Peer Friendship and the Establishment of Children's Behavior in Family Life

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A R T I C L E   I N F O

A B S T R A C T

Peer friendships have a significant influence in shaping children's behavior, both in the social and family life. Adolescence is when children begin to develop more intense social relationships with peers, which often influence the values and norms they bring into family life. Peers can be a source of both positive and negative influence, depending on the type of social group a child joins. Healthy and supportive associations can reinforce positive behaviors and family values, while negative influences from peers can cause conflict within the family, especially when the child adopts behaviors that go against household rules. This study aims to understand how much peer friendship plays a role in shaping children's behaviors that are brought into the family and how these social interactions affect the relationship dynamics between children and parents. The results show that interactions with peers greatly influence the way children behave and respond to the norms that exist in the family, thus requiring parental supervision and involvement in managing children's social relationships. Positive peer influence can strengthen family values, while negative influence can create tension in the family. Fostering good communication and understanding children's social dynamics, parents can help children manage their relationships and maintain harmony in the family.

INTRODUCTION

Peer friendship is an important aspect of children's social development. Children are greatly influenced by their peers when they are growing up, both in terms of attitudes, mindsets, and the values they espouse. The process of interacting with peers often shapes children's worldview about social norms, self-confidence, and the way they behave in various situations (Wentzel & Muenks, 2016). Peers provide a space for children to learn about how to interact with others outside the family, which can enrich their social experience (Scholte & van Aken, 2007).

Peer groups can also have a negative impact, such as pressure to follow behaviors that are not in line with family values, which can damage relationships and norms in the household. Peer friendships can also have a positive impact on children's development, especially when they hang out with groups of friends that support healthy personal development (Baruah & Boruah, 2016). Peers who share positive values, such as honesty, discipline, and a sense of responsibility, can strengthen children's character and improve their behavior in the family. Children associate with friend groups that lead to destructive or negative behavior, such as delinquency or rebellious attitudes, the values brought into the family can be problematic. It is important to understand the dynamics of children's social relationships with peers, as this plays a major role in shaping how they interact and behave in the family environment.

One of the main problems that arise due to the influence of peer friendship on children's behavior in the family is the change in norms and values accepted by children. When children begin to be influenced by peer groups that have norms and values that are different from the values taught in the family, conflicts can arise (Buysse, 1997). Family values that emphasize discipline, respect, and responsibility are often questioned or even contradicted by children when they associate with friends who are more concerned with unlimited freedom or less responsible behavior (Brown & Bakken, 2011). This can affect the relationship between the child and the parents, as parents feel their child is beginning to act contrary to the expectations and rules that have been set in the family (Wentzel, 2003).

Peer friendship can also increase the risk of negative behaviors in children, such as juvenile delinquency, drug use, or engaging in violence. Peers often have a large influence in influencing a child's decision to follow certain behaviors, both positive and negative (Pfeifer & Berkman, 2018). Children are more likely to follow friends who engage in bad behavior, the impact of which can be very damaging, not only to the child themselves, but also to the family dynamic. Parents often struggle to control these influences, as children feel closer and more open with peers than with their parents (Peterson, 2005). Tensions and feelings of incomprehension within the family can make decrease in close emotional relationships between parents and children (von Salisch, 2001; Brown, 2004).

Peer friendship affects children's social and emotional development, which in turn impacts their relationship with their family. In adolescence, children tend to seek self-identity through interactions with peers, and their influence on children's behavior is strong. Parents may find it difficult to manage the difference in values between the child and the family if the influence of peers is not well understood, which can lead to tension in the household. Understanding these dynamics helps parents to more wisely manage their children's social interactions and strengthen relationships.

RESEARCH METHOD

This research method uses a literature study approach to understand the influence of peer friendship on children's behavior in the family. This approach was chosen because it allowed the researcher to analyze previous findings from various relevant sources, including scientific articles, books and research reports related to the topic. The literature study provided a comprehensive overview of how children's interactions with peers can influence the development of values and behaviors that are brought into the family. In addition, this approach makes it easier to explore different perspectives and existing theories regarding the relationship between children's social environment and its impact on family structure (Baumrind, 1991).

The literature includes the role of peers in children's social development, including their influence on attitude and behavior formation. Previous research focusing on peer group dynamics and the relationship between children and their families, as well as theories related to socialization, informed the analysis (Hartup, 1996). This research also explores various factors that influence the relationship between children and peers, such as the role of parents, environmental factors, and socioeconomic conditions, which can enrich the understanding of how peer friendship shapes children's behavior within the family.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION
Peer Interaction, Children's Values and Norms in the Family

Interactions between children and peers have a significant influence on changing the values and norms that children receive in the family. During child development, especially in adolescence, peers become one of the main sources for children to obtain information and shape their views of the world (Smetana, 2011). Peers can influence children to question or even change the values that have been taught by parents, depending on the type of social group they choose to join. Children hang out with friends who promote unlimited freedom or rebellious attitudes, these values can conflict with more conservative or disciplined family values (Steinberg, 2001). This shows that social relationships outside the family, especially with peers, have a profound effect on the formation of children's identity and changes in their values (Adler & Adler, 2003; Konstantoni, 2014).

Children who interact with peers who have healthier values, such as responsibility, discipline, and respect, are more likely to adopt these values (Salvy et al., 2012). This can reinforce the values that have been instilled by the family and also creating harmonization between the values children receive from peers and family (Blaževic, 2016). Influence of peer when is usually more dominant, children may find it more difficult to follow the rules and norms that exist in the family, which can cause tension between children and parents (Brown & Larson, 2002).

In addition to influencing values and norms, peers can also play a role in changing the way children behave within the family. Children who are influenced by peers tend to bring new attitudes and behavior patterns into the household (Harris, 1995). Peers who promote individualistic or authority-defying attitudes, the child may begin to exhibit more promiscuous or defiant behavior towards parents. In some cases, this can lead to conflict within the family as parents feel that their child is beginning to ignore the rules of the house (Berk, 2007).

Interaction with peers does not always lead to negative changes. Peers can also help children to develop better social and emotional skills, which can further strengthen the child's relationship with the family. Peers can act as a source of emotional support. Children who have supportive and positive peers may be more confident, better able to communicate openly with parents, and more appreciative of family values (Singer, 2015). As they grow, children will be better able to assess and select influences that support their positive development (Wentzel, 1998).

The role of parents in facilitating or supervising children's relationships with peers also affects how much change in values and norms occurs in children. Parents who actively participate in children's social life, provide wise supervision, and foster good communication, can help children to sort out positive influences from peers and overcome negative influences that may arise (Parke et al., 2013). Research shows that children who have a good relationship with their parents tend to have resilience to peer pressure and are better able to maintain family values (Grotevant, 2003; Mackay, 2003).

When children interact with peers who come from different social or cultural backgrounds, this can also introduce them to different norms and values. The cultural influences of these peers may trigger the child to re-evaluate the values that exist in their family and determine whether these values are still relevant to their lives (Prezza et al., 2001). In some cases, this can result in conflict within the family, especially if the differences in values are not accepted by the parents (Gavazzi & Lim, 2011). These differences can also enrich children's views and help them to be more open to cultural diversity and different perspectives (Ramsey, 2004; Tudge, 2008).

It is important to remember that changes in family values and norms triggered by interactions with peers are not entirely negative. As long as these changes do not lead to destructive behavior or contradict the basic principles that exist in the family, this can be an opportunity for children to grow and develop a stronger character. Parents need to better understand the dynamics of children's relationships with peers and continue to provide appropriate guidance so that children can undergo the socialization process well.

Peer Friendship and the Establishment of Children's Behavior in the Family

Peer friendship plays a very important role in shaping children's behavior, especially in family life. During adolescence, children begin to form closer relationships with their peers, which often influences the way they behave, think and respond to various situations (Prinstein & Dodge, 2008). Peers become significant social references for children, especially in determining attitudes towards various social norms (Terry & Hogg, 1999). When a child associates with a group that has positive behavior, such as discipline or a sense of responsibility, these values can have a positive impact on family life, reinforcing behavior that is in accordance with family norms and vice versa (Gifford-Smith & Brownell, 2003).

Children who associate with peers who focus more on short-term pleasure or destructive behavior will often imitate that behavior. If peers engage in risky activities such as smoking, alcohol or delinquency, the child may feel pressured to follow the behavior to be accepted in the social group (Nash et al., 2005). Conflicts can arise within the family, as parents usually have more conservative values and want the child to follow the rules at home (Steinberg, 2001). When these negative behaviors develop, emotional relationships within the family can be disrupted, even causing tension between parents and children.

Peer friendship can also reinforce positive behaviors in a child's life. A child associates with friends who have good habits, such as study discipline or mutual respect, the child is likely to adopt these behaviors (Ladd, 2005). Peers who have a positive outlook on life often provide support that encourages children to lead more structured lives and abide by family rules (Vorrath & Brendtro, 2013). Children who associate with friend groups that prioritize education or constructive activities will often bring these good habits into their households (Wentzel, 1998). These positive behaviors can strengthen the relationship between children and parents and create a more harmonious atmosphere within the family.

It is also important to note that peers can exert a stronger influence than parents in some ways, especially during adolescence. Children are trying to find their identity with listen to peers more than parents (Ragelienė, 2016). Changes in children's social processes, where they are more eager to be accepted in peer groups and strengthen their social status in these groups. Peer friendship influences children's behavior outside the home, and affects their attitudes and behaviors within the household (Brown & Larson, 2002). Children who are more influenced by peers often show disagreement with the values taught by parents or act differently from parental expectations (Corsaro & Eder, 1990).

This peer influence can also be seen in the way children interact with parents. Children who are influenced by peer groups that support positive behavior tend to be open and easy to communicate with parents (Rubin et al., 2010). Children who are influenced by peers who are more concerned with unlimited freedom or destructive behavior may avoid communication with parents (Guralnick, 1999). Leading to an emotional gap between children and parents, which has a negative impact on family relationships (Hartup, 1996). Some cases, children may feel not understood by parents, which in turn makes them more dependent on peers than parents for social and emotional support (Licitra-Kleckler & Waas, 1993).

The influence of peers on children's interactions with parents is significant in children's social and emotional development. Children who are influenced by peer groups that support positive behavior tend to be open and easy to communicate with parents (Rubin et al., 2010; Collins & Laursen, 2004). Peers who support positive values such as discipline, empathy, and responsibility can help children feel more confident about talking to their parents about their feelings and experiences. This strengthens the relationship between children and parents, creating a healthy emotional bond and quality of communication within the family.

Children who are influenced by peers who are more concerned with unlimited freedom or destructive behavior may avoid communication with parents (Elicker et al., 1992). Children may feel that their parents do not understand them or even curb their freedom. The impact of this condition leads to children feeling more comfortable interacting with peers who are more accepting of their behavior (Shalaby & Agyapong, 2020). Limited communication with parents can exacerbate the emotional gap between children and parents, which in turn interferes with the emotional well-being of children (Hartup, 1996; Raver & Knitzer, 2002).

Parents who understand the importance of peer association in child development have a crucial role to play in managing the child's relationship with their friends, which is full of challenges. Teenagers tend to be more influenced by their friends, who can have a positive or negative impact on the child's development (Sokol-Katz et al., 1997; Tilton-Weaver et al., 2013). Parents who are actively involved in their child's social life, for example by getting to know their friends and monitoring their interactions, can help minimize the negative influences of peer friendship (Lollis et al., 1992; Ladd et al., 1992). Parents who observe the interaction and get to know who the friends are can be an important first step for parents to identify the influences that may arise from the relationship (Keijsers et al., 2011).

Parents who provide appropriate guidance and support can help children to choose friends who can provide positive influences. Appropriate parental support and guidance can help children assess the characteristics of their peers and choose associations that support positive development. This also creates an opportunity for parents to talk about values and principles that are important in social relationships. Parental involvement can also strengthen relationships within the family, as children feel that their parents support them in making good social decisions (Steinberg & Morris, 2001; Grotevant, 2003).

Overall, peer relationships have a huge impact on shaping children's behavior that carries over into family life. Peer influence can be both positive and negative, and parents play an important role in managing these relationships. Good understanding of children's social dynamics allows parents to help children choose good friends and cope with peer pressure that can lead to negative behavior. This process is critical to maintaining harmony within the family and supporting healthy child development.

CONCLUSION

Peer friendship plays a very important role in shaping children's behavior, both positively and negatively, which then carries over into family life. Social interactions that occur in peer groups can influence the values, norms, and behaviors that children accept, as well as the behaviors they bring home into the household. When children associate with friends who have constructive and supportive behaviors, these influences can reinforce existing norms in the family. Children will be more inclined to follow the norms that exist in the family because of the influence of their friends who are in line with the teachings of their parents. Conversely, associations with peers who tend to exhibit negative behaviors, such as delinquency or rebellion, can trigger behavioral changes that are contrary to parental expectations, potentially leading to conflict within the family. Therefore, the influence of peers on children is highly dependent on the quality of social relationships that children have outside the home. It is important for parents to be more involved in supervising and recognizing their children's friends to help prevent any negative influences that may arise.

Parents need to be more proactive in understanding their children's social dynamics to manage peer influence on their children's behavior. Being involved in their child's social life and providing wise supervision can help minimize the negative influence of peer friendship and strengthen healthy family relationships. Parents should also act as mentors who help children choose friends who have positive values and can support their development. In addition, establishing open communication between children and parents is key so that children feel supported and can talk about the influence of peers in their lives. In other words, peer friendship can be a positive source in shaping children's behavior in accordance with family norms and help create harmony in the household.

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