

## THE ROLE OF THE FAMILY IN FORMING CHILDREN'S CHARACTER: CASE STUDY OF RURAL FAMILIES

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*Article history: received 09 July 2023; revised 20 July 2023; accepted 28 July 2023*

*DOI: <https://doi.org/10.33751/jhss.v7i2.7544>*

**Abstract.** Two legal traditions, Indonesian legal law and common law, are frequently studied by academics and legal practitioners. Without diminishing the importance of other legal traditions such as socialism, marxism, Islamic law, etc., these two major traditions often interact in a global trade process. The common law tradition, or known as the Anglo-Saxon tradition or Westminster tradition, is commonly adopted by commonwealth countries and the majority of states in the United States. Meanwhile, Indonesian law tradition originated from the civil law tradition, also known as the continental or Roman tradition, is the applied official law in Indonesia. The collision of legal tradition differences between the parties can not be avoided, as a result of global trade. The legal system of both traditions is complicated as every element of them should be understood, including the principle, method, sources of law, judicial system, style of the practitioners, duties of the court, and ownership of an object. Due to global trade and legal tradition differences between the parties, the adoption of law, harmonization of business contract, and Court of Arbitration should be the middle grounds used as a final step to settle disputes. The adoption and harmonization of law, especially in a business contract, is not recent in the Law of Indonesia. However, only a few practitioners have learned and understood it. Recently, business contracts have a new paradigm, shifting from a win-lose concept to a formal relation contract. A complex business contract based on win-lose concept is considered to no longer maintain the company "healthy" in the performance and profit of the parties. With this awareness, the paradigm of business contracts is changed by the spirit of empathy, win-win solution, solidarity, and shared interests of the parties.

**Keywords:** family; character; children; rural

### I. INTRODUCTION

The family is the initial and primary educational institution in a child's life before he is really involved with the outside world. As the smallest social unit, the family is a miniature of a complex society, starting from the family, children try to experiment with their environment through the process of interaction. In the family, children learn socialization by understanding, living, and feeling all aspects of life that are reflected in their culture. It is important to know that a child's character has begun to form from an early age. In this case, the role of the family is very influential and determines the character of the children in the future. Character education for each family member (husband, wife and children) occurs through a socialization process to understand the values or norms that apply in their society (Santika et al [1]). Families in rural areas have their own characteristics that are different from families in urban areas due to differences in environment, culture and lifestyle. In rural areas, the environment tends to be more natural and simpler compared to urban areas, which tend to be modern and complex. Life in rural areas tends to be more bound by traditions and cultural norms that are more conservative (Farida [2]).

Families in rural areas tend to have closer relationships and depend on each other because of their subsistence needs which still depend on agriculture or small businesses

(Purwanti & Nurfitia [3]). Families in rural areas often live in more remote and isolated environments, so they are more dependent on family members and the surrounding community to meet their needs. This condition strengthens the relationship between family members and makes families in rural areas have their own characteristics that are different from families in urban areas. In this case, the characteristics of rural families are better preserved in shaping children's character because of the thicker traditional values applied in the family. Families in rural areas often still maintain cultural and customary values that have been passed down from previous generations (Solatiah, [4]). These values are often applied consistently in everyday life, including in parenting. Therefore, the characteristics of families in rural areas tend to be more awake in shaping the character of children than families in urban areas. Based on this background description, the researcher is interested in conducting research with the title "The Role of the Family in the Formation of Children's Character: Case Studies in Rural Families". The purpose of this study was to examine the role of the family in building the character of children in rural families and what factors influence the role of the family.

## II. RESEARCH METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study type. According to (Sugiyono [5]) the qualitative research method is a research method based on the philosophy of postpositivism and is used to examine the condition of natural objects (different from experiments). In this method, the researcher acts as the main instrument. Data collection techniques used in this study include observation, interviews, and documentation studies. Observations were made to directly observe the interactions between family members. Interviews were conducted with parents and children to obtain information about the role of the family in building children's character. Documentation studies are carried out by studying documents related to the family, such as family diaries and records of family activities. Respondents taken in this study were ten families of Arjasari Village, Bandung Regency who had children aged 6-12 years. The collected data were analyzed using descriptive data analysis techniques. Descriptive analysis is often used in social research, such as surveys or other quantitative research, to provide a clear picture of the data that has been collected (Zellatifanny & Widjanto [6]).

## III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The role of the family in the formation of children's character is very important, especially for families in rural areas. The family is the smallest complex social institution, because in it a child experiences the process of socialization. In the family, children learn to socialize, understand, feel, and appreciate all aspects of life that are reflected in culture (Yoga et al [7]). According to Grotevant and Cooper (Papini [8]), the family has a strong influence in the formation of a child's identity, and the quality of the family is influenced by the interaction between parents and children through the parenting style applied. (Landry et al [9]) stated that parenting experience has an important role in child development, which influences the child's life in the future. Families in rural areas have a strong role in shaping the character of their children through education and parenting within the family. This is because families in rural areas tend to have closer relationships and are interdependent on one another because their subsistence needs still depend on agriculture or small businesses. The relationship between parents and children which is manifested in parenting patterns has an influence on children's ability to resolve conflicts at certain stages of psychosocial development (Idrus [10]).

In this case, the traditional values applied in the family become thicker and play a role in shaping the character of the child. Some of the traditional values applied in the family in Arjasari Village, Bandung Regency which have become stronger and play a role in shaping the character of children in developing an attitude of togetherness and empathy towards others include:

### *Togetherness*

Families in Arjasari Village tend to have a closer relationship and are interdependent on one another because

their subsistence still depends on agriculture or small businesses. Therefore, the value of togetherness is very important in shaping children's character so that they can learn to work together with others and understand that success cannot be achieved alone.

### *Mutual cooperation*

The value of gotong royong is also strong in the family in Arjasari Village. Children are taught to help and support each other in everything, both in daily activities and in dealing with common problems.

### *Religiosity*

Religious values also become an integral part of the family in Arjasari Village. Children are taught to understand religious teachings and apply them in everyday life, so that the child's character can be well formed and reflects the values of the religion he adheres to.

### *Life Skills*

In Arjasari Village, children are also taught important life skills for facing life in the future, such as farming, raising livestock, and making handicrafts. These skills help children to become independent and able to face challenges in the future.

### *Environmental Concern*

The value of environmental concern also becomes strong in the family in Arjasari Village. Children are taught to preserve the natural surroundings and understand the importance of maintaining the balance of the ecosystem. This makes children more sensitive to the environment and learns to live sustainably.

Character education for children in rural areas is usually carried out formally and informally through daily life experiences and family activities, such as helping parents in the fields, caring for livestock, or participating in religious activities in the surrounding environment. In addition, families in Arjasari Village also often practice discipline in complying with applicable rules, such as mealtimes and bedtimes, which also shape children's character in developing an attitude of discipline and responsibility. Family, community and environmental support are very important in shaping children's character. Children who are raised in a positive environment, get support and attention from family and society, tend to have better character (Eliasa [11]). Families can have a positive influence by providing moral and social education, as well as giving sufficient attention to children so that children feel valued and cared for. The community and the surrounding environment can also have a positive influence by providing a safe and supportive environment, as well as teaching positive values such as mutual cooperation, honesty and responsibility. Therefore, it is important for families and communities to provide sufficient support and attention to children in order to form good character.

Factors such as economic conditions, parents' education, and access to resources greatly influence the role of the family in shaping children's character. Families with difficult or low economic conditions may not be able to provide sufficient financial support for their children's educational and developmental needs. In addition, parents

who do not have adequate education may also have difficulties in providing proper education and care for their children. In addition, access to resources such as education, health, and public facilities can also affect the role of the family in shaping children's character. If the surrounding environment does not support the development of children's character, then the family will also have difficulty providing sufficient support (Herawati et al [12]). Therefore, these factors are very important in shaping the role of the family in shaping the character of the child. Overall, rural families have a strong role in shaping children's character through applied traditional values, everyday life experiences, and positive habits applied in everyday life. Therefore, it is important for rural families to pay attention to their role in shaping children's character and continue to improve the quality of education and care provided to their children.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

The family plays a very important role in shaping the character of children. Families in rural areas have several factors that influence the role of the family in shaping children's character, including parental education, upbringing, family and community support, and the surrounding environment. This research shows that rural families have a strong role in shaping the character of their children through education and parenting. In addition, family and community support as well as the surrounding environment also play a role in shaping children's character. On the other hand, factors such as economic conditions, parents' education, and access to resources also influence the role of the family in shaping children's character. Thus, it is important for rural families to pay attention to their role in shaping children's character by providing proper education and care. In addition, support from family and community, as well as the surrounding environment also needs to be considered to maximize the role of the family in shaping children's character.

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