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Original Research

The Impact of Birth Order and Parenting Style on Sibling Rivalry Among Pre-school children

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Abstract

Sibling rivalry is an important aspect of child development and family dynamics, and understanding its prevalence, incidence, and risk factor is essential for addressing the potential negative effects on a child's emotional and social well-being. This study aims to determine the correlation between birth order and parenting style and sibling rivalry at Surau Gadang Subdistrict, Siteba, Padang City, Indonesia. A cross-sectional design was implemented. A simple random sampling technique was utilized for this research. Data analysis used univariate and bivariate. The results showed that more than half of the respondents (65.8%) whose parenting style was authoritarian experienced sibling competition. A total of 85 respondents to this study, with an average age of 37.2 years. We found that birth order (p -value=0.018), parenting style (p -value=0.040) have a significant correlation with sibling rivalry. Prior to becoming a parent, it is crucial to engage in thorough preparation. A health worker in a public health center should give information not only about health but also about parenting skills.

Keywords: Sibling Rivalry, Birth Order, Parenting Style

INTRODUCTION

In families, sibling rivalry is a common occurrence. This rivalry may arise as a result of sibling rivalries, competition, or feelings of envy. Sibling rivalry can negatively impact sibling relationships and induce anxiety and stress in children. Competition between siblings may arise due to factors such as inattention, absence of structure, or parental rejection (Johnson, 2021)(Idris & Hadi, 2020). Sibling rivalry occurs when sisters and brothers engage in conflict, envy, and competition. It concerns the vast majority of parents with two or more children. Typically, issues arise immediately following the birth of the second child. Sibling rivalry often persists into childhood and can cause parents considerable distress and frustration (Sydney, 2022). Sibling rivalry has an effect on children. The impact is additionally subdivided into three components: individual impact, sibling impact, and external impact. Regarding the impact on oneself, regressive behavior and diminished self-efficacy are observed. The consequences for siblings include hostility, reluctance to assist one another, and complaints about one another. Sibling rivalry exerts an influence not only on the individual and their siblings, but also on others. When children have a negative sibling relationship style, they frequently carry that into their social relationships beyond the home (Putri et al., 2013).

Several factors contribute to the occurrence of sibling rivalry. These include parental behavior, birth order, parenting styles, and the number of siblings. Parental attitudes and behaviors play a crucial role in shaping the dynamics between siblings, and the cultural context further influences these interactions. Additionally, birth order and the number of siblings can impact the development of rivalry, as children may compete for parental attention and resources (Howe et al., 2022).

The impact of birth order on sibling relationships can be explained by evolutionary theory, which suggests that siblings compete for parental resources and attention (Van et al., 2017). Additionally, birth order can impact the development of personality traits, which can further influence sibling relationships. For example, first-borns tend to be more conscientious and dutiful, while last-borns are more likely to be open to new experiences (Aston University, 2017). It is important to note that birth order is not the only factor that influences sibling relationships and rivalry. Other factors, such as parenting styles, cultural context, and age differences, can also play a significant role (Badger & Reddy, 2009).

Parenting styles, or the specific behaviors that parents exhibit towards their children, can also impact sibling relationships. For example, parents who show favoritism towards one child over another can create resentment and jealousy between siblings. Similarly, parents who use harsh or punitive discipline may increase sibling conflict and decrease friendly interaction (Howe & Recchia, 2023). Moreover, the way parents handle sibling conflicts can also impact the development of sibling relationships. Parents who intervene in conflicts and help their children resolve them in a constructive manner can promote positive sibling relationships. In contrast, parents who ignore or dismiss conflicts may contribute to the development of negative sibling relationships (Krejčová et al., 2023).

Based on existing research, sibling rivalry occurs in about 30-60% of children in the world (Nithyapriya R et al., 2019). Some factors that influence the occurrence of sibling rivalry include feelings of jealousy, competition, and quarrels between siblings (StudyCorgi, 2023). As a common phenomenon, sibling rivalry can be found in many cultures and families. However, it should be noted that the prevalence and impact of sibling rivalry may differ across countries and families. For example, a study in the United States showed that 47.7% of children experience competition between siblings, which includes feelings of path, competition, and struggle between siblings. As part of the impact of globalization, sibling rivalry also occurs in developing and developed countries. Wealthier, affected societies have

more severe or complex sibling rivalry, which includes feelings of the way, competition, and struggles between siblings (Johnson, 2021). According to the results of the population census by the Central Statistics Agency, around 72% of children in Indonesia experience competition between siblings and According to the Indonesian National Commission for Child Protection, almost 75% of children in the country experience sibling rivalry, highlighting the need to understand and address this issue (Indrayani & Dewi, 2021). However, studies on the long-term impact of sibling competition on mental health in Indonesia are limited. Factors such as parenting and family environment can also influence the impact of sibling competition on children's mental health in Indonesia (Yulindrasari et al., 2019). According to a study conducted in Kebumen, 62% of sibling rivalry occurred among children ages 3 to 6 (Insan & Setyorini, 2019). Another study conducted in Yogyakarta revealed that 20% of parents adopted authoritarian parenting styles, while 80% utilized democratic parenting methods. 87.5% of children were affected by sibling rivalry when their parents adopted an authoritarian style of parenting (Dinengsih & Agustina, 2018).

Based on the initial survey to ten mothers who had children aged 1-5 years most of them (90%) said that since the arrival of a new younger sibling, their first child often fussed and cried for no reason and wanted to always be noticed, sometimes even wanted to hit and injure their younger siblings. About 80% mothers who still compare their children, let their children do a fight and there are still many mothers who unknowingly put one child as the one who was defeated to break up a fight between siblings. This shows the lack of knowledge and the role of parents about sibling rivalry. So, this study aims to determine the correlation between birth order and parenting style and sibling rivalry at Surau Gadang Sub-district, Siteba, Padang City.

METHODS

In this study, a cross-sectional design was implemented. This research was conducted in Surau Gadang Subdistrict, Siteba, Padang City, from August to October 2023. The inclusion criteria for this study were mothers who have preschool children. A simple random sampling technique was utilized for this research. The sibling rivalry variable was measured using the Sibling Relationship Questionnaire (SRQ) by (Furman & Buhrmester, 1985). A Chi-Square test was conducted in order to ascertain the association between variables.

RESULTS

a. Characteristic of Respondent

There were total of 85 respondents to this study, with an average age of 37.2 years. More than half (51.8%) completed junior high school education, and 56.5% working as a housewife. Approximately 58.8 percent of parenting styles are authoritarian in nature. 64.7% of them have children with a birth order of three or higher, and 75.3% of them have reported instances of sibling rivalry.

Table 1. Characteristic of respondent

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)	Mean, SD (Min-Max)
Age (Year)			37.2 (SD=7.74), Min = 25 Max = 50
20-30	48	56.5	
31-41	33	38.8	
> 42	4	4.7	
Education level			
Illiterate	2	2.4	
Elementary	36	42.4	
Junior high school	44	51.8	
University	3	3.5	
Job			
Government employee	2	2.4	
Housewife	48	56.5	
Entrepreneur	35	41.2	
Parenting Style			
Authoritarian	50	58.8	
Democratic	23	27.1	
Permissiveness	12	14.1	
Birth order			
1	12	14.1	
2	18	21.2	
3 and more	55	64.7	
Sibling rivalry			
Yes	64	75.3	
No	21	24.7	

b. Analysis bivariate

A significant correlation exists between birth order (0.018), parenting style (0.040), and sibling rivalry in Surau Gadang Subdistrict, Siteba, Padang City, as determined by bivariate analysis. The outcomes of bivariate analysis are presented in the table below:

Table 2. Correlation Between Birth Order, Parenting Style and Sibling Rivalry in Surau Gadang Subdistrict, Siteba, Padang City in 2023

Variable	Sibling rivalry				Total		P-Value
	Yes		No		f	%	
	f	%	f	%			
Birth order							
1	7	33.3	14	66.7	21	100	0.018
2	11	42.3	15	57.7	26	100	
3 or more	26	68.4	12	31.6	38	100	
Parenting style							
Authoritarian	25	65.8	13	34.2	38	100	0.040
Democratic	10	37.0	17	63.0	27	100	
Permissiveness	8	40.0	12	60.0	20	100	

DISCUSSIONS

A highly significant correlation was found between birth order and sibling rivalry in the Surau Gadang Subdistrict of Siteba, Padang City, according to the findings. Majority (68.4%) a child with birth order three or more have sibling rivalry. This study is in line with a study conducted in the working area of the Public Health Center in Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District, Tambak Sari Village, East Java, and Kebumen, Central Java, which shows that there is a very significant association between birth order and sibling rivalry (Hanum & Hidayat, 2015; Sari et al., 2022)(Indrayani & Dewi, 2021).

Research has shown a correlation between birth order and sibling rivalry. First-born children tend to be more conscientious and dutiful, while last-born children are more likely to experience academic sibling rivalry. A study by Julia Badger and Peter Reddy found that last-borns are more likely to experience academic sibling rivalry, while first-borns are more likely to be conscientious and dutiful (Aston University, 2007; Badger & Reddy, 2009). Birth order can influence an individual's personality and the way they interact with their siblings, which in turn can impact the dynamics of sibling rivalry. This correlation is attributed to the different roles and niches available to offspring within the family system, as well as disparities in age, physical size, and status, all of which contribute to personality (Aston University, 2007; Sulloway, 2001).

The birth order influences the occurrence of sibling rivalry, according to the researcher's hypothesis. The majority of first-born children encounter sibling rivalry as a result of their envy following the birth of a second child. The first child fears that, with the birth of his younger siblings, his parents' affection will no longer be directed toward him. Hence, the frequency of pinching or hitting the second child surpasses that of the first siblings.

The result showed more than half (65.8%) whose parenting style was authoritarian experienced sibling rivalry. Parenting style has been found to influence the quality of sibling rivalry (p -value=0.040). Research suggests that authoritative and permissive parenting is associated with greater mutual support and closeness between siblings compared to authoritarian and neglectful parenting styles (Krejčová et al., 2023)(Milevsky et al., 2011). Authoritative parenting, characterized by warmth and reasonable control, has been linked to reduced sibling conflicts, while neglectful or authoritarian parenting may contribute to increased rivalry among siblings (Liu & Rahman, 2022). Therefore, the way parents interact with their children can impact the dynamics of sibling relationships and rivalry. By promoting a positive and supportive environment, parents can help mitigate sibling conflicts and foster healthier relationships among their children (Krejčová et al., 2023).

CONCLUSIONS

Sibling rivalry has potential consequences in a family. If neglected, it will have a negative impact on the future life of the child. Birth order and parenting style have a significant correlation in this study. For every parent, it is important to have good preparation before having a child. Learning more about parenting. A health worker in a public health center should give information not only about health but also about parenting skills.

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