
TRUST TOWARD FATHER AND MOTHER: AN INDIGENOUS PSYCHOLOGY ANALYSIS ON CHILDREN'S TRUST TOWARD PARENTS

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Abstract

A good parent-child relationship is an important factor for positive behavior development in children as well as protective factor for many problems and disorder. Trust between children and parent will be basic component to build good relationship. The purpose of this research was to explore whether or not children trust their parents and the reason underline trust toward parents. The respondents (205 undergraduate students of UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau) completed two questions asking if you trusts your mother and father; then answer the reason you trusts mother and father. An indigenous psychology approach was used to analys the data. T-test analysis shows there is differences in trusting father and mother. Most of respondents (76,58%) highly trust their mothers, more than toward father (57,07%). The reasons to trust mother are mother's character (38.05%), role (30.24%), relation (22.93%), and reliable (8,78%). On the other hand, children trust father because of father's role (36.59%), relation (29.76%), character (23.41%), and reliable (6.83%). We conclude the main reason to trust mother and father are character and role respectively. This research suggests mothers to show more positive characters and fathers to run the role in child-rearing practices.

Keywords: *trust, parent-child relationship*

Abstrak

Hubungan baik antara orang tua dan anak merupakan faktor penting bagi perkembangan perilaku yang positif pada anak serta menjadi faktor protektif bagi munculnya masalah dan gangguan. Oleh karena itu, kepercayaan antara anak dan orang tua merupakan komponen dasar untuk membangun hubungan baik tersebut. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi apakah anak mempercayai orangtuanya dan alasan yang mendasari kepercayaan terhadap orang tua. Responden penelitian (205 mahasiswa UIN Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau) diminta menjawab dua pertanyaan *apakah anda mempercayai ibu dan ayahmu?* dan *apa yang membuat anda mempercayai ibu dan ayahmu?* Pendekatan psikologi indigenous digunakan untuk menganalisis data penelitian. Hasil uji-t menunjukkan adanya perbedaan kepercayaan terhadap ibu dan ayah. Analisis tabulasi-silang menunjukkan bahwa sebagian besar responden (76,58%) sangat mempercayai ibunya, lebih banyak daripada responden yang mempercayai ayahnya (57,07%). Alasan responden mempercayai ibunya adalah karena karakter ibu (38,05%), peran (30,24%), relasi (22,93%), dan reliabel (8,778%). Sementara itu, kepercayaan anak terhadap ayah adalah karena peran (36,59%), relasi (29,76%), karakter (23,41%), dan reliabel (6,83%). Dengan demikian, alasan utama untuk mempercayai ibu dan ayah secara berurutan adalah karakter dan peran. Hasil penelitian ini menganjurkan para ibu untuk lebih menunjukkan karakter positif dan para ayah untuk menjalankan perannya dalam praktek pengasuhan anak.

Kata kunci: kepercayaan, hubungan orangtua-anak

Adolescence is a critical period in human development in which family plays an important role in this period. Family is the most fundamental influence in individual life of numerous kinds relationship. In this case, parent-child relationship is the center one due to it lives across life course (Thornton, Orbach, & Axxin, 1995). Therefore, it is necessary to identify how function and pattern within family interact to adolescents behavior, and support a healthy development of adolescents (Kocayoruk & Sumer, 2009).

All relationships are based on some form of trust (Mitchell, Forsyth, & Robinson, 2008). A good relationship emerges trust between two or more people. Trust builds incrementally and accumulates over time (Fuehrer & Ashkanasy, 2001). So that, we can also say that parent-child relationship is also based on trust (Gambetta, 2000; Flanagan, 2003; Nguyen & Ross, 2009). Coll, Powell, Thobro, & Haas (2010) showed that family cohesivity predict adolescence trust and impact on adult intimacy.

Many studies report many beneficials of children's trust toward parents. It can be protective factors and promote healthy development in adolescents. Adolescent's perceive to parent trust is a protective factor from sexual activity, smoking, and marijuana among girl, and alcohol use among boys (Borawsky et al, 2003). Trust can also influence positive development in adolescents. Trust toward father and mother correlated with helping behavior of elementary school students (Rotenberg et al, 2005) as well as sociability, self-esteem, and higher academic achievement (Hestenes, 1997).

Trust has critical importance to people as social beings and has been studied in almost all of the social and human sciences (Yamagishi, 1998). Trust is a psychological state, a positive attitude toward the partner and confidence that the partner will perform (Nguyen & Rose, 2009). Trusting a person means believing that someone is not likely to act in a way that is damaging us (Gambetta, 2000).

McKnight and Chervany (2001) defined trust in five types definition. Trusting intentions means one is willing to depend or intends to depend, on the other party with a feeling of relative security, in spite of lack of control over that party, and even though negative consequences are possible. Trust-related behavior means that a person voluntarily depends on another person with a feeling of relative security, even though negative consequences are possible. Trusting beliefs means the extent to which one believes, with feelings of relative security, that the other person has characteristics beneficial to one.

Institution based trust means one believes, with feelings of relative security, that favorable conditions are in place that are conducive to situational success in a risky endeavor or aspect of one's life. Disposition to trust means the extent to which one displays a consistent tendency to be willing to depend on general others across a broad spectrum of situations and persons. Disposition to trust differs from trusting intention in that it refers to general other people rather than to specific other people.

As trust springs from the sense of security in early nurturing relationship (Flanagan, 2003), one should have more information about a person they trust. Yamagishi (1998) suggested two types trust, the character-based trust and relational trust. In character-based trust, our trust to a specific person is based on information about person's general human natures or characters. On the other hand, trust based on that kind of information about someone's feelings and attitudes toward us is called relational trust.

Mother and father have been socialized to their gender-specific role which in turn will carry with them different expectations about behavior and attitudes that may influence interaction with children. Thus, parenting is a gendered activity. Mother and father may develop the same interaction pattern to her/his children. However, mother and father were socialized to her/his gender role so that influence parent-child interaction (Thornton, Oxburgh, & Axinn, 1995).

Regarding to children-parent trust, this study has two purposes. The main purpose was to know whether or not children trust their mother and father. The second purpose was to explore what the reasons to trust father and mother are. This study used indigenous psychology approach. Indigenous psychology advocates examining knowledge, skills, and beliefs people have about themselves and how they function in their familial, social, cultural, and ecological context. It emphasizes obtaining a descriptive understanding of human functioning in a cultural context. With the theoretical, conceptual and empirical description, ideas are developed and tested to explain the observed regularities (Kim, Yang, & Hwang, 2006)

METHOD

Subject

The undergraduate students from various faculties in Universitas Islam Negeri Sultan Syarif Kasim Riau participated as respondents (male=48; female=157). The age were between 18-25 years old.

Instrument dan Procedure

The instrument to collect the data were two closed-ended questions and two open-ended questions about trusting mother and father developed by Uichol Kim (2008). The two closed-ended questions asked "How much do you trust your mother?" and "How much do you trust your father? There were five optional answers, namely not at all, little, somewhat, much, and very much. Then, in the two open-ended question the respondent were asked about the reason to trust mother and father.

Data Analysis

The answer of two open ended question were then analyzed using qualitative analysis explained by Hayes (cited in Hakimet al, 2012). The steps were (a) prepared data for the study, (b) identified specific information in the answer that seemed relevant to the topic of the study, (c) sorted the data based on emerging theme, (d) examined themes and formulated a definition, (e) re-examined the themes that

were formed and then match them with the data, (f) used all materials related to theme to make a construct, of which eventually contains the category name and the definition of the supporting data, and (g) choose the data which is relevant to make it as an illustration to describe each theme. Five researchers performed categorization together to ascertain inter-rater reliability of each category. The categorized responses were cross-tabulated using the 17.0 Version of SPSS for Windows.

RESULT

Degree of trustworthiness of mother and father

T-test analysis showed that there is a very significant difference between trust toward mother and toward father (t=5.287; p=0.000). Trust toward mother (mean=4,74) were higher than toward father (mean=4.45).

Table 1. Descriptive statistic of trust toward mother and father

	Mean	N	Std. Deviation	Std. Error Mean
Trust toward mother	4.7366	205	.50379	.03519
Trust toward father	4.4488	205	.74331	.05192

Generally, as shown in Table 2, most of respondents (76.58%) trust mother very much. None of respondents do not trust their mother.

Table 2. Degree of trust toward mother

degree of trust	frequency	percentage
Somewhat	6	2.93
Much	42	20.49
Very much	157	76.58
Total	205	100

While in Table 3, respondents who trust father very much are 57.1%. There are 1.4% of respondents trust father a little and 0.5% do not trust father at all. It means that mother are more trustworthy than father.

Table 3. Degree of trust toward father

Degree of trust	frequency	percentage (%)
Not at all	1	0.49
Little	3	1.46
Somewhat	16	7.81
Much	68	33.17
Very much	117	57.07
Total	205	100

Reasons of trust toward mother and father

The main categories for reason to trust mother and father are character, role, relation, and reliable. Other is the smallest category and will not be discussed here because of its meaningless or unclear reason.

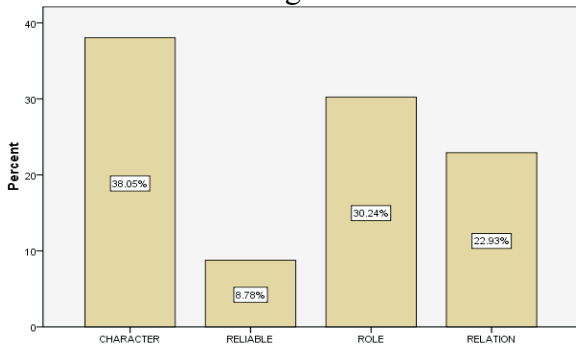


Figure 1: Reasons of trust toward mother

Reasons of trust toward mother. Generally, as shown in Figure 1, mother is trusted because of her character (38.05%), role (30.24%), relation (22.93%), and consistency (8.78%). It means that mother's character is the strongest reason to trust mother.

Character category as the most dominant response contains not lying, understanding, not misleading, honest, saying the true, openness, giving attention, not bad, and the best one (Table 4). Mother's characters of not lying (10.73%), not misleading (6.83%), and understanding (6.34%) are the top three small categories. The examples of respondent's answer are: *A mother will not lie to her child; Because I'm sure that my mother will not mislead her child; Because mother is the one who understand me.*

Role is the second reason to trust mother. The most dominant response of respondents trust toward mother were giving the best (*Mother will give her child and family the best*), teaching the goodness (*Mother always teach me to act honestly*), and wanting the best (*Mother always wants the best for her child so that she will never tell a lie to her child*). The other reason to trust mother based on role are educating, everything, directing, guiding, loving, giving warning, inspiring, loving her child, making child the best, giving solution, giving everything, and giving advice. Giving the best is the strongest reason to trust mother (10.73%), and is followed by teaching the

goodness (4.39%), and wanting the best (3.90%) respectively.

The third rank of the reason to trust mother is relation. It includes respectively family relationship, closest, making comfortable, meaningful, no reason, known, loving mother, and playing important role. Family relationship is the most dominant response (13.22%) and followed by closest (5.37%). Some examples of respondent's answers are *Because mother is the closest person to me compared with others family members.*

Reliable is on the fourth rank. It consists keeping the secret, knowing the best, not disappointing, fulfilling the promise, and not doing harm. The top two responses are keeping the secret (3.90%) and knowing the best (2.44%). The response indicate these category were because mother always keeps the secret I told and because *My mother knows whatever the best for me and She trust whatever decision I made as long as it good for me.*

Table 4. The small categories for reasons to trust mother

Small category	Frequency	percentage (%)
1. CHARACTER	78	38.05
saying the true	8	3.90
responsible	1	0.49
Honest	8	3.90
understanding	13	6.34
the best one	2	0.98
giving attention	3	1.46
openness	5	2.44
not lying	22	10.73
not bad	2	0.98
not misleading	14	6.83
2. RELIABLE	18	8.78
fulfilling the promise	2	0.98
keeping the secret	8	3.90
knowing the best	5	2.44
not disappointing	2	0.98
not doing harm	1	0.49
3. ROLE	62	30.24
giving solution	1	0.49
giving everything	1	0.49
giving the best	23	11.22
Guiding	3	1.46
giving advice	1	0.49
loving her child	1	0.49
Educating	5	2.44
teaching the goodness	9	4.39
Directing	3	1.46
Loving	1	0.49
giving warning	1	0.49
wanting the best	8	3.90
making child the best	1	0.49
Everything	3	1.46
Inspiring	1	0.49
4. RELATION	47	22.93
Meaningful	2	0.98
playing important role	1	0.49
family relationship	23	11.22

analysis of reason to trust father based on small category. As shown in Figure 2, the reason to trust father mostly is role (36.59%), relation (29.76%), character (23.41%), reliable (6.83%), and others (3.41). Based on this result, role is the strongest reason to trust father.

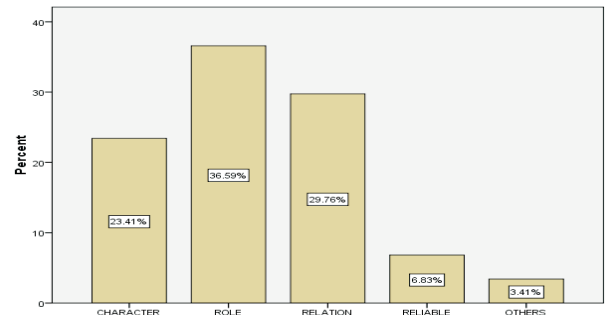


Figure 2: Reasons of trust toward father

Respondent's response in role category is the most dominant. The role consists some smaller categories, namely giving the best, maintaining, educating, guiding, motivating, everything, giving solution, giving advice, and giving information. The top three of small categories are giving the best (13.66%), providing financial support (7.80%), and educating (5.85%). Some examples of response of these categories are: *Because father always give the best for his child, father is a hard worker for his child; and Because father has important role in educating.*

The top three of the small category for relation are believe father (9.27%), model (6.34%), and leader (6.34%). The example of the responses are: *Because within my family father is a person who gives trust fully to his children and is open minded; Along my life father always gives the examples and the best result for me, if something covered I am sure it for my goodness; Father is a family leader to whom I have to trust.* Besides, respondents also trust father because they love father, having blood relation, and father is not bad.

Reasons of trust toward father.

Figure 2 shows the reason for trusting father generally and Table 5 is the cross-tabulation

Table 5. The small categories for reasons to trust father

Small category	frequency	percentage (%)
1. CHARACTER	48	23.41
Honest	22	10.73
Consistent	11	5.37
Understanding	3	1.46
Openness	3	1.46
Responsible	3	1.46
Closeness	3	1.46
Lying	3	1.46
2. ROLE	75	36.59
giving the best	28	13.66
Everything	2	0.98
giving solution	2	0.98
giving information	2	0.98
giving advice	3	1.46
Guiding	6	2.92
Educating	12	5.85
providing financial support	16	7.80
Motivating	4	1.95
RELATION	61	29.76
believe father	19	9.27
not bad	3	1.46
Loving	9	4.39
blood relation	4	1.95
Model	13	6.34
Leader	13	6.34
4. RELIABLE	14	6.83
keeping the secret	3	1.46
not disappointing	4	1.95
keeping the promise	7	3.41
5. OTHERS	7	3.41
Blank	7	3.41
Total	205	100

The third main category is character. For this reason, father is trusted because of being honest, understanding, consistent, openness, and responsible respectively. Lying and closeness are the reasons for not trusting father. The top two of small categories are honest (10.73%) and consistent (5.37%). Responses indicate these categories are *Father is an honest person* and *Father also understand my condition and always gives the right advice*.

The small categories for reliable are

keeping the promise, not disappointing, and keeping the secret. Keeping the promise is the most dominant response (3.41%).

The example of responses of these small categories for reliable are: *Because my father always keep his promise; Because father will not disappoint his child; and Because my father can keep the secret very much of anything I told him*.

DISCUSSION

This research found some results. Firstly, most of respondents trust their mother. The respondents' trust toward mother is ranging from somewhat trust to trust very much. Meanwhile, the percentage of respondents who are trust their father very much is somewhat lower. This result is similar to Hakim, Tonhowi, Yuniarti, and Kim (2012) that Javanese students' trust toward mother is higher than toward father. The second one confirms different trust toward mother and father. It shows that trust toward mother and father is different significantly. Mother is more trustworthy than father.

It can be understood because of father and mother practice the different role in parenting so that result in different relational pattern. Research in China proved parent-adolescent relationship quality (satisfaction to parent control, readiness to communicate with parent, and global satisfaction of parent-child relationship) correlated with children's perceived of parent-child trust. Parent-child trust includes parent's trust to child and child's trust to parent (Shek, 2008).

Research by Buist, Decović, Meeus, and Aken (2002) found that quality of adolescents' attachment to mother were higher than quality of attachment to father. The same as Thornton, Orburh, and Axinn (1995), children generally rate their relationship with their mother as more positive than with their father. Crockett, Brown, Russel, and Shen (2007) also showed the similar result in Mexican adolescents. Adolescents reported closer relationship and more openness to mother than to father. Similar to Doyle, Lawford, and Markiewicz (2009) that adolescents were also more secure with mother than with father, and

more dismissed and fear with father.

Thirdly, the main reasons to trust mother are character, role, relation, and reliable respectively. It differs to trust toward father which the main reasons are role, relation, character, and reliable. These findings confirm what Yamagishi (1998) suggested about character-based trust and relational trust, that person's character and relation to others will develop trust. The quality of parent-child relationship results in trust between them. Besides, trust is also built and developed by feeling of security and beneficial characters of other (McKnight & Chervany, 2001).

Some previous research indicated the same trend. Adolescents trust to mother was correlated with closeness to mother and mother's acceptance (Demir, Kindap, and Sayil, 2007). Starrel (1994) argued that mothers tend to be more constructive in the traditional, affective sense for sons and daughters, whereas father are much more involved with their sons (in closeness, nurturance, and discipline) and tend to concentrate on the more instrumental facets of support and on discipline. Among Chinese family in Hongkong, parent-child relation quality was related to perceived parent-child trust. *Adolescents' trust of their parents exerted a stronger influence on different dimensions of parent-adolescent relational qualities, particularly in the father-adolescent dyad (Shek, 2010)*. Furthermore, global father-adolescent relationship significantly predicted father-adolescent trust, but global mother-adolescent relationship did not predict mother-adolescent trust.

This research has a limitation. It did not explain factors why trust toward mother is higher than toward father. So that, it is necessary to explore the related factors. Hestenes (1997) argued that correlation between trust and parenting style, as reported by early and middle adolescents, supports assumption that adolescents trust parent who are warm and involved to their children.

CONCLUSION AND IMPLICATION

We can conclude that there is a very significant difference of trust between

mother and father. Generally, mother is more trustworthy than father. The main reason to trust parent are character, role, relation, and reliable. Mother are trusted mostly because of her character, then role, relation, and reliable. Meanwhile, father is trusted because of his role, relation, character, and reliable respectively.

This result imply to parenting practice. It suggest mother to strengthened her character and father to run his role well in order to get trust from her/his child.

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