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The Relationship Between Parenting Styles with Child Empathy: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract: The Relationship Between Parenting Styles with Child Empathy: A Bibliometric Analysis. **Objective**: This research aims to explore research trends regarding the relationship between parenting styles and empathy for children, as well as describe research development opportunities that can be carried out for further research. **Methods**: The research method used in this research is descriptive quantitative with a bibliometric approach. The data source was obtained from the Scopus database. The collected data is then exported to a text file in CSV form for further analysis with the help of the Rstudio Package, which includes networking and Biblioshiny visualization. Citation analysis was carried out on data obtained from the database, and then, an overlay was visualized using VOSviewer. **Findings**: Results show a significant increase in research on the theme from year to year, with a peak in publications in 2021. Valencia and Brigham Young Universities are the main contributors, while the topic of empathy and children's emotional well-being has been a significant focus in recent years. The 2020-2024 period shows several studies that focus on issues regarding parenting styles and also about children's concern for other people. **Conclusion**: This research concludes that the research theme regarding the relationship between parenting patterns and children's empathy still shows a promising trend.

Keywords: bibliometric, child empathy, education, parenting styles.

◼ INTRODUCTION

Every child born from the mother's womb is pure and clean (fitrah) from sin and mistakes. However, in their development, children also have the potential to be good or bad. The potential for good or bad in a child can manifest itself in the child's character and personality. This is not only influenced by factors within the child but also influences from outside, including parents, school, and the environment. One very influential element is the role of parents. Parents are responsible and contribute significantly to the child's character and personality because everything they do, both words and deeds, even television shows that parents like, will be absorbed and imitated by

the child (Page et al., 2007). Therefore, parents must be wise in sorting, choosing and implementing appropriate and good parenting patterns for their children. In the world of psychology, this is studied in the field of developmental psychology.

Developmental psychology is a branch of psychology that studies human mental development, including parenting patterns (Maulini et al., 2021). Parenting is a pattern of interaction between parents and children, which includes fulfilling physical and psychological needs and socializing community norms so that children can live in accordance with their environment. Parenting patterns are planned and structured

actions regarding how parents should behave in carrying out their child-rearing duties (Page et al., 2007).

In general, parenting patterns are divided into four types, namely authoritarian parenting, authoritative/supportive (democratic), permissive parenting, and *neglectful parenting* (not involved). Parents who are too excessive in controlling their children usually apply an authoritarian parenting style. Authoritarian parenting styles can eliminate autonomy and independence and cause the formation of negative emotions in children. Children who grow up in parental authoritarianism have a shy attitude or always feel guilty, which significantly reduces their self-confidence to try something new or find an effective solution to a problem (MacDermott et al., 2010). Authoritarian parents are also often protective of their children. Parental authoritarianism usually manifests in the form of a harsh and angry attitude, causing deep and lasting emotional wounds in the child, which can result in the child becoming a closed and cold person who is antisocial and often tries to keep secrets and acts manipulatively to avoid anger and physical violence from the child. parents (Cornell & Frick, 2007; Muñoz et al., 2011; Trentacosta & Shaw, 2008) . Authoritarian parents' physical violence towards children can be responded to passively by harbouring feelings of anger (Christina M. Rodriguez & Richardson, 2007) so that they feel frustrated, depressed, and stressed living in a family environment filled with rage and violence (McElroy & Rodriguez, 2008; Mennen & Trickett, 2011). Anger that is buried deeper, whether caused by violence or neglect by parents when raising children, can boil over, making children temperamental and angry (De Paul & Guibert, 2008; Pitzer et al., 2011), which can be vented through inappropriate behaviour. Aggressive behaviour that endangers oneself and others, such as committing physical violence, getting involved in fights and mass brawls, as well

as committing murder and various other crimes (Su et al., 2010). The different negative responses displayed by these children actually boil down to children losing their locus of control over emotions and a low sense of empathy due to the blows of violence, whether verbal, sexual or physical, perpetrated by their parents against them (Francis & Wolfe, 2008; McElroy & Rodriguez, 2008; Moor & Silvern, 2006).

A parenting style that applies balance is included in the authoritative parenting style, which is also called democratic parenting. The balance in question is between providing warmth such as open communication, support and involvement by applying supervision, namely always being aware and caring about children's activities inside and outside the home, such as doing homework, watching television shows and playing with peers, identified as an ideal pattern. In parenting (Jones et al., 2008). The balance in positive parenting patterns can be in the form of parental concern for children, which naturally responds to the hypothalamus-midbrain-limbic-paralimbic-cortical circuit network, thereby triggering the excretion of several hormones, including oxytocin, to support the caring response of parents towards children in particular. children who are still babies (Gladding, 1978; Swain et al., 2008). Positive parenting patterns are characterized by the proactive attitude of parents in anticipating and directing growth and development by educating them with a variety of knowledge and good examples so that they can automatically prevent deviant behaviour in children (Padilla-Walker et al., 2011). Parents must also be responsive and sympathetic to the problems and difficulties experienced by children because these two attitudes can instil good moral attitudes, such as being empathetic and prosocial in children in the future, both when hanging out with friends and when mingling in social life (Gustavo Carlo et al. al., 2018; Davidov & Grusec, 2006). Parents must also be able to forgive various shortcomings

and mistakes made by children because responses in the form of outbursts of anger will only cause emotional wounds in the child. In contrast, responses in the form of forgiveness and acceptance can heal emotional wounds and create reconciliation and harmonization of parental relationships. and children (Katherine J. Christensen et al., 2011; Kiefer et al., 2010) . Various positive emotions and attitudes such as caring, responsiveness, proactiveness, sympathy, and forgiveness are actually manifestations of a high sense of empathy that resides within a person, in this case, parents, towards their children.

Permissive parenting, where parents are very responsive but do not set clear rules or expectations, can have a significant influence on a child's character. Some of the main influences of permissive parenting on children's character, for example, children who are raised with permissive parenting often have difficulty developing self-discipline. With consistent rules and clear consequences, they may learn the importance of responsibility and self-control. Because of the freedom given without restrictions, children may find it difficult to be independent. They may depend on parents or others to make decisions and solve problems. A lack of boundaries can also lead to impulsive and irresponsible behaviour. Children may exhibit defiant or aggressive behaviour because they are unfamiliar with the consequences of their actions. Although these children may have good relationships with their parents due to high responsiveness, they can have difficulty in social interactions with peers who require compromise, helping each other and following rules. Overall, permissive parenting can provide the necessary love and support but lacks the structure and boundaries needed for the development of good self-discipline, responsibility, and social skills. Therefore, parents need to find a balance between affection and setting clear boundaries to help children develop a healthy and balanced character (Jones et al., 2008).

Empathy is an expression of the heart in the form of compassion and concern for the distress and suffering suffered by other people and trying as much as possible to help so that the distress and suffering immediately disappear from that person (Kiang et al., 2004). Empathy in children can be instilled through supportive parenting towards children and other people. Parenting patterns based on a high sense of empathy can take the form of controlling emotions and displaying empathetic expressions regarding mistakes made and difficulties suffered by children (Strayer & Roberts, 2004), interacting with warmth and affection with children (Soenens et al., 2007), and sensitive to various signals given by children because of the strong emotional bond between parents and children so that parents are always responsive and supportive in accompanying and helping all difficulties felt by children (Psychogiou et al., 2008). Parenting patterns that are driven by a high sense of empathy can take the form of parents' way of communicating with other people that is always correct, honest and gentle (McGrath & Zook, 2011), interacting with everyone by prioritizing kindness and an attitude of love and affection (Kanat-Maymon & Assor, 2010). The heart is permanently moved to help and alleviate the distress and suffering experienced by other people (De Paul & Guibert, 2008). This research aims to bibliometrically analyze various studies on the relationship between parenting patterns and the development of empathetic character in children.

■ METHOD
Research Design
The research is a literature review study that is described qualitatively.

Search Strategy
The literature search strategy is carried out through an electronic search was carried out on May 13, 2024, by retrieving the Scopus database

to identify scientific articles that discussed "parenting patterns with empathy for children". The search involved a variety of article types, including articles and not reviews, meta-analyses, or book chapters. The search was limited to the years 1978 to 2024. The study selection process adhered to Preferred Reporting Items for Systematics. Review and Meta-Analysis (PRISMA) guidelines and a flow diagram were created to illustrate the process (Dagli et al., 2024).

Data Analysis

The collected data is then exported to a text file in CSV form for further analysis with the help of the Rstudio Package, including network and visualization Biblioshiny. Citation analysis was carried out on data obtained from the database and then overlaid using VOSviewer (https://www.vosviewer.com/). The first step of this research investigates fluctuations in research article publishing trends. Second, analysis was carried out on the authors who contributed the most and were relevant to the research topic.

Third, analysis was carried out to identify leading universities pertinent to the research topic as well as essential contributors to the research topic of parenting patterns and child empathy. The final analysis involves identifying the keywords that are most frequently used and relevant to the research topic.

■ RESULT AND DISCUSSION
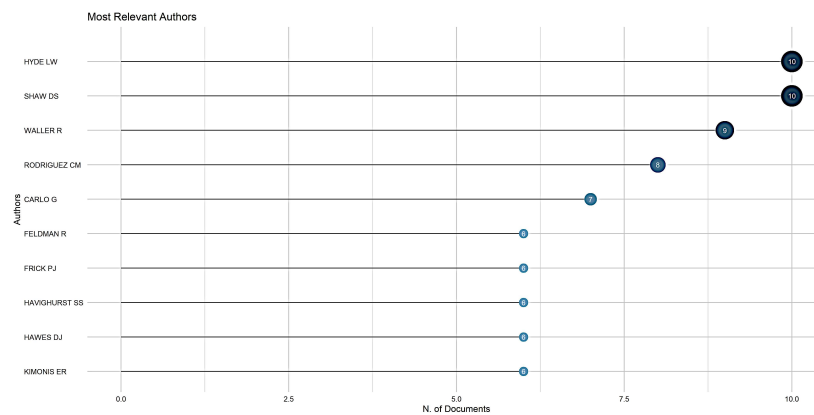### Publication Identity on Parenting Patterns and Empathy in Children

Children are individual figures who absorb many things from the environment around them. Therefore, parents must strive for the best parenting style that supports children's success in this world and the afterlife. The urgency of parenting styles on children's development from the past until now, and even at any time, will be the attention and focus of researchers working in the fields of psychology, education, and others. This can at least be seen in the research graph on the relationship between parenting styles and the development of empathy in children in the following picture.
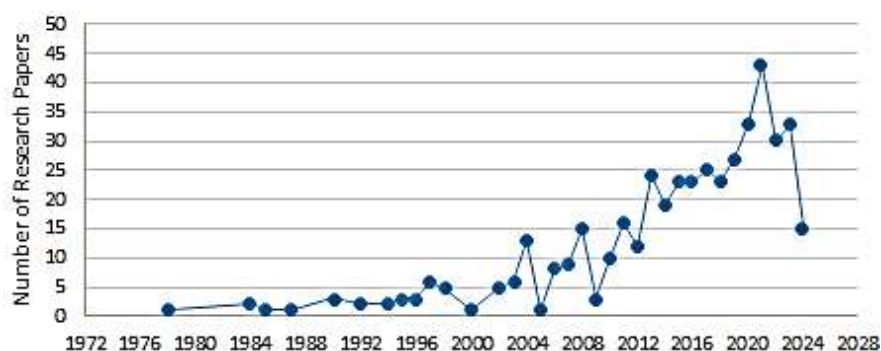
Figure 1. Trends in research publications on parenting patterns and empathy in children

The graph above illustrates the fluctuation pattern over several years regarding the publication of research articles on the relationship between parenting styles and the development of empathy in children. Publications of research on parenting patterns and empathy for children increased relatively slowly during the period 1978-1998, then in 2000 experienced a decline.

The years 2004, 2008, 2011, and 2013 were also periods of increasing research publications on parenting patterns and empathy for children; the peak occurred in 2021. The periods 2005, 2009, 2014, and 2022 were marked by periods of decreasing research publications on parenting patterns towards children and children's empathy will occur in 2024.

Figure 2. Relevance of the author regarding research on parenting patterns and empathy in children

The image above shows the most relevant authors based on the number of papers published regarding research on the relationship between parenting styles and empathy in children. Hyde LW and Shaw DS emerged as the most relevant significant contributors, having each written ten articles. Hyde LW discusses topics that focus on the influence of parental parenting on children's behavioural and emotional development (Hyde & Dotterer, 2022) (Dotterer et al., 2021). Meanwhile, Shaw D focuses on the topic of the influence of positive parenting styles and parental warmth on children's morals, as well as depression that occurs during childhood (R Waller et al., 2017). Other researchers, such as Waller R, also contributed nine publications which focused on topics about social affiliation, warm relationships between parents and children, the impact of harsh parenting on children and the effect of the Covid-19 pandemic on parenting patterns on children (Perlstein et al., 2022; Rebecca Waller et al., 2021). Other researchers, such as Rodriguez CM, also contributed eight publications with a focus on factors that influence parenting, such as stress, anger, social support and the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic, which can cause physical violence against children (Pu & Rodriguez, 2022). Among the ten most influential writers with their collective work totalling 446 publications, Hyde LW and Shaw DS are quite productive researchers, each contributing ten relevant articles that focus on discussions about parenting patterns and empathy for children.
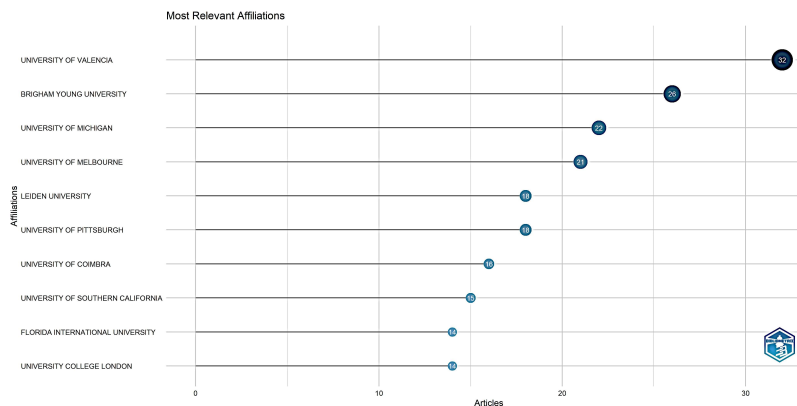
Figure 3. Publications from several universities on parenting patterns and empathy in children

The image above presents some of the most relevant universities based on articles that have been published related to research on parenting patterns and child empathy. Valencia University is one of the pioneers which has published 32 publications on various topics, including the influence of parental parenting style on child development, as well as aspects of parental parenting such as warmth and gift giving and their relationship with empathy in children (Garcia et al., 2021; Christina M. Rodriguez et al., 2021). Brigham Young University contributed 26 publications related to parenting practices for children, media interactions on child and adolescent development, as well as exploration of proactive parenting practices, empathy and self-regulation (Coyne et al., 2023). Furthermore, the University of Michigan and the University of Melbourne each contributed with the publication of 21-22 articles with topics that focused on several factors, such as parents and the environment, which greatly influence emotional and empathetic development in children (Havighurst et al., 2022).

Trends in Research Publications on Parenting Patterns and Empathy in Children

In the period 1978-2000, research themes on parenting patterns and child empathy still focused on the topic of assertiveness and

Figure 4. Trends in research topics on parenting patterns and empathy in children

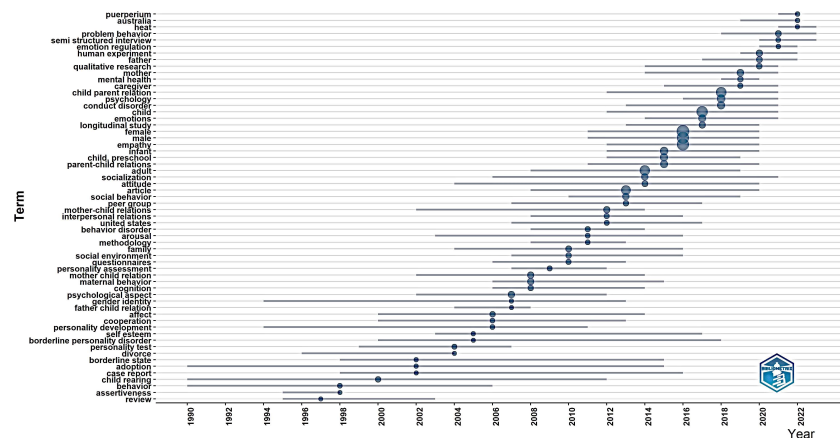In the period 1978-2000, research themes on parenting patterns and child empathy still focused on the topic of assertiveness and behavioural control in raising children (Hastings & Grusec, 1998; Schill, 1995). Furthermore, in the period 2002-2006, the research theme on parenting patterns and child empathy developed on topics related to adoption, divorce, personality disorders and self-esteem, which were widespread in border states (Kochanska et al., 2004). In 2007-2013, research focused on topics regarding parent-child relationships, psychological aspects, gender identity, social environment, family, behavioural disorders, peer groups, social behaviour, as well as all things about school that influence the development of children and adolescents (Kochanska et al., 2013). In the period 2014-2019, research was found that discussed topics about empathy, emotional, psychological, and behavioural disorders, parent-child relationships and mental health (CM Rodriguez et al., 2016). The latest period in the 2020-2024 range shows several studies that focus on the topic of parenting patterns applied by mothers after the first experience of giving birth to a child and also about children's concern for other people (Csillag, 2019; Nunes & Mota, 2023).
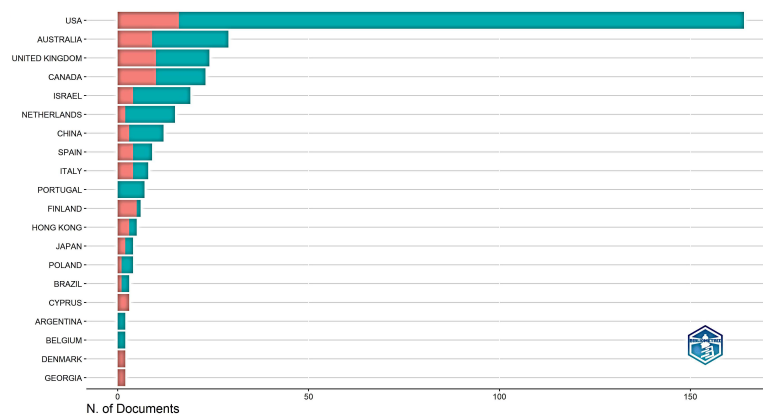
Figure 5. Several contributing countries regarding parenting patterns and empathy for children

This figure shows that the majority of research articles regarding parenting patterns and parental empathy for children are publications by authors or groups of authors from one country. Collaborative publications related to research on parenting patterns and empathy in the context of caring for and educating children are mainly carried out by researchers or writers from the United States, England, Canada and Australia.
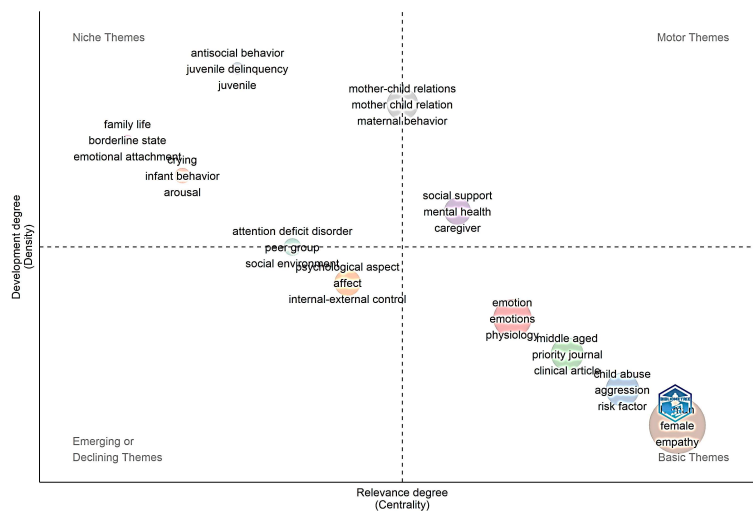
Figure 6. Thematic map of research on parenting patterns and empathy in children

A thematic map is a visual representation of the thematic structure of a research area. The thematic maps are divided into empathy categories, including motor themes, basic themes, unique themes and new or decreasing themes. The motor theme represents a vital research theme related to parenting patterns and child empathy, including caregivers, social support, mental health, mother-child relationships and maternal behaviour (Álvarez et al., 2021; Pu & Rodriguez, 2022; Roberts et al. ., 2023). The primary themes cover several topics, including emotions, risk factors, empathy, and changes in children's physiology (Borelli et al., 2021). Specific themes on this topic consist of antisocial behaviour, juvenile delinquency, emotional connectedness, family, good behaviour and disorders in children caused by lack of parental attention (Álvarez-García et

al., 2019; Wu & Li, 2023). In the research topic of parenting patterns and children's empathy, there are also new or decreasing themes in the form of social aspects and internal and external influences on children's development, which will become essential themes in this topic but have not yet received general recognition.
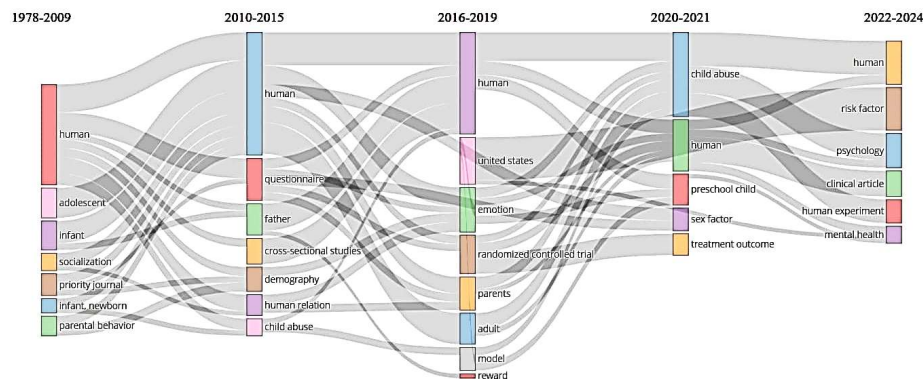
Figure 7. Evolution of research themes on parenting patterns and empathy in children

The image above is a thematic evolution that illustrates the main emphasis in research on parenting patterns and parental empathy for children. In the period 1987-2009, research themes still carried the main topics of teenagers, newborn babies, and parental behaviour (Hanson, 1990; Swain et al., 2008; Wierda-Boer & Rönkä, 2004). The 2010-2015 period they featured research topics on father figures, social relationships, and child abuse (KJ Christensen et al., 2011; CM Rodriguez & Tucker, 2015). In the 2016-2019 period, there was an emphasis on research topics in the form of reward methods, controlled trials, parents, and emotions (G Carlo et al., 2022). Research in the 2020-2021 period revolves around topics that discuss child abuse, school children, treatment outcomes, and sex factors (CM Rodriguez et al., 2021; Rosa et al., 2020). The last period from 2022 to 2024 shows that research topics focus more on psychological studies and mental health (Kuswanto et al., 2024).

Figure 8. Network visualization in research on parenting patterns and empathy in children

Analysis based on the image above identified 9316 keywords, with 247 keywords appearing at least ten times. Two hundred forty-seven keywords will be analyzed using VOSviewers software. Analysis revealed 80 keywords that are related to each other, such as parenting styles and practices, positive parenting factors, parenting patterns for babies, children and adolescents, and child empathy (Z. Lin et al., 2023; Yamaoka et al.., 2021).

Furthermore, the blue cluster shows that children's empathy is the most prominent keyword in the cluster (Wang et al., 2024). The keyword children's empathy is closely related to caring, warmth with parents, the influence of positive parenting patterns, and communication, as well as keywords that indicate factors of low empathy. In the green cluster, it can be seen that the most prominent keyword is a character (Somech & Elizur, 2012). Character keywords are related to parenting practices, children, parental warmth, environment, and mental health.

Children are individuals who are developing cognitive, affective, and psychomotor abilities. The world of children's education not only focuses on improving children's mental skills, but it is also

Figure 9. Overlay visualization of research on parenting patterns and empathy in children

essential for them to understand, express, and manage their emotions. They learn to recognize a variety of emotions, both in themselves and others, and develop skills for dealing with stress and emotional conflict.

The analysis reveals the relationships between various keywords (Figure 8). The study shows three interrelated colour clusters, namely the red cluster with the most prominent keywords, including experience, which is related to research topics such as parenting and child empathy. The keyword experience is also associated with children and adolescents, women, newborn babies, work, attitudes, trauma, stress that occurs during the period of raising children, the relationship between parents and children, warmth, and parenting styles (Fuentes et al.., 2022).

The image above shows that the colour yellow is the newest topic that is becoming the focus of attention in research on parenting patterns and children's empathy. Based on research results (Mendoza Diaz et al., 2018), the keyword warmth in parenting styles dominates research. The keywords warmth relate to the character, children, teenagers, experiences, attitudes, antisocial behaviour, parenting styles, parenting practices, positive parenting patterns, negative

parenting patterns and their problems, as well as several factors that influence behaviour in teenagers, children and babies. In 2012, the keyword attitude became the key that appeared most frequently in research. The keyword attitude is related to parenting practices, positive parenting, physical punishment, young children, teenagers, empathy in parenting, stress and the factors that influence it (Tong et al., 2012). The 2014-2016 period is shown in green, where the most prominent keywords are children's character, which is closely related to experience, parenting, empathy, attitudes, antisocial behaviour, environmental influences, warmth from parents, social support, communication, attention, as well as factors and problems in parenting patterns and parental empathy for children (H.-C. Lin et al., 2016).

Based on the analysis of research from various researchers above, a common thread can be drawn that there is a significant relationship between parenting patterns and the development of empathetic character in children. A lack of empathy can influence poor parenting patterns towards children, so they tend to be impatient and get angry quickly; lack of social support, especially from partners in caring for children, and various pressures such as the Covid-19 pandemic and stress, so parents often resort to violence verbally and physically, which can have a negative impact on the child's unempathetic character and personality. Children who lack empathy can harm themselves by carrying out various negative behaviours, such as getting drunk, consuming drugs, and even committing suicide. Children, especially teenagers who are not empathetic, can commit various injustices against other people, such as committing aggression and physical violence, getting involved in commotion and brawls, and even committing theft, murder and other crimes.

On the other hand, a parenting style that is driven by sympathy and empathy for children will manifest in the form of warmth, affection, and various other forms of care so that children will grow into individuals with character and an empathetic personality towards everyone. Children with compassionate hearts are permanently moved to care and act actively to alleviate the distress and suffering felt by others.

■ CONCLUSION

The results of the analysis show that the parenting style of parents is supportive, democratic and warm, which displays balance and moderation between affection and firmness, caring and independence, *reward* and *punishment*, is worthy of being recommended as the best parenting pattern that parents should apply to their children, to create a child's character who has a sense of empathy. Parental parenting patterns that are too protective and authoritarian, which kill a child's potential and talents, can cause loss of self-confidence, inferiority and antisociality, and various negative emotional responses such as frustration, depression, stress, and failure in responding to the dynamics of life. Parental parenting patterns that are too permissive and also don't care allow children to explore various negative potentials within themselves so that they are involved in promiscuity, drinking, consuming drugs, forcing their will, brawls, theft, and various other forms of unempathetic behaviour. From the findings of the key words in this research, it can also be recommended to conduct research on this topic from a perspective that has not been widely discussed, for example about stress in parenting patterns and also child behavior.

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