic abilities such as reading, writing, marching, etc).

Maintaining the Calm of the Home Environment and Children's Souls

The serenity of the home environment and children's souls can trigger the emotional development of children better. The absence of pressure from the family or from outside will give children the freedom to do things according to their wishes, but do not violate the rules at home and outside the home. This freedom can bring out children's creativity, so that children will be more motivated to strengthen their psychomotor abilities. In the end the children will be independent in doing things, without feeling any pressure. According to Ngewa (2019), fathers play a role in parenting activities to improve physical, cognitive and social-emotional qualities. Meanwhile, Purba (2021) explains that parents are required to provide protection to children, because they are the first and last "gateway". Prevention efforts and actions are important ways to protect children.

This is also done by parents of fishermen families in Tanjung Tiram District, Batubara Regency. They try to keep the peace of the family from various situations. Communication is established so that children always feel comfortable when talking to them. Friendliness and closeness to children are maintained so that children feel parents as friends to talk to. This habit continues until the child feels that he is not disturbed to be able to express his wishes. Their comfort and familiarity can be seen by how often they talk, joke and discuss. The child's feeling of being at home for a long time is also one of the indicators. Feeling safe from disturbances that come from outside the home is also another requirement. Parents become the main protector to bring peace in children. Various disturbances that can arise from outside the home are things that can hinder the development of a child's soul. In this case, parents need to provide a sense of calm and comfort, so that the child's psychology can develop properly. That way, later the child will become an individual who always behaves well, without overly involving his emotions.

Mutual Respect Between Both Parents and Children

The word respect in this context is a mutual understanding between parents and children. Parents are required to give children the freedom to express their wishes and opinions about something, while a child respects the decisions of parents about everything. Mutual respect does not mean that children can freely express what they want, but must take into account the circumstances of the parents. While parents are in charge of making decisions on the opinion of children. That way a good relationship will be created in the family. Children will have the courage to express opinions, but with consideration of normative conditions. In addition, respect for parents is also part of the morals in the family. This presentation is in line with research Rahman (2015) which reveals that morals in the family are evidence of created affection. A family that has no morals will be synonymous with an unhappy life and unpleasant behavior.

Parents in fishermen's families in Tanjung Tiram District have also implemented this. Based on the results of observations on several subjects, their children often expressed their opinions or wishes. However, these wishes and opinions were only carried out after obtaining approval from the father or mother, especially on matters that could be at risk. Children may express their wishes but their parents give a good or bad picture of what they will do. This is taken into consideration by the child, so that he understands the risks he will face. Problems that occur later, of course, can be understood and the child will soon find a way out. That way, children become brave and independent in dealing with their own problems. He uses the help of others when he really needs it.

Manifest Trust

In this case, parents give trust to children to decide and do something. Children are given a deep understanding of a condition, regarding the child's strengths and weaknesses. This understanding is conveyed so that children can find a way out if they experience problems in

carrying out an activity. In addition, they are also given the trust to do what they think is best. That way children will have good confidence in dealing with a problem.

Among fishermen families in Tanjung Tiram District, this treatment is reflected in several daily activities. The most obvious example is parents giving their children the opportunity to use boats or ships in various activities, especially fishing in the sea. Parents do this so that children become brave and independent in facing their lives in the future as well as introducing them. This belief certainly triggers children to be able to do the best they can. The experience gained when he brought a boat out to sea certainly has its own value. They will be able to adapt to natural conditions, as well as socialize with other fishermen. Giving this trust will certainly make it easier for children to recognize the condition of their parents.

Organizing gatherings and family meetings for parents and children

Gathering and discussing something together will certainly increase togetherness. Talking openly between parents and children will create a sense of intimacy. By discussing, all problems will be found a solution together. Parents and children will feel that they have found a place to share problems, thereby reducing stress. In addition, communication between parents and children will be created well. Children will get used to discussing a problem with their parents. According to research Baharuddin (2019) revealed that communication between parents and children influences the formation of children's behavior and attitudes, so that it can trigger children's learning achievements.

Gathering together and discussing something formally is not commonly carried out by fishermen families in Tanjung Tiram District. Some concepts that are considered the same as gathering and discussing something are at dinner. At dinner and after, parents and children will get together to eat together and afterwards sit back and discuss many things. On this occasion, good communication will be created between children and parents. This of course will also have an impact on children's behavior, because parents can provide direction on many things.

In the practice of implementing counseling by parents among fishing families in Tanjung Tiram District above, there are several steps that are important factors for the success of this activity. These steps refer to the opinion expressed by Sihabudin, (2015), namely: create a good relationship. In this case, parents have tried to create a good relationship with their children. Children are always invited to communicate, show familiar attitudes, display pleasant gestures, and be responsive to children. This can help achieve maximum results in the child guidance and counseling process, listen with all your heart. Parents directly listen to the outpouring of their children's hearts. On this occasion, parents become listeners who can provide input when needed by children. Parents certainly play a role as a place for children to complain about something or exchange opinions. Therefore, parents must also place their position as a good listener, recognize the problem. Children from fishermen families often experience problems when they interact with their friends. These problems will generally be told to his mother. The child will try to describe and describe the problems he is experiencing. Based on the results of interviews and observations of the author, parents will listen to what is said and see what is demonstrated by the child. after the child finishes telling the problem, then the mother will invite the child to think and analyze who is the cause of the problem. In this way, parents have provided psychological assistance as well as a way out of the problem for the child, empathize with children. Parents of fishermen families in Tanjung Tiram District often show a sense of sharing something their child feels. An example is when a child cries because he has lost his favorite object. The mother will try to console her child by acting as if she had lost it too. Mother will accompany her child and provide certain entertainment until she is not sad anymore. Another example is inviting children to pay tribute to the place of the deceased. On this occasion, parents teach children to feel the sadness of other children for the loss of these family members. That way, children also have empathy for others.

Parents are only expected to be a place for children to complain about all their problems. Parents only listen to all his complaints without giving any comments. Don't act like a teacher. Related to this, parents of fishermen families are more of a facilitator in educating their children.

They more often invite children to work or model what should be done. Efforts or experiments continue to be carried out with a little theoretical assistance in the form of directions. Various jobs can be done practically, while for affective parents give more examples. The point is to reduce theoretical teaching and do more. Can keep secrets. This behavior can make children comfortable telling something to their parents. This can generally be done by the mother. The results of interviews with several mothers in fishing families revealed that their children often told them about various things that had happened to them. In this case, the mother is only a good listener and promises to keep the conversation secret if according to the child. This will make the children closer to their parents, so that the children also become more open and are not afraid to talk about something to them.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the description above, parents of fishermen families in Tanjung Tiram District, Batubara Regency have practiced counseling activities. Activities carried out include briefing and deepening of understanding. The practices carried out are related to the behavior of loving and caring for their children, maintaining a calm home environment and children's souls, mutual respect between parents and children, establishing trust and carrying out family gatherings and discussions. This practice is carried out by integrating several steps such as creating a good relationship between children and parents, listening wholeheartedly to children's outpourings or complaints, recognizing problems that children complain about, empathizing with children, being a good listener for all children's complaints, acting as people who help solve problems and can keep secrets. These steps make it easier for parents to apply counseling practices to their children. That way, children are expected to be more focused in behaving.

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