



UNIVERSITI PUTRA MALAYSIA

**EFFECTS OF FAMILY STRENGTH ON SOCIAL COMPETENCE,
SELF-ESTEEM AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT OF
SECOND GENERATION FELDA SETTLERS CHILDREN**

ZARINAH BINTI ARSHAT

FEM 2010 11

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By

ZARINAH BINTI ARSHAT

**Thesis Submitted to the School of Graduate Studies, Universiti Putra Malaysia in
Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy**

March 2010

DEDICATION

This study is dedicated to:

Abah, Hj. Arshat bin Mat Rani and Mak, Hj. Sapiah binti Harun,
who have inspired my life.

My husband, Mohd Azmee bin Rahman,
for all the love, patience and sacrifice
that you have given me.

Abstract of thesis presented to the senate of Universiti Putra Malaysia in fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy

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March 2010

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Faculty: Human Ecology

This study was designed to determine the effects of family strength on social competence, self-esteem and academic achievement of children. The simple random sampling was utilized to identify 200 married second generation FELDA settlers who had at least one child between the age of 7 to 12 years living in FELDA schemes in Negeri Sembilan and Pahang. Respondents were interviewed face-to-face using a structured questionnaire which included demographic data and several instruments to assess the study variables: 1) Family Strength = Australian Inventory of Family Strengths (adapted for Malaysian context) (Geggie et al., 2000); 2) Economic Strain = Economic Strain Scale (Pearlin et al., 1981); 3) Marital Quality = Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale (Rumaya, 1997; Schumm et al., 1986); 4) Parental Nurturance = Parental Nurturance Scale (Buri, 1989); 5) Social Competence = Social Competence Scale (Corrigan, 2002); 6) Self-Esteem = Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Rosenberg,

1965); 7) Academic Achievement = Total of scores in four selected subjects: Malay Language, English, Science, and Mathematics. Descriptive statistics were computed for respondents' personal characteristics, family characteristics, family strength and child outcomes variables, and a correlation matrix examined the relationships between all variables. Stepwise multiple regression analyses were used to analyze the relative strength of the independent variables in predicting family strength and child outcomes (social competence, self-esteem and academic achievement). The results indicated that slightly more than half (54.5%) of the respondents had low level of family strength. Overall, children of second generation of FELDA settlers had high levels of social competence, self-esteem and academic achievement. Regression analyses revealed that several factors were found to correlate significantly with family strength: parental nurturance ($\beta = 0.26, p < 0.01$), marital quality ($\beta = 0.30, p < 0.01$), economic strain ($\beta = -0.25, p < 0.01$), and number of children ($\beta = 0.16, p < 0.01$). Nonetheless, respondents' age, level of education and duration of marriage were not significantly related to family strength. This study found that children with higher level of social competence came from families with higher level of family strength ($\beta = 0.24, p < 0.01$) and longer parental duration of marriage ($\beta = 0.15, p < 0.01$). More positive parental nurturance ($\beta = 0.28, p < 0.01$) and lower level of economic strain ($\beta = -0.16, p < 0.01$) predicted higher level of children's self-esteem. Parental level of education ($\beta = 0.20, p < 0.01$) was significant predictor of children's academic achievement. The study concludes that family characteristics were significant correlates of the family strength. Contrary to expectation, personal characteristics

were not correlated to family strength. Family strength had positive impact on children's social competence and self-esteem but not on academic achievement. The findings imply that family strength could be influenced by family characteristics and in turn, influences children's social competence and self-esteem. Further research is necessary to investigate whether these relationships are upheld over time and with larger and more diverse samples.



Abstrak tesis yang dikemukakan kepada Senat Universiti Putra Malaysia sebagai memenuhi keperluan untuk ijazah Doktor Falsafah

KESAN KEUTUHAN KELUARGA KE ATAS KOMPETENSI SOSIAL, ESTIM DIRI DAN PENCAPAIAN AKADEMIK ANAK GENERASI-KEDUA PENEROKA FELDA

Oleh

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Kajian ini telah direkabentuk untuk menentukan kesan keutuhan keluarga ke atas kompetensi sosial, estim diri dan pencapaian akademik anak. Persampelan rawak mudah telah digunakan untuk mengenalpasti 200 generasi kedua peneroka FELDA yang telah berkahwin dan mempunyai sekurang-kurangnya seorang anak berumur antara 7 hingga 12 tahun dan tinggal di kawasan FELDA Negeri Sembilan dan Pahang. Responden telah ditemubual secara bersemuka menggunakan borang soal selidik yang mengandungi data demografi dan beberapa alat pengukuran untuk menilai variabel-variabel kajian: 1) Keutuhan Keluarga = *Australian Inventory of Family Strengths* (diadaptasi untuk konteks di Malaysia) (Geggie et al., 2000); 2) Tekanan Ekonomi = *Economic Strain Scale* (Pearlin et al., 1981); 3) Kualiti Perkahwinan = *Kansas Marital Satisfaction Scale* (Rumaya, 1997; Schumm et al., 1986)); 4) Asuhan Iubapa = *Parental Nurturance Scale* (Buri, 1989); 5) Kompetensi Sosial = *Social Competence*

Scale (Corrigan, 2002); 6) Estim Diri = *Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale* (Rosenberg, 1965); 7) Pencapaian Akademik = Jumlah skor empat mata pelajaran terpilih: Bahasa Melayu, Bahasa Inggeris, Sains dan Matematik. Statistik diskriptif telah dikira menggunakan komputer bagi variabel-variabel ciri peribadi responden, ciri keluarga, keutuhan keluarga dan pencapaian anak, dan matriks korelasi memeriksa perkaitan-perkaitan antara semua variabel. Analisis regresi berganda *stepwise* digunakan untuk menganalisis kekuatan relatif variable-variabel sandar di dalam meramalkan keutuhan keluarga dan pencapaian anak (kompetensi sosial, estim diri dan pencapaian anak). Hasil kajian mendapati lebih separuh (54.5%) responden mempunyai tahap keutuhan keluarga yang rendah. Secara keseluruhannya, anak generasi kedua peneroka FELDA mempunyai kompetensi sosial, estim diri dan pencapaian akademik yang tinggi. Analisis regresi menunjukkan beberapa faktor telah didapati mempunyai perkaitan yang signifikan dengan keutuhan keluarga: asuhan ibubapa ($\beta = 0.26, p < 0.01$), kualiti perkahwinan ($\beta = 0.30, p < 0.01$), tekanan ekonomi ($\beta = -0.25, p < 0.01$), dan bilangan anak ($\beta = 0.16, p < 0.01$). Bagaimanapun, umur, tahap pendidikan dan jangkamasa perkahwinan responden tidak mempunyai perkaitan yang signifikan dengan keutuhan keluarga. Kajian ini mendapati anak yang mempunyai tahap kompetensi sosial yang tinggi datang dari keluarga yang mempunyai tahap keutuhan keluarga ($\beta = 0.24, p < 0.01$) yang tinggi dan tempoh perkahwinan ($\beta = 0.15, p < 0.01$) ibubapa yang lebih lama. Lebih positif asuhan ibubapa ($\beta = 0.28, p < 0.01$) dan lebih rendah tahap tekanan ekonomi ($\beta = -0.16, p < 0.01$) meramalkan semakin tinggi tahap estim diri anak. Tahap pendidikan ibubapa ($\beta = 0.20, p < 0.01$) adalah prediktor signifikan

pencapaian akademik anak. Kajian ini membuat kesimpulan bahawa ciri keluarga mempunyai perkaitan signifikan dengan keutuhan keluarga. Bertentangan dengan jangkaan, ciri peribadi tidak mempunyai perkaitan dengan keutuhan keluarga. Keutuhan keluarga mempunyai impak yang positif ke atas kompetensi sosial dan estimasi diri tetapi tidak ke atas pencapaian akademik anak. Hasil kajian memberi implikasi bahawa keutuhan keluarga boleh dipengaruhi oleh ciri keluarga dan seterusnya mempengaruhi kompetensi sosial dan estimasi diri anak. Kajian masa hadapan perlu menyiasat sama ada perkaitan-perkaitan ini disokong sepanjang masa dan dengan menggunakan sampel yang lebih besar dan berbagai jenis.

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I certify that a Thesis Examination Committee has met on 12 March 2010 to conduct the final examination of Zarinah binti Arshat on her thesis entitled “Effects of Family Strength on Social Competence, Self-Esteem and Academic Achievement of Second-Generation Felda Settlers’ Children” in accordance with the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and the Constitution of the Universiti Putra Malaysia [P.U.(A) 106] 15 March 1998. The Committee recommends that the candidate be awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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Date: 10 June 2010

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis is based on my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged. I also declare that it has not been previously, and is not concurrently, submitted for any other degree at Universiti Putra Malaysia or at any other institution.

The logo of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) is a shield-shaped emblem. It features a red and white design with a book in the center, a sword on the left, and a sunburst on the right. The letters 'UPM' are prominently displayed in a red box at the top left of the shield.

ZARINAH BINTI ARSHAT

Date: 26 April 2010

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
DEDICATION	ii
ABSTRACT	iii
ABSTRAK	vi
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ix
APPROVAL	xi
DECLARATION	xiii
LIST OF TABLES	xviii
LIST OF FIGURES	xix
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xx
CHAPTER	
1 INTRODUCTION	
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 Background of the Study	3
1.3 Statement of the Problem	7
1.4 Objectives of the Study	8
1.5 Research Hypotheses	9
1.6 Significance of the Study	10
1.7 Theoretical Framework	12
1.8 Conceptual Framework	18
1.9 Conceptual and Operational Definitions	20
1.10 Limitations of the Study	27
1.11 Organization of the Thesis	29
1.12 Chapter Summary	29
2 LITERATURE REVIEW	30
2.1 Introduction	30
2.2 Family Strength	30
2.2.1 Conceptualizing Family Strength	30
2.2.2 Characteristics of Family Strength	31
2.2.3 Summary of Family Strength	33
2.3 Correlates of Family Strength	34
2.3.1 Personal Characteristics	34
2.3.2 Family Characteristics	41
2.3.3 Summary of Correlates of Family Strength	49

2.4	Child Outcomes	50
2.4.1	Social Competence	51
2.4.2	Self-Esteem	57
2.4.3	Academic Achievement	61
2.4.4	Summary of Child Outcomes	67
2.8	Identification of Research Gaps	68
2.9	Chapter Summary	71
3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	72
3.1	Introduction	72
3.2	Research Design	72
3.3	Population and Location of the Study	73
3.4	Sampling Procedure and Sample Size	75
3.5	Data Collection Procedures	77
3.6	Pilot Study	79
3.7	Measurement and Instrumentation	80
3.7.1	Family Strength	80
3.7.2	Personal Characteristics	83
3.7.3	Family Characteristics	84
3.7.4	Child Outcomes	87
3.8	Reliability and Validity of the Scales	90
3.8.1	Reliability	90
3.8.2	Validity	91
3.9	Data Analysis Procedure	94
3.9.1	Descriptive Analysis	94
3.9.2	Inferential Statistics	94
3.9.3	Testing Assumptions of Multivariate Analysis	96
3.10	Chapter Summary	99
4	RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	100
4.1	Introduction	100
4.2	Descriptive Statistics	100
4.2.1	Respondents' Characteristics	100
4.2.2	Family Characteristics	102
4.2.3	Characteristics of Focal Child	105
4.2.4	Child Outcomes	107
4.3	Inferential Statistics-Exploratory Factor Analysis of Family Strength Measurement	109
4.3.1	Factor Structure of Family Strength Construct	109
4.3.2	Descriptive Data of Family Strength	117
4.3.3	Internal Consistency	119
4.3.4	Level of Family Strength	120

4.4	Inferential Statistics-Bivariate Correlations	122
4.4.1	Relationship Between Personal Characteristics and Family Strength	122
4.4.2	Relationship Between Family Characteristics and Family Strength	123
4.4.3	Relationship Between Family Strength and Child Outcomes	126
4.4.4	Relationship Between Respondents' Personal Characteristics and Child Outcomes	129
4.4.5	Relationship Between Family Characteristics and Child Outcomes	130
4.5	Inferential Statistics-Stepwise Multiple Regression	130
4.5.1	The Predictors of Family Strength	131
4.5.2	The Predictors of Shared Values	132
4.5.3	The Predictors of Togetherness	133
4.5.4	The Predictors of Respectful Communication	134
4.5.5	The Predictors of Social Competence	135
4.5.6	The Predictors of Self-Esteem	136
4.5.7	The Predictors of Academic Achievement	137
4.6	Summary of the Results	138
4.7	Chapter Summary	141
5	SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND IMPLICATIONS	142
5.1	Introduction	142
5.2	Summary of the Findings	142
5.2.1	Objective 1	143
5.2.2	Objective 2	144
5.2.3	Objective 3	144
5.2.4	Objective 4	145
5.2.5	Objective 5	145
5.2.6	Objective 6	146
5.3	Conclusions	146
5.4	Implications of the Findings	147
5.4.1	Theoretical Implications	148
5.4.2	Practice and Policy Implications	149
5.5	Chapter Summary	154

BIBLIOGRAPHY	155
APPENDIX A: Questionnaire	181
APPENDIX B: Statistic of Divorce in Malaysia 1995-2006	209
APPENDIX C: Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Perspective of Child Development	210
APPENDIX D: Histogram and Boxplot of Study Variables	211
APPENDIX E: Histogram and Boxplot of Family Strengths	221
APPENDIX F: Correlation Matrix of Study Variables	225
BIODATA OF STUDENT	226

