

# The Parenting Patterns Of Working Mother's In Educating Children In Manarang District, Mattiro Bulu Sub-District, Pinrang District

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## Abstract.

*This study aims to; 1) Analyze the parenting patterns of working mothers in educating their children in Manarang Subdistrict, Mattiro Bulu District, Pinrang Regency. 2) Analyze the factors influencing working mothers in choosing parenting patterns in educating their children in Manarang Subdistrict, Mattiro Bulu District, Pinrang Regency. 3) Analyze the impact of the parenting patterns of working mothers in educating their children in Manarang Subdistrict, Mattiro Bulu District, Pinrang Regency. The approach used is descriptive with a qualitative research type. Data collection was carried out through observation, interviews, and documentation. The informants consisted of working mothers and children whose mothers work, totaling 19 individuals selected using purposive sampling. The criteria for informants included mothers who perform dual roles as both caregivers and workers, and children whose mothers are employed. The data analysis technique consisted of three stages: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing. The research findings show that: 1) The parenting patterns of working mothers in Manarang Subdistrict vary, with mothers applying democratic parenting and mixed parenting styles. 2) Factors influencing the choice of parenting patterns among working mothers in Manarang include: a) Personality factors, b) Age factors, c) Educational background, and d) The parenting style received by the parents themselves. The impacts of working mothers' parenting on child education in Manarang include: a) The child's character is influenced both positively and negatively, b) Children's learning motivation ranges from moderate to high.*

**Keywords:** Parenting patterns of working mothers in child education; impact of working mothers on children; dual roles of mothers; workers and Manarang.

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## I. INTRODUCTION

In society, the family is the smallest and most fundamental institution, playing a crucial role in the formation and internalization of values and norms. According to Law No. 52 of 2009 concerning population development and family development, a family is defined as the smallest unit in society, consisting of a husband and wife or a husband (as the head of the family), wife, and their children, commonly referred to as a household or nuclear family. Within the family, each member has individual rights and responsibilities, which mutually influence one another[1]. Parents play a crucial role in educating their children's character and supporting their emotional, social, and cognitive development[2]. Parents are responsible for instilling positive values, providing guidance and motivation, creating a safe and comfortable environment, offering affection, and serving as role models for their children[3]. Both parents have their respective roles in shaping the child's positive character. Parental support can enhance children's motivation and enthusiasm for learning by offering praise, assisting and encouraging their abilities, and providing positive attention. These actions help children develop self-confidence and motivation to learn. In addition, character-building habits and consistent value reinforcement can further support children's learning motivation[4];[5]. Therefore, the role of parents is highly significant in a child's overall development. According to Law No. 23 of 2002 Article 26 on Child Protection, parents are obligated and responsible for nurturing, caring for, educating, and protecting their children, as well as for fostering their development in accordance with the child's abilities, talents, and interests, and for preventing child marriage.

The mother serves as the child's first educator, and the emotional bond between a child and their mother plays a significant role in shaping the child's character. States that parenting can be understood as the method by which a mother predominantly nurtures and educates her child in the best possible way, aiming to foster high intelligence in the child. Parenting is not solely the mother's responsibility but a shared duty of both parents[6]. Many mothers are unable to accompany their children at all times due to work obligations.

Working mothers strive to contribute to and fulfill the needs of their families, which requires them to manage their time effectively. As a result, their limited presence at home may affect the closeness of their relationship with their children. Consequently, mothers bear the burden of a dual role, as they are responsible for both professional duties and household management. Handayani, Sulastri, Mariha, and Nurhaeni explain that working mothers often have limited time with their children[7]. Employment can interfere with parent-child bonding, especially when parents work long hours or night shifts. The differences in characteristics between fathers and mothers in parenting styles are among the factors that contribute to the prevailing societal perception that a mother is deemed successful in fulfilling her roles and responsibilities if she is able to raise, guide, and educate her children to succeed academically, while also supporting her husband in achieving success. Consequently, even if a mother is professionally successful, she may still be judged negatively if she is perceived as failing in her roles as a wife and mother.

There is also a prevailing sense that society may socially reject women who are seen as lacking in these traditional family roles[8]. Society often holds the view that when mothers work outside the home, it leads to a decline in children's learning motivation and the emergence of problematic behaviors, as these children are perceived to be neglected. As a result, they may struggle in the learning process and are frequently labeled as problematic or delinquent. However, not all children of working mothers experience such issues. This can be attributed to effective supervision and support from various elements, which help ensure that a mother's employment does not negatively impact her children. Based on the researcher's initial observations, some children of working mothers do not experience difficulties in the learning process and do not exhibit problematic behavior. This finding contrasts with the common societal perception that children of working mothers are often problematic. As members of society, each element holds its own function and mutually influences one another. The focus of this study is to explore the parenting strategies implemented for children whose mothers work, examining how the roles and needs of the children are fulfilled despite the mother having to divide her time between work and family. Furthermore, the study investigates the roles of other family members, the factors influencing parenting style choices, and the impact of these practices on children in Manarang Village, Mattiro Bulu District. A study on the parenting patterns of working mothers was conducted by Hilda Puspita and Rizki Nurislamingsih, focusing on the parenting strategies of working mothers at PT. Wijaya Karya (Persero) Tbk Jakarta in fostering children's reading interest.

The study revealed that various parenting styles were applied by different working mothers, including authoritarian and democratic approaches. These mothers employed a range of strategies to cultivate their children's interest in reading. The children's interest in reading was reflected through various activities, such as reading books regularly without parental coercion and willingly retelling the content of the books to their mothers or other family members[9]. The research to be conducted also examines the parenting patterns of working mothers. The novelty of this study lies in its focus on the factors influencing the choice of parenting styles among working mothers and the impact of these parenting styles on their children in Manarang Village, Mattiro Bulu District, Pinrang Regency.

## **II. METHODS**

This study employs a qualitative approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the parenting patterns of working mothers and their influence on children's character and learning motivation in Mattiro Bulu District, Pinrang Regency. a qualitative approach was chosen because it allows the researcher to explore, explain, and understand the context of the issues under investigation. The research approach applied in this study is descriptive in nature and qualitative in type. The descriptive approach involves the collection of data in the form of words, images, and not numerical data[10]. In qualitative research, the researcher acts as a human instrument responsible for clearly determining the research focus, assessing the quality of the data, analyzing and interpreting the data, and drawing conclusions based on the findings. Data collection is carried out by the researcher using research instruments designed to capture relevant field data, ensuring the validity and reliability of the research results. This study employs several supporting tools, including: (1) field observation guidelines, (2) interview guides/notes, and (3) recording devices/mobile phones for interviews and documentation purposes. Data analysis in qualitative research is conducted concurrently with

data collection. As stated by Miles, Huberman, and Saldana, qualitative data analysis involves three interrelated and simultaneous activities: data condensation, data display, and conclusion drawing/verification[11].

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### A. Parenting Styles of Working Mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency

Parenting style refers to the actions and approaches adopted by parents in interacting with their children, including the way they establish rules, discipline, offer attention, and respond to the children's needs and desires. Each parent applies a parenting style they believe to be the most effective, aiming to produce mutually positive outcomes for both the child and the parent. Based on the findings, the parenting styles of working mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency, can be summarized as follows:

##### 1. Democratic Parenting Style

This study found that the parenting practices of working mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency, are predominantly characterized by a democratic style. This approach is marked by a balance between freedom and control, as well as open, two-way communication between parents and children. For instance, mothers such as Mrs. Asty and Mrs. Kiki set clear rules and boundaries for their children while also respecting their opinions, needs, and emotions. When disagreements arise, these mothers explain their reasoning rationally rather than resorting to physical punishment as a means of discipline. Similarly, Mrs. Dewi and Mrs. Anty also apply a democratic parenting style by prioritizing dialogue and granting their children the freedom to express their thoughts. They establish rules and boundaries that are not overly rigid, while still providing guidance to encourage children to take responsibility for their actions. This approach aligns with the view that today's children are more responsive to rational explanations concerning household rules. Democratic parenting also demands the active involvement of parents in supporting their children's emotional and social development. Working mothers face the challenge of creating quality time with their children while integrating democratic parenting values into daily interactions. Support from spouses and extended family plays a crucial role in maintaining consistency and sustainability of this parenting approach within the family setting.

In this context, the democratic parenting style not only serves as an effective alternative in managing discipline but also fosters positive responses to children's social development in the modern era. Working mothers tend to favor democratic parenting, complementing it with the parenting principles exemplified by the Prophet and Islamic teachings. Democratic parenting, in this sense, reflects parental recognition of the child's capabilities, offering opportunities for independence, allowing a degree of freedom in decision-making, encouraging children to express their opinions, and involving them in decisions that concern their lives. This nurtures a sense of self-worth and helps establish healthy social relationships[12]. The findings of this study indicate that the democratic parenting style is the preferred choice among working mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency. This approach is characterized by a balance between clearly defined rules and the child's freedom to express opinions. The mothers strive to foster open communication, provide rational explanations for established rules, and avoid the use of physical punishment. Challenges associated with being working mothers are addressed by creating quality time with their children, involving their spouses, and receiving support from the extended family in parenting responsibilities. As a result, the democratic parenting style can be consistently maintained in alignment with the developmental needs of children in the contemporary era.

##### 2. Mixed Parenting Style

This study found that some working mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency, adopt a mixed parenting style, which is a combination of several main parenting approaches tailored to the specific situation, the child's condition, and the values upheld by the family. In practice, these mothers do not rigidly adhere to a single style but instead choose a flexible approach depending on the child's behavior and the surrounding environment. For example, Mrs. Hj. Tirna combines democratic and authoritarian styles allowing room for discussion while enforcing strict discipline, including mild physical punishment, especially in cases of serious misconduct such as hurting siblings or neglecting responsibilities. A similar pattern is employed by

Mrs. Ayu, who integrates democratic, permissive, and authoritarian elements. She allows her child the freedom to choose activities according to their interests but enforces strict rules, particularly regarding academic priorities. In specific situations such as when the child is being stubborn or quarrels with siblings Mrs. Ayu admits to using mild physical discipline, such as pinching, as a corrective measure. Nevertheless, discussion and dialogue remain central to her parenting approach. Mrs. Hajar and Mrs. Aty also apply a comparable strategy. They reported that when dealing with difficult children especially during moments of parental fatigue or sibling conflicts firm discipline, including mild physical punishment, is sometimes deemed necessary.

However, they continue to prioritize open communication, allow children freedom to engage in activities after fulfilling responsibilities, and maintain clear household rules, such as bedtime schedules, gadget usage limits, and playtime regulations. Mrs. Aty emphasized that despite enforcing strict household rules such as limiting screen time and requiring timely returns home she consistently opens space for discussion with her child to explain the reasoning behind each rule. Physical punishment, she explained, is considered a last resort, and she generally relies on firm verbal warnings accompanied by rational explanations. This approach is intended to balance parental control with the child's emotional needs. Meanwhile, Mrs. Imina faces unique parenting challenges due to her work, which requires her to live apart from her children. In this context, she adopts a mixed parenting style that leans more toward democratic and permissive approaches. She maintains communication through phone calls and regular advice, but her direct supervision of daily activities especially concerning gadget use and entertainment tends to be more relaxed. Nevertheless, she continues to emphasize core values such as politeness and discipline. The findings align with the research by Arsyillah & Arsal, which supports the notion of mixed or situational parenting, where parents do not rigidly adhere to a single style but instead combine one or more approaches depending on the context. Parents may apply different strategies based on specific circumstances[13]. In general, the study reveals that working mothers in Manarang choose mixed parenting styles as an adaptive response to the dynamics of child development and family circumstances. This approach is perceived as effective because it enables parents to adjust their parenting according to the child's needs, environmental conditions, and work-related demands.

The flexibility inherent in this approach is believed to contribute positively to the child's development while maintaining a balance between the mother's dual roles as caregiver and working professional. The study concludes that working mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency, tend to apply a mixed parenting style a combination of democratic, authoritarian, and permissive elements adapted to the child's needs, situational context, and family values. This style is characterized by open communication, the provision of freedom in children's activities, the enforcement of firm rules, and the occasional use of mild physical discipline when deemed necessary. Such flexibility is adopted as a strategy to navigate the challenges of employment, environmental demands, and child temperament, with the aim of maintaining discipline while fulfilling the child's emotional needs throughout the parenting process.

## **B. Factors Influencing the Parenting Styles of Working Mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency**

In the context of Indonesian society, the responsibility of child-rearing is still largely placed on mothers, who are often required to fulfill dual roles and therefore need to manage their time effectively. The perspectives of working mothers regarding the parenting styles they adopt are shaped by both environmental and familial conditions.

### **1. Personality**

The findings of this study indicate that a mother's personality is one of the key factors influencing the parenting style implemented within the family. Each parent possesses unique characteristics and perspectives in raising children, which directly affect the form of parenting chosen. Informant Mrs. Asty noted that her open-minded personality is reflected in her parenting approach, which emphasizes openness in communication with her child. Additionally, she aligns her parenting style with her husband's character to maintain harmony within the family. Similarly, informant Mrs. Dewi stated that her relaxed and open personality shapes how she educates her children. Nevertheless, she still sets clear boundaries regarding what

is considered right and wrong. She attributed her active role in building communication and emotional closeness with her children to her husband's quiet nature. A comparable viewpoint was expressed by informant Mrs. Kiki, who explained that her dislike of rigid constraints has influenced the development of her parenting style. She prefers a parenting approach that allows children the freedom to explore, as long as it remains within the values agreed upon within the family. For her, the personality of the parent plays a crucial role in determining the most suitable parenting approach, one that is responsive to the child's situation and the surrounding environment. From the perspective of rational choice theory, a mother's personality is not merely a psychological trait, but also serves as a foundation in selecting the most efficient and beneficial parenting strategy. This involves careful consideration of parenting goals, desired outcomes, time and energy limitations, as well as available support resources[14]. Based on the accounts of the informants, it can be concluded that parental personality particularly that of the mother is a dominant factor in the selection of parenting styles. A mother's individual character not only influences communication patterns and decision-making within the family but also contributes to the development of the child's personality and the quality of the parent-child relationship. Thus, the parenting style applied is inherently shaped by the parent's core character, which frames their overall approach to parenting.

## 2. Age

The findings of this study indicate that the age of working mothers significantly influences the selection and implementation of parenting styles. Mothers who marry and have children at a young age generally face limitations in experience, emotional instability, and are still in the process of adapting to their new roles as parents. Informant Mrs. Aty shared that during the early stages of motherhood, she struggled to determine the appropriate parenting approach due to the abundance of advice from both family members and media sources. However, as she grew older, she found herself better able to adjust her parenting style according to her child's character and the specific conditions of her family. Similarly, informant Mrs. Anty emphasized that parental age plays a crucial role in mental and emotional readiness for raising children. She stated that marrying and having children in adulthood made her better prepared to handle various parenting challenges. Older mothers tend to demonstrate greater wisdom, striking a balance between discipline and affection, and are more capable of determining parenting strategies that align with their children's needs. Additionally, the interview with Mrs. Imina revealed that mothers in older age groups (above 40 years) tend to be more patient and composed in responding to their children's behavior. However, one challenge they face is the generational gap, particularly in relation to technology and understanding the contemporary needs of children.

This necessitates greater openness to their children's explanations and a willingness to adapt to current developments to ensure effective parenting. According to rational choice theory as discussed by Ritzer, age is considered a rational factor in decision-making. As mothers grow older, they gain more experience, emotional maturity, knowledge, and financial stability all of which contribute to more effective and deliberate parenting decisions[15]. Older mothers tend to make more rational decisions regarding parenting, as they have access to a greater amount of information gained through both learning and life experience. They are generally better equipped to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of various parenting approaches and are more mentally prepared to face the challenges of raising children. Based on the statements of various informants, it can be concluded that age does indeed influence parenting style. Younger mothers are more vulnerable to emotional instability and lack of experience, whereas older mothers tend to exhibit greater stability and wisdom. However, effective parenting is not solely determined by age. It also depends on emotional readiness, knowledge, social support, and the parents' willingness to continuously learn and adapt in response to their child's development.

## 3. Education

The findings of this study indicate that the educational level of working mothers plays a significant role in determining the parenting style they apply to their children. Mothers with higher educational backgrounds tend to possess broader knowledge about child development and parenting methods, making them better equipped to adapt their parenting approach to the needs of their children. Conversely, mothers with lower levels of education often face knowledge limitations, are more inclined to use authoritarian



parenting styles, and are less likely to involve their children in household decision-making processes. As noted by informant Mrs. Asty, who has a background in nursing, she is highly cautious in applying parenting strategies, consistently monitoring her child's behavioral development and maintaining regular communication with her husband to evaluate their parenting practices. She also utilizes parenting books and online resources to continuously update her understanding of effective parenting methods. Mrs. Asty emphasizes the importance of non-violent parenting and pays close attention to her child's diet as part of her concern for both physical and mental health.

Similarly, Mrs. Hardianti stated that her knowledge and experiences assist her in instilling core values such as discipline, responsibility, and independence from an early age. She takes advantage of opportunities to provide supplementary education through extracurricular courses aligned with her child's interests, and gradually introduces household rules and positive routines. It can thus be concluded that a mother's level of education influences the choice of parenting style. Mothers with higher education levels tend to be more adaptive, democratic, and open to new information to support their children's optimal growth and development. According to rational choice theory, educated mothers in Manarang are capable of analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of different parenting styles and tend to make wiser, more rational choices. They consider both the needs of the child and their own roles as working mothers, striving to achieve positive outcomes for their children despite the limitations of time [16].

#### 4. Parenting style experienced by the Parents

Parenting is intergenerational in nature, wherein an individual's childhood experiences shape their perspectives and habits in raising children. As noted by informant Mrs. Asty, the open and communicative parenting she received as a child influenced her to adopt a similar approach with her own children. However, she makes adjustments in line with contemporary developments, such as providing rational explanations and using language that is easier for children to understand. In contrast, informant Mrs. Dewi chose not to replicate the authoritarian parenting style she experienced from her parents. She recognized that the rigid and closed parenting approach previously practiced by her parents is no longer suitable for today's children, who tend to be more critical and have broader access to information.

Consequently, she prefers an open parenting style that allows children the space to express themselves, while still maintaining control through persuasive methods and positioning herself as a supportive companion in her children's lives. Based on these findings, it can be concluded that the parenting style experienced by one's own parents does influence current parenting practices; however, this influence is not absolute. Parents may modify their approaches through education, life experiences, and self-reflection. In relation to rational choice theory, mothers are likely to evaluate the parenting styles they experienced during childhood assessing what worked and what did not and decide whether to replicate or improve upon those practices. Through rational consideration, mothers adjust their parenting styles according to current conditions, values, norms, and past experiences. These decisions are made with the intention of achieving more effective parenting outcomes that align with their personal expectations and assessments.

### C. The Impact of Parenting Styles of Working Mothers in Manarang, Pinrang Regency

#### 1. Children's Character

Children raised with a democratic parenting style tend to exhibit positive character traits such as self-confidence, discipline, empathy, strong social skills, and independence. For example, the child of Mrs. Asty demonstrates openness, independence, adherence to household rules, and a high degree of affection. The mixed parenting style applied by Mrs. Hj. Tirna also yields varied outcomes her child shows courage and a sense of responsibility but still requires reinforcement in emotional regulation, especially in physical interactions with siblings. In addition, permissive and authoritarian parenting styles applied situationally also shape diverse character traits. Some children display active behavior, high curiosity, bravery, and creativity, as observed in the children of Mrs. Ayu and Mrs. Kiki. However, negative traits are also evident, such as stubbornness, low self-confidence, and difficulty maintaining discipline particularly in relation to sleep and study routines. This indicates that inconsistent parenting styles and limited parental time due to work commitments may contribute to imbalances in the child's character development. In general, the study concludes that the parenting styles of working mothers in Manarang have predominantly shaped positive

character traits in children, such as politeness, empathy, responsibility, cooperation, and self-confidence. Nevertheless, certain negative traits remain a concern for mothers, including laziness, lack of discipline, and stubbornness. The process of character development in children requires parental role modeling, consistent guidance, positive daily routines, and a supportive environment to ensure the optimal growth of positive character traits[17].

## 2. Learning Motivation

Learning motivation is defined as both an internal and external drive that encourages children to actively engage in the learning process in order to achieve academic goals and personal development. The impact of this motivation varies depending on the quality of emotional relationships, the availability of parental time, and the level of support provided by the family environment in managing parenting styles and children's learning activities. Informants such as Mrs. Asty, Mrs. Anty, Mrs. Dewi, and Mrs. Kiki explained that despite their employment, they prioritize accompanying their children in home learning. Through task-sharing with their partners, alternating schedules, and effective communication, they strive to ensure that their children receive adequate attention and academic support. For instance, Mrs. Asty utilizes her time outside of work hours to monitor her child's learning progress, purchase reading materials, and arrange additional courses based on the child's interests as a form of support for learning motivation. In general, this study concludes that parental involvement in child-rearing, despite time constraints due to work, can still sustain children's learning motivation when supported by spousal cooperation and a conducive home environment[18]. The key to success lies in effective family communication, shared responsibilities in assisting children's learning, and balanced parental attention to both academic and emotional needs.

## IV. CONCLUSION

1. The research indicates that working mothers in Manarang predominantly adopt a democratic parenting style, as it fosters children's independence and sense of responsibility. Some mothers also choose a mixed parenting approach to allow greater flexibility, adjusting their methods based on the child's condition and personality employing either democratic or authoritarian strategies depending on the situation and the developmental needs of the child.
2. Several factors influence the parenting style choices of working mothers in Manarang. These include personality traits, age, educational background, and the parenting style they themselves experienced during childhood.
3. The impact of the parenting styles adopted by working mothers in Manarang is reflected in the development of predominantly positive character traits in their children. These traits include discipline, honesty, responsibility, politeness, empathy, cooperation, patience, self-confidence, creativity, and curiosity. Children's learning motivation tends to be higher when mothers apply a democratic parenting style supported by emotional warmth, clear guidance, and consistent parenting practices.

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