

## Parental Endorsement toward Children's Learning Disability

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**Abstract.** Students' learning ability and learning condition are varying in accordance with their academic learning ability and their learning condition. Children with learning disability are those who have difficulties in learning process caused by obstacles from development or environmental aspects, e.g. slow learner, difable, ADD/ADHD, learning disability (dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculic), etc. They require endorsement from their family primarily from their parents and teachers in order to be able to improve their self-abilities and learn maximally. Social endorsement from their parents is in the form of emotional, informative, appreciation, and instrumental endorsement. Emotional endorsement would be in the form of affection, attention, acceptance, and understanding. Informative endorsement covers information retrieval, broaden knowledge, reference, therapy learning, and some other things related to the types of difficulty. Reward endorsement covers feedback, advice, suggestion, motivation, praise, reward, and gift. Instrumental endorsement includes infrastructure, fund, and children's requirement fulfillment.

**Keywords:** parental endorsement, children learning disability.

### Introduction

During the process of teaching and learning, there will be shown gradation of students' ability or the level of students' ability. There will be students with high, medium, and low competence. It is shown on the students' grade or achievement. A student who has high score will have a good competence and he or she has no obstacle in learning, while a student with the middle score might have average potency. However, a student who has high score might have certain obstacle in learning, while a low-score student certainly has low potency as well as a student with high or average potency could have obstacle in her or his life. This kind of student with certain obstacle in learning is called children with learning difficulties.

According to Department of Education, children with learning disability are children who have difficulty in his/her school (academically) because of the obstacle on reading, writing, or calculating. Therefore, this kind of children could not reach maximum achievement even though he/she has an average or high IQ. Student with learning difficulty covers difable, talented child who gets underachiever, child who get developmental disorder such as child with emotional disorder, slow learner, child with special needs, learning disability, and neglected child (Mahastuti, 2015). In fact, there might be more than 50% students with learning disability.

This excessive amount of children with learning disability causes students with the quality of low academic achiever to raise amount of jobless people and the quality of human resources. Based on personal point of view, child with learning difficulty would have many obstacles, barriers, and weaknesses during learning process at school. This would burden them and become a big stressor which gives bad effect on their physical and psychical health. We can see an example from a slow learner who has an obstacle during the process of learning because of less cognitive ability and low capability of understanding. This could make the student feels difficult to understand and absorb the lesson. This kind of difficulty makes the student gets bad score and even fail.

A child with learning difficulty do needs parental endorsement. This kind of endorsement covers emotional, informative, instrumental, and award. Social endorsement is the composite of social, emotional, cognitive, and behavior which are on private relationship where somebody got help to do adaptation on the problem face (Dalton. 2001). Family as the children's first domain to learn and introduce environment as well as learn life education related to the simple to the complex one. Nuclear family consists of father, mother, and child. In this case, parent place an important role in developing child's life. A good relationship between parent and children significantly gives pleasant and self-confidence toward children. However, parent who has less understanding of their children would prosecute strictly, compare to the other children, and they would not understand their children's potency.

## **Review Of Related Literature**

### ***Children with Learning Disability***

Children with learning disability is children who have obstacle(s) in their learning process. Hallahan and Kaufman (1998) stated that children with learning disability is a group of children with average or high level of IQ who have difficulties on one of their learning aspects, e.g.: dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculic, etc. This is same as what stated by The United States Office of Education (Mahastuti, 2015) that children with learning disability is kind of disorder in one or more psychological base process covers understanding of spoken and written languages. It is measlessed in the form of listening, thinking, speaking, reading, writing, spelling, or calculating difficulties. The scope covers; perceptual disorder, brain damage, dyslexia, aphasia. It is not consist of learning problem caused by vision disturbances, hearing impairment, emotional disorder, or poverty on environment, culture, and economy.

In Indonesia, learning disability as defined by Department of Education stated that children with learning disability is children who have difficulties in the process of learning at school caused by the obstacles on reading, writing, and counting. That students cannot reach maximum achievement even though their IQ are high or average. The National Joint Committee for Learning Disability (Halahan and Kaufamna, 1998). The difficulties are manifested in the form of real disability like listening, speaking, reading, writing, reasoning, or mathematical ability. This kind of disability might be caused by central nerve disfunction. Here is a scheme of children with learning disability.

Today's special school is only for unintelligence student and high intelligence student. However, slow learner children and learning disability children, still, have no special school. They learn together with other students in public schools or inclusive schools. Slow learner and learning disability students need special treatment related to their learning problems. Remedial teaching is one of effective learning method for them.

### ***Parental Endorsement***

Parental endorsement is a support given by parents to their children in the form of social endorsement. Dalton (2001) stated that social endorsement is a composite of social, emotional, cognitive, and behavior process on a relationship at which person got help to face to adapt their problems. Sheridan and Radmacher (1992) also stated that endorsement given from other people through social interaction such as instrumental support, informational support and self-esteem support. Hause (Mahastuti, 2015) differenciated four types of social endorsement; emotional support (empathy and attention), appreciation (positive expression, motivation, support the idea or feeling, positive proportion to increase self-confidence), instrumental support (direct help), and informative support (advice, direction, suggestion, or feedback).

People who get high social endorsement would have positive things in their life, high self-esteem, better self-concept, and low anxiety status. In addition, these people are optimist to face their life because they believe in their capability to manage any situation better than people with low social endorsement. People with low social endorsement tend to be dissatisfied with their life (Sarason at al., 1983).

This kind of social endorsement could be derived from father and mother. As what Hause (Cohen Syme, 1985) stated that forms of parental endorsement are:

1. Emotional support. Parent is able to accept their children's condition and ability. They believe in their children, understanding them, motivate and support them to do the best.
2. Informative support. It includes direction and advice given to their children.
3. Instrumental support. Means and resources are given to children in order to be able to develop maximally, help their difficulties, and self-support them.
4. Appreciation support. Children are given appreciation for their achievement, feedback, and control for their behavior, for example warn them if they do something wrong.
5. Murtini (in Mahastuti, 2004) stated that parental endorsement in the form of love and affection shown by nurse and educate attitude come with parent's hope toward their children. This hope define parents' attitude in treating their children, including their target onto the =ir children in which they cannot do that somehow.

## Discussion

Parents' participation plays an important role toward children's learning process and achievement. Baker and Stevenson's research showed that role or participation of parents gives positive impact toward teacher's assessment. Parents give contribution to define children's initiative and structured activity at home for supporting academical programs at school (as in Indonesia). Besides, it is stated that parent's communication network is very important in determining students' success.

Parent who pay less attention toward their children's education might cause their children's fail in learning, for example frigidly on their children's learning process and school equipment, ignorance on their children's learning time and learning improvement, ignorance on their children's difficulties in learning, etc. The result showed that learning achievement would not satisfying even fail. This could be happen on the family with indifferent parent (Slameto, 1995). On the other hand, treat children spoiledly is not a good way of teaching. Parent who pity their children do not support their children to learn, give excuse to leave children's duties, are not a good way of teaching. It may grow irresponsible children with learning chaos and confusion.

However, teaching children rudely, force them to study, is also inappropriate way of teaching. This may cause students scared and hate to learn. Sometime this scary could be a serious thing and children may get mental disorder. This type of parent commonly want their children get the best achievement, or they actually know that their children are disable but they do not know what kind of disability this is, so they are forced to overcome their own problems.

One of the parents' role in children's success is giving full attention especially toward their children's learning activities at home. This kind of attention gives psychological influence toward children's learning activities, then children would have more spirit to learn because they know that their parents want them to be success.

Parents' attitude in paying attention toward the children's activities is very important due to ease of transferring knowledge on the teaching and learning process. In addition, it is effective for supporting their learning achievements. Another form of parents' attention is giving guidance and advice, learning control, motivation and appreciation, and also learning facilities fulfillment. Giving guidance and advice drive children to have good idealism, controlling learning activities is due to train children to have such discipline, giving motivation and appreciation is done to support children to learn and being success, while learning facilities fulfillment is important to strength children in having good idealism.

Parent's role in developing children's achievement are; 1. give self-enthusiasm on the importance of education for the future, 2. as the facilitator on every activity, 3. as the source of knowledge within the family, 3. motivate children to improve their achievement, 5. as consulting place, 6. give clear direction for their future. Therefore, the improvement of their learning achievement at school will be better. Giving duty could train them to be responsible for themselves and other people. Lack of parent's role and

attention could make their children feels indifference, useless, and even blame other people for their fault. Children with less support from their parents consider their parents for being ignorance and tend to give gap among them.

Santrock (2002) stated that parents who have children with special needs must always have good cooperation with school, especially in supporting the teachers. Some steps for parents are asking and discussing their children's progress in the class, doing teacher's program at home, controlling children's attitude at school, helping children's tasks, and supporting children to be independent.

## Conclusion

Common problem for parents in supporting their children is caused by their business for earning money. They excuse for helping their children's tasks. They have not enough time to guide their children. In addition, human resource becomes a barrier to improve children's achievement such as parents' level of education. They have not enough skill to assist their children because most of them live in inland or developing area.

Parents' role should be earlier applied to their children due to improve their achievement that would make them become independent and responsible. Any difficulties could be solved by parents' support. They should train their children to be discipline to reach success. Independence does not mean ignoring people's support, but it is a step to do everything by relies on their selves under support from other people.

Those explanations are supported by Pomerantz and Eaton (2001) who stated that motivation and support from mother gives effect on academic achievement of low achiever. Thus, the result of Mahastuti's research showed that parents' social endorsement is significantly related to slow learner's adaptation.

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