


The Impact of Parenting on Children's Problematic Behavior: A Behavioristic Analysis of The Character Zain Al-Rafeea in The Film Capernaum

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<p>Received: 2024-11-28</p> <p>Published: 2024-12-29</p> <p>Keywords: Parenting, Children's Problematic Behavior, Analysis Character</p> <p>Copyright holder: © Author/s (2024)</p> <p>This article is under:</p>  <p>How to cite: Sari, E. A., & Muthohar, S. (2024). The Impact of Parenting on Children's Problematic Behavior: A Behavioristic Analysis of The Character Zain Al-Rafeea in The Film Capernaum. <i>Bulletin of Counseling and Psychotherapy</i>, 6(3). https://doi.org/10.51214/002024061201000</p> <p>Published by: Kuras Institute</p> <p>E-ISSN: 2656-1050</p>	<p>ABSTRACT: This study will examine the problematic behaviors exhibited by the character Zain Al-Rafeea in the film Capernaum, analyzing these behaviors as a consequence of the parenting patterns employed by his parents. The method used in analyzing problematic characters and behavior is by using the behavioristic analysis method, which examines the relationship between stimuli and responses to understand how parenting influence shapes behavior. The approach used in this study is qualitative using library research with data collection techniques through observation and documentation in the Capernaum film which will be presented in descriptive form. The results of this research show that the problematic behavior shown by Zain Al-Rafeea, such as stealing, speaking harshly, running away from home, and getting involved in physical conflict with adults, is a conditioned response that is attached and connected to the stimulus resulting from his parents' parenting style. The results of this study are expected to contribute to the fields of education, psychology, and child welfare by identifying risk factors that contribute to the emergence of problematic behavior in children. This study is also expected to increase public awareness of the importance of positive parenting patterns in shaping healthy child development.</p>
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INTRODUCTION

Parenting patterns play a crucial role in various dimensions of child development. Dimensions of child development that can be affected are children's morals and mindset (Handayani & Lestari, 2021) social-emotional and cognitive (Kausar & Afaq, 2024), character (Hardianti F dan Adawiyah R, 2022) as well as children's behavior (Jones, Cassidy, & Shaver, 2015). The goal of parenting is to create a positive and supportive relationship between parents and children, through a strong and loving relationship, parents can ensure that children's development is achieved properly (Lorence, Hidalgo, Pérez-Padilla, & Menéndez, 2019). This includes providing guidance, emotional support, and creating a safe and loving environment for children to grow and develop.

Problematic behavior in children is a serious problem and requires more attention. Actions that are not in accordance with societal norms and deviate from the social environment can endanger a child's future development. Problematic behavior such as aggression, which is widespread in adolescents, is strongly influenced by parents and the parenting patterns they apply (Perez-Gramaje, Garcia, Reyes, Serra, & Garcia, 2020). Empirical research has shown a strong correlation between authoritarian, permissive, or neglectful parenting styles and the emergence of aggressive and antisocial behavior in children. Authoritarian parenting styles, which are characterized by tight

control and lack of responsiveness to children's needs, have been associated with increased aggressive behavior and difficulty in developing positive social skills (Sumargi, Prasetyo, & Ardelia, 2020). Conversely, permissive parenting styles, which are characterized by a lack of rules and supervision, can also contribute to aggressive behavior and a lack of ability to control impulses (Kawabata, Alink, Tseng, van Ijzendoorn, & Crick, 2011). A neglectful parenting style, in which parents do not provide enough attention and support, can cause children to develop antisocial behavior and difficulties in forming healthy relationships (Bi et al., 2018).

Research regarding the impact of parenting styles on children's problematic behavior has been the focus of many studies. However, this study offers a new perspective by using a qualitative approach by focusing on an in-depth analysis of the fictional character Zain Al-Rafeea in the film *Capernaum*. This approach allows for a deeper understanding of the mechanisms involved in the relationship between parenting and problematic behavior. By limiting the sample to one case, this study aims to provide more in-depth and contextual insight into the impact of parenting patterns on children's behavior. This study will investigate the aggressiveness and rejection of authority shown by Zain, as well as how his parents' parenting can influence these behaviors. By using behavioristic analysis, this research aims to provide a deeper understanding of the relationship between parenting patterns and the specific behavior shown by the character.

Parenting patterns can be categorized into several types, each with different characteristics and impacts. Parenting is the style of care applied by parents in educating and guiding their children (Darling & Steinberg, 2017) and nurturing children (Nuraeni & Lubis, 2022) by covering various aspects such as parenting style, discipline, and social interaction. Parenting patterns have a significant influence on the development of children's character and behavior in the future (Hardianti F dan Adawiyah R, 2022) including emotional well-being and social skills (Priyana, 2023). In general, parenting patterns can be categorized into several types, namely authoritarian, permissive, authoritative, and neglective (Nurfirdaus, 2024).

Children's problematic behavior can be defined as actions that deviate from social norms and disrupt daily social and emotional functioning. In the film *Capernaum*, the character Zain Al-Rafeea provides a clear example of problematic behavior. His actions, such as running away from home, stealing, and engaging in physical conflict with adults, demonstrate deviations from prevailing social norms. These behaviors not only negatively impact Zain's personal well-being, but also hinder his ability to adapt and interact effectively with his social environment. This suggests that problematic behaviors such as these can be indicators of deeper problems in child development.

Behaviorism theory has two important emphases in the process of development or change in behavior, namely stimulus and response. Stimulus is something or influence that comes from outside oneself, either in the form of objects, situations, environments, auditory, or tactile information received by the brain through the representation system (Haryanto, 2020). Response is a reaction that occurs due to stimulus such as behavior that can be seen from the outside (Susanto, 2018). Analysis using behaviorism theory is useful for understanding and explaining human behavior, including problematic behavior.

The film *Capernaum* is a film originating from Lebanon by Director Nadine Labaki which has received various achievements at the international level, one of which is being nominated for the *Palme d'Or*, the highest award at the Cannes Film Festival. The film *Capernaum* itself managed to get a fifteen-minute standing ovation after being screened at the Cannes Film Festival in 2018. The film *Capernaum* was chosen as the object of research because it depicts complex social conditions and is relevant to the topic to be studied.

The problematic behavior shown by the character Zain Al-Rafeea in the film *Capernaum* is an interesting example to study. The causes of the problematic behavioral changes in the character Zain Al-Rafeea need to be analyzed. Watson describes that a response will be conditioned if it is attached and connected to a stimulus (Schultz & Schultz, 2021). The response that Watson means is shown by

the character Zain Al-Rafeea as problematic behavior due to stimuli that are already attached to the character due to the parenting pattern given by the parents.

The results of this study are expected to contribute to the fields of education, psychology, and child welfare. By knowing the source of the cause of problematic behavior experienced by children, anticipation can be done to prevent or resolve problematic behavior that occurs in children. This study aims to identify the relationship between Zain Al-Rafeea's parenting style and his problematic behavior. In addition to contributing to the understanding of the impact of parenting on children's problematic behavior, this study also opens up opportunities for further research in the field of child development. By expanding the scope of research to different cultural and social contexts, we can gain a more comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence children's behavior.

In this study, the researcher will use a behavioristic analysis method that will focus on the character and psychological conflicts experienced by the character Zain Al-Rafeea in the film *Capernaum*. Behaviorism theory is used in this research to analyze the characters and psychological conflicts of the characters as a result of the parenting patterns carried out by parents. The view of behaviorism theory is to understand that human behavior is the result of environmental factors. Behaviorism theory prioritizes changes in children's behavior due to stimulus and response (Syifauzakiya, Ariyanto, & Aslina, 2021). The stimulus given and providing habituation to children by the environment in this case the family can influence children's behavior.

METHODS

Design

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study to analyze problematic behavior in the character of Zain Al-Rafee in the film "*Capernaum*". Data were collected through in-depth observation of relevant scenes and documentation of behavior shown by Zain al-Rafeea. The data of this study comes from dialogues or actions taken by Zain A-Rafeea. Data are assessed using stimulus and response according to behaviorism theory. Furthermore, the data obtained will be transcribed and analyzed thematically using a behavioral theory framework. Through this analysis, it is expected to identify Zain's behavioral patterns, the factors that influence them, and the learning mechanisms underlying the behavior.

Data collection

The data collection technique in this study is through film content analysis. The focus of the analysis will be directed at the character of Zain Al-Rafee and his interaction with the surrounding environment, especially with his parents. The stages of data collection are carried out by 1) transcribing dialogues or scenes. These scenes will be selected based on their relevance to the variables to be analyzed, namely parenting patterns and Zain Al-Rafeea's problematic behavior. 2) Open data coding, this is done to identify actions related to parenting patterns and problematic behavior. 3) Accent data coding, grouping open data coding into broader groups.

Data Analysis

The next stage is data analysis by connecting parenting patterns with Zain Al-Rafeea's problematic behavior. The relationship between these two variables will be analyzed in depth using the selected theoretical framework. This analysis aims to identify the extent to which the parenting patterns applied by Zain's parents contribute to the emergence of problematic behavior in him.

Table 1. Data Collection Result

<i>Scene</i>	<i>Time Stamp</i>	<i>Dialogue/action</i>	<i>Open Codes</i>	<i>Accent Codes</i>
1	00:08:05	Zain showed the prescription to the pharmacist, the pharmacist asked "Who is this for?" Zain answered "For Mom" Then the pharmacist asked again "Why didn't she come herself?" Zain answered by lying, "She had surgery on her stomach".	Lying	Problematic behavior
2	00:08:24	Zain's baby brother was chained by his mother while she mixed illegal drugs using drugs that Zain had bought at the pharmacy for his mother to sell to buyers in prison. Zain and Sahira (Zain's younger sister) help their mother to make the drugs.	Chained, meracik obat terlarang, menjual obat terlarang	Authoritarian parenting, Problematic behavior
3	00:09:17	Zain's mother hit Zain on the back of the head.	Hit	Authoritarian parenting
4	00:09:25	Zain saw his mother smoking.	Smoking	Negative role
5	00:23:45	Zain sees that his sister, Sahar, is being married to Assaad. Zain protested to his mother and said harshly.	Protesting, Swearing	Expression of negative emotions, problematic behavior
6	00:27:20	Zain plans to run away from home along with his sister Sahar.	Running away from home	Resistance, Problematic behavior
7	00:27:45	Zain stole money from his parents' wallet.	Steal	Problematic behavior
8	00:27:55	Zain steals merchandise from Assaad's shop.	Steal	Problematic behavior
9	00:29:17	Zain said he would kill Assaad, after seeing that Sahar was being handed over by her mother to Assaad's house.	Protesting, threatening	Expression of negative emotions, problematic behavior
10	00:29:56	Zain's mother hit Zain on the head and back and pulled Zain's hair, while trying to prevent Sahar from being handed over by her parents to Assaad.	Hitting the head and back, pulling hair, submission	Authoritarian parenting, physical violence
11	00:30:09	Zain's mother cursed Zain with the words, "Damn child".	Cursing	Verbal Violence, Authoritarian parenting
12	00:31:02	Zain vented his anger after Sahar was taken away by kicking the door.	Anger, kicking the door	Expression of negative emotions, problematic behavior
13	00:31:10	Zain's mother scolded Zain with the words "little bastard".	Scolding, harsh words	Authoritarian parenting, verbal abuse
14	00:33:00	Zain ran away from home by taking a bus.	Running away from home	Problematic behavior
15	00:38:00	Zain opens the clothes of the woman statue in the amusement park, exposing the chest area of the statue.	Undressing the statue	Vandalism, problematic behavior
16	00:47:32	Zain changes Tigest's child Yonas' diaper, but he uses harsh words when telling Yonas to sit down, such as "sit down, damn it!"	Swearing	Problematic behavior

17	1:06:32	Zain meets a child his own age, and when Zain is asked what his name is, Zain answers "Ibrahim".	Lying	Problematic behavior
18	1:10:44	Zain stole someone else's milk bottle to use to breastfeed Yonas.	Stealing	Problematic behavior
19	1:15:28	Zain snatches another child's skateboard to use as Yonas' vehicle.	Stealing	Problematic behavior
20	1:19:59	Zain lied and claimed to be Syrian at the food aid post to get milk and diapers for Yonas and food.	Lying	Problematic behavior
21	1:23:42	Zain buys medicine from a pharmacist by lying, the medicine will be mixed into an illegal drug by Zain to sell.	Lying, mixing drugs, selling drugs	Problematic behavior
22	1:26:10	Zain smoked while talking to Yonas.	Smoking	Problematic behavior
23	1:34:36	Zain decided to hand Yonas over to Aspro, who is the person who handles human trafficking.	Submission	Moral conflict
24	1:36:36	Zain was beaten by his mother and scolded with the words "Impudent child", when Zain decided to go home.	Beaten, scolded	Authoritarian parenting, physical abuse, verbal abuse
25	1:38:23	Zain was dragged by his father to get Zain out of the house.	Dragged	Authoritarian parenting, physical abuse
26	1:39:36	Zain finds out that his sister Sahar who was married to Assaad died, Zain decides to stab Assaad with a knife.	Stabbing with a knife	Expression of negative emotions, problematic behavior

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

Table 1. is the result of data collection that has been done through observation of data sources, namely the Capernaum film. The variables observed are problematic behavior shown by Zain Al-Rafeea and the parenting patterns given by his parents which are then grouped into open codes, then categorized more specifically and abstractly into accent codes. The scene related to Zain Al-Rafeea's problematic behavior and the parenting style carried out by his parents, has a result of 26. With 18 problematic behaviors, and 7 parenting patterns.

Discussion

Behaviorist theory, pioneered by B.F. Skinner and others, provides an explanation of how human behavior is influenced by external stimuli and the consequences of their actions (Setiawan, 2017). This theory emphasizes that behavior can be modified through the process of reinforcement and punishment (Ramadhan, Santosa, Wijayanti, & Karimah, 2024). Positive reinforcement, such as praise or rewards, can strengthen desired behavior (Nikishyna, Didenko, & Maksymova, 2023), while punishment aims to reduce or eliminate unwanted behavior (Maag, 2001). In the context of parenting, behaviorist theory can help understand how interactions with parents can influence children's behavior (Maccoby, 1992). Negative behavior can develop when a child receives incorrect reinforcement or inappropriate physical punishment (Gershoff, 2002).

Using behavioristic theory, this study will analyze the problematic behavior shown by Zain's character in the film Capernaum. The focus of the analysis will be directed at how Zain's interaction with his parents can influence the problematic behavior shown by Zain. This theory will help in understanding the mechanism of behavior and how parenting patterns can contribute to the development of children's behavior.

From the data collected, there is a clear pattern that Zain's problematic behavior often appears after he experiences and sees violent behavior, both physical and verbal, from his parents. For example, in the scene at 00:29:56, Zain is hit by his mother and then shows aggressive behavior shown in the scene at 00:31:02, which shows a direct relationship between verbal violence and Zain's physical violent behavior.

At 01:26:10, Zain smokes because he sees his mother smoking, which shows that Zain imitates his parents' behavior. This is further strengthened by the scenes where Zain is often scolded and cursed by his mother in the scene 00:31:10. Accent codes such as 'Authoritarian parenting' and 'Negative role' indicate that parental violence triggers imitative behavior in Zain, which leads to his problematic actions.

From the perspective of behaviorist theory, Zain's behavior can be understood as a response to negative reinforcement from an uncaring and harsh parenting style. Zain often speaks harshly, even imitates his parents in smoking, selling drugs, and even getting involved in physical violence with adults. This theory helps to understand how interactions with parents can affect children's behavior, and how negative reinforcement can shape Zain's behavior in an effort to avoid unpleasant situations.

The violent behavior shown by Zain, both towards peers and adults, can be analyzed through the concept of modeling or imitation of behavior in behaviorist theory. Zain, who grew up in a violent environment, tends to imitate the behavior of those around him, especially his parents, who use physical and verbal violence as a response to problems. In this context, Zain learns that violence is an effective strategy to get attention or cope with feelings of frustration and injustice. This behaviorist theory shows how an unsupportive environment, full of punishment or neglect, can shape children's behavior that is detrimental to themselves and others. In Zain's case, he may have developed the belief that violence is a normal and acceptable way to interact with others, because that is what he saw and experienced in his family environment. This emphasizes the importance of a positive and supportive environment in shaping children's healthy and constructive behavior.

Implications

This analysis shows that behaviorist theory provides a powerful framework for understanding the relationship between abusive and authoritarian parenting and problem behavior in children. The negative reinforcement and punishment that Zain received from his parents had a significant impact on how he managed his emotions and responded to social situations. These findings emphasize the importance of a more responsive and loving parenting approach. By using positive reinforcement, parents can help shape more adaptive and healthy behaviors in children. Positive reinforcement, such as praise, rewards, and emotional support, can reinforce desired behaviors and help children develop positive social skills. A responsive and loving parenting approach can create a safe and supportive environment for children, reducing the likelihood of problem behaviors occurring. The implications of these findings are the importance of education and interventions that focus on positive and effective parenting. By understanding how unhealthy parenting can affect children's behavior, we can develop better strategies to prevent and address problem behaviors, and promote healthy and positive development in children.

Limitations and Further Research

This study has limitations because it only uses one data source, namely the film *Capernaum*, which focuses on the experience of one character, Zain. This limits the generalization of the research results to a wider population, given the different social and cultural context factors. A limitation of this study is that it relies on fictional representations of characters in the film *Capernaum*, which may simplify or direct character dynamics and behavior. This may cause the results of the analysis to not fully reflect the complexity and reality of family dynamics in real life.

Further research could expand the sample coverage by analyzing more films or audiovisual works that depict the dynamics of poor parenting in children. By conducting a broader analysis, researchers could test whether the findings obtained in the film *Capernaum* also apply in other contexts or different cultures. This would contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the impact of poor parenting on children's behavior, regardless of social and cultural differences.

CONCLUSION

This study has analyzed the impact of parenting on problematic behavior in children using the character Zain in the film *Capernaum* as the object of study. The results of the analysis show that harsh parenting, neglect, and verbal abuse received by Zain from his parents contributed significantly to the development of negative behaviors, such as aggression, escape, and rebellion. Through the behaviorist theory approach, it can be seen that Zain's behavior is formed through the process of negative reinforcement and punishment he receives, where unwanted behavior is reinforced through interactions full of indifference and violence. In addition, the concept of modeling in behaviorist theory explains that Zain, who grew up in a violent environment, imitates this behavior in his social interactions.

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AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS STATEMENT

All authors have read and approved the final version of this article.

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