The Impact of Sibling Rivalry on the 5 to 6 Years Old Children’s Characters

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Abstract

The presence of siblings in a child's life brings changes that require the child to share in various things, including parental love. It gives rise to a competitive rivalry between siblings in feelings or actions. This research aims to determine the impact of sibling rivalry (fights between siblings), which affects the character development of children aged 5-6 years. The method employed in this research is a qualitative case study. The data-collecting techniques employed were interviews, observation, and documentation. Based on the analysis, sibling rivalry has several impacts on children aged 5-6 years, namely the impact on oneself or regression, the impact on siblings or aggression, and the impact on others or bad behaviour directed at people outside of the home.Sibling rivalry is also caused by bad relationships, parenting patterns, and the environment, which can increase the impact on children.

INTRODUCTION

Children are a gift and trust from Allah the Almighty that every parent must be responsible for caring, nurturing, and educating (Hairina, 2016; Harlina & Siti Asiyah, 2020; Mighfar, 2023). Parents should be grateful for the infinite blessings of being trusted to raise their children. In a sense, children are entrusted. Like any other trust, a person entrusted with a child must educate, care for, and pay attention to the child's physical, psychological, mental, or spiritual development with the best possible education. Each family usually has a different parenting style in educating children. The parents must take a concrete role by making themselves a worthy example for their children (Laa, 2018; Rohimin, 2020; Siahaan & Rantung, 2019) because the family is the first and main environment for children (Rina & Karmila, 2020; Suarmini, 2014; Yeni Lestari, 2019). It can also be interpreted as the hope that parents' responsibilities are limited to family life and benefit the community and environment where they live (Al-Nashr, 2016; Mansir, 1970; Yuni Sugiarti, 2013). In Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning child protection, the families and parents, especially in article 26, are obliged and responsible for (a) nurturing, educating, and protecting children; (b) developing children according to their abilities, talents, and interests; (c) preventing child marriage; and (d) providing character education and instilling moral values in children (Bahroni et al., 2019; A. Hermana, 2017; Sipahutar, 2019).

Sibling rivalry is a competition between siblings in one family. The child usually feels that another special child gets more affection or love from their parents (Achmadi et al., 2022; S. K. Putri & Budiartati, 2020; Santina et al., 2021). Sibling rivalry or competition between siblings is an event that often occurs in families caused by reduced parental love due to the presence of a new family member, namely a younger sibling (Noviana, 2019; Subroto et al., 2017; Tasya, 2020). In this case, the older sibling will show various
behaviours to attract the attention of parents or family members by showing behaviour that he does not usually show, for example, following the way his younger sibling behaves or unacceptable behaviour, such as bad behaviour like hitting, kicking, and so forth (Kasmaya, 2021; Moh & Hum, n.d.; Nisak, 2022). These actions are caused by jealousy, envy, lack of attention, and even stress due to the presence of a new family member (younger sibling) (Lusia Rahajeng, 2022; Norman & Suryani, 2019; N. P. C. D. Putri et al., 2023).

Early childhood is a child aged 0-6 years who is in the stage of development and growth, both physically and mentally (Chamidiyah, 2015; Fithri & Setiawan, 2017; Miranti & Putri, 2021). All children's potential grows and develops rapidly; hence, this early childhood period is called the golden age (Harahap, 2021; Sukatin et al., 2020; Trenggonowati & Kulsum, 2018). Nutritious food and continuous stimulation are needed during this period. If good stimulation is provided continuously by the environment, the child will develop according to the stages of development. (Hidayati, 2020; Nurhaeda, 2018; We & Fauziah, 2020). Children are a gift and a mandate from Allah that every parent must be responsible for caring for, nurturing, and educating their children (Fatmawati et al., 2022; M. A. Hermana et al., 2021; Kulzum, 2022). Parents should be grateful for the infinite blessings of being trusted to raise their children (Da-oh, 2023; Lastaria & Azzakiyah, 2020; Muzakki et al., 2022). To be grateful, you must maintain its growth and development with love and patience (Adhy et al., 2023; Arsini et al., 2023; Sejati, 2016).

Children are entrusted. Like any other trust, a person entrusted with a child must educate, care for, and pay attention to their child's physical, psychological, mental, and spiritual development with the best possible education. (Fauzi, 2022; Liana & Mardiah, 2020; Rizaq, 2022). Allah says in Qs. Al-Anfal verse 27:

"O you who believe, do not betray Allah and the Messenger (Muhammad) and (also) do not betray the mandates entrusted to you, while you know." (Qs. Al-Anfal: 27)"

The verse above emphasizes that someone controls his wealth and children so that the wealth is well-spent, following the religious demands and keeping away from disasters caused by wealth and children. Children are one of the joys of life and a person's pride. However, there are also trials for Muslims. The child must be educated with a good education so that he becomes a pious child. If someone succeeds in educating his children according to religious demands, the children become a priceless grace. However, if the children are allowed to follow their desires and do not want to carry out religious commands, then they will bring disasters for the parents, but even for society as a whole. Therefore, a Muslim must protect himself from these trials.

Children are a gift from the Almighty for parents. Children are also a trust and decoration for them and pride in the future. The presence of a child in the family is a complement to happiness for both parents. Besides giving this gift, Allah also gives parents the mandate to care for, nurture, and educate children. Parents must be clever in educating children because every child has different potential and character so that the children do not end up in the wrong care and get lost in the future. Early childhood is an individual experience of rapid growth and development. It is even said to be a developmental leap. Children are individuals who are in the developmental stage. They are in their growth and development phase; therefore, they need attention from their families, especially their parents.

The family is the first and main environment for educating and stimulating children. Each family usually has a different parenting style in educating children. Parents must take a concrete role by making themselves a worthy example for their children. It can also be
interpreted as the expectation of parental responsibility not only limited to family life but also benefits their community and environment. In Law Number 35 of 2014 concerning child protection, the families and parents, especially in article 26, are obliged and responsible for (a) nurturing, educating, and protecting children; (b) developing children according to their abilities, talents, and interests; (c) preventing marriage at a young age; and (d) providing character education and instilling moral values in children. Allah mentions it in QS. Alfurqon: 74:

وَأَلْدَيْنَ يُقُولُوْنَ رَبَّنا هَبْ لَنَا مِنْ أَزْوَاجَنَا وِدْرَيْنَا فَرَةً اعْيَنَ وَاجْعَلْنَا لِلَّذِينَ آمَنُوا أُمَامًا

“And those who say, “Our Lord, grant us our spouses and our offspring as a delight in (our) hearts, and make us leaders of the pious.” (QS. al-Furqan: 74)

The presence of a younger sibling in a child can give rise to various kinds of jealousy. Jealousy is first seen when the older sibling has a new sibling. Previously, the older sibling felt that their parents were completely theirs. The older sibling does not need to compete with other people to get love or attention from their parents. The presence of a new family member or a younger sibling can make the child feel that his father and mother are increasingly busy because they have to do housework and focus on taking care of their younger sibling. It results in the parents’ attention being diverted and the child even thinking their affection is decreasing. Children who feel that they are not cared for and do not receive the same treatment grow feelings of envy, anger, and jealousy towards their siblings.

In the opposite situation, some younger siblings feel jealous of older siblings. Families should not show different behaviour to each child because situations can lead to competition between siblings that has an impact on children, siblings, and even other people. Forms of sibling rivalry behaviour include annoying or hurting siblings, fussing or wanting a lot, asking for attention so that they can divert parents’ attention from their siblings, being whiny, getting angry easily, and asking for the same thing his parents gave his brother. Undoubtedly, one of the most serious aspects of these poor relationships is often the pattern of social relationships that children will take with them outside the home. Fighting, teasing, bullying, and disturbing do not increase a child's chances of being accepted by a peer group.

Unequal treatment in the family will impact changes in the child’s character. Their social environment greatly influences the development of a child’s character. The most important thing is the family environment because children are part of the family whose growth and development cannot be separated from the environment that cares for and nurtures them, namely the family environment. In the Amendment to the 1945 Constitution, Article 28B paragraph (2) reads: "Every child has the right to survival, growth and development and the right to protection from violence and discrimination." That every child born has the right to live, grow, develop, and be protected from violence and discrimination. Therefore, children must be cared for and treated from birth like humans. No one may commit violence or discrimination, even if their own families carry out the violence or discrimination. Suppose their own families commit violence or discriminate against children, let alone other people. In that case, those who commit violence against children must be punished by the laws in force in Indonesia.

Parenting is the obligation of parents to care for children, which includes providing love, attention, and attitudes to educate children and provide stimuli during the child's development. (Lilawati, 2020; Santoso & Amirudin, 2020; We & Fauziah, 2020). Parents' parenting strategy in overcoming sibling rivalry behaviour in early childhood is how they direct the competition that often occurs in children, especially children aged 4-5 years, which positively impacts the family. This sibling rivalry incident is prone to occur in families.
According to Hurlock, parents' treatment of children will influence the child's attitudes and behaviour. Therefore, parents should be able to understand children well, recognize their attitudes and talents, and develop and nurture their personalities without forcing them to become someone else. Laforce groups parenting strategies into three types, namely: 1) Reasoning strategies, which are a way to help children internalize existing values and develop their morals. This strategy is used by parents to develop children's logic, referring to social norms, feelings towards other people, and natural consequences that children will accept. 2) Engagement/attention strategies related to how parents control children's problematic behaviour. This strategy is considered to play a significant role in the interaction process between parents and children; 3) Power-assertion strategies (Power-assertion strategies), which is a strategy that provides one-way control over interactions, such as giving rights or taking them away, giving commands or instructions, and also using physical punishment. Sibling rivalry behaviour, as explained above, is a problem that often occurs in families with two or more young children (Le, Hendriati, 2022; Prasrihamni et al., 2022; Rizaq, 2022). Parents' parenting strategy in overcoming sibling rivalry behaviour in early childhood is how they direct the competition that often occurs in children, especially children aged 4-5 years, which positively impacts the family.

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**METHODS**

The method employed in this research is a qualitative case study. The data-collecting techniques were interviews, observation, and documentation. The duration of the research was from May 25, 2022, to May 27, 2022 (3 days). This research aims to determine the impact of sibling rivalry on the characteristics of children aged 5-6 years in four families. This research was conducted on the subjects involving four families, which were selected based on predetermined criteria: having a sibling relationship between children aged 5-6 years, age gap of 10 months to 1 year, same and different genders experiencing sibling rivalry.

The first family lives in Sabah Balau Village, South Lampung. The family consists of six members consisting of a 41-year-old father (AS), a 37-year-old mother (SNC); the first child (MIF), an eleven-year-old boy in the 6th grade of elementary school; a second child (SA), an eight-year-old girl in the 4th grade of elementary school; a third child (NMN), a six-year-old girl; NM, a five-year-old girl. The brothers and sisters in the first family studied were ten months apart in age. The occupation of the father and mother of this family was farming.

The second family lives in Sabah Balau Village, South Lampung. The family consists of six members: a 45-year-old father (BU); a 38-year-old mother (SSI); the first child (HS) is a six years old boy; the second child (DS), a five years old girl in the 4th grade of elementary school; the third child (PJ), a four years old boy; R is a five years old boy. The brothers and
sisters in the first family studied were one year apart in age. The occupation of the father and mother of this family was farming.

The third family lives in Sabah Balau Village, South Lampung. The family consists of four members: a 42-year-old father (SY), a 34-year-old mother (AN), the first child (BP), a six-year-old boy, and the second child (BT), a five-year-old boy. The brothers and sisters in the first family studied were one year apart in age. The father of this family's occupation is a police officer, and the mother is a housewife.

The fourth family lives in Sabah Balau Village, South Lampung. The family consists of four members: a 42-year-old father (A), a 34-year-old mother (OV), the first child (HF), a six-year-old boy, and the second child (AY), a five-year-old girl. The brothers and sisters in the first family studied were 11 years apart in age. The father of this family's occupation is self-employed, and the mother is a junior high school teacher.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research data analysis above, in this discussion, the researcher describes the research results from the data that the researcher has collected. This research aims to determine the impact of sibling rivalry on the character of children aged 5-6 years. Based on the research findings through interviews, observations and documentation related to the research sub-focus, namely the impact on overcoming sibling rivalry behaviour in children aged 5-6 years. From the results of observations, interviews and documentation, the impact of sibling rivalry on children in each family studied is different.

Apart from parents, the closest people a child sees are siblings. Sibling relationships are the most basic ones we have before entering the social world. Sibling relationships greatly influence the development of a person's antisocial and prosocial behaviour, as well as aspects of personality, intelligence and achievement. Therefore, a good relationship is needed if you want good influence, too. The interaction between siblings is not only in the form of positive communication, such as sharing stories, joking, or daily dialogue, but can also be in the form of negative interaction, such as the conflict between siblings or what can be called sibling rivalry. In sibling relationships, conflict is bound to occur (Marlina, 2018; Pradipta, 2019; Tâm et al., 2016; Wulandari, 2017). Such a conflict does not mean a dangerous conflict, such as a form of difference of opinion between them. In the process of conflict, it will allow them to understand and recognize each other. Sibling rivalry behaviour is one of the problems that often occur in families (Santina et al., 2021; Suciati & Srianturi, 2022; Yektiningsih et al., 2022). Regression is behaviour like a child, asking for attention by sulking or getting angry at others who comfort him. Regression is a decline in a person's behaviour from their age level or becoming childish as a form of self-defence mechanism or even to get the attention of people around them. Aggressiveness, according to Baron, is individual behaviour aimed at injuring or harming other individuals who do not want this behaviour to occur. Aggressiveness is a form of behaviour intentionally to hurt others (Geandra Ferdiansa & Neviyarni S, 2020; Putra, A., & Madison, 2018; Setiawan, 2010). Sibling rivalry behaviour that appears in children occurs because of the presence of a new sibling in the child's life, which changes his life and requires the child to share in various things, including parental love. This is what causes sibling rivalry or competition between siblings that is competitive in the form of feelings or actions that occur between siblings, which gives rise to feelings of envy and hostility, which makes the relationship between siblings negative, giving rise to conflict and competition between them, even in a social environment. Therefore, parents must use appropriate parenting strategies so their children can grow and develop well. The impact of sibling rivalry on children aged 5-6 years is that it has several impacts, namely the impact on oneself, namely regression; the child experiences temper tantrums and explosive emotions, becomes insecure, withdrawn and feels vengeful towards siblings. The second
impact is the impact on siblings, namely aggression, not wanting to share with siblings, not wanting to help siblings if siblings need help, domination of siblings and a negative model for siblings. The third impact is on other people, namely bad behaviour directed at people outside the home, for example, cousins, servants, neighbours, and teachers; it could be said that they don’t have many friends.

CONCLUSIONS
After carrying out a series of research and analyzing data collected from the field, which then drew conclusions based on the problem formulation that the researcher had presented in the previous chapter, the conclusion of the research title was "The impact of sibling rivalry on children aged five to six years is that it has several impacts. Namely, the impact on oneself, namely regression; the child experiences temper tantrums and explosive emotions, becomes insecure, withdraws, and feels vengeful towards siblings. The second impact is the impact on siblings, namely aggression, not wanting to share with siblings, not wanting to help siblings if siblings need help, domination of siblings and a negative model for siblings. The third impact is on other people, namely bad behaviour directed at people outside the home, for example, cousins, servants, neighbours, and teachers; it could be said that they don't have many friends.

From the conclusions outlined above, the researcher advises parents, considering that sibling rivalry behaviour occurring in children is quite high, that parents must be extra careful in providing direction to children both at home and school. Parents should have more time to supervise their children at home, and parents should give more attention and affection fairly to their children according to their development period so that the emergence of sibling rivalry behaviour in their children can be minimized as optimally as possible and parents’ parenting strategies can be carried out in a balanced and proper manner. Avoid shouting or scolding the child; this will only prevent the positive message or advice given from being given and will simply disappear in the child's mind because when the child sees anger from his parents, he will only see the form of emotion and will not hear anything. what was said. Even when your little one starts to be disobedient, parents should not punish their children but instead, move them to other activities that can divert their attention. Educators must also supervise children more because sibling rivalry behaviour often appears at school and can endanger people around them.

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