

# The Implication of a Conducive Environment on Children's Development

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## ABSTRACT

Environmental factors were often closely related to children's development. The environment must offer a conducive and constructive surrounding to achieve and enable children to develop holistically according to their age. However, some parents did not agree with the statement. They are willing to choose to work on top of everything rather than spend time with their children. Without them realising it, children were deeply affected by the situation that had occurred. Therefore, a study was conducted to identify the Implications of a Conducive Environment Towards Children's Development. A total of 64 respondents, consisting of parents, were randomly selected to obtain and collect data. This study aims to identify the level of parents' awareness, recognising the effects and importance of a conducive environment.

Also, to determine the relationship between the environment and children's development. The instrument used in this research is a questionnaire designed based on previous studies. The 4-point Likert Scale and the selection of yes or no answers are used in this research. The data obtained from respondents were collected and analysed using the Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) version 26.0. Data were analysed in a descriptive form which consists of frequency, percentage and means score. The results of this study showed that the respondent, who is also parents have a very high level of awareness regarding the effect of a conducive environment on children's development. At the same time, the understanding of the importance of a conducive environment is also at a high level. Therefore, research has suggested several suggestions to help parents maintain a conducive environment and achieve the holistic development of children in line with their age.

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Introduce the Problem

The government announced a Movement Control Order (MCO) in Malaysia to prevent Covid-19 from spreading out of control. This MCO started in March 2020 and has affected every person in the country. These individuals experience stress, emotional instability, job loss and so on. According to Amini (2017), the cause of problems that often occur in a family institution start from financial difficulties and then affect other aspects. This study was conducted to see how it affects other aspects of their involvement as a child's environment in shaping their development. Most parents do not take it seriously and think that their participation in their children's education and daily life does not affect them. However, from a psychological point of view, the involvement of parents, especially in communication and interaction with children, can impact their emotional, cognitive, and physical development and achievements in school education.

According to Md Isa et. al. (2021), parental and community involvement refers to various parental and community behaviours that directly or indirectly affect cognitive, emotional, and academic achievement. So, the participation of parents in a child's environment plays a role in their development. In the meantime, before parents express their involvement in children's daily lives, they must have basic knowledge of informal learning at home. According to Mufti (2017), parents must have skills in interacting and communicating effectively with children. It aims to facilitate discussion and exchange of opinions between parents and children. Many more parents must realise that their involvement will influence the child's positive or hostile environment. This parental involvement does not only involve interaction and communication, but it also involves emotional relationships. If parents fail to control their emotions, it will interfere with the child's development. Then children will also form negative behaviour and be involved in criminal activities, thus affecting balanced development. According to Badli, S. A. & Mohamed, S. (2021), emotional relationships are among the factors that play an essential role in shaping children's development and behaviour.

### *1.2 Importance of The Problem*

The pressure of the career world nowadays is no less significant, which has much impact on the emotional management of parents. Sometimes, the anger resulting from the stress is released to the child unintentionally and will subsequently affect the child's emotional and social development. According to Naimah (2018), parents need to be listeners to their children because children also need to express their feelings and will develop an emotional problem if their emotional needs are not fulfilled. Parents who cannot control their emotions will cause children to lose a listener with whom they can express and share their feelings. Ultimately, children will harbour feelings until it interferes with their social development process.

Parents also always expect their children to grow up and become better individuals than them. But they forget that everything is impossible if the parents do not involve themselves in their lives as the closest environment and are always by their side. As the researcher has explained, parental involvement involves more than just interaction and communication. It also involves interweaving emotional relationships between parents and children. In addition, parents should also always include children in any activity or daily routine carried out in the house that can create a conducive environment. According to Valerie & Nyssa (2019), homework sessions infused with communication, praise, stimulation, and encouragement can improve children's development. But only a few parents do this because they feel the child will complicate the situation and let the child play alone.

### *1.3 Research Design*

For this study, the researcher uses and refers to a theory in conducting this study. This theory has relevance in the context of the environment and parents' involvement as a trigger for a conducive environment. The researcher chose the Ecological approach by Urie Bronfenbrenner in this study. A child's development is greatly influenced by their environment consisting of parents, family, peers, and community. Parents or other individuals' involvement will impact children's development. This system has five environmental plans: microsystem, mesosystem, exosystem, macrosystem and chronosystem. Each of these stages affects the child's development indirectly.

#### *1.3.1 Research Objective and research question*

There are three research objectives that the researcher wants to achieve in this study:

1. Identify the level of parents' awareness and understanding of the effect of the environment on children's development.
2. Identify the impact and importance of a conducive environment on children's development.

For this research question, the researcher raises three relevant questions that can help the researcher achieve the goals and objectives of the study.

1. What is the level of parents' awareness and understanding of the effect of the environment on children's development?
2. What is the impact and importance of a conducive environment on children's development?

## **2. Literature Review**

Environment means the condition or atmosphere around humans. According to Kamus Dewan Edisi Baru (1989), this environment refers to the situation around or a situation that is the background to someone or something. Conducive means something positive brings good and encourages. According to Kamus Bahasa Melayu (2017), conducive means suitable, reasonable, achieving or promoting in producing something. For example, providing an environment encourages the birth of a new generation with new thoughts and

intellectuals.

### 2.1 *The Relationship Between Parental Involvement and Child Development*

According to Badli & Mohamed (2021), children's early development needs to be supported with the involvement of parents. The support provided by parents helps children to achieve holistic and comprehensive development. The child's story will be reasonable if the parents are involved. It can also stimulate children's brains and give them fun.

## 2. Method

For this study, the researcher used quantitative research using a questionnaire in Google Forms. The respondents to this survey form were randomly selected among parents. According to Shuhaniy Norhisham (2021), a questionnaire is a set of questions or items in written form. This form was specially created for analysis to answer the questions contained in the study.

### 3.1 *Populations and Sample*

The respondents for this study are parents who live and work around the district of Kuantan, Pahang. The study sample or population for this research study consists of 75 respondents. These respondents comprised parents who live around Sungai Isap Damai 3, Kuantan Pahang, who were randomly selected.

### 3.2 *Research Instrument*

In this study, the researcher used a questionnaire as a research instrument. The statistics of this questionnaire were inspired by references from a research study conducted by Shahri Ghani (2016). The questionnaire used by the researcher has two parts: part A for the respondents' demographic data and part B for questions related to the study's objectives.

### 3.3 *Sampling Procedures*

A questionnaire will be prepared using Google Forms for this data collection procedure. Data will be obtained through the responses given by the respondents through the Google Form link that has been distributed. This questionnaire was distributed to parents living in Sg Isap Damai 3, Kuantan Pahang. After the data has been successfully obtained from the respondents, the researcher continues the data collection process by recording the data and then analysing it to get the results of the study findings. The data will be analysed using SPSS software, Statistical Package for Social Science V26.

## 4. Results and Discussion

In this chapter, all the data that has been obtained through the questionnaire study that has been conducted will be analysed. The data that has been collected for analysis has been obtained from a questionnaire that has been conducted on 64 randomly selected respondents. This respondent consists of 22 men and 42 women. The findings of this study will explain the analysis of the Implications of a Conducive Environment on Children's Development. The results of this study will be presented according to the research questions formulated and constructed in the questionnaire.

### 4.1 *Demography Respondent*

Demographic data or the background of these respondents is contained in Part A. This part will explain the questionnaire according to the respondent's gender, age, race, religion, and occupation. The table below shows respondents' demographic data analysis by frequency and percentage. It is based on the items found in the questionnaire.

Table 1. Demography Distribution of Respondents

No.	Item	Frequency (%)
1.	Gender	
	Male	22 (34.4)
	Female	42 (65.6)
2.	Age	
	19 – 25	8 (12.5)
	26 -30	19 (29.7)
	31 – 35	25 (39.1)
	36 and above	12 (18.8)
3.	Race	
	Malay	58 (90.6)
	Indian	2 (3.1)
	Chinese	2 (3.1)
	Others	2 (3.1)

4.	Occupation	
	Government	30 (46.9)
	Private	22 (34.4)
	Student	1 (1.6)
	Others	11 (17.2)

Table 1 shows the distributions of the respondent in this research. It shows that 65.6% or 42 respondents are female. At the same time, 34.4% of the table comprises 22 male respondents. This analysis shows that the number of female respondents exceeds that of male respondents. A total of 8 respondents, with a percentage of 12.5%, are respondents who are in the age range of 19 to 25 years. Next, 19 respondents, with a rate of 29.1%, are those aged 26 to 30. At the same time, the respondents' highest percentage of age range are respondents aged between 31 and 35 years old. That is a total of 25 people, with a percentage of 39.1%. The last are respondents aged 36 years and above, with a percentage of 18.8% and 12 respondents.

Respondents' distribution according to race consists of Malays, Chinese, Indians, and others. Through this table, the number of Malay respondents is ahead of the number of other races. The percentage obtained by the Malay race is 90.6%, with 58 respondents. For Indians, Chinese and others, each has the same rate and number of respondents, which is 3.2%, with a total of 2 respondents. As for the employment item, the highest percentage is employment for government employees. While for respondents who work as private employees, it is as much as 34.4% (22 people). Next, students only bring a percentage of 1.6% (1 person). Finally, other respondents got a rate of 17.2% of 11 respondents.

#### 4.2 Parents' Awareness of The Effects of Environment on Children's Development

Table 2. Parents' Awareness of The Effects of Environment on Children's Development

No.	Item	Mean
1.	Parents are the determinants of the formation of a conducive environment.	3.92 (High)
2.	Parents who spend a lot of time with children will form a positive and balanced development.	3.95 (High)
3.	A troubled family will cause children to develop negative behaviours.	3.90 (High)

Based on the table above, the parents' statement that is decisive for forming the environment, whether conducive or not, has shown that most respondents strongly agree with the information.

#### 4.3 The Importance of a Conducive Environment on Children's Development

Table 3. The Importance of a Conducive Environment on Children's Development

No.	Item	Mean
1.	A conducive environment will have a positive effect on all aspects of children's development.	3.92 (High)
2.	An environment that provides a lot of support and encouragement will make children happy and impact good mental health.	3.93 (High)
3.	An environment that offers a good emotional relationship between parents and children will have an impact on emotional management in children	3.93 (High)
4.	An environment always surrounded by positive things and words of praise will further increase the balance in the child's spiritual development and self-confidence.	3.93 (High)

Based on the table above, the result shows a high mean for all the items for the importance of a conducive environment on children's development.

## 5. Conclusion

### 5.1 Research Summary

Overall, the primary purpose of this research study is to know more deeply about the implications of a conducive environment on children's development. To achieve this goal, the researcher has built and designed a questionnaire that contains two main objectives. The objectives are to identify the level of awareness of parents, the impact and importance of a conducive environment and the relationship between a conducive environment and children's development. This research study was conducted on 64 randomly selected respondents. All selected respondents are parents. This study collects and analyses all the data using descriptive methods.

### 5.2 Discussion

Based on the data analysis that has been carried out, the first objective of the study on the Implications of a Conducive Environment on Children's Development is to identify the level of awareness of parents about the effects of the environment on children's development found that all respondents achieved a very high level of understanding. Where they have agreed with each item listed in the questionnaire, this situation shows that these parents have the knowledge and are aware of their role in the life and development of children. According to Che Ahmad et. al. (2010), five factors can affect children's behaviour and development problems: environment, emotions, parental education, social skills, and abuse. Because of that, a conducive environment must be created to ensure children's balanced and holistic development.

Likewise, the second objective, the Effect and Importance of a Conducive Environment on Children's Development, also shows an encouraging achievement. The respondents, who are also parents, agree with the statements the researcher has included. For this objective, the researcher can conclude that the respondents know the environment's effects and importance on children's development. According to Wong (1996), the attitude of parents who do not care about their children's current situation will be the main driving factor for the formation of social and behavioural problems. Therefore, parents should try their best to find and spend time with their children, even for a moment.

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