

Original Research

Strengthening Family Commitment in Monitoring Child Development through the Role of Filial Values

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ABSTRACT

Background: Monitoring the development of children under five by families is essential for optimal child development. Family commitment in this context is influenced by various factors, including personal factors and family resources. This study aims to analyze the influence of monitoring on child development, with a focus on the role of filial values as a mediator variable. **Methods:** This study used an explanatory, cross-sectional design. The sample consisted of 275 families with toddlers within the health center working area in Surabaya City, selected through simple random sampling. The variables assessed include factors influencing family commitment. Data were collected using a questionnaire and analyzed using SEM-PLS. **Results:** The findings showed that personal factors and resource factors significantly influence family commitment to monitoring the development of children under five, mediated by the filial values. The coefficient for the effect of personal factors on behavioral factors was 0.149 ($p = 0.028$); for resource factors on cognition behavior, 0.541 ($p = 0.000$); for cognition behavior on filial values, 0.493 ($p = 0.000$); for cognition behavior on commitment, 0.1113 ($p = 0.024$); and for filial values on commitment, 0.697 ($p = 0.000$). **Conclusions:** Filial values play a crucial role in enhancing the impact of personal factors and family resources on family commitment to monitoring the child development. Further research is needed on an intervention that strengthens the filial value of families to enhance family commitment to optimizing the monitoring of children's development. Personal factors and family resources are key in shaping family commitment, with filial values strengthening this relationship. Emphasizing personal aspects, family resources, and filial values is essential to increase family commitment in monitoring child development.

Keywords: Filial values; family commitment; toddler development; child monitoring; family resources

1. INTRODUCTION

The growth and development of children under five are critical determinants of quality of life and the future of upcoming generations. However, nutritional and health issues such as stunting, wasting, and underweight pose significant challenge to physical and mental development, affecting many children worldwide, including in Indonesia. Stunting remains a serious concern in various countries. By 2021, global data indicated that more than 149 million children under five were stunted, and around 45 million children were wasted due to severe malnutrition.⁽¹⁾

In Indonesia, the prevalence of stunting was 21.6% in 2023, making a decrease from previous years.⁽²⁾ Despite this

progress, East Java's stunting rate reached 23%, highlighting the need for ongoing improvement efforts. Although Surabaya City performs better than East Java province overall, it still recorded an 18.3% stunting rate.⁽³⁾ Malnutrition in children under five impacts not only physical growth but also cognitive, motor, and social development.⁽⁴⁾ Delays in detection and intervention can lead to long-term consequences, including reduced learning ability, lower productivity in adulthood, and an increased risk of chronic diseases. Therefore, regular monitoring of child growth and development is essential. However, in Indonesia, family-led growth and development monitoring is often suboptimal due to limitations in knowledge, economic conditions, and cultural factors.⁽⁵⁾

Families play a vital role in monitoring child development. In the context of child-rearing, families are responsible not only for meeting basic needs but also for actively monitoring and providing stimulation for child development.⁽⁶⁾ As the primary caregivers, families hold the main responsibility for ensuring children's basic needs, including nutrition and developmental stimulation, are met.⁽⁷⁾ However, barriers such as limited knowledge, restricted access to healthcare facilities, economic challenges, and local cultural influences often hinder family commitment to child development monitoring.^(8,9) Effective strategies to increase family commitment are needed, including strengthening filial values.

Filial value has a broad range of concepts rooted in Indonesian culture. They are often associated with parental responsibilities in caring for children, including monitoring development. Strengthening filial values within families is expected to increase parental commitment to child-rearing, driven by the belief that children's welfare represents a long-term investment for the family and society. Studies on filial values in family health show that motivation based on affective relationships between family members and social norms can increase parental commitment.^(10,11) Research on the filial piety in Asian countries shows an association between filial values and increased caregiving commitment.⁽¹²⁾ Integrating filial values with commitment has the potential to improve public health programs.⁽¹³⁾

In the context of public health policy, examining the role of filial values in child development monitoring is increasingly important. This study focuses on the influence of filial values on family commitment in

monitoring child development. Although the concept of filial value has been widely discussed in intergenerational relationships in various countries, its exploration in the context of child health, especially child development in Indonesia, is still limited.⁽⁸⁾ This study provides a new perspective on how filial values can be integrated into health programs to strengthen family commitment to monitoring child development. Understanding how filial values influence commitment could provide a scientific basis for enhancing family involvement in monitoring child development. The significance of this study lies in exploring filial value factors, which have been underexplored in the context of commitment of child development monitoring. This study contributes to child care practices and highlights how cultural values can be integrated in public health programs to achieve better outcomes. The research question addressed in this study is: "What role do filial values play in increasing family commitment to monitoring the development of children under five?" The purpose of this study is to examine the role of filial values in increasing family commitment to monitoring child development.

2. METHODS

This explanatory research employed a cross-sectional design to examine the effect of personal factors, resources, and filial values (independent variables) on family commitment to monitoring the development of children under five (dependent variable). This design allowed for simultaneous analysis of these variables at a single point in time.

This research was conducted from January to June 2024 in the Surabaya City Health Center working area. The study population comprised all families with children under five years old within this area. The sample included families willing to participate and who met the inclusion criteria of having a child under five years old. A sample of 275 respondents was selected using simple random sampling.

In this study, the exogenous variables were personal factors (knowledge, self-esteem, self-motivation, and experience) and resource factors (family attachment, community support, and competing role demands). The endogenous variable was family commitment to monitoring child development, measured through affective, continuous, and normative commitment dimensions.

Data were collected using a structured questionnaire developed by the researchers, with prior testing for validity and reliability. This questionnaire measured all research variables comprehensively. The data were analyzed using Structural Equation Modeling–Partial Least Squares (SEM-PLS).

3. RESULTS

The study included 275 respondents, and the results are detailed below.

3.1 Variable Descriptions

Table 1 summarizes the research variables, including personal factors, resources, behavioral cognition, filial values, and commitment levels.

Table 1. Description of research variables

Variable	Indicator	Most common categories	Percentage (%)
Personal factors			
	Knowledge	High	44.0
	Self esteem	High	77.5
	Self-motivation	High	71.3
	Experience	Medium	52.4
Resources factors			
	Family connectedness	High	72.0
	Community resources	High	78.9
	Competing role demand	High	84.7
Behavioral cognition			
	Benefits	High	69.8
	Barriers	Medium	60.4
	Self-efficacy	Medium	63.6
	Affective development	High	64.0
Filial value			
	Responsibility	High	74.2
	Respect	High	73.8
	Care	High	70.5
Commitment			
	Affective	High	70.9
	Continuance	High	70.5
	Normative	High	66.9

Based on Table 1, several insights can be noted: most respondents exhibited high levels of knowledge, self-esteem, and self-motivation, though the majority rated their experience as moderate (52.4%). In terms of resource factors, a significant majority showed high levels of family connectedness, community resources, and capacity to manage competing role demands, indicating strong environmental support. For behavioral cognition, most respondents perceived high benefits, yet experienced moderate levels of barriers (60.4%) and self-efficacy (63.6%). Regarding filial values, the majority demonstrated high responsibility, respect, and care, highlighting the importance of these values. Lastly, commitment levels across affective, continuance, and normative dimensions were generally

high, with most respondents showing strong commitment.

3.2 Path Analysis and Hypothesis Testing

The path coefficients for each relationship among the variables are presented in Table 2. All relationships analyzed showed a positive effect on commitment. The positive coefficients indicate that an increase in the exogenous variables results in an increase in the endogenous variables, with all relationships having a statistically significant effect.

The analysis of direct effect showed several significant relationships. Personal factors had a positive influence on behavioral cognition, with a path coefficient of 0.149. This coefficient suggests that higher levels of personal factors are associated with better

Table 2. Path coefficients

Variable relationship	Original sample (O)	T-statistics (O/STDEV)	p-value
X1.Personal Factors → X3.Factor_Behavior Cognition	0.149	2.201	0.028
X2.Source_Power → X3.Factor_Behavior Cognition	0.541	9.026	0.000
X3.Factor_Behavior Cognition → X5.Filial Value	0.493	11.691	0.000
X3.Factor_Behavior Cognition → Y. Commitment	0.113	2.257	0.024
X5.Filial Value → Y. Commitment	0.697	14.290	0.000

cognitive behavior, and this relationship was statistically significant, with a p-value of 0.028 ($p < 0.05$). Resources also had a significant positive effect on behavioral cognition, with a path coefficient of 0.541 and a p-value of 0.000, indicating that increased resources enhance behavioral factors.

Furthermore, behavioral cognition positively influenced filial values, with a path coefficient of 0.493 and a highly significant p-value of 0.000, confirming that higher behavioral cognition is associated with stronger filial values. Behavioral cognition also had a positive impact on commitment, shown by a path coefficient of 0.113 and a p-value of 0.024, which supports the idea that higher behavioral factors lead to

greater commitment. Finally, filial value had a strong positive effect on commitment, with a high path coefficient of 0.697 and a p-value of 0.000, demonstrating that greater filial value significantly strengthens commitment.

Overall, these direct effect analyses indicate that personal and resource factors, as well as behavioral cognition and filial values, all play important roles in enhancing family commitment in the context of monitoring child development.

The indirect effects are presented in Table 3, where significant relationships with p-values below 0.05 are displayed.

Table 3. Test results of indirect influence

No.	Variable relationship	Coefficient	T-count	p-value
1	X1.Personal Factors -> X3.Behavioral Factors -> X5.Core Values -> Y1.Commitment	0.053	2.103	0.035
2	X2.Source_Power -> X3.Behavioral Factors-> X5.Core Values -> Y1.Commitment	0.187	5.606	0.000

The indirect effect table of PLS test results has 9 relationships. However, in this study, only the indirect effect relationships that have a significant effect with a p value below 0.05 are shown. Of the 73 indirect relationships that are significantly related, only 25 relationships. The PLS analysis revealed a total of nine indirect effects; however, only those with significant p-values (below 0.05) are shown. Among the 73 analyzed indirect relationships, 25 were statistically significant. Overall, the results indicate that personal factors and resources positively influence family commitment through both direct and indirect effects on behavioral cognition and filial values.

4. DISCUSSION

The study found a positive and significant influence between personal factors and cognitive

behavior in monitoring child development. Personal factors such as parental knowledge, self-esteem, self-motivation, and experience play an important role in shaping cognitive behavior. Parental knowledge of child development is a strong predictor of their involvement in monitoring their child’s growth. Studies indicated that increasing parental knowledge about child health directly increased their involvement in monitoring growth, particularly concerning nutrition and basic health.^(14,15) In addition, self-esteem and self-motivation contribute to parents’ ability to handling the daily challenges of childcare, as highlighted by Ding et al. (2023) in their study on the role of self-confidence in childcare and development monitoring.⁽¹⁶⁾ Additionally, previous parenting experience influences cognitive behavior; parents with greater childcare experience often demonstrate higher confidence in monitoring

child development. Chen (2014) found that prior childcare experience helps parents to identify child development problems earlier, thereby facilitating timely interventions.⁽¹⁷⁾

The findings indicate that strengthening personal factors such as knowledge, self-esteem, self-motivation, and experience can enhance parents' cognitive behavior in child development monitoring. This suggests the importance of educational programs targeted at improving personal factors, which will be necessary to support better parenting and more effective developmental monitoring. The study also found that resources had a significant effect on cognitive behavior, and showed a positive influence. Family resources and community support play an important role in facilitating parents' cognitive behaviors in monitoring child development. The availability of resources, be it in the form of financial, time, or social support, allows parents to focus more on their children's developmental needs. Research by Paramitasari and Rompas (2021) showed that families with adequate resources tend to conduct more frequent child development monitoring, including visits to health facilities and participation in child development programs.⁽¹⁸⁾ Community support also plays an important role. Patel et al. (2020) showed that strong community support, such as parent groups or Posyandu services (integrated health service), significantly contributed to parents' cognitive behavior in terms of understanding and implementing child development monitoring.⁽¹⁹⁾ Competing demands, such as work and other family responsibilities, can reduce parental involvement, but adequate family and community support can help parents in managing these roles more effectively, ultimately strengthens cognitive behavior in child care.⁽¹⁹⁾

Resource and community support in strengthening parents' cognitive behaviors related to monitoring child development is important. By ensuring that families have access to adequate resources and strong community support, intervention programs can be more effective in increasing parental involvement in monitoring child development. Cognitive behavior was found to significantly influence filial values, with positive effects observed. This indicates that the better the cognitive behavior of the family, the more the family's filial value in monitoring child development will increase. Previous research shows that parents who have high cognitive awareness of the importance of child care tend to value and

practice filial piety values such as responsibility, respect, and care.⁽²⁰⁾ Other research confirms that positive parental cognitive behavior, including understanding the benefits of monitoring child development and recognizing barriers, is closely related to strengthening filial values in the family.⁽²¹⁾ Self-efficacy, or parents' belief in their ability to care for and monitor their children's development, also plays an important role in strengthening filial values. Previous research suggests that parents with high self-efficacy tend to value their responsibilities more as part of filial piety, which in turn increases their commitment to caring for their children.⁽¹⁷⁾

Cognitive behaviors not only influence parents' direct actions in monitoring child development but also strengthen core values such as filial piety. This suggests that interventions aimed at improving parents' cognitive behaviors should also consider strengthening cultural values that support long-term commitment to child development monitoring. The study found that filial values significantly influence family commitment to monitoring child development. Filial values, which emphasize responsibility, respect, and care for family members, have a positive impact on family commitment to child welfare.⁽¹⁷⁾ These values encourage parents to view childcare as part of their moral responsibility.⁽²²⁾ As a mediator, filial values support personal factors in strengthening cognitive behaviors, which ultimately heightens family commitment to child development monitoring. Here, filial values internalize and reinforce the link between parental beliefs and their actual caregiving actions.

Parental knowledge and motivation provide the foundation for better cognitive behaviors, such as understanding the importance of monitoring child development. However, without strong filial values, knowledge and motivation alone may not translate into sustained action and a strong commitment. Filial values provide a cultural foundation, emphasizing responsibility, respect, and care, which motivates parents to consistently act with dedication.⁽¹⁴⁾ Strong filial values in families promote the use of available resources—such as community support and health services—to strengthen family commitment. Parents with these values are more likely to utilize resources as part of their moral obligation toward their children, ensuring that these resources are used effectively and contribute to sustainable actions in childcare.⁽²¹⁾

In addition, the study has limitations. The cross-sectional design restricts the ability to make causal inferences. Additionally, the research was conducted in a specific urban area, potentially limiting the generalizability of the findings to rural or different socio-economic settings. Future studies could address these limitations by using longitudinal designs and a broader sample, which may yield insights into changes over time and provide a more comprehensive understanding of parental commitment to child development monitoring.

5. CONCLUSION

The findings of this study highlight the important role of filial values in increasing family commitment to monitoring the development of children under five. Filial values not only directly influence commitment but also serve as a mediating factor between personal factors and family resources, ultimately increasing the family's commitment to child development monitoring. In the context of family-based monitoring, strengthening filial values can help ensure that resources provided by families, health centers and communities are used effectively utilized. Programs focused on strengthening family values can guide parents in making the most of available resources, supporting their commitment to monitoring their children's development.

By emphasizing filial values, parents may better appreciate the importance of utilizing health services, such as Posyandu (integrated health service), as part of their responsibility to ensure optimal child health and development. In this way, filial values play an important role in maximizing the impact of available resources and increasing family commitment to child development monitoring. Based on the study's results, further research is recommended to explore filial values-based interventions. Such interventions could be effective in strengthening family commitment to child development monitoring.

Ethics Approval

This research received ethical approval from Komisi Etik Penelitian Kesehatan (KEPK), Poltekkes Kesehatan Kemenkes Surabaya with reference no. EA/2125/KEPK-Poltekkes_Sby/V/2024.

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Competing Interests

All the authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.

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Underlying Data

Derived data supporting the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author on request.

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