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The Impact of Single Motherhood on a Child's Emotional Disposition in Asia: A Scoping Review

Dampak Ibu Tunggal pada Disposisi Emosional Anak di Asia: Tinjauan Lingkup

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ABSTRACT

Corresponding to the current pandemic issue, Covid-19 has driven unprecedented economic loss and instability to many, particularly among low-income families, especially in Asia. In context, families involved single mothers who are markedly affected by job loss; thus, low-income households had markedly affected the well-being and development of children. In addition to family environment, sociodemographic variables, such as socioeconomic status, educational level of parents, and parental conflict, had also been associated with problematic or competent behaviors during childhood. This scoping review aimed to determine current knowledge regarding the impact of single motherhood on the emotional well-being of a child. This review was reported in accordance with the guidelines of the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR). Three databases, namely Scopus, Web of Science, and Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), were used for data scoping. A total of 341 studies were identified, but only 15 studies conducted in the Asian continent were eligible for selection. Results showed five significant findings concerning parent-child dysfunctional interaction, time spent, family socioeconomic status, parenting skills, and parental styles that impacted the emotional well-being of children, causing child development delay and delinquency.

ABSTRAK

Sehubungan dengan masalah pandemi saat ini, Covid-19 telah mendorong kerugian ekonomi dan ketidakstabilan yang belum pernah terjadi sebelumnya bagi banyak orang, terutama di kalangan keluarga berpenghasilan rendah, terutama di Asia. Keluarga dalam konteks ini melibatkan ibu tunggal yang sangat terkena dampak kehilangan pekerjaan, dan rumah tangga berpenghasilan rendah sangat mempengaruhi perkembangan kesejahteraan anak. Selain lingkungan keluarga, variabel sosio-demografis seperti status sosial ekonomi, tingkat pendidikan orang tua, dan konflik orang tua juga telah dikaitkan dengan perilaku bermasalah atau kompeten selama masa kanak-kanak. Tujuan dari tinjauan pelingkupan ini adalah untuk menentukan apa yang saat ini diketahui tentang dampak menjadi ibu tunggal pada kesejahteraan emosional anak. Tinjauan pelingkupan ini dilaporkan menurut Pedoman Item Pelaporan Pilihan untuk tinjauan sistematis dan ekstensi Meta-Analisis untuk Tinjauan Lingkup (PRISMA-ScR). Tiga database, yaitu Scopus, Web of Science, dan Education Resources Information Center (ERIC), digunakan untuk pelingkupan data. Sebanyak 341 studi diidentifikasi, tetapi hanya 15 studi yang dilakukan di benua Asia yang memenuhi syarat untuk diseleksi. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan lima temuan signifikan mengenai interaksi disfungsi orang tua-anak, waktu yang dihabiskan, status sosial ekonomi keluarga, keterampilan pengasuhan, dan gaya orang tua yang berdampak pada kesejahteraan emosional anak, menyebabkan keterlambatan perkembangan anak dan kenakalan anak.

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1. Introduction

In correlation with a fast-paced, increasingly unstable, and rapidly changing world due to the pandemic, Covid-19 has affected all walks of life, whether positively or negatively. The emotional well-being of children from low-income families, especially those raised by single mothers, must be emphasized due to the challenging environment and economy (Yob et al., 2022). Children from low socioeconomic backgrounds must be excellent human capital, thus enabling them to improve their family life (Allang et al., 2019). Ensuring that the emotional well-being of children is well taken care of is necessary to maintain and gain good academic achievement due to the correlation of poverty and low income with poor child development outcomes, particularly cognitive–developmental and educational outcomes. Children from low-income families have relatively poor health and draw unsatisfactory tests on cognitive, social, and behavioral development (Washbrook et al., 2014; Bradbury et al., 2015).

Similarly, the emotional well-being of children plays a fundamental role in their overall health, with behaviors considered as byproducts of emotional experiences on an individual and environmental level. First, the emotional well-being of children does not develop in isolation. Moreover, emotional well-being provides the scaffold for the healthy behaviors and educational attainment of children and helps mitigate behavioral problems and mental health difficulties. Emotional well-being is influenced by a myriad of individual and environmental factors, including a child's temperament, the nature of the parent–child relationship, and the context of family, school, and the wide community (O'Shaughnessy, 2016). The parent–child relationship is at risk due to mothers who could not provide the best conditions for their children. Låftman (2010) mentioned that children who live with single mothers have fewer material resources, inadequate parental support, and poorer health compared with those with complete sets of two parents.

Single mothers must take responsibility as the sole breadwinner due to the rapid changes in the economy. In Sri Lanka, women are involved in labor work despite the minimum pay. Pannilage (2017) further stated that families are responsible for attending to their children and maintaining their well-being; however, children would not receive sufficient attention from their parents because it is significantly reduced due to the circumstances of parents. Notably, insufficient love and care from parents, including single mothers, act as the aspects that are identified to affect the well-being of children negatively (Pannilage, 2017). Therefore, children exposed to low-quality home and childcare environments had the highest levels of behavior problems and the lowest levels of prosocial behaviors (Crosnoe et al., 2010).

Consistent with Crosnoe et al. (2010), high-quality home environments promote positive development despite high- or low-quality childcare settings. Young children may not be able to seek out their environments; these children must cope with the environmental choice of their parents. The two most prominent settings are the home and the place where they receive care outside the home, whether in a childcare center, preschool, or family care setting (Bobbitt & Gershoff, 2016). In his academic journal, namely *Stress and Child Development*, Thompson (2014) indicated that the neurobiology of a child is mainly affected by the environment where they are raised. Therefore, stressful environments caused by poverty directly affect the child's health, social abilities, and ability to succeed in their education and later on in life (Thompson, 2014).

Emotional well-being is also related to the nature of the parent–child relationship. Single mothers exposed to persistent economic hardship are likely to experience continued stress associated with reduced cognitive stimulation for their children. Thus, the lack of parent–child interactions negatively impacts the developmental outcomes of their children. Most of these single mothers are currently spending additional time working because most are on the verge of retrenchment. Considering the retrenchment experienced by single mothers, the unemployment rate in Asia has inclined after being hit by the worldwide pandemic issue of Covid-19 and has inordinately struck women and young people (International Labour Organization (ILO), 2020).

Data from ILO (2020) stated that women in most Asian countries, except for Australia and Hong Kong, experience job loss in the second quarter of 2019 to 2020, particularly in Sri Lanka, wherein nine out of ten persons are unemployed and leaving unemployment were women. In addition, the gap in the unemployment of women was extreme in the Republic of Korea because 99.5% of unemployed people in the second quarter were women. Moreover, women with uncertain jobs were the first that would be dismissed in Japan due to the pandemic. In addition, single mothers are said to be immensely affected by volatile environments. A study conducted by the Single Mothers Association in Japan from October to November 2020 stated that 65.6% of 1300 respondents mentioned that their income has been decreasing and is expected to fall (Siripala, 2021).

Therefore, single mothers are significantly associated with poverty because they consistently expressed financial vulnerability compared with the general population (Broussard et al., 2012) and their financial hardships could be consequences of their employment status (Nor, 2022). Notably, single mothers are relatively linked to poverty or financial instability considering the living aspects. Mothers with young children tend to work close to home or work from home despite the insecurity and minimum salary. Low-income jobs, along with their parenting

responsibilities, further conceal socioeconomic success (Nor, 2022).

Contradicting the other side of the globe, Asian societies have inadequate welfare systems and strong gender inequality, particularly in Japan and Korea. The unfortunate circumstances might affect single mothers and their children, thus increasing their vulnerability to poverty and economic difficulties (Jean Yeung & Park, 2016). Jean Yeung and Park (2016) also mentioned that Asian countries have a diverse and high percentage of sources that affect parenthood, which eventually varies the impact of single-parent structure on the well-being of children compared with Western societies. Hence, the consequences of the current crisis may affect the emotional well-being development of children and indirectly influence their future (Ratcliffe & McKernan, 2012; Isaacs & Magnuson, 2011). Therefore, this review emphasizes that the current situation, economic turbulence, and the emotional development of children

are related, thus resulting in adverse effects on the emotional state of their children. Hence, this scoping review mainly aims to identify past research on the impact of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of children in the Asian continent.

2. Methods

This scoping review was reported in accordance with the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic reviews and Meta-Analyses extension for Scoping Reviews (PRISMA-ScR) guidelines. The current scoping review conducted was based on the methodological framework of Arksey and O'Malley (2005): (1) identifying research questions; (2) finding relevant studies; (3) selecting relevant studies; (4) charting the data; and (5) collating, summarizing, and reporting the results. Figure 1 shows the stages addressed in the following subsections because they specifically applied to the current study.

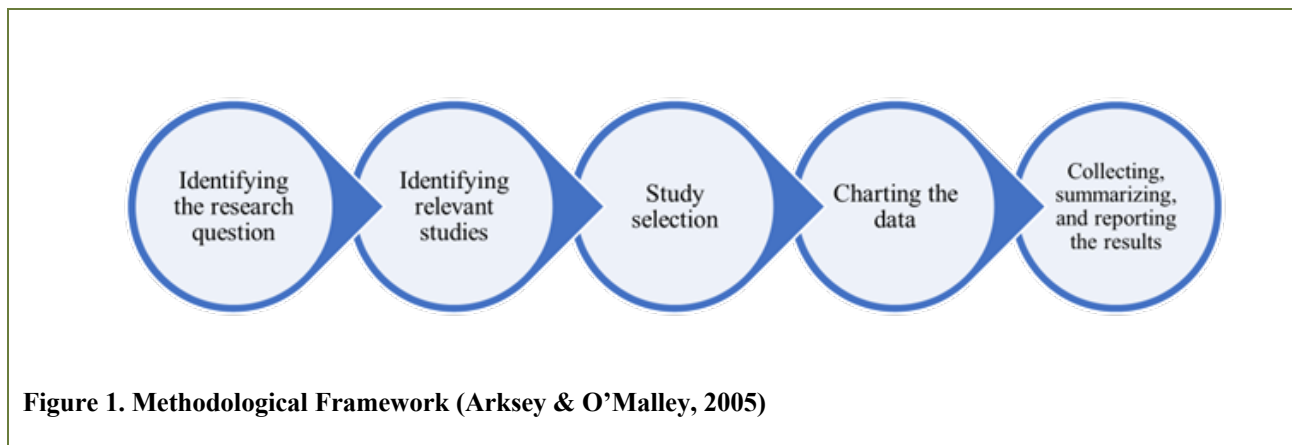


Table 1. Research questions were formed on the basis of Population/Concept/Context framework

Research questions	Specific objectives
How is the research focused on the impact of single motherhood on children's emotional disposition distributed?	To explore the temporal and geographical relationships and the setting where studies on single motherhood have been developed
What are the research design types of studies related to the impact of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of children?	To identify the main types of design used in studies on the impact of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of children
What are the purposes and topics related to the impact of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of children developed?	To identify purpose and topics most frequently investigated in the studies regarding the impact of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of children
What are the studied elements by the past research?	To identify the investigated elements by past researchers
What are the current findings on the impact of single motherhood on the emotional well-being of children?	To summarize the effectiveness of the emotional well-being of children

Identifying the Research Questions

The topic of the effects of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of a child has yet to be reviewed extensively partially due to its complexity and its continuous development. Thus, the research question for this scoping review is as follows: "What is empirically known from the existing literature about the impact of single motherhood on a child's emotional disposition?" This question acts as the guide to further the investigation in this study. Table 1 shows the underlying research questions formed based on the research objectives based on the PCC framework.

Identifying Relevant Studies

The search strategy was intentionally broad to maximize coverage of all relevant studies. Therefore, Table 2 below illustrated the strategy involved using search terms related to the impact of single motherhood on the emotional well-being of children.

Table 2. Search String

Search Directory	Search String
Scopus	TITLE-ABS-KEY (("factor*" OR "cause*" OR "effect" OR "consequence" OR "result*" OR "impact") AND ("single mother*" OR "single motherhood*" OR "single mom*") AND ("child*" OR "kid*" OR "toddler*") AND ("well-being" OR "emotion*" OR "psycholog*" OR "disposition*"))
WoS	TS= (("factor*" OR "cause*" OR "effect" OR "consequence" OR "result*" OR "impact") AND ("single mother*" OR "single mom*" OR "single motherhood*") AND ("child*" OR "kid*" OR "toddler*") AND ("well-being" OR "emotion*" OR "psycholog*" OR "disposition*"))
ERIC	(factor OR cause OR effect OR consequences OR result OR impact) AND (single mother OR single mom OR single motherhood) AND (child OR children OR kid or toddler) AND (well-being OR emotional OR psychology OR disposition)

Study Selection

Protocols for scoping reviews are ineligible for publication in PROSPERO; however, the findings are presented in accordance with the PRISMA guidelines (Tricco et al., 2018). Two research team members independently conducted title and abstract screening of all

articles based on predefined inclusion and exclusion criteria. Article identification uses the following three different databases: Web of Science (WoS), Scopus, and Education Resources Information Center (ERIC).

Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

The obtained literature was filtered on the basis of the following six inclusion criteria: (1) articles must be published from 2017 to 2021; (2) articles must be in the English language; (3) articles must focus on single mothers; (4) articles must focus on children or toddlers; (5) articles centered to emotional well-being; (6) articles fixated on the Asian continent. Meanwhile, the articles were excluded on the basis of the following criteria: if the full text could not be attained, articles not related to single motherhood and children or toddlers, and studies conducted outside the Asian continent. Considering the inclusion and exclusion criteria, 141 articles from WoS, 125 articles from Scopus, and 115 articles from ERIC were obtained by using a designated search string. During the identification stage, 63 duplicated articles were removed and the 278 remaining articles were screened by title and abstract. During the screening process, 203 articles were removed and only 75 articles remained to be assessed by data extraction in the eligibility stage. In addition, 59 articles were removed because 53 of them are not from Asian continent countries and 7 articles did not focus on the emotional well-being of single mothers and children.

Charting the Data

The research team collectively determined which attributes of the articles to extract for summary and analysis after piloting the Microsoft Excel-based data charting form with a representative sample of the studies for review. The finalized data charting form was developed to extract the following study attributes: author, year of publication, country of origin, study design, topic, setting, theoretical model, target group, focus elements, purpose, and key findings. The first author independently extracted and charted the data from each article. The senior author iteratively checked the extractions and updated the data charting form.

Collating, Summarizing, and Reporting the Results

The research team summarized and reported the key findings that emerged from the charting process. The first author then synthesized the key findings into potential evidence-informed recommendations using an inductive content analysis approach. This approach involved the application of codes to the key findings to reduce and group data into mutually exclusive concepts. Next, the research team reviewed and revised the coding for the potential evidence-informed recommendations and further reduced and grouped the data, which are later collated into broad congruent groups.

3. Results

Identified Literature

The search identified 341 studies through three selected databases of WoS, Scopus, and ERIC. A total of 101 titles were obtained from the WoS database and 125 titles were identified from the Scopus database. Meanwhile, 115 titles were extracted from the ERIC database based on the applied search strings. A total of 63 duplicates were excluded from 341, leaving 278 studies that were then screened by title and abstract. A total of 203 studies were excluded during the screening process stage. A total of 75 titles were assessed for eligibility by data extraction from full text reviewed. Of the 75 articles, 60 studies were excluded because they did not meet the research criteria conducted only in Asia. Two articles were excluded due to the absence of a specific location while four were from Africa. From the 60 titles, 19 studies were recorded in the European continent, 25 were conducted in the North American continent, and one was from the Oceania continent. Two titles were identified from the South American continent. Eight titles from the Asian continent were excluded due to various reasons. Hence, 15 studies were identified to be included for this review.

Distribution of the Studies

Fifteen studies were published between 2017 and 2021 in the Asian continent. In 2017, a total of $n = 5$ articles were found to have conducted research on single motherhood affecting the emotional disposition of children (Oishi, 2017; Leung, 2017; Sun & Tang, 2017; Leung et al., 2017; Chen, 2017). In addition, $n = 4$ studies were identified in 2018 (Mohsenpour, 2018; Nor et al., 2018; Dagvadorj, 2018; Kim & Holloway, 2018) and 2021 (Song et al., 2022; Vu et al., 2021; Quchani et al., 2021; Dutt et al., 2021) from the three databases. A total of $n = 1$ titles each was identified in 2019 (Lee et al., 2019) and 2020 (Tamo, 2020) to be related to single motherhood in this scoping review. The highest number of studies distributed by country was conducted in South Korea (Song et al., 2022; Lee et al., 2019; Kim & Holloway, 2018) and China (Tamo, 2020; Sun & Tang, 2017; Chen, 2017), with $n = 3$ studies, followed by Hong Kong with $n = 2$ studies on the effect of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of children (Leung, 2017; Leung et al., 2017). Seven countries, namely Malaysia (Nor et al., 2018), India (Dutt et al., 2021), Iran (Quchani et al., 2021), Mongolia (Dagvadorj et al., 2018), Tajikistan (Mohsenpour, 2018), Japan (Oishi, 2017), and Vietnam (Vu et al., 2021), had been recorded with one study each.

Research Design Types

Overall, from the 15 identified articles, $n = 10$ studies applied survey questionnaires as a research design (Song et al., 2022; Oishi, 2017; Tamo, 2020; Leung, 2017; Dagvadorj et al., 2018; Leung et al., 2017; Lee et al., 2019; Chen, 2017; Kim & Holloway, 2018). In addition, two studies applied experimental research design to

determine the comparative results on single mothers (Quchani et al., 2021; Mohsenpour, 2018). Despite the similar research design applied in the studies, the instruments adapted to prove that the findings are varied in accordance with the purpose of the studies. As proof, the Parenting Stress Index—Short Form is used to measure the stress levels of mothers (Tamo, 2020). Meanwhile, Kim and Holloway (2018) used the Parenting Self-Efficacy Scale, Weinberger Parenting Inventory (Parenting behaviors and enjoyment)—Parent Version, and Social Competence Scale—Teacher Version to indicate the parenting style. Additionally, Lee et al. (2019) adopted Rosenberg Scale, Parenting Daily Hassles, Parenting Senses of Competence, Family Impact Questionnaire, and The Developmental Assessment for Early Intervention Program to check on parenting stress and the developmental outcomes of children.

Concerning cultural beliefs and the development of children, Leung (2017) used the Belief in Chinese Familism Scale, Maternal Sacrifice Scale, and Chinese Positive Youth Developmental Scale to discover the influence of cultural beliefs on the well-being of mothers and its effect on the development of their children. By contrast, $n = 2$ studies applied interviews as a data collection instrument (Nor et al., 2018; Vu et al., 2021). A total of $n = 2$ studies (Vu et al., 2021; Sun & Tang, 2017) used videotaping and transcribing techniques and photo journeys as their research design types. The studies included in this scoping review classified the respondents into different categories. The frequent group of respondents identified in $n = 5$ studies included mothers with children (Song et al., 2022; Tamo, 2020; Sun & Tang, 2017; Kim & Holloway, 2018; Lee et al., 2019) and a study on parents with children (Oishi, 2017). A total of $n = 5$ studies were conducted on single mothers with children (Vu et al., 2021; Leung, 2017; Not et al., 2018; Leung et al., 2017; Quchani et al., 2021), $n = 2$ studies focused on single parents with children (Mohsenpour et al., 2018; Oishi, 2017), and $n = 4$ studies investigated children (Mohsenpour et al., 2018; Dagvadorj, 2018; Sun & Tang, 2017; Chen, 2017; Dutt et al., 2021).

Research Purposes

Conducting the study on the impact of single motherhood on the emotional disposition of children has various reasons. These reasons were categorized into five different domains: parenting psychology, social support, economic hardship, parenting style, and cultural belief system. A total of $n = 7$ studies were conducted on parenting psychology well-being (Song et al., 2021; Tamo, 2020; Sun & Tang, 2017; Leung, 2017; Dagvadorj et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2019; Kim & Holloway, 2018). These studies include parenting stress, depression, and poor psychology among single mothers. Research purposes come with the problems that drive the

researchers to conduct the studies. The problems are diverse because they not only have similarities but also differences from one another, including mothers who experience stress due to the need for parental involvement in the education of children during the confinement period because they experience challenges depending on their circumstances (Tamo, 2020). Similarly, single mothers also face difficulties in acquiring family resources due to certain constraints because they need to sacrifice for the development of their children (Leung, 2017). Moreover, some studies referred to past studies in conducting their research. Dagvadorj et al. (2018) stated that factors that can influence the development of children considering developing settings are not widely studied, particularly in Mongolia. Meanwhile, Kim and Holloway (2018) mentioned that parenting and self-regulation are not frequently explored specifically in countries where strict parenting has become a notable approach. Therefore, the researchers used the aforementioned facts as a guide in conducting the current study.

Considering social support, one study was related to identifying financial assistance available for single mothers (Nor et al., 2018). The study conducted is a result of insufficient income to maintain the standard of living and single mothers as the sole breadwinner finding a second job to make ends meet (Nor et al., 2018). Studies on economic hardship were noted in $n = 4$ articles on wages and working hours of single mothers (Oishi, 2017; Nor et al., 2018; Chen, 2017; Dagvadorj, 2018). The study by Chen (2017) was conducted due to socioeconomic factors, wherein an increased number of children who are left behind due to immigration of parents resulted in the psychological distress of children. A total of $n = 6$ studies focused on parenting styles involving parenting skills or control (Vu et al., 2021; Quchani et al., 2021; Mohsenpour, 2018; Leung et al., 2017; Kim & Holloway, 2018; Dutt et al., 2021). Vu et al. (2021) examined single mothers who experience social stigma and support as well as their approaches to parenting. Furthermore, past studies have limited findings that focused on parent skills training and the effect of emotional-behavioral problems on children with single mothers (Quchani et al., 2021). In addition, $n = 2$ studies were on identified cultural belief systems (Vu et al., 2021; Leung, 2017), in which Leung (2017) mentioned the protective factors of adolescent development, namely family beliefs and processes, are lacking in the Chinese culture.

Research Elements

Furthermore, this scoping review focused on the elements of well-being divided into social, emotional, and psychological variables as discussed by the past research. A total of $n = 5$ studies were related to social variables that involved socioeconomic status, gender, and ethnicity (Oishi, 2017; Vu et al., 2021; Leung, 2017;

Dagvadorj et al., 2018; Nor et al., 2018). Simultaneously, $n = 6$ studies were related to emotional variables that involved self-awareness, self-regulation, and self-management (Quchani et al., 2021; Mohsenpour et al., 2018; Chen, 2017, Sun & Tang, 2017; Kim & Holloway, 2018; Dutt et al., 2021). By contrast, $n = 7$ studies were on psychological variables involving anxiety, stress, depression, and value identified in this scoping review (Song et al., 2022; Tamo, 2020; Leung, 2017; Dagvadorj et al., 2018; Lee et al., 2019; Vu et al., 2021; Leung et al., 2017). However, only 2 out of 15 identified articles directed the emotional well-being elements to children (Mohsenpour et al., 2018; Chen, 2017).

Single Motherhood Affects the Emotional Disposition of Children

Five significant findings were identified from the 15 studied articles based on this scoping review. The first finding was related to parent-child dysfunctional interaction in three studies (Song et al., 2022; Tamo, 2020, Lee et al., 2019). In conjunction with the first finding, parent-child dysfunctional interaction could be viewed from different angles due to the mediating role of a dysfunctional interaction between social support and depression based on one of the articles (Song et al., 2022). Meanwhile, Tamo (2020) and Lee et al. (2019) discovered that the uncertain and unclear feelings of mothers affect the interaction and the stress causes parent-child dysfunctional interaction. Four studies indicated that the time spent and the family socioeconomic status affects the well-being of children (Oishi, 2017; Vu et al., 2021; Nor et al., 2018; Chen, 2017). The nonstandard working hours (Oishi, 2017) affect the time spent between the mothers and children; mothers attempt to provide the maximum for the education of their children despite facing difficulties in making ends meet (Vu et al., 2021). Unfortunately, Nor et al. (2018) found that majority of single mothers living with financial hardships and parents who migrate due to poverty increase the tendency of children toward delinquency (Chen, 2017).

The findings from $n = 2$ studies (Quchani et al., 2021; Mohsenpour et al., 2018) showed that parenting skills affect the emotional behavior of children. A finding from Quchani et al. (2021) indicated that parents who underwent parent-child relationship training are bound to improve the emotional-behavioral problems of their children. The significance of the emotional-behavioral characteristics of the children is remarkably different depending on the groups (single parent-father, single parent-mother, and ordinary) (Mohsenpour et al., 2018). In addition, a total of $n = 2$ studies (Sun & Tang, 2017; Dutt et al., 2021) focused on the effects of single motherhood on the self-regulation and resilience of children. Sun and Tang (2017) stated that the self-regulation of children can be positively influenced by maternal support; however, children of female sex workers lean toward low self-esteem and self-efficacy

due to inadequate supervision by the mothers, absence of fathers, and inconducive environments (Dutt et al., 2021). Moreover, $n = 5$ studies (Vu et al., 2021; Leung, 2017; Dagvadorj et al., 2018; Kim & Holloway, 2018; Leung et al., 2017) related to parental styles affect child development delay and cause child delinquency. Notably, the development delays of children could be affected by mothers who are influenced by poor psychological conditions and social status (Dagvadorj et al., 2018). Parents who applied permissive parenting could also have cultural distinctive effects that resulted in the development of children (Kim & Holloway, 2018).

4. Discussion

Life as a single mother is synonymous with challenges and remarkable demands, specifically for mothers who must maintain a balanced commitment to their careers while attending to the needs of their children concurrently. As earning a living and ensuring children live with their basic needs become the focal point for the mothers, they could not perpetuate consistent and sensitive relationships with their children, consequently leading to poor parent-child relationships. Mothers, specifically single mothers, cannot maintain their finances as noted by Nor et al. (2018), who emphasized that most single mothers experience financial difficulties in their everyday lives. The affected parent-child relationship causes the mothers to disregard the misbehavior of their children due to financial constraints, creating a problem for the children (Usakli, 2018). The statement is consistent with the findings by Oishi (2017), who also mentioned that an imbalance of working hours possibly hampers the time spent by children with their mothers. Moreover, one additional study included in the scoping review emphasized the relation between time constraints and socioeconomic factors with the well-being of children (Vu et al., 2021).

Living with a single mother concentrates on the mother's parenting and the absence of a father figure throughout the upbringing process of children. Having fathers introduces a significant positive effect on children, but the absence of a father figure in the family may have a noticeable impact on their outcomes, including their emotional well-being (Mbulayi & Kang'ethe, 2020; Ramotuana & Amoné-P'Olak, 2020). The supervision of fathers generally corresponds to the well-being of children, which may influence them during their adulthood (Alam, 2013). Considering the effect of fatherless families, findings from a study by Usakli (2018) indicated that single-parent children tend to be more submissive, aggressive, and less assertive than children with both parents based on the observation of teachers. The emotional behavior problems could be from the economic, social, and emotional-behavioral consequences due to the absence of fathers to complete families (Trivedi & Bose, 2020; Helman, 2015). Moreover, the absence of fathers particularly affects the

daughter due to emotional distress (Allgood et al., 2012). Furthermore, changes in the behavior of children corresponded to Mohsenpour et al. (2018), who stated that the emotional-behavioral characteristics of children of single mothers are in contrast with ordinary children or other groups of children. Nevertheless, one study (Quchani et al., 2021) indicated that proper and suitable training for parenting could aid in enhancing children with emotional-behavioral problems.

In addition to children experiencing detrimental well-being when living with single mothers, lack of parental engagement in their education also leaves a notable effect. Bornstein and Bradley (2014) indicated that children brought up by single parents are less attentive and unfocused in school and have a high chance of dropping out before obtaining specific qualifications. In addition, if these children are plausibly to accomplish their education, then they somehow have no interest in working and are consequently left unemployed. Such a situation can affect their emotional and behavioral development. Moreover, disengaged parents from the education of their children influence their ability to master the fundamental skills, which can support them during life challenges and help them maintain positive well-being. Despite the indirect involvement of parents in the education of children, this scoping review has identified a study that highlighted contradictory findings. Vu et al. (2021) revealed that single mothers in urban and rural areas had significantly contributed to the education of children considering time and money despite experiencing affected well-being and physical and emotional challenges.

5. Conclusion

The current study reveals a need for rigorous studies to demonstrate the impacts of single motherhood on the emotional well-being of a child and the possibility of exploring strategies applied in self-regulating and resiliency to circumstances. This scoping review helps document best practices that can be implemented across different settings and contexts. As stated earlier, single motherhood remains a topic studied in specific or local contexts, thus partly limiting the capacity to generalize its potential impacts on specific determinants of the emotional well-being of a child.

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