

## FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH SIBLING RIVALRY IN THE WORKING AREA OF PUSKESMAS BLANG BINTANG

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### Abstract

**Introduction:** Sibling rivalry is a competition that occurs between siblings. Sibling rivalry usually occurs in childhood when the age difference between siblings is too close, commonly at the age range of 3-5 years (preschool), and will reappear when the age of 8-12 years (school age). Sibling rivalry usually increases in preschoolers (3-5 years). Sibling rivalry is usually caused by children who feel they have lost their parents' love and regard their siblings as rivals in getting love from their parents and the parent's comparison between siblings.

**Methods:** This study was *descriptive-analytic* observational with a *cross-sectional* approach. As the *multistage sampling* technique was used which consisted of *purposive sampling* as the first stage, *stratified random sampling* as the second stage, and *simple random sampling* as the third stage. The sample size of the study was 154 toddlers. *Univariate analysis* and *bivariate analysis* were performed using Chi-Square Test ( $\chi^2$ ) with a 95% confidence interval.

**Result:** Sibling rivalry mainly occurs in the eldest child, toddlers, male children, and the mother's lack of knowledge and democratic parenting.

**Conclusion:** There was an association between birth order, child's age, gender, mother's knowledge, and parenting style with sibling rivalry in children.

**Keywords:** Sibling Rivalry, order, age, gender, knowledge dan parenting style

### Introduction

Sibling rivalry is a competition that occurs between siblings. It is still very common in the family. Sibling rivalry in America is still very high, approximately 82%. McNerney and Joy revealed that based on the experience of several people in America, 55% experienced competition in the family and children aged between 3-5 years were the highest category. According to the research conducted by Shofiana, a psychologist from Indonesia, it was revealed that in Pekalongan, 68.5% of children experienced sibling rivalry.<sup>1</sup> The impact of sibling rivalry on children can be in the sign of temper tantrums, such as when children express their emotions by shouting, crying loudly and throwing things, grudge toward siblings, and explosive emotions, especially when people around them pay more attention to their siblings, the signs of regression, such as

bedwetting, acting like a baby, drinking milk from a pacifier and asking for breast milk, and lack of self-confidence. Whereas the impact on siblings can be in the form of physical or verbal aggression which is indicated by the behavior of hitting, kicking, slapping, scratching and berating, refusing to share and help with siblings, complaining about siblings, dominating siblings, and becoming negative role models for siblings. It may be seen when children refuse to share their toys, items, or food. As the impact on others, it will be seen in some children's bad behaviors such as berating, slapping, and scratching aimed toward people outside of their homes such as cousins, servants, teachers, and others which leads to not having any good friends. This is caused by a pattern of bad relationships in the house that is carried over into the social environment.<sup>2</sup>

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*Sibling rivalry* usually occurs in childhood when the age difference between siblings is too close, commonly at the age range of 3-5 years (preschool), and will reappear when the age of 8-12 years (school age). *Sibling rivalry* usually increases in preschoolers (3-5 years) because at this time children tend to experience high jealousy if their parents give more attention to their siblings, at this time the child's egocentrism is very high.<sup>3</sup>

*Sibling rivalry* re-increases at school age because children start to do activities and perform well at school or outside of school. Hence, parents start comparing their activities and achievements, and when the age is close enough to enter school, the comparison of parents to their children is increasingly being made and as a result, children often fight, are hostile to each other, and find it difficult to make social adjustments. Quarrels that are continuously nurtured since childhood will continue to escalate as children grow up, they will continue to compete and envy each other. In some cases, we may find where siblings kill each other for fighting over inheritance.<sup>3</sup>

*Sibling rivalry* is usually caused by children who feel they have lost their parents' love and regard their siblings as rivals in getting love from their parents and the parent's comparison between siblings. *Sibling rivalry* also occurs when the age difference is too close, approximately 2-4 years, because at that range, children both get the same attention.<sup>4</sup>

On that matter, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (Komisi Perlindungan Anak Indonesia: KPAI) stated that the attitude of parents who like to compare one child with another is a form of violence against children in the family. The ratio of parents' comparison toward children is 43.3% for fathers and 56.7% for mothers.<sup>4</sup>

Mothers are the main characters in child development because mothers are the ones who spend the most time with their children, especially at the age of 1-3 years (toddler), hence, mothers have many opportunities to provide appropriate play stimuli and in accordance with the child's growth stage.

Therefore, it is hoped that children can achieve optimal growth and development. The results of the study review proved that a mother's knowledge of the concept of playtime and communication showed that it is better for children's growth, and it is suggested that stimulation should be carried out with attention and affection, feedback, and carried out on a daily basis.<sup>5</sup>

The researcher chose the working area of puskesmas Blang Bintang because the sub-district is the fourth largest number of toddlers in Aceh Besar Regency, namely 818 toddlers. After the researchers conducted a preliminary study on 26-29 January, 2019 in Lamsiem Village, it was found that among 36 toddlers, there were 7 toddlers who had younger siblings. Out of 7 mothers, 5 of them said that their children frequently quarreled, had anger tendencies, suddenly cried, hit their siblings, and often sought the attention of their parents, especially their mothers, sometimes there were some of them who thought negatively of their siblings. Additionally, it was frequently found that mothers who treated their children not in accordance with proper parenting procedures, such as paying more attention to their younger siblings than their older siblings, or when they fight, most mothers would immediately tell their older siblings to give in without knowing the real situation.

Based on the above-mentioned background and phenomena, the question raised for this study was "What are the factors associated with the *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang in 2019?". The purpose of the study was to determine the factors associated with *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang in 2019.

## Method

This study was descriptive-analytic observational with a cross-sectional approach. As the multistage sampling technique was used which consisted of purposive sampling as the first stage, stratified random sampling as the second stage, and simple random sampling as the third stage.

The independent variables in this study

were birth order, child's age, gender, mother's knowledge, and parenting style, while the dependent variable was sibling rivalry. The birth order was defined as the order in which a child was born and was categorized as the first child and the second child, a child's age was defined as a unit of time that measures the age of siblings, whereas children aged 2-3 years were categorized as toddler and children aged 3-5 years were categorized as preschoolers. Gender variables were defined as differences in the form, nature, and biological function of men and women that determined the difference in roles within categories of men and women.

The mother's knowledge variable was defined as parents' understanding of *sibling rivalry* with good, sufficient, and poor results, while parenting style variable was defined as parental treatment in interactions and the way parents paid attention to children's wishes with authoritarian, permissive, democratic and passive categories. The sibling rivalry variable was defined as sibling rivalry for the birth of a sibling with the category yes if the child had *sibling rivalry* and no if the child did not experience *sibling rivalry*.

The working area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang has 26 villages with a total of 818

toddlers. The population of this study was toddlers who had 247 younger siblings. The sample size was calculated using the *slovin* formula, obtaining 154 toddlers who had younger siblings.

This study was conducted in January - July 2019, in the working area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, the district of Aceh Besar. Univariate analysis and bivariate analysis were performed using the chi-square test with a 95% confidence interval.

### Results

The results of the study on factors associated with sibling rivalry in the working area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang Public showed the following results:

#### 1. Univariate analysis

Table 1. shows that the majorit of respondents experienced *sibling rivalry* (58.4%), happened to the first child 53.2%, boys by 85 respondents (55.2%), and mothers who have sufficient knowledge (37.0%) and parents with permissive parenting patterns by 49 respondents (31.8%). Table 1. univariate analysis can be seen in the following table:

**Tabel 1. Frequency Distribution of Sibling Rivalry in Children aged 2-5 Years in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang Aceh Besar in 2019**

Univariate Data	f	%
<b>Sibling Rivalry</b>		
Yes	90	58,4
No	64	41,6
Total	154	100
<b>Birth Order</b>		
First Child	82	53,2
Second Child	72	46,8
Total	154	100
<b>Child's Age</b>		
Toodler	58	37,7
Preschool	96	62,3
Total	154	100
<b>Gender</b>		
Boy	85	55,2
Girl	69	44,8
Total	154	100

<b>Mother's Knowledge</b>		
Good	56	36,5
Sufficient	57	37,0
Poor	41	26,5
Total	154	100
<b>Parenting Style</b>		
Authoritarian	24	15,6
Permissive	49	31,8
Democratic	42	27,3
Passive	39	25,3
Total	154	100

## 2. Bivariate Analysis

**Tabel 2. Association between Birth Order and *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District in 2019**

Characteristics	<i>Sibling Rivalry</i>				Total		<i>P Value</i>
	Yes		No		f	%	
	f	%	f	%			
<b>Birth Order</b>							
First Child	63	76,8	19	23,2	82	100	0,000
Second Child	27	37,5	45	62,5	72	100	
<b>Child's Age</b>							
Toddler	44	75,9	14	24,1	58	100	0,001
Preschool	46	47,9	49	52,1	96	100	
<b>Gender</b>							
Boy	61	71,8	24	28,2	85	100	0,000
Girl	29	42,0	40	58,0	69	100	
<b>Mother's Knowledge</b>							
Good	25	44,6	31	55,4	56	100	0,016
Sufficient	35	61,4	22	38,6	57	100	
Poor	30	73,2	11	26,8	41	100	
<b>Parenting Style</b>							
Authoritarian	17	70,8	7	29,2	24	100	0,024
Permissive	21	42,9	28	57,1	49	100	
Democratic	30	71,4	12	28,6	42	100	
Passive	22	56,4	17	43,6	39	100	

The table above shows that there was an association between birth order, child's age, gender, mother's knowledge and parenting style with the *sibling rivalry* ( $p\text{-value} < 0,05$ ).

## Discussion

1. The Association Between Birth Order and *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District in 2019

The results revealed that there was a very significant association between the birth order and *sibling rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District.

The results of this study are in accordance with research conducted in Tambaksari Village which shows that there is a very significant association between birth order and *sibling rivalry*.<sup>6</sup>

The first child commonly shows a responsible attitude, assertiveness, perfectionism, and holds authority. The first child can show hatred towards his sibling because the parents' attention gets diverted. Whereas, the second child usually shows feelings of inferiority towards older siblings because they think they are not as capable as their sibling. However, it also triggers them to

be very competitive against their sibling which pushes them to innovate, doing things differently from their older sibling. This shows that both the first and second child positions have the potential to experience *sibling rivalry*.<sup>3</sup>

According to the researcher's assumption, the birth order affects the occurrence of *sibling rivalry*. Most of the first children experience *sibling rivalry* because they get jealous once the birth of a second child takes place. The first child feels that his parents' love has been diverted and is afraid that he will not be loved anymore with the birth of his younger siblings. Therefore, the second child is more often pinched or hit than the first siblings.

2. The Association Between Child's Age and *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District in 2019 The results revealed that there was a very significant association between child's age and *sibling rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District. The results of this study are in accordance with research conducted in Aceh Selatan District which shows that there is a very significant association between the age difference and *sibling rivalry* (  $p\text{-value}=0,001$ ). The close distance between siblings tends to lead to *sibling rivalry*. The age difference between 2-4 years is the most threatening range, especially if the older sibling is very young and does not understand the situation. At this rate, the child's understanding has increased, in consequence children tend to be bothered when their siblings gets more attention.<sup>3</sup>

According to the researcher's assumption, the age difference between siblings that are too close can trigger *sibling rivalry*. If the first child is still at the age of a toddler and already has a younger sibling, there will be a lot of beatings or hatred for his younger sibling because it is difficult for them to understand the presence of a younger sibling at that age. At preschool age, a the older sibling feels a lot of jealousy towards the younger sibling, because at this age, the older sibling understands better that the presence of a younger sibling will make him feels left out, as a consequence, the older sibling

does things that are not normally done that can provoke the anger of his parents, the goal is none other than just want to get his parents' attention. It is very important to give the child an understanding of the presence of a sibling for him.

3. The Association Between Gender and *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District in 2019

The results revealed that there was a very significant association between gender and *sibling rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District. The results of this study are in accordance with research conducted by Irawati (2014), which shows that there is a association between gender and *sibling rivalry* ( $p\text{-value} = 0,028$ ). Boys and girls act very differently towards their siblings. The same gender is more likely to cause *sibling rivalry* reactions than the opposite one. This is caused by the same gender in siblings can be a trigger for jealousy due to the same needs and characteristics. However, *sibling rivalry* also occurs in different genders, due to the different duties and responsibilities between boys and girls, hence, children may feels different and cause jealousy between siblings.<sup>3</sup>

According to the researcher's assumptions, *sibling rivalry* occurs mostly in children with the same gender. Boys often feel jealous angry with their younger brother, for example because they fight over a toy or because their toys are broken. However, *sibling rivalry* can also occur in different genders. When parents buy different toys in accordance to their gender, they will probably think that their parnts are unfair in buyung toys. And when parents praise one of the children, the pther child will feel jealous and angry with his siblings.

4. The Association Between Knowledge and *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District in 2019

The results showed that out of 56 respondents, 44.6% had good knowledge about

*sibling rivalry*, while out of 57 respondents, 61.4% had sufficient knowledge about *sibling rivalry*, and out of 41 respondents, 73.2% had lack knowledge about *sibling rivalry*. The results of statistical tests using chi-square also showed a very significant association between knowledge and the *sibling rivalry* in Puskesmas Blang Bintang Working Area, Aceh Besar District ( $p\text{-value} = 0.016$ ).

The results of this study are in accordance with research conducted by Purnamasari (2014), which shows that there is a very significant association between mother's knowledge and *sibling rivalry* ( $p\text{-value}=0,01$ ).

Parents who have enough knowledge about *sibling rivalry* will quickly recognize the *sibling rivalry* signs in their children, especially in the early days of their baby's birth and know the right way to reduce its effect on other children. Therefore, knowledge about *sibling rivalry* and ways of handling it is required by every family, especially mothers, because children are instinctively closer to their mothers than their fathers.

According to the researcher's assumption, parent's knowledge plays an important role in dealing with *sibling rivalry* in children. Parents with a proper knowledge of dealing with *sibling rivalry*, can at least reduce the occurrence of *sibling rivalry*, although it cannot be handled completely. Parents who plan their next pregnancy when the child is still a toddler and preschool age should prepare sufficient or good knowledge about *sibling rivalry* which can be experienced by their child at any time.

5. The Association Between Parenting Style and *Sibling Rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District in 2019

The results showed that out of 24 respondents, 70.8% whose parenting style was authoritarian experienced *sibling rivalry*, out of 49 respondents, 42.9% whose parenting pattern was permissive experienced *sibling rivalry*, while out of 42 respondents, 71.4% whose parenting style was democratic experienced *sibling rivalry*, and out of 39 respondents, 56.4% whose parenting was

passive and experienced *sibling rivalry*. The results of statistical tests obtained P-value = 0.024, showed that there was a very significant association between parenting style and the *sibling rivalry* in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar District.

The results of this study are in accordance with research conducted by Hanum (2015), showing the results that 4 respondents (22.2%) apply authoritative parenting and 14 respondents (77.8%) apply authoritarian parenting. The results of the *Multiple Logistics Regression* analysis test showed that there was a significant impact between the type parenting style factor and the *sibling rivalry* with a value of  $\rho=0,043$ .

There are several types of parenting styles which are classified as authoritarian, permissive, democratic and passive parenting. Authoritarian parenting is a restrictive and punitive style when parents force children to follow their directions and respect their work and efforts. Whereas, permissive parenting is a parenting style in which parents are highly involved with their children but place few demands or control over them. Democratic parenting style encourages children to be independent, but still places limits and controls over their actions. In this parenting style, an extensive give and take verbal communication is allowed. However, passive or negligent parenting is a style when parents are mostly uninvolved in the child's life. Parents who neglect to develop a sense that the children are more important than any other aspect of the parent's life. This condition may be indicated by the child's social incompetence.<sup>3</sup>

According to the researcher's assumption, parenting is closely associated with *sibling rivalry*, parents involvement is great attention felt by children because *sibling rivalry* can be experienced in any given parenting style. In democratic parenting, most children experience *sibling rivalry* caused by external factors such as the involvement of relatives, neighbors, and other closest people who compare the older child and the younger child, even though parents have implemented good parenting.

While authoritarian parenting is not very well applied to children who are still under 5 years old. Whereas, in a passive parenting pattern, *sibling rivalry* is very likely to occur when the birth of a second child takes place. When children are faced with the presence of a younger sibling, it is best to practice permissive parenting because good parents must always be involved in children's activities and show concern.

### Conclusion

According to the study conducted in the Working Area of Puskesmas Blang Bintang, Aceh Besar, it was found that there was an association between birth order, child's age, gender, knowledge, and parenting style with *sibling rivalry* in children.

### Conflict of Interest

There is no conflict of interest between the author and the institution

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### Authors' Contribution

- a. Concept & research Question: Intan Permata sari
- b. Conducting Research: Intan Permata Sari,
- c. Statistical Analysis: Intan Permata sari, Yusnaini, Kartina Zahri
- d. Report Writing: Intan Permata sari, Yusnaini, Kartina Zahri.

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