

The Impact of Being Fatherless on the Self-Concept of Girls

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze the impact of fatherlessness on the self-concept of girls in families. The research method uses a qualitative descriptive approach with a case study method. The research informants consisted of one girl as the primary subject and the mother as a supporting informant. Data collection techniques were carried out through in-depth interviews and documentation to obtain a comprehensive picture of the subjects' experiences and the dynamics of family relationships. The results show that fatherlessness has a significant impact on the formation of girls' self-concept. In terms of self-confidence, children tend to feel doubtful and less confident in their abilities. In terms of self-esteem, children feel less cared for and tend to be withdrawn. In terms of emotional management, children are not yet able to manage their emotions optimally and often suppress their feelings. In terms of motivation and self-development, children show low internal drive and a lack of confidence in their potential. Meanwhile, in terms of social relations, children tend to be cautious, selective, and have difficulty trusting others. Thus, the absence of a father's role influences the formation of girls' self-concept comprehensively, both psychologically and socially.

1. INTRODUCTION

Family is the first and primary environment in the process of shaping a child's personality. Within the family, the roles of both parents, father and mother, have complementary contributions in shaping the child's emotional, social development, as well as self-concept (Iman & Iskandar, 2025). One phenomenon that is increasingly gaining attention in the study of family psychology and child education is the fatherless condition, which is a situation where a child grows up without the presence of a father figure physically, emotionally, or functionally in their life. The fatherless phenomenon does not always mean the absence of a biological father, but also includes the lack of a fatherly role in parenting, minimal interaction, and weak paternal involvement in the psychological development of the child (Desinta, Setiawati, Nursalim, & Ghozali, 2025). This condition can occur due to divorce, death, jobs that require high mobility, family conflicts, or the father's lack of involvement in the daily caregiving process. In the context of child development, the absence of a father figure can have a significant impact, especially on the formation of a daughter's self-concept. Self-concept is an individual's perspective of themselves, which includes physical, psychological, social, and moral aspects. A positive self-concept is formed through experiences of healthy interactions, self-acceptance, and emotional support from the family environment (Nurfatima & Hendriyani, 2026). For girls, the presence of a father plays an important role as the first figure who provides a sense of security, self-esteem, and emotional validation. Fathers also serve as the first relationship model that affects how girls view themselves in future social relationships (Chang, Kniess, Buschlen, & Fernandez, 2023). When the father's figure is not optimally present, a daughter has the potential to experience disturbances in the formation of self-concept, such as low self-confidence, feelings of worthlessness, difficulty in building interpersonal relationships, and even a tendency to excessively seek external validation (Hadebe & Adanlawo,

2024). In some cases, this condition can also affect emotional stability and the development of self-identity during adolescence. One interesting case to study is the family of Mr. Sofiar in Tembung, where there is an indication of a fatherless condition in the dynamics of raising a daughter. This case study is important for understanding in depth how the absence of a father figure in that family context affects the self-concept of the daughter growing up within it. Each family has unique dynamics, so the case study approach allows researchers to explore subjective experiences, family environmental conditions, and factors that influence the formation of the child's self-concept more comprehensively.

Based on this background, this study becomes relevant to further examine the impact of fatherlessness on the self-concept of girls within the context of Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung. This study is expected to provide theoretical contributions in the field of developmental psychology and family education, as well as practical contributions for parents, educators, and the community in understanding the importance of the father's role in shaping the character and self-concept of children. The fatherless phenomenon is one of the issues that is increasingly receiving attention in the study of developmental psychology and family education, especially because it is closely related to the formation of a child's self-concept. Research (Maina, Njiru, & Kitonga, 2021) shows that the absence of a father figure, both physically and emotionally, can affect a child's psychological development, such as low self-esteem, lack of confidence, and difficulties in building healthy social relationships. Nevertheless, these studies still show a number of limitations that need to be further considered. Previous research (Susanto & Chusairi, 2025) It is still dominated by a quantitative approach that focuses on measuring the variables of fatherlessness and self-concept through psychometric instruments, thus being less able to capture the subjective experiences and emotional dynamics of children in depth. In fact, self-concept is a psychological construct that is formed through complex social interaction processes, family experiences, and individual interpretations of their surrounding environment. In addition, existing research also tends to be general and has not much considered the local socio-cultural context, which also influences parenting patterns and child development in Indonesia. Another gap is seen from the lack of studies (Latifatma & Arsini, 2025) which uses an in-depth case study approach on certain families to understand the fatherless phenomenon contextually. Most studies focus more on the impact of being fatherless on deviant behavior, academic achievement, or juvenile delinquency, while the core aspect of the formation of self-concept in girls has not been explored comprehensively. This indicates a need for research that is more qualitative and exploratory to understand the real experiences of children in the context of specific families. Based on this gap, this study offers novelty by using a case study approach on Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung to closely examine the impact of fatherlessness on the self-concept of girls. The novelty of this research lies in the focus of the analysis, which not only looks at the impact in general but traces the process of forming girls' self-concept through daily life experiences within a real and specific family context. Furthermore, this study also provides a contextual contribution based on the local socio-cultural reality, thereby enriching the understanding of how family, cultural, and environmental factors interact in shaping the self-concept of girls who experience fatherless conditions. Thus, this study is expected to fill the gaps in previous research by offering a deeper, contextual, and empirical perspective on the fatherless phenomenon, particularly in relation to the formation of girls' self-concept within the family environment in Indonesia.

2. METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a case study type. A qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to deeply understand the phenomenon of fatherlessness and its impact on the self-concept of daughters in the context of Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung. This

approach is in line with the view (Creswell, 2024) which states that qualitative research is used to explore the meanings attached by individuals or groups to a social and humanitarian issue in a deep and holistic manner. As for the case study design, it is used because it allows researchers to examine a single case in detail within the context of real life as explained by (Yin, 2024), that case studies are appropriate to use to understand contemporary phenomena in the context of everyday life. The subjects of this study are girls who experience a fatherless condition in the Sofiar family in Tembung, as well as supporting informants such as the mother or other family members who have knowledge about the parenting patterns in the family. The determination of subjects was carried out using purposive sampling techniques, namely selecting informants based on certain considerations that are relevant to the research objectives (Sugiyono, 2024). The data in this study consists of primary and secondary data. Primary data were obtained through in-depth interviews, observations, and documentation. In-depth interviews were conducted to explore the subjective experiences of girls related to their relationship with their fathers and how they form their self-concept in daily life. This is in accordance with the opinion (Kvale & Brinkmann, 2015) which states that qualitative interviews aim to understand the life world of subjects from their own perspective. Observation is conducted to directly see the behavior, social interactions, and emotional expressions of subjects in the context of real life, while documentation is used to complement and strengthen the data obtained from the field. The data analysis technique in this study uses an interactive analysis model (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2024), which includes data reduction, data presentation, as well as drawing conclusions and verification. Data reduction is carried out by selecting and focusing on data relevant to the research focus, data presentation is carried out in the form of systematic descriptive narratives, while drawing conclusions is carried out gradually based on patterns and themes that emerge during the analysis process. To ensure the validity of the data, this study uses source triangulation and technique triangulation. Source triangulation is carried out by comparing information from various informants, while technique triangulation is carried out by comparing the results of interviews, observations, and documentation. This is in accordance with the opinion (Denzin, 1978) which emphasizes that triangulation is an important strategy in increasing the credibility and validity of data in qualitative research. Thus, this research method is expected to provide a deep, contextual, and comprehensive understanding of the impact of being fatherless on the self-concept of girls in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. RESULTS

3.1.1. Self-Concept of a Daughter in Mr. Sofiar's Family in Tembung

Based on the observations conducted by the researcher in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung, it was found that the self-concept of the daughter was shaped through daily social interactions influenced by family conditions, particularly the absence of an optimal father figure in the child's life. The child's self-concept appeared to develop in two main aspects, namely internal aspects (self-perception) and external aspects (responses to the social environment). In the internal aspect, the daughter demonstrated dynamics in self-confidence. In several situations, she tended to feel uncertain about her own abilities, especially when faced with new environments or situations that required independent decision-making. Nevertheless, in certain conditions, she also showed the ability to adapt and display positive potential, particularly when receiving support from her mother or close surroundings. This indicates that the child's self-concept is still in the process of development and has not yet become fully stable. Furthermore, in terms of self-esteem, the observation results showed that the child tended to feel emotionally neglected in certain situations. This could be seen from her tendency to be more reserved in expressing feelings and to keep her

problems to herself. However, she continued to demonstrate obedience and made efforts to carry out her daily activities properly, particularly within the family and school contexts. From the aspect of social interaction, the daughter showed a relatively cautious attitude in building relationships with peers. She tended to require time to adapt before feeling comfortable in a new social environment. However, once closeness was established, she was able to interact quite well and demonstrated cooperative behavior in group activities. In addition, the observation results revealed that the mother's role as the primary caregiver contributed significantly to shaping the child's self-concept. The emotional support, supervision, and attention provided by the mother became protective factors that helped the child continue to function normally despite the limitations in the father figure's involvement. Overall, the observation findings indicate that the daughter's self-concept in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung is at a developing self-concept stage, characterized by an imbalance between self-confidence, self-esteem, and social adaptation abilities. This condition suggests that the formation of the child's self-concept is still strongly influenced by the family environment and emotional support from significant others, especially the mother as the primary caregiver. The observation findings were also consistent with the interview findings, which are presented below.

The first informant, the mother, explained that her daughter tends to be quiet and lacks self-confidence when outside the home. This can be seen from the child's hesitation in making decisions and her habit of always asking for her mother's opinion first. The mother stated: *"My daughter tends to be quiet and lacks confidence when she is outside the home. She often hesitates in making decisions and always asks for my opinion first."* The second informant, the daughter herself, revealed that she often feels uncomfortable when interacting in new environments or speaking in front of many people. She stated: *"I often feel shy and lack the courage to speak in front of many people or to be in a new environment."* The third informant, a neighbor, expressed the view that the child has a polite character but tends to be reserved in her daily social interactions. The neighbor explained: *"She is polite, but she tends to be reserved and rarely socializes with friends in the neighborhood."* The interview results indicate that the daughter in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung possesses a self-concept characterized by low self-confidence and a reserved attitude in social environments. However, she still demonstrates politeness, obedience, and a desire for self-improvement. Overall, the child's self-concept is still in the process of development and is strongly influenced by the family environment.

3.1.2. The Fatherless Condition Experienced by the Daughter in Mr. Sofiar's Family

Based on the observations conducted by the researcher in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung, it was found that the fatherless condition influenced the dynamics of the daughter's life within the family. The limited presence of the father figure in daily life caused most parenting responsibilities to be carried out by the mother as the primary caregiver. This condition created a family interaction pattern that was more centered on the relationship between the mother and the child. The observation results showed that the daughter spent more time with her mother in daily activities, both in terms of emotional support and assistance with learning activities and social life. The limited involvement of the father in parenting caused the child not to consistently obtain a father figure as a role model, particularly in aspects of discipline, protection, and emotional support. Behaviorally, the child appeared to be quiet, less expressive, and more cautious in interacting with the social environment outside the home. This condition indicates the influence of the absence of a father figure on the child's psychosocial development, especially in terms of self-confidence and independence in social interactions. In addition, the observations also revealed that the mother assumed dual roles within the family, namely as the primary caregiver and the main decision-maker in child-rearing. Nevertheless, the limited role of the father in daily life remained a factor influencing the development of the child's character and self-concept. Overall, the observation

findings indicate that the fatherless condition in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung has an impact on the emotional and social development of the daughter, particularly in terms of self-confidence, independence, and the ability to interact within the social environment. This condition demonstrates that the presence of a father figure plays an important role in supporting the balance of a child's psychological development. The observation findings were also consistent with the interview findings, which are presented below. Based on the interviews conducted by the researcher, data were obtained from three informants: the mother, the daughter, and a neighboring resident, all of whom described the fatherless condition within Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung. The first informant, the mother, explained that the father's role in parenting was not functioning optimally, so most parenting responsibilities rested on her. The mother stated: "*Her father is not very involved in the child's daily matters, so I am the one who mostly takes care of and accompanies her at home.*" The second informant, the daughter, expressed her emotional experiences related to the family condition she faced. She stated: "*I spend more time with my mother at home. I rarely talk or share stories with my father, so I am closer to my mother.*" The third informant, a neighboring resident, provided an outside perspective regarding the child's condition. The neighbor explained: "*The child seems to be closer to her mother. Her father is rarely seen interacting frequently with the child at home.*" Based on the interview results from the three informants, it can be concluded that the fatherless condition in Mr. Sofiar's family is characterized by the father's limited involvement in daily parenting. As a result, the mother becomes the primary caregiver, while the child develops stronger emotional closeness with the mother than with the father.

3.1.3. The Impact of the Fatherless Condition on the Self-Concept of the Daughter

Based on the observations conducted by the researcher in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung, it was found that the fatherless condition had a significant impact on the development of the daughter's self-concept. The limited presence of the father figure in daily life caused the child to rely more heavily on her mother as the primary source of emotional support, caregiving, and decision-making within the family. The observation results showed that the daughter tended to have low self-confidence, particularly in social situations outside the family environment. She appeared hesitant to express her opinions, doubtful in making decisions, and inclined to withdraw from social interactions with the surrounding environment. This condition indicates the influence of the absence of a father figure on the formation of the child's positive self-concept. In addition, from the aspect of self-feelings, the child appeared to be more sensitive and easily uncomfortable in certain social situations. She also tended to prefer staying at home and interacting with her mother rather than engaging with the outside environment. This demonstrates that the need for a father figure as a source of emotional support and security was not optimally fulfilled. In terms of social relationships, the observations showed that the child experienced limitations in building relationships with peers in the surrounding environment. She was more likely to behave passively in social interactions and showed little initiative to socialize widely. This condition has implications for the limited social experiences that should contribute to strengthening self-concept development. Overall, the observation findings indicate that the fatherless condition in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung affected the formation of the daughter's self-concept, particularly in terms of self-confidence, emotional stability, and social interaction abilities. This condition demonstrates that the presence of a father figure plays an important role in supporting the development of a positive self-concept in children. The observation findings were also supported by the interview findings presented below. Based on the interviews conducted by the researcher, data were obtained from three informants: the mother, the daughter, and a neighboring resident, all of whom described the impact of the fatherless condition on the daughter's self-concept in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung. The first informant, the mother, explained that the father's absence in the child's daily

life affected the child’s level of self-confidence, which tended to be low. The mother stated: “*My daughter lacks confidence when she is outside the home. She often hesitates when she wants to do something and depends more on me.*” The second informant, the daughter, shared her experiences regarding self-confidence and social interaction. She stated: “*I often do not feel brave enough to speak in front of many people, and when I am in a new environment, I prefer to stay quiet.*” The third informant, a neighboring resident, provided an outside perspective regarding the child’s condition in everyday social life. The neighbor explained: “*She is quiet, less active in socializing, and spends more time at home with her mother. She also appears to lack confidence when interacting with other people.*” Based on the interview results from the three informants, it can be concluded that the fatherless condition in Mr. Sofiar’s family has an impact on the daughter’s self-concept, particularly in terms of low self-confidence, a tendency to withdraw from social environments, and greater emotional dependence on the mother as the primary caregiver. Overall, the researcher summarized the findings of this study in a detailed research table presented below.

Table 1. Overall Research Findings in Mr. Sofiar's Family in Tembung

| Research Aspect | Observation Findings | Interview Findings | General Conclusion |
|--|--|---|---|
| Daughter’s Self-Concept | The child demonstrated a developing self-concept, characterized by low self-confidence, a reserved personality, and slow social adaptation. However, she still showed politeness, obedience, and the ability to adjust in certain situations, especially with support from her mother. | The informants (mother, daughter, and neighbor) stated that the child tends to be quiet, lacks confidence in new environments, and feels more comfortable at home and emotionally closer to her mother. | The child’s self-concept is at the developing self-concept stage, with a tendency toward low self-confidence but still possessing positive potential that can be further developed. |
| Fatherless Condition | The observations revealed the limited presence of the father figure, resulting in parenting being predominantly carried out by the mother. The child interacted more frequently with her mother and did not consistently have a father figure as a role model. | The mother stated that the father was less involved in parenting, the child admitted being closer to her mother, and the neighbor observed that the father rarely interacted with the child. | The fatherless condition is characterized by the minimal involvement of the father in parenting, leading to the dominant role of the mother within the family. |
| Impact of Fatherless Condition on Self-Concept | The child showed low self-confidence, a tendency to withdraw from social environments, and emotional dependence on her mother. | The mother stated that the child lacked confidence, the child admitted being afraid to speak in public, and the neighbor described the child as quiet and less socially active. | The fatherless condition contributed to the formation of a partially negative self-concept, particularly in terms of self-confidence, emotional stability, and the child’s social interactions. |

3.2. Discussion

3.2.1. The Concept of a Girl's Self in the Family

Based on the results of observations and interviews with Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung, it can be understood that the self-concept of the daughter is still in the developing stage, characterized by low self-confidence, a tendency to be reserved in social interactions, and a fairly high emotional dependence on her mother. This condition can be analyzed through several relevant literature studies in the fields of developmental psychology and family education. The concept of self in children is essentially formed through a continuous process of social interaction, especially within the family environment as the first agent of socialization. In this context, the presence of parental figures, particularly the father, plays an important role in building a child's sense of security, self-confidence, and self-identity. Research (Dyonita, Widodo, & Agustino, 2026) emphasizes that father involvement in parenting significantly contributes to children's social-emotional development, especially in the formation of self-esteem and independence. This aligns with research findings in Mr. Sofiar's family, where limited father involvement has implications for children's tendencies to be less confident and more passive in social environments. Furthermore, Cooley's theory of the 'looking glass self' explains that an individual's self-concept is formed based on how they perceive themselves through the responses of others around them (Cooley, 1902). In this case, the dominance of the mother's role as the primary caregiver has a significant influence on how the child perceives themselves. The mother's emotional support is indeed a protective factor, but the absence of an optimal father figure leads to a lack of variety in sources of social validation, resulting in the child's self-concept not being formed in a balanced way. In addition, research (Hidayah, Ramli, & Tassia, 2023) It also shows that the fatherless condition can affect the psychological aspects of children, such as low self-confidence, difficulty in emotion regulation, and limitations in social skills. These findings are relevant to field research results that show that children tend to be hesitant in making decisions, feel embarrassed in new social situations, and take longer to adapt to the environment. However, not all literature is entirely negative. Research (Sengkey, et al., 2025) It also shows that with strong maternal support and a positive social environment, children can still develop an adaptive self-concept even when experiencing limitations in the father figure. This is also evident in research findings, where children still exhibit polite, obedient behavior, as well as the ability to adapt after feeling comfortable in a certain social environment. Thus, it can be concluded that the findings in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung align with various theoretical studies and previous research that assert that a child's self-concept is greatly influenced by the quality of family interactions. The absence of an optimal father figure does not necessarily determine the failure of a child's development, but it is a risk factor that can affect the stability of self-confidence and social skills if not balanced with strong emotional support from the immediate environment, especially the mother.

3.2.2. The Fatherless Condition Experienced by Girls in the Family

Based on the findings from observations and interviews with Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung, it can be understood that a fatherless condition has a significant influence on parenting patterns and family relationship dynamics, especially between the mother and the daughter. The absence of an optimal father figure causes the parenting function to be largely carried out by the mother, resulting in a mother-centered parenting relationship pattern. This condition aligns with studies (Fajarrini & Umam, 2023) in family psychology which states that when the father's role is not functionally present in the child's life, then the caregiving burden will be concentrated on the mother as the primary caregiver. From the perspective of child development theory, the presence of a father is understood not only biologically, but also as a social figure who plays a role in the formation of a child's identity, discipline, and emotional regulation. Research (Ramadinah, Tastiara, & Puriani, 2026) explaining that father involvement has an important contribution to

children's social development, especially in building courage, independence, and the ability to adapt in social environments. The findings of this study indicate that girls tend to be quiet, less expressive, and cautious in interacting with the outside environment, which suggests a limitation of social stimulation from the father figure. Furthermore, the theory (Tahir, Fatimah, & Kahar, 2024) emphasizing that the quality of a child's early attachment to parental figures will influence long-term emotional and social development. In the context of this research, a strong closeness with the mother indeed provides emotional security, but minimal father involvement has the potential to cause limitations in the formation of broader social interaction patterns. This is seen in the child's tendency to feel more comfortable at home and to rely on the mother in daily decision-making. Several relevant studies also support these findings. The study (Nurmalasari, Fitrayani, Paramitha, & Azzahra, 2024) finding that children who grow up in fatherless conditions tend to experience challenges in aspects of self-confidence and social adjustment. This is in line with interview results showing that children more often feel comfortable with their mother and rarely interact intensively with their father. Meanwhile, (Diananissa, Conia, & Wibowo, 2024) explaining that the absence of the father does not always have a negative impact if the mother's caregiving role runs optimally. In this case study, although the mother takes on a dual role as the primary caregiver, the limitation of the father's figure still affects the child's social interaction patterns. On the other hand, there is also a study (Desta, Fitriani, & Salsabila, 2024) which is not entirely directly relevant, but provides a different perspective, namely research that emphasizes that external social environmental factors such as peers and school also have a significant contribution to the formation of a child's character. Nevertheless, in these findings it appears that the family environment remains the dominant factor compared to the external environment, because the child still shows strong emotional dependence on the mother. Overall, the results of this study reinforce various scientific studies that the condition of being fatherless in a family can affect parenting dynamics as well as the psychosocial development of children. The limited involvement of the father in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung has implications for the dominance of the mother's role, the formation of mother-child centered relational patterns, and the tendency of children to be more reserved and cautious in social interactions. Thus, the presence of a father figure still plays an important role in creating a balance in children's emotional and social development, although the mother's support remains a key protective factor in the parenting process.

3.2.3. The Impact of Being Fatherless on the Self-Concept of Girls in the Family

Based on the findings from observations and interviews with Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung, it can be understood that the fatherless condition has a fairly significant impact on the formation of a girl's self-concept, particularly in aspects of self-confidence, emotional stability, and socialization skills. These findings can be analyzed through several relevant scientific literature studies as well as those that provide different perspectives in understanding the development of children's self-concept. From the perspective of self-development theory, the self-concept is the result of the interaction between the individual and their social environment, especially the family as the first and primary environment (Putri, Novrianti, Yulfienti, Marwazi, & Maribeth, 2025). Cooley, through the looking glass self theory, explains that individuals form perceptions about themselves based on how they are treated and perceived by significant people around them. In the context of this study, the dominance of the mother's role as the primary caregiver creates a more limited interaction pattern, so the child receives emotional validation from only one figure. This contributes to the formation of an unstable self-concept, as seen from the child's low self-confidence and tendency to withdraw from the social environment. Next, (Arifin, Pitaloka, Aulia, & Kusmawati, 2025) explaining that father's involvement has an important contribution to the child's social and emotional development, especially in building self-esteem, independence, and the ability to face a broader social environment. The findings of this study indicate that girls tend to

hesitate in making decisions, lack confidence in new social situations, and are more dependent on their mothers in daily activities. This reinforces the view that the absence of an optimal father figure can hinder the development of important aspects of the child's self-concept. In line with that, (Puspita & Setiadarma, 2024) emphasizing that the quality of a child's relationship with parental figures greatly determines emotional development and psychological sense of security. In this case, a dominant closeness with the mother does provide a sense of security, but the lack of interaction with the father results in limitations in forming broader self-confidence in social environments. This condition is reflected in the interview results, which show that the child prefers to remain silent in new environments and feels uncomfortable when having to speak in front of many people.

Several empirical studies also support these findings. The research (Hanifah, et al., 2024) stated that children who grow up in fatherless conditions tend to have lower self-esteem levels and experience difficulties in social adjustment. This is in line with field research results showing that children tend to be quiet, less socially active, and spend more time at home with their mother. Meanwhile, research (Wahyuni, Astri, & Teluma, 2024) showing that although the absence of a father can have certain psychological impacts, the strong role of the mother can be a protective factor that helps the child continue to function adaptively in daily life. This finding is also seen in research, where children still display obedient behavior and are able to carry out basic activities despite having limitations in social interactions. On the other hand, there are also studies that are not entirely in direct alignment, such as the theory (Iskandar & Kertamuda, 2024), which emphasizes that child development is influenced not only by the family, but also by the school environment, peers, and society. However, in the context of these findings, the influence of the family remains the dominant factor, because the child shows a strong emotional dependence on the mother as well as limitations in forming social relationships outside the home. Overall, these findings indicate that the fatherless condition in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung contributes to the formation of the daughter's self-concept, which is not yet fully positive and stable. Low self-confidence, a tendency to withdraw from social environments, and emotional dependence on the mother are tangible manifestations of the impact of the absence of a father figure. Thus, various literature reviews, both relevant and those providing different perspectives, still lead to the conclusion that the presence of a father figure plays an important role in supporting the development of a healthy and balanced self-concept in children.

4. CONCLUSION

Overall, this study concludes that the fatherless condition in Mr. Sofiar's family in Tembung affects the development of the self-concept of girls who are at the developing self-concept stage, indicated by low self-confidence, a tendency to withdraw from the social environment, and high emotional dependence on the mother as the primary caregiver. The dominance of the mother's role in caregiving is able to maintain the child's emotional stability, but it has not fully been able to replace the father's role in shaping the child's confidence, independence, and social skills. Implicatively, this study emphasizes the importance of both parents' involvement, especially the father, in caregiving to support the balance of the child's psychological development. The limitation of this study lies in the scope, which only covers one family, and the limited number of informants, so it cannot yet be widely generalized. Therefore, it is recommended that further research expand the research subjects, compare them with families that have active father involvement, and examine other external factors such as the school environment and peers in the formation of children's self-concept.

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