



The Role of Christian Parents in Developing Teenagers' Personalities

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Abstract: This research aims to explore the impact of parents on the formation of personality among teenagers aged 12-17 in the GPI Lorong Tujuh Youth community in 2018. There is a hypothesis that the role of Christian parents in this process may not be optimal. The method used is literature review, including books, the Bible, and other related literature. The analysis of this literature is expected to provide an overview of the role of parents in shaping teenage personality. From the literature review, there are several key roles of parents in shaping teenage personality in the GPI Lorong Tujuh Youth community in 2018. Parental responsibilities include, but are not limited to: acknowledging the child's gift as a blessing from God (Psalm 127:3), providing education and guidance both in worldly and spiritual aspects (Deuteronomy 31:11-31), setting a good example for the children (Colossians 3:21), and implementing appropriate discipline (Ephesians 6:4). Thus, parents are recognized as the primary agents in shaping the personalities of their children, having fundamental rights and responsibilities in education, especially in matters related to personal values.

Keywords: Christian Parents, Teenagers, Personalities.

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Introduction

In the era of globalization, influenced by advancements in various fields, especially in information technology and culture, has complex impacts on human life, including teenagers. Aside from bringing positive impacts, this transformation also presents significant negative effects on adolescent character and behavior. The increase in internet usage and video games among children and teenagers contributes to this phenomenon (Wahyuni, 2021). This is reflected in the emulation of various aspects of Western culture by teenagers, including dressing styles, lifestyles, and even in the formation of daily personalities. Currently, we often see many teenagers influenced by the lifestyles and behaviors of foreign celebrities. For example, the popular Korean style trend among teenagers. Indeed, idolizing is part of the adolescent identity-seeking process. However, it is regrettable that most of these imitation activities have negative impacts and can damage mental health and the formation of adolescent personalities. Sometimes what they emulate does not align with the norms and values upheld by society, including religious, social, and cultural values applicable in this country (Ariawan, 2020).

On the journey to maturity, teenagers need guidance and guidance from various parties, including parents, family, school teachers, churches, and other institutions that can help shape their personalities. In addition to the role of parents, teachers also play an important role in the education and development of children. They not only enhance the knowledge of students but can also be exemplary figures. If a teacher is respected, they can become role

models to be emulated by teenagers. Furthermore, interaction with peers also has a significant impact. Intelligent and enthusiastic peers can positively influence the interests and attitudes of teenagers, while association with unhealthy peers can indirectly damage personality formation. Therefore, guidance and guidance from all parties aim to shape a better teenage personality (Nababan, 2020).

Teenagers, as the future hope of the nation, are expected to lead with progress and prosperity for Indonesia. They should be agents of change and innovators driving global community progress, by demonstrating attitudes and behaviors in line with religious, moral, and national ethics. As Indonesian citizens, teenagers are also urged to preserve and respect traditional values, use polite language, show friendly and noble attitudes in accordance with the ideals of the nation, and have devotion to God, high dedication, and progressive attitudes, so they can be the hope of every parent and the entire nation (Marbun, 2022).

Teenagers are the hope for the church for a better future, where church service and testimony can thrive better, thus salvation in Christ can be expanded, and the kingdom of God can grow, which in turn will improve the quality of life of society. Therefore, it is important for teenagers to be equipped with the teachings of the Word of God so that they can safeguard themselves and have personalities that reflect Christian values.

For parents, children are a source of pride and hope for their families. Therefore, parents have a great responsibility to ensure

that their children grow into good teenagers. They realize that children are a gift from God, and therefore, they are grateful, nurturing, educating, and guiding their children to have good morals, which benefit not only themselves but also others. Adolescence is often considered a time when a person seeks their identity, and thus various problems often arise. This is a delicate period where teenagers tend to try new things without considering the consequences. Therefore, guidance and direction from parents are very important so that teenagers can take positive steps and not fall into harmful associations. Family education plays a key role in achieving this goal. The family is the smallest institution in society, and parents as the closest figures play a crucial role in providing guidance, education, direction, and nurturing to their children so that they can form good personalities, in accordance with the teachings of the Word of God, as mentioned in Psalm 119:9, stating that one can keep their way clean by holding fast to the word of God. Parents are the first foundation in child development in society. They play a key role in shaping a teenager. The love and support given by parents to their children are irreplaceable by anything else. Therefore, parents are not only expected to fulfill the physical needs of their children but also to lay the foundation for the development of personalities that allow children to grow into emotionally and mentally healthy individuals. As stated in Proverbs 29:17, "Discipline your children, and they will give you peace; they will bring you the delights you desire," and Proverbs 22:6, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it," it is clear that parents have an important responsibility in educating their children. They must provide attention, education, and continuous guidance to keep their children on the right path. As taught in Deuteronomy 6:6-7, "These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up," parents must be consistent in educating and guiding their children at every opportunity. Thus, parents play a primary role in shaping the personalities of their teenage children towards a better direction (Wahyuni, 2021).

Recently, society has become increasingly concerned about the increasing incidents of student brawls, drug abuse among teenagers, and various crimes involving adolescent children. For example, in September 2018, news on Trans7 reported four teenage boys involved in drug trafficking. Additionally, the author also found that in Siualuompu, North Tapanuli, many teenage girls follow foreign cultures by dressing immodestly, while teenage boys are involved in smoking habits, using foul language, behaving rudely, engaging in fights, showing apathetic attitudes, and displaying indifference to the obligation to help their parents and even opposing and disrespecting them. If indifference to negative behavior is not prevented, it is likely to continue without regard to the risks involved.

Based on the context of the issues mentioned, the author can identify several research problems that will be discussed in this thesis. In this research, the author will explore the roles of various parties involved in shaping teenage personality.

The home plays a primary role in shaping and improving teenage personality. Parents should view the household as an important university where father and mother act as professors. Parents can help develop teenage personality maturity through family worship practices and quality time together. The primary

task of parents is to facilitate the healthy development of all aspects of a child's personality in daily life. The church pays attention to comprehensive personality development. Church programs such as Sunday schools and youth groups can provide encouragement to meet spiritual needs. Teachers and church leaders can have a significant influence in shaping Christian personalities (Elsy, 2020).

Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers aim to shape the character and personality of students so that they are responsible in their faith. In schools, teenagers receive character guidance through teachers. Besides parents, teachers are one of the figures that have a significant influence on student development. The actions and behaviors of teachers have a significant impact on shaping teenage personality.

The environment in which one is raised is a very influential factor in personality formation. With the vastness of the teenage social environment, they are often exposed to various influences outside parental supervision. Peer environment also plays a crucial role in shaping teenage personality. Teenagers' daily interactions can influence their personalities, both positively and negatively. Peers, indirectly, can provide good or bad examples for teenage personality development.

From the various perspectives of experts above, several parties involved in shaping teenage personality can be identified, namely: 1) Parents, 2) School or Teachers, 3) Church, 4) Environment or Peers. It is important to remember that the roles of each of these parties complement and interact with each other in shaping teenage personality. The aim of this research is to identify the extent of the influence of Christian Parents on the formation of the personalities of teenagers aged 12-15 years in the Youth GPI Lorong Tujuh in 2018.

Method

The researcher chose a descriptive quantitative research method for this study. This method is used to provide an overview or description of the research object through the collection of data from samples or populations, which are then processed, analyzed using statistical techniques, and conclusions drawn. The research was conducted in the Youth GPI Lorong Tujuh. The reason for choosing this location is because it is considered a suitable place to collect the necessary data. Additionally, the topic to be investigated has not been previously explored in the church, so the author was interested in conducting this research. The research implementation time was planned for October 2018. The population refers to the entire research subjects. In this context, the population of this research is teenagers aged 12-17 years from the Youth GPI Lorong Tujuh in 2018. Based on expert views, when the number of research subjects is less than 100 people, it is possible to take all of these subjects as samples, which essentially constitute the population. Therefore, the researcher chose to include the entire population consisting of 32 people as the data source in this study.

Result and Discussion

Role is the part played by an individual and the effort to perform one's role well. Role is also a function or task that must be carried out. The experts stated that role comes from the word 'peran' which means the part played by someone that is a duty. Therefore, role can be interpreted as the effort undertaken by an individual to fulfill a task or activity. Role is a series of interrelated

behaviors, performed in a specific context, and aimed at promoting behavior and child development (de Wet, 2014).

Based on these views, it can be concluded that a role is an action or effort undertaken by an individual to fulfill duties and responsibilities with beneficial goals. Thus, a role is an activity or task that must be carried out by someone to achieve a specific goal, which in turn will influence the expected development of a child and is reflected in their behavior.

In general, parents refer to older or adult individuals. In the family context, parents refer to the father and mother who are responsible for the birth, care, and growth of children. Parents have a very strong influence in a child's life. They are primarily responsible for shaping their children's character and have the basic rights and responsibilities to be directly involved in their education, especially in the moral values taught. Parents are God's representatives in the world responsible for shaping the will, thoughts, and feelings within the child. Thus, the child will be ready to unite with God at the right time (Purniasih, 2022).

Christian parents have an important role as guides for their children in life. Without the guidance and education provided by the family, children will lose their way. The family is an inseparable fellowship between children and parents, which is a blessing from God. Life in a Christian family is a tangible manifestation of God's salvation work, where each family member surrenders to Jesus Christ and is guided by the Holy Spirit (Cameron & Swezey, 2015).

The relationship between family members is a very close bond, filled with attention and affection for one another. Therefore, Christian parents have a responsibility to teach and guide their children in understanding the word of God. The unity between father and mother in educating and guiding their children is a strong foundation for the family. Therefore, it is important to have a husband and wife who see that the formation of a child's character is influenced by the heritage of traits and talents from parents, as well as the environment in which the child grows and develops.

From the above description, it can be concluded that Christian parents have a very important role as representatives of God in nurturing, teaching, and educating their children. As parents, they have the primary responsibility to instill values that are in line with Christian teachings.

Being a parent is not an easy task, as it carries a burden of duties and responsibilities that must be carried out earnestly. Christian parents are expected to strive hard in educating and nurturing their children. In line with this, it was stated that the task of Christian parents is to teach their children according to the teachings and advice of God, and to be responsible for discipline, education, and all interactions within the family environment. A child's first interaction with their family environment, especially between parents and children, forms the basis of the social relationships they will have with society later on. The primary task of parents is to educate their children in faith and to fully rely on God." Thus, a task is a job that someone is responsible for, especially for parents. As family leaders, parents are responsible for educating their children with the principles and teachings of God. This teaching and education task is very important, with the hope that children will grow into individuals who have a deep

understanding of God's love embodied in Jesus Christ (de Beer, 2014).

The responsibility of parents consists of several things, including:

1. Acknowledging that children are a blessing from God (Psalms 127:3).
2. Being responsible for educating and teaching their children in worldly and spiritual aspects (Deuteronomy 31:11-31).
3. Setting an example for their children in every action (Colossians 3:21).
4. Ensuring that children receive appropriate discipline (Ephesians 6:4).

The primary responsibility of parents is to educate their children holistically, with the main goal of raising children who have righteous character, so that God may be glorified. Children are God's gift that must not only be raised but also are entrusted by God. Later, God will demand accountability from parents regarding how they raised their children. Therefore, parents who appreciate and accept the presence of their children will help them in their personality development.

From the above opinions, it can be concluded that parents must not neglect their duties and responsibilities in teaching, guiding, and educating their children according to the teachings and advice of the Word of God, in order to foster faith in God. Additionally, parents also have full responsibility for their children to educate them in discipline and provide good examples to follow, thus forming a personality that reflects Christian values.

Building is the act of establishing, constructing, nurturing, developing, and perfecting." Thus, building is a task or effort undertaken by responsible individuals, with the aim of fostering awareness to achieve an expected goal. Building is the act of establishing, constructing, and striving to improve quality. Therefore, building is an effort, action, and activity performed effectively and efficiently to achieve optimal results. A builder is an individual who carries out the act of building, and building refers to the process, method, or action of building (Mckinley, 2015).

Fundamentally, the human soul is divided into two aspects: ability and personality. It is important to understand and study personality because it is closely related to how a person is accepted by their social environment. Individuals with personalities that align with the norms prevailing in their society tend to be well accepted. Conversely, if someone's personality is not in line, especially if it contradicts prevailing norms, rejection from their surroundings may occur. Personality is a combination of unique patterns of thinking, emotions, and behaviors for each individual. This personality determines a person's personal style and influences how they interact with their environment.

Personality is a combination of characteristics and behaviors unique to each individual, distinguishing them from others. This personality includes the integration of characteristics from various structures, behavior patterns, interests, attitudes, abilities, and potentials recognizable by others. Personality is the result of the unity between an individual's spiritual and physical aspects, shaping consistency in their behavior and actions. Thus, various aspects of a person's personality influence how a teenager acts or behaves in their environment, which can be recognized by others.

Personality has dynamic qualities referred to as personal dynamics. Based on this dynamics, personality can grow and develop, thus can be shaped or influenced by external factors. Personality is not static or unchanging but dynamic, and is also influenced by the physical and psychological factors of the individual.

During adolescence, there is significant personality development where teenagers begin to seek new identities for themselves. Adolescence is considered a crucial period. Teenagers are active in seeking new identities because they feel pulled in various directions by parents and peers. In the effort to find a more mature identity, teenagers experiment with various roles and identities, testing their self-image, and seeking a personality that corresponds to the maturity they desire. During adolescence, personality development marks moments when teenagers want to find their identity. They question themselves about their meaning in the eyes of others, who they really are, and what they will become in the future. These questions involve thoughts about their origins and life directions. In early adolescence (12-15 years old), individuals experience a critical period in handling their identity crisis. This period is greatly influenced by the psycho-social conditions they face, which will ultimately shape their personality.

From the previous analysis, it can be concluded that in early adolescence (12-15 years old), individuals experience an identity crisis where they seek their true identity. In the effort to find this identity, teenagers often experience role confusion due to significant physical, emotional, social, and cognitive developments. As a result, they may exhibit unstable behavior and seek attention from others. In this stage of identity searching, the role of parents becomes crucial as figures close to teenagers to guide them in finding their identity. Therefore, sincerely, parents can help build and guide their children in the journey of finding identity (Key, 2015).

Adolescent personality has a significant impact on the environment in which they live because they are the nation's future generation and play a crucial role in realizing the nation's aspirations and hopes. The living environment also plays a significant role in shaping adolescent personality. Without interaction with the surrounding community, a person's personality cannot develop optimally. Some factors influencing adolescent personality include:

a. Internal Factors:

Internal factors refer to influences that originate from within the individual themselves. This may include genetic or innate factors present since birth and is the result of inherited traits from one or both parents, or it could be a combination of both.

b. External Factors:

External factors are influences that come from the individual's surrounding environment, ranging from the immediate environment such as family, friends, and neighbors, to the influence of various mass media.

Changes in personality do not occur suddenly but as a result of a maturation process, life experiences, pressures from the social environment, culture, and the individual's internal factors. Several factors influence personality changes, including:

1. Early Experiences: Focus on childhood experiences is crucial in shaping personality. Traumatic experiences such as childbirth and separation from parents can have lasting effects.
2. Cultural Influence: The culture in which a child is raised plays a significant role in shaping behavioral patterns and personal values.
3. Physical Conditions: An individual's physical condition not only affects their abilities but also how they perceive themselves and interact with their surroundings.
4. Attractiveness: Social judgments of someone's attractiveness also affect their personality development. Those perceived as attractive tend to have more social opportunities and support.
5. Intelligence: How others respond to someone's intelligence also influences them. Excessive emphasis on intelligence can affect someone's behavior and social interaction.
6. Emotions: Healthy emotion management and appropriate expression are crucial for mature personality development. Emotional imbalance can affect social interaction and overall well-being.
7. Name: Although seemingly trivial, a person's name can influence their self-concept, especially if the name is associated with someone meaningful in their life.
8. Success and Failure: Success and failure in life also shape a person's self-perception. Failure can cause self-doubt, while success can boost confidence.
9. Social Acceptance: Being accepted in social groups can shape someone's confidence and identity.
10. Family Influence: Family plays a fundamental role in shaping a child's personality. The family environment is where social values and norms are taught and practiced.
11. Physical Changes: Physical changes experienced by an individual can also affect their self-perception and social interaction.

Based on the above description, it can be concluded that a child's personality is influenced by two main factors: internal factors within the child themselves and external factors from their surrounding environment, including family, friends, neighbors, and media. The role of parents in shaping adolescent personality is significant because the home or family environment is the first place where children begin to form thought patterns and behaviors. The more adept parents are in fulfilling various roles, the greater their influence in shaping adolescent personality.

Guidance is carried out comprehensively and encompassingly, encompassing all aspects of life, not only the spiritual but also the physical. Christian parents acknowledge the importance of their role in nurturing adolescent personalities and make various efforts to ensure positive development. The importance of applying discipline consistently, highlighting religious teachings, demonstrating sincerity, and setting an example of God's love. The importance of keeping communication channels open with adolescents and providing guidance through advice. It was recommended an approach that includes the application of consistent discipline to reinforce obedience to rules, building a close and open relationship as a friend and partner for adolescents.

From the above opinions, the author concludes that the role of parents in terms of involvement and effort in nurturing adolescent personalities includes:

1. Implementing Consistent Discipline

If parents truly love their children, they must also discipline them. This is in line with the Proverbs of Solomon, which states that "Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them" (Proverbs 13:24). Because sometimes, words alone are not enough to educate children, and even if they understand, they may not pay attention (Proverbs 29:19). Therefore, the timely use of reprimands and the rod brings wisdom, so that children will not bring shame to their parents and can improve their behavior (Proverbs 29:15; 22:15; 20:30). For, the Lord Himself loves and disciplines every child He considers (Hebrews 12:6-7). Furthermore, Ephesians 6:4 emphasizes that parents must educate their children according to the teachings and advice of the Lord. The main function of discipline is to teach children to control themselves easily and to respect and obey authority. Discipline must be firm in setting boundaries between what is allowed and what is not. Parents, especially mothers, must be firm in instilling discipline for the future good of their children. True love does not show weakness of heart but is willing to give praise at the right time, and if necessary, be prepared to use reprimands. If children are raised without wise discipline, they may struggle to control themselves and obtain directionless freedom (Simatupang, 2022).

From this description, it is emphasized that parents must implement discipline consistently for children to comply with the rules. This discipline must be balanced, with love accompanying discipline because discipline without love can be considered cruel, and love without discipline can lead to indifferent or even disrespectful behavior towards parents, which is part of adolescent personality. Therefore, parents can impose sanctions if children continue to rebel and resist after being taught and advised.

2. Teaching the Word of God

Personality changes towards maturity like Christ can occur through absorbing the characteristics of Christ when one fellowships or worships with Him (2 Timothy 3:16; 1 Timothy 4:8). The intellectual ability alone is not enough to guide a child's personality growth because children have spiritual needs that must also be met, which in turn positively impacts their character and moral development. By teaching the Word of God, parents bring their children closer to a life led by the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Jesus is an unlimited source of power, and one of His most remarkable works is the renewal of someone's character and attitude. Therefore, teaching the Word of God must be an integral part of parents' daily lives, following the Bible's command to teach children in the Word of God so that they and their families may be blessed (Deuteronomy 11:19), in line with the great mission given by the Lord Jesus to every believer to teach everything He commands (Matthew 28:20).

Parents who pay attention to the spiritual needs of their children educate them in the teachings and advice of the Lord through prayer, reading the Bible together, and spending quiet time together. Through this process, adolescents' knowledge of the truth of God's Word grows, and they begin to understand God's will in their lives, which in turn enriches and perfects their personalities.

From this, it can be concluded that a close relationship with God leads adolescents to trust God, and this brings about real personality renewal in fellowship with Christ.

3. Demonstrating Sincerity and Open Witness

Romans 12:9 teaches about the importance of sincerity in love, as demonstrated by a poor widow who gave an offering to the Lord, as recounted in Mark 12:41-44. Parents are expected to act sincerely in educating and teaching their adolescent children, so that their efforts in nurturing children will be blessed. Building openness between parents and children is a key element. Children always want to hear stories from their parents, including their childhood experiences. In this open and trusting atmosphere, adolescent children feel comfortable asking about anything they want to know. With this openness, the relationship between parents and adolescent children can become closer and deeper, similar to the relationship between friends.

To help adolescents experiencing problems, parents are expected to provide assistance sincerely and with purity of heart. Adolescents need to feel that their helpers are truly willing to help unconditionally. For the helper, which in this context is the parent, assisting adolescents must be done selflessly. Christian parents have a responsibility to guide their children to know God as their Creator and become citizens of His kingdom. When adolescent children face problems in their social life, parents' primary task is to provide emotional, social, and spiritual support so that children can overcome these problems. Parents can also help children realize their mistakes and errors through understanding dialogues, not through quarrels or anger.

Adolescents expect parents to convey unpleasant things honestly. Mistakes are acknowledged as mistakes, truths are acknowledged as truths. Thus, parents can help adolescent children realize their mistakes and errors, and understand the behaviors they should exhibit.

4. Parents as Examples of God's Love

Parents' personalities are transmitted to children through the absorption of the values, attitudes, and outlook on life of those parents, which are then internalized by the children. The example set by parents has a greater impact than mere words of advice. As conveyed in Titus 2:7, we are urged to set ourselves as examples in good behavior, and to teach earnestly. Similarly, in Matthew 5:16, parents are asked to be examples for their children, so that their good behavior glorifies God and inspires their children. Thus, adolescents will not be looked down upon by anyone because of their good behavior, such as love, loyalty, obedience, and words that are in line with God's will.

The example of parents in honesty, harmony, and spirituality is very important. When children expect parents to be examples or role models, but these expectations are not met, it can create a gap for adolescents to engage in unwanted actions. Moreover, the primary call of parents is to be examples in showing a genuine relationship with the living God.

Conclusion

Teenagers are increasingly influenced by Western cultures, often adopting lifestyles and behaviors that may conflict with societal and religious values, leading to identity crises and negative personality traits. Essential in nurturing and guiding children,

instilling values, and providing discipline. They act as role models, ensuring children grow with a strong moral foundation. Important in both educational and moral development, serving as role models and influencers of positive behavior. Offers spiritual guidance and activities that promote moral and character development. Have a significant influence, with positive peers promoting good

Implementing consistent discipline to instill respect and self-control. Integrating spiritual teachings into daily life to guide children towards a life led by the Holy Spirit. Building an open, trusting relationship with children to help them navigate challenges and understand their mistakes. Demonstrating God's love through actions, setting an example of good behavior, and fostering a genuine relationship with God. Family, social interactions, and media exposure shaping behavior and personality.

Adolescents face identity crises and behavioral instability. Effective parental guidance, supported by teachers and the church, is crucial in steering them towards positive development. Consistent discipline, spiritual education, open communication, and exemplary behavior from parents are key strategies for nurturing well-rounded, morally sound adolescents. The finding highlights the intertwined roles of family, education, and religious institutions in shaping adolescent personalities amidst the challenges posed by globalization and cultural influences. Parents, as primary influencers, must balance discipline with love and spiritual guidance to foster the development of well-adjusted, morally grounded individuals.

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