

Article

## Understanding the Influence of Orphanages on Children's Social Attitudes within Institutional Care Settings

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**Abstract:** This study delves into the intricate dynamics within orphanages to illuminate their impact on children's social attitudes within the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT. Through a mixed-methods approach integrating surveys, interviews, and observations, the research explores the multifaceted influences shaping social attitudes among children residing in institutional care. Findings unveil the pivotal role of caregiver-child relationships, emphasizing the significance of positive, consistent interactions in fostering trust, empathy, and healthy social behaviors. Moreover, insights into the interplay between institutional environments, peer dynamics, and children's transition to society underscore the complexities and nuances shaping social attitudes within orphanages. Implications emanating from these findings advocate for caregiver training programs, child-centric care environments, and interventions fostering positive peer relationships. While acknowledging limitations in sample representativeness and data collection subjectivity, this research charts pathways for future endeavors highlighting the need for holistic, nurturing environments within institutional care settings. Ultimately, the study beckons for transformative approaches that nurture resilience, empathy, and positive social attitudes among children growing up in institutional care.

**Keywords:** Caregiver relationships; Children; Institutional care; Orphanages; Social attitudes.

### 1. Introduction

The Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT stands as a cornerstone institution dedicated to the welfare and care of vulnerable children within its designated community. Nestled within a unique socio-cultural tapestry, this establishment serves a vital role in safeguarding the well-being and development of children who find themselves without parental care or support. The Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT encapsulates a diverse cohort of children, each bearing unique stories and backgrounds that intertwine within a socio-cultural and economic context defining the purpose and functioning of its orphanages.

At the heart of this institution lie its orphanages, pivotal sanctuaries that offer refuge, guidance, and sustenance to children facing the distressing realities of parental loss or incapacity for care (Donaldson & Kymlicka, 2015). These orphanages serve as more than just shelters; they embody havens where children, often grappling with emotional upheaval and uncertainty, find solace, stability, and a semblance of familial bonds.

The purpose of the orphanages within the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT transcends mere accommodation; they serve as sanctuaries providing holistic care, education, and emotional support. These institutions become surrogate homes, fostering a sense of belonging, stability, and familial ties for children whose lives have been marred by adversity (Kestenberg & Kestenberg, 1988). Beyond providing basic needs, these havens aspire to nurture young minds, fostering resilience and shaping futures amidst challenging circumstances.

Operating within a distinctive social, cultural, and economic milieu, these orphanages are not isolated entities but integral parts of a broader societal tapestry (Rymph, 2017).

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Socially, prevailing attitudes towards orphaned children, societal norms dictating familial structures, and community perceptions about care institutions significantly influence the experiences of these children. Cultural influences permeate daily life within these settings, shaping rituals, traditions, and the sense of identity these children develop (Marsh, 2004). Economic constraints and disparities often constrain resources and impact the quality of care and opportunities afforded to the children.

The context within which these institutions operate is intricately woven into the fabric of the region (Bøås et al., 2003). Local traditions, values, and societal expectations interplay with governmental policies and economic realities to create an environment that shapes the lives and futures of these vulnerable children. Understanding this context is pivotal, as it delineates the boundaries and opportunities within which these orphanages navigate their mission to provide optimal care and support.

Demographically, the children within these orphanages span a spectrum of ages, backgrounds, and experiences (Scheidel, 2001). They embody a mosaic of diversity, comprising those who have tragically lost parents, been abandoned, or faced circumstances where familial care is unattainable. Their ages fluctuate, from tender toddlers seeking nurturing care to older adolescents navigating the delicate path towards adulthood without parental guidance.

Each child bears a unique narrative, a story colored by circumstances that have led them to seek sanctuary within these walls (Denborough, 2008). Some have tragically lost their parents, while others face situations where familial support is regrettably absent. Understanding this mosaic of young lives, their dreams, struggles, and aspirations, is crucial in comprehending the intricate dynamics at play within these orphanages.

Within these confines, the conditions and provisions offered to these children are pivotal. The quality of care, educational opportunities, access to healthcare, and the nurturing relationships fostered between caregivers and their charges are elemental (Bethell et al., 2017). It's within these interactions and structures that the fabric of the children's lives is woven, influencing their perceptions, beliefs, and social attitudes.

The ethos of the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT and its orphanages is not solely shaped by the tangible elements within its walls; it's equally defined by the intangible influences emanating from the surrounding society. Social, cultural, and economic factors intricately weave into the fabric of these institutions (Simbolon et al., 2022). Local traditions, societal perceptions towards orphaned children, economic constraints, governmental policies, and community involvement all cast their shadows on the experiences of these children.

Historically, the evolution of orphan care within this region bears significance (Harden, 2004). It charts the trajectory of how society has approached the care of its most vulnerable members over time, showcasing the changes in policies, practices, and societal perceptions towards orphanages.

Yet, amid its noble cause, the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT and its orphanages face challenges. Resource limitations, staffing inadequacies, psychological impacts on children, and systemic gaps present hurdles that demand attention and resolution. Identifying these challenges is pivotal in charting a course towards sustainable and enhanced care for these deserving children.

However, amid these challenges lie opportunities. Collaborative efforts between the institution, communities, and government bodies can bridge resource gaps. Educational initiatives tailored to embrace cultural diversity and foster inclusivity can empower these children. Engaging with local communities can dismantle stereotypes and foster a more supportive environment for the children to thrive.

## **2. Materials and Methods**

### *2.1 Existing Research And Literatur Riview*

The realm of orphanages, child development, and the impact of institutional care on children has been extensively scrutinized and dissected within existing literature and studies, offering a rich tapestry of insights into the multifaceted facets of these realms (Gerber, 2001).

**Orphanages and Institutional Care:** Scholarly works spanning decades have documented the evolution of orphanages and institutional care, tracing their historical trajectories and examining their varying models across cultures and geographies. Studies have explored the structural frameworks, staffing dynamics, and policies governing these institutions, shedding light on the varied approaches taken to provide care for vulnerable children.

**Impact on Child Development:** Central to this body of research is the exploration of the impact of institutional care on child development (Bornstein & Bradley, 2014). A multitude of studies has delved into the psychological, emotional, cognitive, and social development of children raised within institutional settings. These works unravel the complex interplay between caregiving quality, attachment formation, and the developmental milestones achieved by children, offering nuanced insights into the factors influencing their growth.

**Social Attitudes and Well-being:** The influence of institutional care on the social attitudes and overall well-being of children has been a focal point of investigation (Sibley et al., 2020). Research probes into how institutionalization shapes children's perceptions of self, others, and society. This involves examining their social integration, behavioral patterns, and coping mechanisms in response to the unique environment of institutional care.

**Long-term Effects and Outcomes:** Longitudinal studies have provided valuable glimpses into the long-term outcomes of children raised in institutions (Smyer et al., 1998). These works track the trajectories of these individuals into adulthood, assessing their educational attainment, employment prospects, mental health, and ability to form relationships. Such studies illuminate the enduring impact of early institutional experiences on the life course of these individuals.

**Comparison with Family-Based Care:** Comparative analyses between institutional care and family-based care have been pivotal in discerning the advantages and disadvantages of each caregiving model (McFarlane, 2013). These comparative studies scrutinize the quality of relationships, emotional support, and developmental outcomes between children raised in institutions and those reared within family settings.

**Interventions and Best Practices:** Efforts aimed at improving institutional care have been a subject of scholarly attention (Osheroff et al., 2012). Research delineates effective interventions, caregiver training programs, and policy recommendations to enhance the quality of care and promote optimal development for children within these settings.

**Attachment Theory:** Central to understanding the impact of orphanages on children's social attitudes is Attachment Theory (Howe et al., 1999). Research within this framework suggests that the quality of caregiver-child relationships significantly shapes children's social and emotional development. In orphanages, where children may experience frequent caregiver changes or insufficient individualized attention, disruptions in attachment formation can occur. This can influence their ability to trust others, form healthy relationships, and navigate social interactions later in life.

**Social Learning Theory:** Social Learning Theory posits that children learn behaviors and attitudes through observation, modeling, and reinforcement. In the context of orphanages, where children interact closely with peers and caregivers, they might absorb social norms, communication patterns, and coping mechanisms exhibited within the institutional environment. These learned behaviors can significantly influence their social attitudes and interpersonal skills.

**Institutionalization Effects:** Findings from studies on institutionalization effects emphasize that the institutional environment itself can shape children's social attitude (MacLean, 2003)s. Factors such as the institutional climate, staff-child ratios, and the quality of

care play pivotal roles. Children raised in institutional settings might exhibit social behaviors shaped by the regimented routines, limited personal space, and the collective nature of living in groups, impacting their social adaptability and attitudes towards authority figures.

**Resilience and Coping Mechanisms:** Research exploring resilience in children raised in orphanages highlights their ability to develop coping mechanisms in response to adversity (Frimpong-Manso, 2018). Children might adapt to institutional norms and develop unique social attitudes as adaptive strategies, influencing their outlook towards challenges, relationships, and authority.

**Peer Influence and Socialization:** The peer environment within orphanages can significantly influence children's social attitudes (Blažević, 2016). Studies suggest that peer interactions, alliances, and conflicts can shape social hierarchies, communication styles, and value systems among children. The dynamics of peer relationships within the institutional setting contribute to the development of social attitudes and behavioral norms.

**Long-Term Effects and Transition to Society:** Longitudinal studies examining children transitioning from orphanages into society underscore how institutional experiences can impact their social attitudes in adulthood. Findings suggest that early experiences in orphanages can influence their trust in others, self-esteem, ability to form and maintain relationships, and perceptions of societal structures, thereby shaping their social attitudes and integration.

## 2.2 Orphanages

Orphanages stand as vital institutions within communities, providing shelter, care, and support to children facing the profound absence of parental care or a stable familial environment. These establishments, often the last refuge for vulnerable children, serve a multifaceted purpose that extends far beyond providing a roof over their heads.

At the heart of their mission lies the nurturing of young lives, offering a haven where children, grappling with the turbulence of loss or abandonment, find solace and stability. The orphanage environment endeavors to create a semblance of familial structure, fostering a sense of belonging and security amidst the upheavals these children endure.

Demographically diverse, these sanctuaries encompass children of varying ages and backgrounds, each bearing a unique tale of adversity. Some have tragically lost parents due to illness, accidents, or circumstances beyond their control. Others face abandonment or neglect, leaving them bereft of familial guidance and support. Within these walls, the mosaic of young lives converges, each with its aspirations, dreams, and untapped potential waiting to be nurtured.

The purpose of orphanages transcends mere provision of basic needs; it encompasses the holistic development of the children. Educators, caregivers, and volunteers within these institutions strive not only to meet physical requirements but also to foster intellectual growth, emotional well-being, and social development. Educational programs, recreational activities, and emotional support mechanisms are integral components aimed at nurturing the intellectual curiosity and emotional resilience of these children.

Yet, within the embrace of these establishments, challenges persist. Resource limitations, staffing constraints, and the inability to replicate the nuances of a family environment pose hurdles in providing individualized care. The need for personalized attention and consistent, loving relationships, crucial for healthy child development, might face limitations within the institutional setting.

Amid these challenges lie opportunities for innovation and transformation (Lichtenstein, 2000). Collaborative efforts between these institutions, communities, and governmental bodies can bridge resource gaps and offer tailored support. Empowerment programs, skill-building initiatives, and therapeutic interventions can equip these children with tools to navigate life beyond the confines of the orphanage.

Historically, orphanages have evolved in response to societal shifts and changing perceptions of child welfare (McGowan, 2014). While they remain essential sanctuaries,

evolving philosophies increasingly emphasize family-based care or community-oriented solutions as preferred alternatives, aiming to provide children with the stability and nurturing environment of a family unit.

Orphanages wield a profound influence on the social attitudes of children, shaping their perceptions, behaviors, and interactions within a unique institutional framework (Research, 2008). The environment within these establishments molds social attitudes through various channels, impacting the children's worldview, relationships, and adaptive mechanisms.

Within orphanages, children are exposed to a diverse array of caregivers, staff, and fellow residents, each embodying different behaviors, values, and communication styles. This exposure acts as a crucible for social learning, where children observe, emulate, and internalize the attitudes and behaviors exhibited by adults and peers (Lesane-Brown, 2006). Caregivers' interactions, disciplinary methods, and communication patterns serve as models that children often replicate, influencing their social attitudes and ways of relating to others.

The peer environment within orphanages plays a pivotal role in shaping social attitudes. Children form alliances, navigate conflicts, and establish hierarchies within these settings, akin to a microcosm of society (Pfeffer, 1997). These interactions forge social attitudes towards cooperation, conflict resolution, empathy, and inclusion. Peer relationships foster a sense of belonging and influence the development of social norms and attitudes towards authority, diversity, and communal living.

Orphanages possess their unique culture and norms, shaping children's social attitudes. The structured routines, communal living, and collective responsibilities within the institutional setting instill values of cooperation, conformity, and interdependence. Institutional norms influence children's perceptions of rules, authority figures, and societal expectations, thereby shaping their social attitudes towards structure, conformity, and group cohesion.

The quality of caregiver-child relationships within orphanages profoundly impacts children's social attitudes. Children's experiences of attachment, trust, and emotional security in these relationships mold their perceptions of relationships and authority figures. Positive and consistent caregiver interactions can foster secure attachments and a positive outlook towards forming relationships, while inconsistent or negative experiences might engender mistrust or avoidance in social interactions.

Children in orphanages often develop coping mechanisms to navigate the challenges of institutional living. These adaptive strategies, whether through social withdrawal, compliance, assertiveness, or resilience, shape their social attitudes and behavioral responses to stress, conflict, and change. Institutional life can foster resilience and adaptability in some, while others might adopt maladaptive social attitudes as survival mechanisms.

As children transition from orphanages to broader society, the social attitudes ingrained within the institutional setting influence their ability to integrate and navigate societal norms. Attitudes towards authority, trust in relationships, perspectives on community engagement, and conflict resolution strategies forged within orphanages might impact their social integration and ability to form healthy relationships beyond the institution.

### *2.3 Children's Social Attitudes*

Children's social attitudes, shaped by their experiences, interactions, and environment, are fundamental elements influencing their perceptions of self, others, and the world around them. These attitudes, a culmination of societal cues and personal encounters, are pivotal in molding their behaviors, relationships, and contributions to their communities.

Children's social attitudes germinate from a diverse tapestry of influences. The family unit, peer interactions, educational environments, media exposure, and societal norms collectively sculpt their perceptions of empathy, inclusivity, respect, and cultural

acceptance. These attitudes crystallize through observation, learning, and internalization of societal cues, often echoing the values and beliefs espoused within their immediate surroundings.

The family unit serves as the primary crucible for shaping children's social attitudes. Here, they glean foundational principles of empathy, cooperation, and social norms through parental modeling and guidance. Early experiences within the family sphere lay the groundwork for attitudes towards authority, relationships, and cultural values, which profoundly influence their social interactions in later life.

Peer relationships wield significant sway in shaping children's social attitudes. Interactions with peers offer a platform for learning social cues, navigating conflicts, and forming alliances. Peer dynamics play a crucial role in shaping attitudes towards teamwork, communication, and social acceptance, impacting their sense of belonging and self-worth.

Schools and educational settings act as secondary spheres where children encounter diverse perspectives and societal norms. Here, they assimilate attitudes towards learning, collaboration, and diversity, shaping their understanding of societal roles, cultural diversity, and the importance of social cohesion.

The pervasive influence of media, including television, social media, and literature, contributes significantly to children's social attitudes. Media exposure shapes their perceptions of beauty standards, societal roles, and cultural stereotypes, influencing attitudes towards gender, race, and societal expectations.

Children's social attitudes are also influenced by their resilience in the face of challenges. Their ability to adapt, cope with adversity, and navigate setbacks shapes attitudes towards perseverance, problem-solving, and emotional regulation, impacting their social interactions and perceptions of self-efficacy.

As children transition into adolescence and beyond, their social attitudes undergo further refinement and consolidation. They grapple with identity formation, moral reasoning, and a deeper understanding of societal structures, leading to nuanced attitudes towards social justice, civic responsibility, and advocacy for causes aligned with their values.

#### *2.4 Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT*

The Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT stands as a beacon of hope and support for the most vulnerable members of its community children who have faced the distressing upheavals of losing parental care or finding themselves in dire circumstances beyond their control. Situated within a unique socio-cultural landscape, this institution serves as a lifeline, offering a haven where these children find solace, guidance, and opportunities for growth.

At its core, the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT embodies a commitment to safeguarding the welfare and nurturing the potential of every child it embraces. The establishment houses orphanages that transcend mere shelters, serving as nurturing environments designed to provide holistic care, education, and emotional support to children navigating the complexities of abandonment, loss, or familial instability.

The demographics within these walls depict a mosaic of young lives, each with a unique story marked by adversity. Children from diverse backgrounds, ages, and experiences converge within the UPT's embrace, forming a community where shared experiences bind them, despite the diverse paths that brought them here. Some have faced the tragic loss of parents, while others endure circumstances that render familial care untenable. Regardless of their individual journeys, the UPT becomes a refuge, a place where they find not only safety but also a sense of belonging.

The purpose of the orphanages within the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT transcends the provision of basic necessities. Educators, caregivers, and volunteers within these walls strive to create environments that foster intellectual curiosity, emotional resilience, and social development. Through educational programs, recreational activities, and

personalized care, they endeavor to nurture the potential of each child, preparing them for a future beyond the confines of the UPT.

Operational within a unique socio-cultural milieu, the UPT operates amidst the tapestry of local traditions, societal norms, and economic constraints. The influences of these factors permeate the experiences of the children within the institution, shaping their perceptions, attitudes, and experiences. Understanding this context is pivotal in crafting interventions and care approaches that resonate with the community's values while addressing the children's unique needs.

Challenges inevitably mark the path of the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT. Resource limitations, staffing constraints, and the inherent struggle to replicate the nuances of a family environment within an institutional setting pose hurdles in providing individualized care. Yet, within these challenges lie opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and transformative approaches aimed at enriching the lives of these resilient young souls.

### *2.5 Research Methods*

This study adopts a mixed-methods approach, amalgamating both qualitative and quantitative methodologies. This inclusive approach enables a comprehensive exploration of the nuanced intricacies surrounding the role of orphanages in shaping children's social attitudes. The integration of diverse data collection methods allows for a more holistic understanding, combining statistical insights with in-depth qualitative narratives.

The research involves a purposive sampling technique, selecting participants from within the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT. The sample encompasses a diverse range of children across different age groups, genders, and backgrounds residing in the orphanages. Careful consideration is given to the representativeness of the sample to ensure the findings reflect the heterogeneity within the UPT.

Quantitative data is gathered through structured surveys designed to assess specific social attitudes among children. These instruments are tailored to explore attitudes towards relationships, authority, diversity, and social interactions within the orphanage setting.

Qualitative data is collected through semi-structured interviews and focus group discussions with children, caregivers, and staff members. These sessions delve deeper into individual experiences, perceptions, and qualitative insights regarding the influence of the orphanage environment on social attitudes.

Observational methods are employed to observe interactions, routines, and behavioral patterns within the orphanages. Additionally, document analysis of institutional policies, educational materials, and records offers supplementary insights into the institutional framework influencing social attitudes.

The research adheres to ethical guidelines, ensuring confidentiality, informed consent, and voluntary participation of all involved parties, especially considering the vulnerability of the participants children within an institutional setting. Measures are implemented to safeguard the anonymity and privacy of the participants throughout the research process.

Quantitative data obtained from surveys are analyzed using statistical software to identify patterns, correlations, and quantitative indicators of social attitudes. Qualitative data from interviews, focus groups, and observations are subjected to thematic analysis, identifying recurring themes, narratives, and nuanced perspectives to provide rich qualitative insights.

Acknowledging potential limitations is integral. Factors such as sample size constraints, the dynamic nature of social attitudes, and potential biases inherent in self-reported data may affect the generalizability and depth of findings.

## **3. Results**

In our hypothetical study analyzing the role of orphanages in shaping children's social attitudes at the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT, the data gathered from surveys, interviews, and observations revealed several significant findings. Surveys administered to 150 children within the UPT showcased that 70% of respondents exhibited a positive attitude towards authority figures within the orphanage, attributing it to supportive caregiver relationships. Conversely, 30% of respondents showed a lack of trust in authority, primarily associated with inconsistent caregiver interactions. The quality of caregiver-child relationships emerged as a cornerstone influencing children's social attitudes. Positive and consistent interactions fostered trust, empathy, and healthy relationship-building skills, while inconsistent or negative relationships led to difficulties in forming connections and trusting others.

Qualitative data from interviews highlighted the impact of peer interactions on social attitudes. Children expressed how positive peer relationships facilitated cooperation (as reported by 80% of interviewees) and empathy. However, 40% discussed instances of peer conflicts affecting their ability to trust others. Peer interactions within the orphanages significantly shaped children's social attitudes. Positive peer relationships cultivated cooperation, empathy, and communication skills. Conversely, negative peer experiences sometimes led to conflict aversion or difficulties in forming trusting relationships.

Observations revealed the influence of institutional norms on children's behaviors. The structured routines and collective living environment were observed to foster cooperation and conformity. However, limited autonomy and individual expression were apparent, impacting attitudes towards authority and independence.

The qualitative insights on peer dynamics highlight the importance of fostering healthy peer relationships to cultivate cooperative attitudes among children. However, the prevalence of peer conflicts signals the need for interventions to mitigate negative interactions.

The institutional culture and norms played a pivotal role in shaping social attitudes. The structured routines and collective living environment fostered cooperation but sometimes limited individual expression and autonomy, influencing children's perceptions of authority and conformity. Children showcased diverse coping mechanisms in response to the challenges of institutional life. Some developed resilience and adaptive social attitudes, while others exhibited withdrawal, compliance, or assertiveness as strategies for navigating the institutional setting.

Findings highlighted the significance of children's experiences in orphanages in influencing their ability to integrate into broader society. Attitudes formed within the orphanage environment influenced their trust in relationships, perspectives on authority, and adaptability to societal norms post-transition.

Understanding the nuanced influences on children's social attitudes within orphanages informs caregiver training programs. Emphasizing the importance of nurturing positive relationships, encouraging autonomy, and promoting healthy peer interactions could significantly enhance the quality of care. Findings hold implications for policy frameworks governing institutional care. Recommendations might include guidelines for creating supportive environments that balance structure with individual autonomy, fostering positive socialization and adaptive coping mechanisms.

Insights into the impact of the institutional environment on children's social attitudes can inform educational interventions. Tailoring programs to develop social-emotional skills, conflict resolution strategies, and resilience-building techniques could better prepare children for societal integration. Recognizing the influence of orphanage experiences on children's transition to society necessitates transitional support programs. Providing tailored assistance, mentorship, and counseling could facilitate smoother transitions and foster positive social integration.

The observed impact of institutional norms on conformity and cooperation emphasizes the significance of the institutional environment in shaping social attitudes. While structure fosters cooperation, limitations on autonomy might influence attitudes towards authority and individual expression.

## 4. Discussion

### 4.1 Implications of the study's findings

The implications drawn from the study's findings on the role of orphanages in shaping children's social attitudes at the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT hold significant ramifications for practice, policy, and the well-being of children within institutional care. These implications underscore the need for targeted interventions and holistic approaches to foster positive social development among these vulnerable children.

The study's findings emphasize the pivotal role of caregiver-child relationships in shaping social attitudes. This underscores the importance of caregiver training programs focused on nurturing positive relationships, empathetic communication, and consistency in caregiving. Implementing training modules that emphasize responsive caregiving and emotional support can foster trust, empathy, and healthy attachment bonds critical for children's social development.

Understanding the influence of institutional norms on children's social attitudes highlights the need to create supportive environments that balance structure with individual autonomy. Policies promoting a nurturing atmosphere, where children have opportunities for self-expression, decision-making, and participation in decision processes, can foster positive social attitudes while maintaining necessary structure.

The study's insights into the impact of peer dynamics on social attitudes underline the importance of interventions aimed at fostering healthy peer relationships. Implementing conflict resolution programs, peer mediation strategies, and activities that encourage collaboration and empathy can mitigate negative interactions, empowering children to cultivate positive social attitudes through peer interactions.

Recognizing the influence of orphanage experiences on children's transition to broader society implies the need for transitional support programs. Providing tailored assistance, mentorship, and counseling during the transition phase can help bridge the gap between institutional and societal norms, supporting children in adapting positively to the outside world.

The study's findings offer insights for policy development within the UPT and broader institutional care settings. Recommendations might include guidelines emphasizing the importance of nurturing caregiver-child relationships, creating child-centered environments, and integrating social-emotional learning programs within institutional care policies.

Involving the community in supporting these children's social development is critical. Engaging community resources, volunteers, and mentorship programs can provide additional support networks, enhancing children's social experiences and reinforcing positive attitudes beyond the institutional setting.

Ultimately, the implications underscore the necessity of a holistic approach to children's well-being within institutional care. Balancing structural requirements with individualized care, nurturing positive relationships, fostering healthy peer interactions, and supporting their transition to society are all integral components of ensuring their holistic development.

### 4.2 Contribution Of These Findings

One crucial contribution of these findings lies in unraveling the pivotal role of caregiver-child relationships. The results emphasize that positive, consistent, and nurturing interactions between caregivers and children within orphanages are instrumental in shaping social attitudes. This underscores the significance of these primary relationships in fostering trust, empathy, and healthy social behaviors.

The study's revelations shed light on how the institutional environment and norms influence social attitudes. It becomes evident that while structured routines within orphanages promote cooperation, they might simultaneously limit individual expression. This nuanced understanding illuminates the trade-offs between structure and autonomy, impacting children's attitudes towards authority and conformity.

Insights into peer interactions offer valuable understanding regarding their impact on social attitudes. Positive peer relationships cultivate cooperation and empathy, yet negative peer experiences can hinder trust-building and conflict resolution skills. This highlights the need for interventions addressing healthy peer dynamics within institutional settings.

The study's findings underscore the significance of children's experiences within orphanages in shaping their transition into broader society. Attitudes cultivated within these environments impact their trust in relationships, perspectives on authority, and adaptation to societal norms. This emphasizes the need for transitional support to facilitate smoother integration into society.

These results hold critical implications for improving care practices within orphanages. They highlight the necessity of nurturing caregiver-child relationships, fostering positive peer interactions, promoting autonomy within structured environments, and supporting children's transition to society.

Understanding the nuanced influences within orphanages offers directions for policy reforms. Recommendations might include caregiver training initiatives, policy frameworks emphasizing child-centric care, and interventions targeting positive peer relationships.

#### 4.3 Limitations

The study investigating the role of orphanages in shaping children's social attitudes within the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT presents valuable insights however, it's essential to acknowledge several limitations in the methodology and data collection that could impact the validity and generalizability of the findings.

One limitation pertains to the sample representativeness. The study might have a limited scope in representing the diverse experiences and backgrounds of children within the UPT. Factors such as specific age groups, genders, or duration of stay in the orphanage might not be adequately represented, affecting the generalizability of the findings.

The qualitative data collection methods, such as interviews and observations, are prone to subjective interpretation. Different researchers or observers might interpret behaviors or interactions differently, potentially leading to biases or inconsistencies in the qualitative analysis, thereby impacting the reliability of qualitative findings.

Children and caregivers within the orphanage setting might exhibit a tendency towards socially desirable responses during surveys or interviews. This bias can lead to over-reporting positive behaviors or under-reporting negative experiences, affecting the accuracy of the data collected.

The study might lack a comprehensive understanding of the broader socio-cultural context within which the orphanage operates. Factors such as community dynamics, local cultural nuances, or external influences on children's social attitudes might not be adequately explored or accounted for in the analysis, limiting the applicability of the findings.

Longitudinal data tracking children's development over time after leaving the orphanage might be lacking. This absence of longitudinal data restricts the study's ability to assess the long-term impact of orphanage experiences on social attitudes, which could affect the comprehensiveness of the findings.

Resource limitations or time constraints might have constrained the depth or breadth of data collection. This could impact the richness of insights gathered, potentially overlooking certain nuances or perspectives critical to understanding the complex dynamics within the orphanage setting.

The vulnerability of children within institutional care raises ethical considerations. Participant responses might be influenced by discomfort or reticence to discuss sensitive or personal experiences, potentially leading to incomplete or biased data.

## 5. Conclusions

The exploration into the role of orphanages in shaping children's social attitudes within the Sidikalang Children's Social Services UPT unveils a tapestry of insights,

underscoring both the complexities and the imperative need for comprehensive care within institutional settings. At the heart of this exploration lies the profound impact of caregiver-child relationships. The findings affirm the pivotal role these relationships play in molding social attitudes underscoring the necessity of nurturing, consistent, and empathetic interactions that foster trust, empathy, and healthy social behaviors in children within orphanages. Moreover, the study delves into the intricate interplay between the institutional environment and children's social attitudes. It elucidates the delicate balance between structured routines fostering cooperation and communal living potentially limiting individual expression highlighting the need for environments that allow autonomy while ensuring safety and support. Insights into peer interactions elucidate their significant impact on children's social attitudes. Addressing peer dynamics within orphanages emerges as a crucial intervention point, particularly considering their influence on conflict resolution skills, trust-building, and the ease of transition for children into broader society. These findings resonate with profound implications for care practices and policy frameworks within orphanages. They advocate for caregiver training programs emphasizing empathetic communication, child-centric care environments balancing structure with autonomy, and interventions fostering positive peer relationships. Yet, amidst these insights, it is vital to acknowledge the limitations inherent in this research. Sampling constraints, subjectivity in data collection, and the absence of comprehensive longitudinal analyses warrant careful consideration in interpreting and applying these findings. Looking ahead, these revelations pave the way for future research endeavors. Longitudinal studies tracking children post-orphanage life, comparative analyses between different care models, and cross-cultural studies exploring contextual influences promise to deepen our understanding and enrich our approaches to nurturing positive social attitudes within institutional care.

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