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Research Article

Factors Contributing to Sibling Rivalry Among Preschool Children

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Abstract

Background: Sibling rivalry is a form of relationship between siblings that is negative. Such relationships come with competition, jealousy, anger, and even hatred. In Indonesia, almost 75% of children experience sibling rivalry in the age range of 3-5 years. Sibling rivalry can refer to a child's developmental stage that is so emotionally immature that the child doesn't know how to get attention or start games with their siblings.

Objectives: The purpose of this study is to determine the factors contributing to Sibling Rivalry in preschool children.

Methods: The research method used is quantitative with a Cross-Sectional Study design. This research has been conducted in Preschool, Lubuk Begalung District from 6 to 9 June 2022. The population in this study were mothers who had young children with the criteria of being willing to sign informed consent. The sample in this study was 55 respondents. Data were analyzed univariately in the form of frequency distribution and bivariate using the Chi-Square test.

Results: Based on the research results, it was found that there is a contribution from parental attitudes, favoritism, and children's age gap which can trigger sibling rivalry with details of all variables having a significant sign (p-value < 0.05).

Conclusion: Parents are expected to show the same level of affection for their children, educate them according to their developmental stage, implement a combination of parenting patterns according to the child's needs, and determine an optimal pregnancy gap of more than two years between children. We encourage parents to motivate children to look for ways to make things better. Parents just need to give their children time to process their feelings before they can forgive their siblings because children can forgive more quickly. make peace with the situation respect each other, defend your rights, and ask permission if you want to borrow something. It is hoped that future researchers will carry out further research using other methods such as conducting health education so that picket parents know more about sibling rivalry. Future researchers could explore how to manage emotions when conflict occurs between siblings.

Keywords: age distance of children, favoritism, parental attitude, sibling rivalry

Introduction

Sibling Rivalry or fraternal competition is something that occurs in a family to get love or attention from parents. This competition occurs because of different reactions from different people around him, including the reactions of his father and mother.¹ It arises because of the assumption that parents are favoritism, and such an attitude fosters envy and hostility that will affect the relationship between siblings to be negative. Sibling Rivalry usually occurs between two or more children who are close in age.² Sibling Rivalry can occur in all children because, in children aged 3-5 years, the development of falling building character building and emotional development occurs in the first 1000 days, therefore the role of parents is needed in the form of good attitudes and parenting to support children's emotions adaptively.³ Several factors influence sibling rivalry, internal factors, selfish attitude, ungainliness to phlegmatic, and closer or farther. External factors are less preferential, compared to each other, do not have personal space, and have not been taught mutual respect. Conditions that affect the relationship between siblings, parental attitudes, parental favoritism, and distance after children, among others, are reinforced by data.⁴

World Health Organization (WHO) data in 2019 shows that the number of toddlers in Asia is as many as 401 million toddlers and nearly 10 million children in Asia experience sibling rivalry. there was Sibling Rivalry (65.4%) and there was no Sibling Rivalry (34.6%). According to Unicef on Sibling Rivalry in Degree and Dimensions Across the Lifespan conducted in the United States, 55% of sibling rivalry is experienced between the ages of 3-5 years. The population census conducted in 2017 stated that Indonesia's population was 237.6 million people and according to the Central Statistics Agency projected the number of children under five in 2018 to reach around 22% (around 47.2 million people). This data shows that in Indonesia almost 75% of children experience sibling rivalry in the age range of 3-5 years.⁵ In Indonesia, almost 75% of children experience sibling rivalry, the reactions that often arise are children being more aggressive, hitting or hurting older or younger siblings, challenging their mother, being fussy, regressing, often having outbursts of anger, often crying for no reason, becoming more spoiled or clingy to their mother.⁶

Raihana's (2022) qualitative research on mothers' perceptions of sibling rivalry behavior in older children early stage shows that the mother's knowledge of sibling information is still low Rivalry also influences how mothers react to the emergence of sibling rivalry behavior in children, the mother's strategy in dealing with sibling rivalry behavior that appears in early childhood shows different affection for one child than another, Mothers communicate with young children who behave in sibling rivalry.⁷ The research results from Insani (2020) regarding distance births with sibling rivalry (52.1%), and the results of attitude research with sibling rivalry (64.6%) there is a significant relationship between birth distance and attitudes and the incidence of sibling rivalry.⁸

The results of research at Bukit Tinggi, West Sumatra, found that (48.5%) had a high level of Sibling Rivalry. The results showed that almost half of the children had sibling rivalry, this was revealed based on statements that describe sibling rivalry in the research instrument such as the attitude of children who do not want to give in to their siblings (60.3%), envy of their siblings (61.8%), complain about every action of their siblings (47.1%), not offering help if their siblings need (42.6%) and loss of children's motivation when compared with his brother (69.1%).⁹ The attitudes carried out by parents include educating, guiding, and teaching values that are by the norms carried out in parents is a pattern of interaction between children and parents, not only the fulfillment of physical needs (such as eating, drinking, etc.) and psychological needs (such as security, affection, etc.).¹⁰ The opposition says revealing that all his children often fight and fight over the same toy, his first child also wets the bed again, often going against his parents' orders and damaging each other's toys brother or sister. The difference in children's age is a factor in the occurrence of sibling rivalry.¹¹ Based on the results of previous research, it is still

unclear what factors influence sibling rivalry, so this research aims to determine the factors that influence sibling rivalry in pre-school children.

Methods

This type of research is quantitative research with a Cross-Sectional approach. The research was conducted in PAUD Negeri Pembina Padang, Lubuk Begalung sub-district. The study was conducted on June 6 – 9, 2022. The population in this study were mothers who had young children with the criteria of being willing to sign informed consent. The sample in this study was 55 respondents. This is due to the willingness of parents and children to fill in data. Data were collected using sibling rivalry questionnaires, parental attitudes or parental favoritism, and the age spacing of children. The questionnaire contains several statements that provide an understanding of sibling rivalry and can represent the research aims. To measure each variable using questionnaires. Fort De Kock University Ethics Committee reviewed and approved the research on 5th March 2022 (No: 187/KEPK/III/2022). All of the questionnaire's items were found to be valid (0.599 - 0.931) and reliable throughout the validity and reliability testing (0.945), and then analyzed univariately and bivariately using the statistical test Chi-Square Test.

Results

Table 1. Characteristics of Respondents

Characteristics of Respondents	n	%
Mother's Age		
21-30	34	61.8
31-45	21	38.2
Mother's Education		
No School	9	16.4
Elementary	17	30.9
Junior high School	10	18.2
Senior high School	14	25.5
College	5	9.1
Mother's Work		
Housewives	32	58.2
Entrepreneurial	12	21.8
Farmer	7	12.7
Civil servants	4	7.3
Total	55	100

Based on [Table 1](#), it can be seen that of the 55 respondents, there are more than half, namely 61.8% of mothers aged 21-30 years, many are obtained, namely 30.9% of elementary school mothers' education, more than half are 58.2% of housewives.

Univariate Analysis

Table 2. Sibling Rivalry Events, Parents' Attitudes, Parental Favoritism, Child Age Gap in Preschool Children

	n	%
Sibling Rivalry Incident		
Sibling Rivalry Occurs	34	61.8
No Sibling Rivalry	21	38.2
Total	55	100
Parents' Attitude	n	%
Bad	21	38.2
Enough	17	30.9

Factors Contributing to Sibling Rivalry Among Preschool Children

Good	11	20.0
Excellent	6	10.9
Total	55	100
Parental favoritism	n	%
Unfavorable	33	60.0
Favorable	22	40.0
Total	55	100
Child Age Gap	n	%
Risk	36	65.5
No Risk	19	34.5
Total	55	100

Based on Table 2, it can be seen that of the 55 respondents, more than half, namely 61.8%, the incidence of sibling rivalry in preschool children in Lubuk Begalung District in 2022. For parent attitudes, it can be seen that out of 55 respondents, there are 38.2% bad parental attitudes, 30.9% sufficient parental attitudes, 20% good parental attitudes, and 10.9% very good parental attitudes in preschool children. For parental favoritism, it can be seen that of the 55 respondents, more than half, namely 60% of parents are unfavorable to preschool children. Based on Table 2, it can be seen that of the 55 respondents, more than half, namely 65.5%, the age gap of children at risk in pre-school age children.

Bivariate Analysis

Table 3. The Relationship between Parents' Attitudes and the Incidence of Sibling Rivalry in Preschool Children

Parents' Attitude	Sibling Rivalry Incident				Total		P-Value
	Happen		Not Happening		n	%	
	n	%	n	%			
Bad	21	100	0	0	21	100	0,000
Enough	1	5.9	16	94.1	17	100	
Good	8	72.7	3	27.3	11	100	
Excellent	4	66.7	2	33.3	6	100	
Total	34	61.8	21	38.2	55	100	

Based on Table 3, it is found that the proportion of incidents of sibling rivalry is higher in bad parental attitudes, which is 21 (100%) compared to moderate, good, and very good parental attitudes. The results of the Chi-square test obtained a p-value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$), so it can be interpreted that there is a relationship between parental attitudes and the incidence of sibling rivalry in preschool children in Lubuk Begalung District in 2022

Table 4. The Relationship between Parental Favoritism and the Incidence of Sibling Rivalry in Preschool Children

Parental Favoritism	Sibling Rivalry Incident				Total		P-Value
	Happen		Not Happening		n	%	
	n	%	n	%			
Unfavorable	28	84.8	5	15.2	33	100	0,000
Favorable	6	27.3	16	72.7	22	100	
Total	34	61.8	21	38.2	55	100	

Based on Table 4, it was found that the proportion of incidents of rivalry was higher in unfavorable parental favoritism at 28 (84.8%) compared to favorable parental favoritism at 6 (27.3%). The results of the Chi-square test obtained a p-value of 0.000 ($p < 0.05$), so it

can be interpreted that there is a relationship between parental favoritism and the incidence of sibling rivalry in preschool children in Lubuk Begalung District in 2022.

Table 5. The Relationship Between Children's Age Gap and the Incidence of Sibling Rivalry in Preschool Children

Child Age Gap	Sibling Rivalry Incident				Total		P-Value
	Happen		Not Happening		n	%	
	n	%	n	%			
Risk	27	75	9	25	36	100	0,013
No Risk	7	36.8	12	63.2	19	100	
Total	34	61.8	21	38.2	55	100	

Based on [Table 5](#), it is found that the proportion of incidents of sibling rivalry is higher in the age distance of at-risk children, which is 27 (75%) compared to the age distance of children not at risk, which is 7 (36.8%). The results of the Chi-square test obtained a p-value of 0.013 ($p < 0.05$), so it can be interpreted that there is a relationship between the age gap of children and the incidence of sibling rivalry in preschool children in Lubuk Begalung District in 2022.

Discussion

The Relationship between Parents' Attitudes and the Incidence of Sibling Rivalry in Preschool Children in Lubuk Begalung District in 2022

There is a relationship between parental attitudes and the incidence of sibling rivalry because parental attitudes play an important role in the occurrence of sibling rivalry, if parents cannot manage between their brothers and sisters then they will tend to easily experience sibling rivalry. The attitude of parents is also one of the causes of sibling rivalry due to parents who distinguish the treatment between brother and sister so that older siblings feel that they do not get the same affection given to their younger siblings. Researchers also see that parents' attitudes are bad because parents have a level of education not in school and elementary school education levels, parents also have 21-30 years and children are taken care of by grandmothers and siblings because parents work as traders.

Sibling rivalry affected over half of the respondents; this was brought on by parents' inability to give each child special attention. The parents of the respondents showed more affection to the youngest children, which made the children feel as though they were treated unfairly and that their parents did not show them as much affection as they should have. like being forced to give in if his younger sibling wants to borrow a toy, when his younger sibling cries, the mother immediately scolds his older sibling.¹²

The Relationship between Parental Favoritism and the Incidence of Sibling Rivalry in Preschool Children in Lubuk Begalung District in 2022

According to the researcher's result, parents who treat their children differently account for over half of their unfavoritism. Parents who are unable to treat their children fairly, regardless of their accomplishments, are also considered to be unfavoritistic toward their offspring. Researchers also discovered that the reason for the prevalence of partiality among parents was that many of the children were raised by grandparents and siblings since the parents were traders, and the parents were at non-school and primary education levels. The parents were also between the ages of 21 and 30. Another reason for partiality is when parents comprehend each other.

The following actions are some that parents may do to help their children get over sibling rivalry Observe how kids behave and take note of the real reasons for kids' competitiveness, as well as the typical times for competition to arise. Avoid comparing siblings or displaying overt bias for one youngster over another. Instead of using a child's

shortcomings as a means of comparison, concentrate on their virtues. Parenting techniques that are crucial to developing to reduce sibling rivalry include patience, love, understanding, and humor. When siblings are arguing or competing with one another over something, teach kids how to compromise and find a middle ground. Teach kids to ask permission before using or borrowing personal possessions belonging to their siblings as a way of showing them respect for their ownership. Give kids a personal space where they may spend time by themselves without being bothered by their peers or siblings. Every time a youngster behaves nicely, give them praise. The researcher's assumption, there is a relationship between parental favoritism and the incidence of sibling rivalry because parental favoritism is very decisive in the incidence of sibling rivalry, wrong parental favoritism will make the child's parents discriminate against the treatment of their children, so children feel they do not get affection and the same treatment is given. Parental favoritism is one of the attitudes shown by parents to their children in giving treatment to their children.²

The Relationship Between Children's Age Gap and the Incidence of Sibling Rivalry in Preschool Children in Lubuk Begalung District in 2022

Siblings' reactions to one another and the way their parents treat them are influenced by their age differences. When their ages are close, their relationship tends to be acrimonious, antagonistic, and competitive for affection, Mothers can discuss things between their children to respect each other and maintain ownership of each child's personal belongings, if they want to borrow something they must have permission from their siblings.¹³ The role of parents is a priority and important thing in a child's life, with the role of good parents and can help in the growth and development of biological, psychological, social, and spiritual children, with the role of good parents. It can also prevent reactions from occurring in sibling rivalry in children who can cause injury to a brother/sister. In addition, to prevent feelings of "aloneness" in children, parents should always engage in good communication with their children, avoid cutting down on physical contact with them, and engage with other families. Additionally, after the birth of a younger sibling, parents should always demonstrate their undying affection for their eldest child.

In addition, it is anticipated that the school would have meetings and provide parents with some guidance on our responsibilities as parents. This should stop kids from developing a sibling rivalry reflex.¹⁴

Research shows that sibling rivalry is also found in parents who work as entrepreneurs or traders, so this contributes to parents' unfavorable views of their children, not having enough time to see children's growth and development, and bonding attachments which can affect children's psychology. In doing something, children will try to get their parents' attention. Apart from that, many children are raised by their grandmother or grandfather, so this also contributes to parents' bad attitudes towards children, but parents can have a gentle parenting strategy that involves taking care of grandmother/grandfather. that suits the child's needs. such as continuing to monitor the child with voice or video calls, monitoring the child's needs at that time, and every time the mother comes home from work, she must ask how the child's activities are during the day.¹⁵

According to the questionnaire analysis results, a significant number of respondents 23.6% said that they strongly agreed with the statement regarding the question, "Did your father/mother ask you to do more housework than your older sibling?" The statement also indicated that the respondent preferred to compare the siblings. child's personality and not treating their children equally. Those who strongly disagreed with the statement "Did your father/mother tell your older sibling to do the housework" constituted 43.6%, while those who disagreed with the statement "Do you make them do more housework than older brothers" constituted 36.4%. The researchers assume that there is a relationship between the age gap between children and the incidence of sibling rivalry because the age gap of children who are at risk will easily cause sibling rivalry.¹⁶ The age gap of children is at risk

because parents cannot cope well and cannot control well in providing treatment to their children. Sibling rivalry incidents will occur if the distance between brother and sister is < 2 years, this is planned by children also unable to control themselves with their younger siblings.¹⁷

Conclusion

Parents are expected to show the same level of affection for their children, educate them according to their developmental stage, implement a combination of parenting patterns according to the child's needs, and determine an optimal pregnancy gap of more than two years between children. We encourage parents to motivate children to look for ways to make things better. Parents just need to give their children time to process their feelings before they can forgive their siblings because children can forgive more quickly. make peace with the situation, respect each other, defend your rights, and ask permission if you want to borrow something. It is hoped that future researchers will carry out further research using other methods such as conducting health education so that picker parents know more about sibling rivalry. Future researchers could explore how to manage emotions when conflict occurs between siblings.

Conflict of Interest Declaration

The author has no conflict of interest to declare.

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