

Family Support and Parenting Self-Efficacy in Mothers of Children with Autism, with Value of Children as Mediator Variable

¹Dinie Ratri Desiningrum, ¹Hasan Fahrur Rozi, ¹Darosy Endah Hyoscyamina, ²Chamilul Hikam Al Karim, ¹Annisa Maulidya

¹Faculty of Psychology, Universitas Diponegoro, Semarang, Indonesia

²Faculty of Education and Psychology, Universitas Negeri Semarang, Semarang, Indonesia

In collectivist cultures like Indonesia, raising a child diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is inherently an interconnected familial journey rather than an isolated maternal obligation. This study examined the relationship between family social support, primarily from co-residing grandparents, and parenting self-efficacy among mothers of children with ASD, with the Value of Children (VoC) as a mediating variable. Utilizing a quantitative cross-sectional design, data were collected from 248 primary-caregiver mothers across several major Indonesian cities using three validated psychological scales. Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) demonstrated an acceptable overall model fit and supported all hypothesized pathways. The findings revealed that perceived family support significantly and positively influenced both the mother's parenting self-efficacy and her cognitive appraisal of the child's value. Crucially, mediation analysis confirmed that the value of children significantly bridges the relationship between external family support and internal parenting competence. These results highlight how unconditional extended family validation successfully reconstructs the child's inherent worth, thereby fortifying maternal resilience and caregiving confidence. This study underscores the critical need for culturally sensitive, multi-generational psychoeducational interventions for families navigating neurodevelopmental challenges.

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Author info: Correspondence should be sent to: Dr. Dinie Ratri Desiningrum
Email: diniedesiningrum@lecturer.undip.ac.id

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