

Parental Goals and Perspectives on Childhood Education among the Orang Asli Community of Kampung Kachau Luar, Semenyih

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Abstract

This studies was conducted under a visit program to the Orang Asli settlement of Kampung Kachau Luar Semenyih, Selangor Darul Ehsan, aims to survey the Orang Asli Parents view towards ensuring their children's education, hence improving their performance in school. Data for this studies are acquired through a meetings with a total of four Orang Asli parents as the subject, utilizing methods such as interviews and observation checklist as data collecting tools. In-depth interviews and observation checklist are conducted to obtain critical data from the Orang Asli parents. Data from the interview and observations checklist were analyzed and categorized according to arising theme. A research were then made on the data from the interview and observation checklist to verify the authenticity and credibility of the findings. The key findings of the studies shows that Orang Asli parents have aspiration and goals for their children. They also stated that they played a role in their childrens educational activities at school and that they have taken steps to ensure that their childrens do well in schools. This shows that parents who have a clear goals for their childrens education are vital to improve performance and reduce dropout.

Keywords: Orang Asli Parents, Childrens, Objectives, Educations, Parental Perspective

Received: 13 March 2018; Accepted: 24 August 2018

1. Introduction

The Orang Asli community is a widespread entity in the Malaysian Peninsular with the exceptions of Perlis and Penang Island. The states with the largest populations include Pahang, followed by Perak, Kelantan, Selangor, Johor etc (JKKN). According to official data, the Orang Asli can be classified into three main group. The major group are the HNO-linguistic group, which includes Senoi, Proto-Malay and Negrito, each comprises of several dialectic clusters. Concentrated Orang Asli community were selected based on their ethnical group; the Senoi group that resides in Perak and Pahang, the Proto-Malay in Pahang, Johor, Negeri Sembilan and Selangor, and the Negrito in Kelantan, Perak and Pahang.

These days, the educational performance among Orang Asli children are very low in comparison to the performance of other Malaysians [1]. This high rate of dropout among the Orang Asli children have become a serious issue in the Malaysian Peninsular. There are a number of Orang Asli parents that have a cynical view on the role of educations in transforming their social mobility and they are reluctant in accepting that formal education may help in improving their quality of life [2].

An active, continuous effort has been done by the government to ensure that the Orang Asli community are not being left out from the mainstream education flow. However, the effort of educating the Orang Asli People needs to be emphasis from an earlier age in order to expose them to the teaching and learning process. This is in line with UNESCO's proposition under the *UNESCO's Division of Basic Education Early Childhood* which introduces early education to the children's of Orang Asli community without erasing their cultural identity [3].

Educational development is believed to be able to strengthen and transform the social, political, and economic system of a state to a stage of being feared by other nations [2]. In Malaysia, for example, the education system development were done with the intention of creating a World Class human capital that is capable to face the challenge of the globalization era [4]. The rapid effect of globalization that results from the speed of technological development and information network has a significant impact on the educational system on primary, secondary and tertiary level [5]. Primary and secondary level educations is a basis in which one can achieve University level education. UNESCO's Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education's Director Shaeffer [4] stated that equal and widespread opportunity for education need to be provided to children of Orang Asli people so they can acquire

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DOI: 10.27512/sjppi-ukm/ses/a24082018

education that focused on basic education that can overcome the current world issues and challenge.

Education played an important role in humans' life, and it has even started since birth, even if it's just in the forms of socialization or the learning of roles and societal values. It may even inspire transformations, either a huge change that includes all aspects of life or individual changes. Through education, a person may understand things more, and it may even form a great personality. Education is also able to transform a traditional person into a modern individual; it is the most effective in transforming a person.

Other contributing factors in the drops of educational performance are parents' indifferent attitude towards the importance of education for their children. This attitude towards educations leads to their children having a mindset that they don't need tertiary education [6]. According to data from JAKOA, various strategy and program have been put in motion by the Malaysian government to improve the educational performance of children of Orang Asli people, and this includes Motivational/Excellence Program for UPSR, PMR, SPM and STPM examination, Program Skor A, Program Mesra Didik, Study Tours and other programs that lean towards human capital development among Orang Asli Children. In Malaysia, efforts towards educational development for the Orang Asli has been an ongoing process even since the colonial time. For Example, the Ministry of Education Malaysia, in collaboration with the Department of Orang Asli Affairs (JHEOA) were responsible in the advancement of the Orang Asli community from the educational point of view. Even though academic excellence are still low among them, there's been a handful of them that succeeded in pursuing their education all the way to university in various level of studies and even went on to venture into various career option. To date, there are 25 Orang Asli students who further their studies abroad including nine in United Kingdom, eight in Australia and two in India [7].

This research aims to study the goal determining and perspectives factors that contributes or hinders the process of human capital development among the Orang Asli youth. It is based on the interviews and observation checklist method conducted at the Orang Asli community settlement in Kampung Kachau Luar Semenyih, Selangor Darul Ehsan. According to data from JAKOA there are a total of 27 families that still reside in the Kampung Kachau Luar Semenyih vicinity. There are multiple factors, internal or external, that could affect the academic goals of Orang Asli Parents towards their children. This studies focused mainly on identifying the determining of education goals and parental role among Orang Asli that may affect their children's academic excellence in school.

2. Literature Review

There's a number of past studies that shows the importance of parental role as the key component in their children's learning. The discussion mainly focuses on the positive correlation between parental involvement and student academic excellence. When parents reinforce what

their children learnt from school, their children achieved better grades, have better attendance record, were able to finish their homework as well as exhibiting better behaviour, manage to finish their studies can have a better chance of furthering their studies into higher level [8]. Children whose parents actively attends activities organized by their school authorities and are always in contact with their children's teacher shows a better academic performance in comparison to their peers whose parents are less active in school activities [9-11]. Parental involvement is a key factor in ensuring their children's academic excellence [8].

Based on past studies, policy maker, educators and scholars agreed that a partnership between families and school can enrich the students academic experience [12-14]. This indicates that aside from continuous parental involvement, parents should also set a certain goal towards their children's education. Past studies shows that students whose parents maintain a productive connection with the children's educator excels academically compared to those whose parents did not maintain a productive connection with their teacher [15]. This indicates that parent involvement in student's learning process are an important aspect that demands serious attention. Besides that, the relationship between parents and educator also played a vital role in student's academic excellence [16,17]. This is because higher level of involvement by parents are closely related to a better reading skills in children, their social development and may positively impact their children's development since they are getting education at home. [18,19].

Studies have shown that there's a need for parent-teacher collaboration in educating students [15,20]. These days, it has been universally accepted that both parent and teacher have a shared responsibility in educating children and this partnership are vital in ensuring students' excellence in school [13]. However, the involvement and consensus from the general public are just as vital to make sure that every school programs and activity can be run smoothly. School authorities need to prepare program and plan activities without neglecting the attitude and sensitivity of parents as well as the community in general. This is to create a learning experience that can be easily understood by the children based on the knowledge, skills and talents possessed by the member of the community. Human capitals are expected to be owned by every community and are unique to a particular environment, as cited by Briggs et al. [21].

3. Problem Statement

Interest in learning among the Orang Asli children are very low. This is also caused by environmental factors such as parents who pay little attention to their children. Inequal education opportunity for Orang Asli children are also caused by lack of knowledge on their parents part, which make it difficult for them to learn at home. Furthermore, their daily lives, which still revolves mainly around and in the forest, in a way may have motivated their children to

drop out of school in order for them to be able to assist their parents to work in the forest. Their socio-economic status would then create a gap in their education.

4. Conceptual Framework of Studies

These studies use a conceptual framework, the design of this framework was used to generate a problem statement, research questions, data collection and analysis technique, as well as a method to interpret the research findings [22]. Hence, the conceptual framework of studies are built based on an adaptation from the education model for New Zealand Indigenous community (Maori) which is a

GPILSEO model [23]. The conceptual framework of this studies are based on seven aspects which is goals, pedagogy, institutions, leadership, dissemination, evident and ownership. However, this studies focus mainly on the aspect of goals, which is discussed from the perspectives of Orang Asli parents towards their children; in terms of their aspirations towards their future, the measures they've taken to secure their child's academic success, as well as their involvement in their child's activities either at home or school so that their children can realize their ambition or earn a good career . Figure 1 below shows the conceptual framework of this studies.

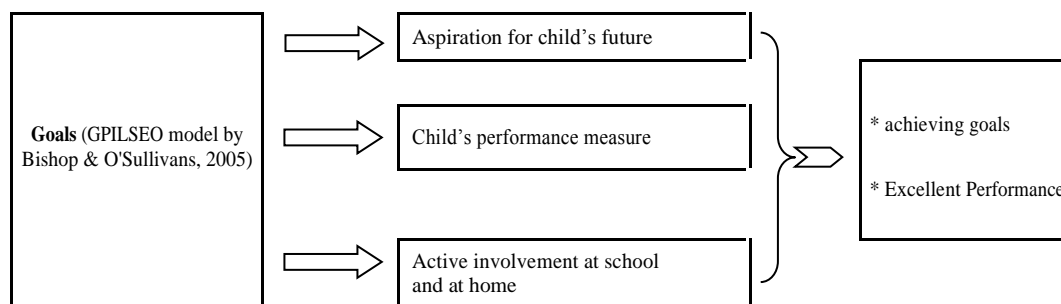


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework of Studies

5. Study's Purpose

The Purpose of this studies is to view and identify the goal determination from a parental perspective among the Orang Asli community as well as the measures that need to be taken to transform the children into an academically excellent student. This studies also aims to observe the importance of parental role among the Orang Asli community in their children's formal school education.

6. Studies Methodology

This studies applied qualitative research design with case studies approach. The research design was selected based on the desire to comprehend [24]. According to Cooper and Schindler (2003), population is collection total from parts that we expect can make a decision in studies. A survey must not be done towards all population member, but enough by taking sample because finance process data collection and represent parts from population. Subject in this study is Kampung Kachau Luar Semenyih, Selangor Darul Ehsan. Sample from Orang Asli taken by relevant. Because researcher determining research method to obtain information that is relevant. Basis of selection carried out based on only respondent assured could give cooperation only. This is because there is also community there that quite timid and prejudice towards outsider on certain reasons.

The participants for this studies includes four Orang Asli parents from the Orang Asli settlement of Kampung Kachau Luar, Semenyih. The data collection process were carried by two methods; which is interview and observation checklist. Individual interview were carried out in order to obtain a more detailed data. General questions were also asked to the participants. To ensure the authenticity of the data collected as well as to avoid any pretence from the participants, data collection by observation checklist were carried out without structures. Throughout the observation process, tools such as questionnaires sheet, pen and video recorder were used to capture every situation during the program. To guarantee that the data collected were in line with the studies that were carried out, the implementation of this data collection process were carried out according to protocol prepared beforehand. The selection process for the participants using purposive sampling based on the assumption that the researcher wants to explore, discover and comprehend, resulting in a large number of respondents, thus improving the credibility of the research's findings [25]. A sample of four participants (designated as IB1, IB2, IB3, IB4) were selected for this studies, of which all of them gave consent to be interviewed. Table 2 below shows the details of each parents.

Table 2. *Background of Orang Asli Parents*

Participants	Gender	Age	Occupation
IB1	Female	28	Self-employed
IB2	Female	31	Self-employed
IB3	Female	41	Self-employed
IB4	Female	34	Self-employed

7. Results and Discussions

The result and discussion for this studies are based on an identified theme. The findings of the studies from the aspect of educational goals among the Orang Asli parents can be summarized according to the theme i) parents aspiration for their child's future, ii) the measure they've taken to ensure their child's academic success, iii) parents involvement in their child's activity and program both at home and at school. To summarise, almost all of the participants wished to see their children's excel academically, hence be able to pursue their dream. The transcript data from the interview session with the Orang Asli parents to understand their perspective on child education is as follows:

- IB1.** The Parents perspectives on her child's academic achievement are very good. She also encouraged her child to study with their neighbour when she is out working. She also consistently checked her child's exercise books to see if her children are having difficulty in her study as well as paying attention to their activity at school. She wishes for her children to become a doctor in the future.
- IB2.** This parent's perspective towards her children's education can be improved more so that her child can improve their academic performance in the future. She encouraged for her children to study, and punished her child with canning if they are being lazy. She's also actively involved with activity such as PTA and sports day. She wishes for her child to pursue a career as a doctor in the future.
- IB3.** The Orang Asli parent's view on her children's academic achievement is excellent. She also encouraged her child, by using the parents themselves as examples so that her child can strive for more. She also helps them in their studies and revisions while their aunt was also involved in teaching the children of Orang Asli community. She also participated in activities and program such as the PTA and sports day. Her aspiration for her child education is for them to be a police officer in the future.
- IB4.** The Orang Asli parent's view on her child academic achievement is very poor. She does however, encouraged for her child to study harder and helps her child with her limited knowledge. She wishes for her child to become a police officer in the future.

The interview transcript shows that the Orang Asli parents accepted education as a key element that may one day enable their children to reach their goal which is to pursue their desired career [26,27]. The Parents of the Orang Asli students' goal were set based on their observation and knowledge on the importance of educations. The results and findings of this studies justify the finding of the studies conducted by Ramle et al. [28] which stated that the Orang Asli parents viewed education as a key element for their children to pursue their desired career. The findings of this studies are also in line with past studies which stated that parental expectations and goals as an important aspect in children's achievement and supported by a statement that indicated a positive effect of parental expectations and goals in Asian cultures [29].

The study findings also show that the participants in the study also encourage their children to strive towards academic excellence by doing some things. Among them are providing for their children's school necessities. This shows the commitment of Orang Asli parents in improving their children's performance at school. Knollman et al. [30] on the other hand concluded that parents can further improve their children's ability to complete their homework by prioritizing the task and homework that was provided by the school, showing interest in their child's assignment, set up time and place for their children as well as checking their child's completed assignment. According to Conway [18] and Jeffrey [19], parental involvement is very closely related to superior children's reading skills, social development, better motor and adaptive, and may even have a very positive impact on students development since they are educator at home. The result of a study by Kanammah et al. (2015) shows that a child's learning development and habit are improved when their parents actively and continuously engaged with their education from an earlier stage, i.e. primary school. Active participation and support by the parents in this early stage may improve the learning potential of children by means of at-home learning.

8. Conclusion

The Goals and perspectives of Orang Asli parents are vital in ensuring the academic excellence of their children. Henceforth parental role in caring for their education are just as important in improving their performance at school. Aside from that, an active engagement from Orang Asli parents in matters relating to school activities and programs can also encourage their children to achieve the educational

goal set forth. The commitment and objectives of Orang Asli Parents is the key element in transforming their children into an excellent student in the future.

9. Reference

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