

Higher Education Awareness: How are the Parent's Perceptions?

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ABSTRACT

Education is an essential thing in life. Support from the Indonesian government by declaring 9 years of compulsory education at the tertiary level indicates that education is highly recommended for the formation of a young generation with knowledge and character. Apart from the government, parents are central to creating a quality young generation. It doesn't just stop at upper secondary education, higher education is also something that parents should pay attention to. Therefore, parents' awareness in supporting their children, especially girls, in continuing their education to college is something that should be implemented. However, obstacles and support cannot be separated from this realization due to life in remote or rural areas. This research will discuss parents' perceptions in supporting their daughters to go to college. This research uses a qualitative approach, a phenomenological type. Participants in this research were 7 parents in Ujong Padang Village-Nagan Raya, Aceh Indonesia. Data collection was carried out by observation and interviews. Data analysis was carried out using Atlas. ti 22 software. The research results showed that there were positive and negative perceptions from parents regarding support for sending their daughters to college. Barriers faced by parents in general are lack of funds, children's health, and transportation problems.

KEYWORDS

Perception, Parents, Higher Education, Daughter, Qualitative Research

1. Introduction

Law number 20 of 2003 concerning the National Education System explains that education is a conscious and planned effort to create learning facilities and learning processes so that students actively develop their potential to have strength, religious spirituality, self-control, personality, intelligence, and noble character as well as the skills needed by himself, society, nation, and state [1].

In the Preamble to the 1945 Constitution, we need to know that education is also regulated in the 1945

Constitution, to be precise in article 31 paragraphs 1 and 2 which states, "Every citizen has the right to education. (paragraph 1)", Every citizen is obliged to attend basic education and the government is obliged to finance it (paragraph 2). as is the case in Article 31 paragraph 1 which explains that citizens in Indonesia have the right to education, that is, they are given the right to receive education from elementary to high level, because this is by the goals of the Indonesian state, namely to make the life of the nation intelligent, one of which is form of realization through education. In this case, of course, society has an important role in the success of educational development in society, especially in paying attention to children's education, while the duties and responsibilities for this matter are shared between parents, society, and the government.

Parents have a very big role in encouraging and giving their children the right to education so they can continue to college. Higher education has a strategic function in exploring and developing children's potential. At this time, it is hoped that high school students will be able to develop strong work habits, understand their religious identity, and have a positive impact on society. This can be explained based on the substance of paragraph 1 of the National Education System, which states that education in high schools serves as a training ground for students to develop their potential and to have a sense of spirituality, self-esteem, responsibility, and state.

Education is a very vital thing in a person's life, especially higher education. However, recent trends show a lack of interest in higher education. This occurs when a person's enthusiasm for learning decreases and there is a loss of optimism that things will improve after graduating from college [2]. Even though continuing to study at university is something that is highly recommended, especially in the current era of globalization.

The era of globalization for women is an era of freedom where women also have the same rights to continue their education to university level and also have a career. Women's empowerment begins with education. Shivran [3] said that women have been offered educational opportunities. Girls are benefiting from education provided by governments across states, leading to positive life changes. We witness fresh images of society. However, there are many women, especially in villages, who do not want to continue their education to tertiary level. This should be a concern for the government, parents and educational institutions.

Higher education institutions play an important role in facilitating cross-border contacts and flows of people, information, knowledge, technology, products, and financial capital in today's globalized world [4]. For this reason, the role of parents is very important in supporting children to continue their studies at university even though some various obstacles or obstacles can hinder this from happening. Many factors cause students not to continue to college. The study found that family income significantly influences prospective students' interest in higher education. Parental education level has a considerable impact on prospective students' desire to pursue their studies in higher education [5]. Khadijah *et al.*, [6] said that motivation, ideals, will, school environment, and family environment together have a significant influence on students' interest in continuing higher education. This indicates

that the role of the family also greatly influences students' interest in continuing higher education. Apart from that, several factors have a positive influence on students' interest in continuing to college. Internal factors consist of motivation and goals, interests, and external factors consist of parents, friends, siblings, and the school environment [7]. Other research results show that motivation, learning achievement, parents' socioeconomic status, and peer environment influence interest in continuing their education to college [8].

Higher education is an institution established to provide additional education. Unfortunately, many students are still unwilling to complete their education for a variety of reasons, particularly in rural places. Very few of them are motivated to pursue their education through college. Scholarships, both on-campus and off-campus, can help bridge the gap between continuing education and higher education for those facing financial constraints. The concerns discovered were economic, family factors, and shortages. Motivation to continue school, low self-efficacy, and other factors. Given the high cost of education, many people prefer to work rather than attend university [9].

Suharyani [10] stated that the factors causing the lack of interest of parents in sending their daughters to college level are family economic factors, lack of motivation from parents, family environment, and community environment. Then efforts to empower the economy to balance the demands of children's education so that it can run well, trying to save so that the implementation of children's education can run well and smoothly.

Based on observations in the rural area of Ujong Padang Village, Kuala District, Nagan Raya Regency, researchers saw that very few girls continued their education to tertiary level, and not a single person had a master's degree. This is by data on the population of Ujong Padang Village, the total population of which is 1121, with an education level of Elementary Schools of as many as 504 people, Junior High Schools of as many as 96 people, High Schools as many as 90 people, Diploma I as many as 3 people, Diploma II as many as 2 people, people, and Diploma III as many as 3 people, based on this data, the number of residents with a bachelor's degree is only 17 people and only around 6 people are women. This is very unfortunate considering that education also plays an important role in development, especially in Gampong/villages (Source: Data from an interview with Secretary of Ujong Padang Village- Nagan Raya Regency 2023).

Based on the background of the problem above, researchers are interested in researching parents' perceptions of sending their daughters to college. This research aims to describe parents' experiences in perceiving the continuation of their daughters' education to the tertiary level and the obstacles experienced by parents in continuing their daughters' education to a higher level.

2. Methodology

The method in this research is using qualitative research. Qualitative data analysis involves analyzing and interpreting qualitative data to provide results and conclusions. These findings are typically presented as thorough descriptions, overarching themes, and explorations into various sociocultural

realities [11]. This qualitative research is using a phenomenological approach. Researchers use this phenomenological approach based on considerations to uncover the phenomenon of parents' perceptions in continuing their daughters' education to the tertiary level.

Creswell [12] argues that phenomenology speaks about the importance things to recognizing how people interpret the world and what they experience. Next, to analyze the data, field notes, observations, and interview transcripts were categorized into relevant themes by the researcher.

This research took place on Teuku Meurah Ahmad Street Ujong Padang Village, Kuala District, Nagan Raya Regency 23661. The choice of location was determined purposively. The gampong or village was chosen because in that gampong only a few had bachelor's degrees and none had master's degrees. The subjects in this research were parents who lived in Ujong Padang Village, Kuala District, Nagan Raya Regency. Meanwhile, the informants were parents who had 7 female children.

To support the validity of this research data, data credibility testing was carried out by increasing persistence by carrying out continuous observations, triangulation of techniques, sources, and time, and peer debriefing (discussing it with other people). Data analysis for this research used ATLAS.ti 22 software. Smith [13] says that things that are done continuously, developing, repetitive, or non-linear are the process of analyzing qualitative data. To begin the analysis, data were transcribed by typing text from interviews, observation notes, or memoranda into a word processing document. Next, the transcription is analyzed manually or using the Atlas. ti program. Analyzing words, phrases, and paragraphs is an important step in research to understand, interpret, and theorize data. It involves organizing, reducing, and describing data.

3. Result

This research is a qualitative study that discusses parents' perceptions or experiences in continuing their daughters' education to the tertiary level in the rural area of Ujong Padang Village, Nagan Raya Regency-Aceh. The themes constructed from the interview data were positive perceptions from parents regarding their daughters' education at the tertiary level, negative perceptions from parents regarding their daughters' education at the tertiary level, barriers for parents in continuing their daughters' education at the tertiary level, which included economic, health and transportation factors.

Perceptions of parents in continuing their daughters' education to the tertiary level

Parents' perceptions of continuing their daughters' education to the tertiary level in this study consisted of positive and negative perceptions. The following image of Figure 1 is the result of interview data analyzed using ATLAS-ti. 22 software:

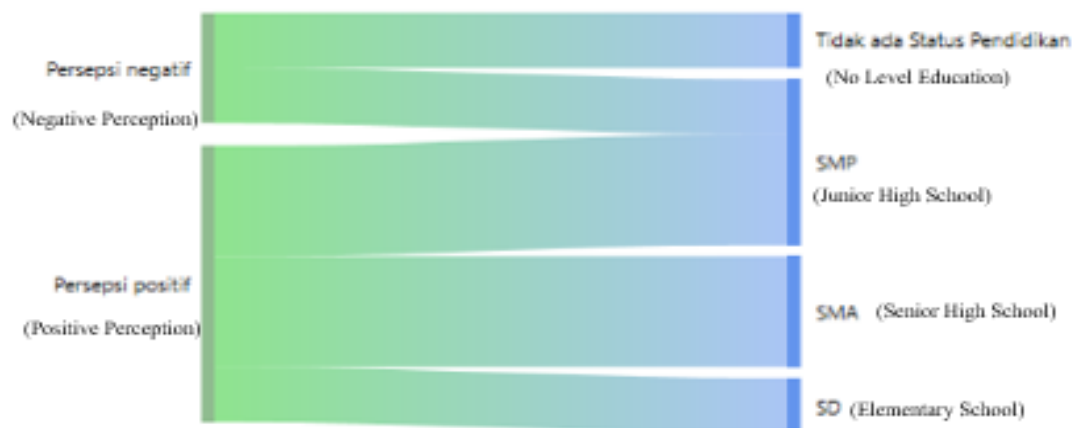


Figure 1. Perceptions of parents in continuing their daughters' education to the tertiary level

In Figure 1, the Sankey diagram shows that there are negative perceptions as well as positive perceptions of parents regarding their daughters' continuation of their studies to the college level. The educational level of the parents is no educational status, Elementary School, Middle School, and High School and not a single parent has an educational status of a bachelor's degree.

Positive Perception

Based on the Sankey diagram in Figure 1, shows that positive parental perceptions are obtained from parents whose educational status is elementary school, middle school, and high school. This positive perception was expressed by Mrs. Sari:

"If I were to go to college, actually I would support it."

Furthermore, a positive perception was expressed by Mrs. Marni:

"As for me, if he wants to go to college, if there is good fortune in the future if his achievements are there, I will try."

The following is also a positive perception from Mr. Bejo:

"As for me, just agree with that. Do you want a girl or a boy if you go to college? It's okay. Even good."

Mr. Sentot also gave a positive perception as follows:

"For me, it's a matter of going to college for a child, if I'm a parent... that's obligatory, for me. With the meaning of obligatory, nowadays it is needed not because of the person but the knowledge and family. So, like me, I've sent my children to school, I've sent them to college, and they're already at S1, what's next for them? It's up to her husband because he's already married, I see. Indeed, I support that, I support education."

Mr. Suamano also expressed a positive perception as expressed as follows:

"As a parent, I support education, education is really necessary. For the sake of his goals, he also provides his life at college. Yes, we will study, God willing, whatever will be achieved. Both at home

and outside. But if you don't go to college and your kids go to college, that's different. Well, that's it. There are many advantages to going to college, yes".

Based on interviews with parents, this positive perception is in the form of support or wishes, some of which are not realized and some of which are realized, parents give positive responses regarding the continuation of their daughter's studies at the tertiary level, there is a desire in the hearts of parents to continue their daughter's education. to college level.

Negative perception

Apart from positive perceptions, there are also negative perceptions from parents regarding continuing their daughters' education to the college level. The negative perception from parents is that parents do not support and do not encourage their daughters to continue their education to college level. Negative perceptions of parents were obtained from parents who did not have educational status. This was expressed by the following participants:

"If it's a girl. It doesn't need to be tall. The school is high. Because. Look forward to it. Being a housewife too (Darma).

"Girls don't need to go to high school." (Amir)

Based on interviews with these participants, these 2 participants did not support their daughters to continue their studies at university. Based on interviews with Mr. Darma and Mr. Amir, the researchers concluded that girls are not required to continue their studies at university, because according to them, women by nature only work as housewives. Girls who have a high school education are enough to equip them for life.

This is in line with research by Mahfud (2018) which states that until now there are still societies that have the principle that women only play a role in the domestic sphere, namely in their household, so women don't have to get an education. We have to change this mindset regarding the right to get a decent and fair education. Emancipation has been promoted for a long time, but in practice, there are still many people who think that education is not very important, especially for women. Even though they are only housewives, women must also have good and adequate education so that a mother can teach her children at home and be able to motivate her children to become a generation that is knowledgeable and has noble character.

Barriers for parents in continuing their daughter's education to college level.

Obstacles for parents in continuing their daughters' education to the tertiary level which were processed from the results of interview data via ATLAS.ti 22 software include transportation, finances, and health can be seen in Figure 2:

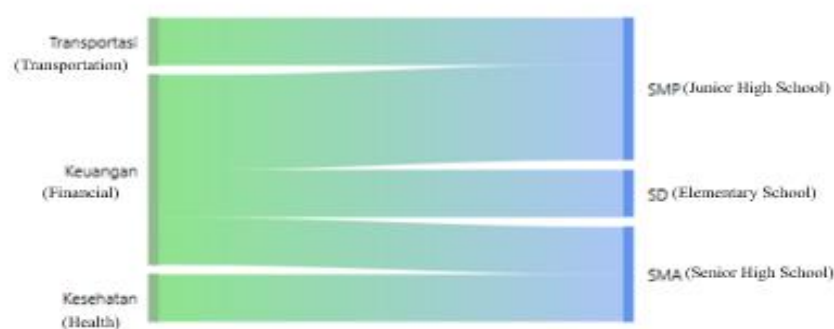


Figure 2. Barriers for parents in continuing their daughters' education to the tertiary level

Based on the Sankey diagram in Figure 2, shows that the obstacles for parents in continuing their daughters' education are several factors, namely transportation, financial/economic factors, and health. This will be explained in the results of the following analysis.

Transportation

Based on research conducted by researchers through interviews, transportation is one of the obstacles to continuing their daughter's education to the college level. This is by the results of the following interview:

"To go to school, we don't have a motorbike. So, I hope to ride a motorbike with a friend." (Sari)

Based on interviews with participants, one of the obstacles to continuing their daughters' education is transportation. Transportation is one of the obstacles for children to go to school because the distance between home and school is quite far so children can't walk to school. This is what causes these children to often not go to school, not even finish school, let alone go to college.

Financial or Economics

Apart from transportation, financial or economic factors are also obstacles for parents in continuing their daughters' education. This is based on the results of the following interview:

"If he has achievements. It could be from a scholarship because his father only worked odd jobs. Sometimes it's just construction work, if there's palm oil cutting, then palm oil cutting. So it's enough to eat. If you send your children to college, you could say it's a dream. Because I don't have any money either. Only if the child wants it, then if I also have money, yes. Maybe I'll study it too" (Darma).

Based on the interview with Mr. Darma, it can be concluded that he wanted to send his children to school, but due to economic factors, he dismissed this desire by looking at the actual reality of his life.

As an alternative to higher education which cannot be obtained, one of the four parents who stated that the economy was an obstacle to continuing their daughter's education to tertiary level took the initiative to provide support in terms of life skills. This is based on an interview with Bik Sari who said that

"When you go to college you have a lot of money. "Maybe my child will just graduate from high school."

Yes, maybe if I had the money I would just take a sewing course. If you sew, you can do it for yourself in the future. You can add extra money to your daily life. But if it's for college. I don't... I can't" (Sari). Based on interviews with four participants who stated that financial/economic factors were an obstacle in sending their daughters to higher education, the researchers concluded that in general parents have the desire or aspiration to send their children to tertiary level, however, Due to economic inability, parents bury their desires or aspirations. Even though they were unable to provide economic support to their daughters, one of the four parents took the initiative to provide support in terms of life skills, namely preparing skills for their children by providing sewing courses so that they would be useful for their future.

Health

Another obstacle to continuing girls' education to college is health. This was expressed by Mr Suamano as follows:

"He was already at university, he was at university until the 4th semester. But at that time he kept getting sick. I was sick at that time on campus. He studied in the city of Meulaboh, so I called my son's friend, I went straight there. He had a seizure, it hurt like that. Then I took it home and to the doctor. I took this specialist doctor but the conclusion was that there was no pain. So, I took him to the doctor, but it didn't heal, so I tried to take him for treatment in the village, but it was like that, and in the end, he withdrew from college, yes, that was the problem, it hurt."

Based on interviews with Mr Suamano, another obstacle faced by parents is health. For Mr Suamano, economic factors are not an obstacle to sending his children to college. However, their child's health is an obstacle that causes his daughter not to continue her education to college level.

The following is a recapitulation of parents' perceptions and obstacles in sending their daughters to college which can be seen in Figure 3.

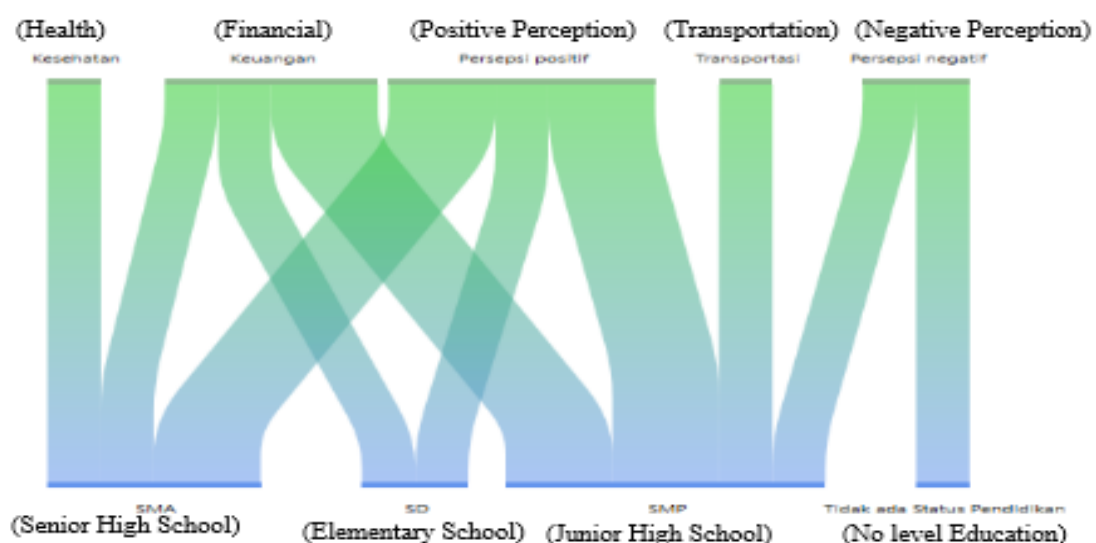


Figure 3 Perceptions and barriers of parents in sending their daughters to college.

Based on the Sankey diagram in the picture above, parents whose education status is Senior High School (SMA) show a positive perception, and the obstacles they face are health and finances, parents whose education status is Elementary School (SD) show a positive perception and the obstacles they face are Financial Problem. Parents whose education status is Junior High School (SMP) show that there are positive and negative parental perceptions, the obstacles to continuing their daughter's education are finances and transportation. Parents who do not have educational status show a negative perception regarding continuing their daughter's education to college level.

4. Discussion

Even though education policies have been implemented by the Indonesian government, these policies have not been able to reach all levels of society, especially people who do not live in urban centers. Therefore, apart from the government, of course, the realization of comprehensive education is the responsibility of parents and also the community's mindset regarding the important role of education in all circles. This is a crucial thing that must be taken into consideration so that Indonesia will be more advanced in the future, especially in the field of education.

5. Conclusion

Education is a very important thing in living life, and for this reason, parents have a very influential role in making it happen. As we know, parents or family are the motivators for children's education, so it is hoped that families must provide full support and attention for children to continue studying and make children intelligent individuals who have noble character who will later benefit themselves and society. Based on this research, we can see how the portrait of education in rural areas receives less attention from the family environment, this is due to several factors including financial/economic factors, transportation, and also health. And it is economic factors that greatly influence the continuity of children's education.

It is hoped that this research will become reading material and relate to the importance of children's education, especially girls, so that education becomes a shared responsibility, namely parents, government, the school environment, and the community to continue to instill education as a necessity.

6. Recommendation

Education is a shared responsibility, not just the family, and education is not only for people who have more financial means, researchers hope that the existence of programs such as scholarships will help children who want to continue their education even though they do not have sufficient finances.

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