


# Self-Concept of Refugee Children Living with Foster Parents in Indonesia: A Case Study of Refugee Children Cared for by Foster Parents

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Article Info	ABSTRACT
<p><b>Keywords:</b> Self-Concept, Refugees, Caregiving, Social Work</p>	<p>This study aims to determine the self-concept of refugee children after receiving care from foster parents who are local Indonesian people. This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach to find out how the self-concept is built by refugee children. The study was conducted in addition to using in-depth interviews with informants, both refugee children, foster parents, and the surrounding community. The data collection process in this study used interviews, in-depth observations, and documentation studies. Data analysis techniques used data reduction and triangulation. The results of the study of three refugee children who were cared for by foster parents from different cultural backgrounds generally showed positive results, and a relationship was found between the impact on care from a family to help children grow and develop properly as has been believed by child development experts. The care provided, in addition to helping children grow and develop, also has an impact on their adjustment to the local community and helps them develop a positive self-concept as found in the field. This positive self-concept is valuable capital for them in living their lives in the future.</p>
<p>This is an open access article under the <a href="https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/">CC BY-NC</a> license</p> 	<p><b>Corresponding Author:</b> Uga Pratama Gunawan Program Studi Ilmu Kesejahteraan Sosial Universitas Pasundan <a href="mailto:Uga.pratama@unpas.ac.id">Uga.pratama@unpas.ac.id</a></p>

## INTRODUCTION

Children are vulnerable individuals who are in great need of protection. It is undeniable that children are the hope for the future that will determine the quality of a nation. The Convention on the Rights of the Child has been agreed upon internationally as an effort to protect children from various conditions that do not allow or will hinder optimal child growth and development. More clearly, the convention on the rights of the child underlines the most important rights that every child in the world must have, including. The right to life and sustain life; civil and citizenship rights; the right to family care or alternatives; the right to be heard; and the right to special protection.

Specifically related to the right to family care or its alternatives, there have been so many scientific studies that support the agreement. Many studies have proven that the quality of adult humans is very much determined by the quality of care experienced by the individual in childhood. The results of these studies are very much in line with theories of human development, especially regarding child development. One of the most important studies is

how important the attachment between children and their parents is in forming resilience in adulthood. Research conducted by Karol Wilson and Rosemary Jackson (2013) entitled *Attachment and child development*.

The belief in the importance of child care in a family environment then became one of the agreements stated in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Article 3 Paragraph 2 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child states that the main environment in child care starts from biological parents; relatives; *foster parents*; and then the last alternative solution is a shelter or foster care institution.

In the real world, not all children are in fortunate situations and can be well cared for in their biological family environment. Many situations force children to be in the care of other people, even more unfortunate when they are in the care of irresponsible people who are unable to provide an environment that allows children to grow and develop optimally. Not a few of these children are forced to live alone to survive without protection from any party. This situation becomes very complicated when experienced by children who are forced to be far from their families, uprooted from their cultural roots for various reasons they have to flee their country and seek asylum in other countries.

Conflicts that occur in several countries in various parts of the world have claimed many lives. The losses caused by these conflicts are not only in terms of material such as loss of property but also non-material such as lives and also forcing many people to leave their hometowns. The ongoing conflict has made many countries close to the country where the conflict is located restless and worried because they are afraid of being affected by the conflict which can spread to disrupt the stability of their country. The Middle East and Africa are places where many armed conflicts occur and have resulted in many casualties.

As a result of the prolonged conflict that has not found a solution, many citizens from countries in conflict have finally chosen to leave their countries to seek protection. Australia, the United States, Canada, and Norway are the main destinations for refugees seeking protection. Australia because of its relatively easier distance to reach by refugees, especially for those from the Middle East, Africa, and parts of East Asia, is a favorite destination for refugees. This has caused many cases of *illegal migrants*, thus raising serious attention from the UN.

The UN's response to the increasingly widespread refugee problem, on December 14, 1950 *the United Nation Commissioner for Refugees* (UNHCR) was established. UNHCR is tasked with providing protection and assistance to all refugees in need. The Refugee Convention in 1951 was created as a real effort to provide protection to all refugees. This convention has stated that refugees are divided into two categories, namely *Internal Displaced Persons* (IDP's) or local refugees in a country and *Refugees* or refugees who go from one country to another. This convention later developed into the 1967 Protocol on the status of refugees which was signed by 140 countries.

In the 1951 Refugee Convention, it is explained that a refugee is a person who due to a threatening and uncomfortable condition causes a person to leave his/her place of residence to seek protection. In relation to *Refugees*, the common problem that causes them to leave their place of residence is a conflict situation that makes them feel threatened in their own

country. Countries such as those in the Middle East and Africa are recorded by UNHCR as the largest source of refugees. Until 2015, UNHCR recorded around 51 million people displaced from their countries, most of whom came from conflict countries in the Middle East.

In the 1951 Refugee Convention and the 1967 Protocol, the status of refugees is explained. Before a cross-border refugee gets *Refugee status*, he will previously have the status of *Asylum Seekers*. *Asylum Seekers* is the term for those who are still seeking recognition (*Unrecognized*) from UNHCR for their status as refugees. After going through several procedures from UNHCR, then he can get *refugee status* (*Recognized*) and then get protection from UNHCR for further handling.

Among these refugees, many are children. They came to Indonesia with their parents, relatives, or even came alone because their entire family had passed away. These children were then made *people of concern* by UNHCR or groups that require special attention. Children are considered vulnerable individuals who need special handling, therefore UNHCR has created several special child handling programs.

In every large-scale population movement, children have always been separated from their parents. Refugees that have occurred in various parts of the world have had an impact on many children who are forced to live far away in other countries without the care of their own parents. Until 2014, *the Church World Service* (CWS) recorded that 3,144 refugee children entered Indonesia with 1,074 children who entered without biological parents or separated children, 93% of whom or 923 children were children who entered without any support at all from parents or caregivers and the remaining 7% came with their relatives. The separation they experienced was generally because their parents had died as victims of war, or were missing in war situations.

The situations experienced by these children vary greatly, from children who come with their parents, children who come with relatives or their extended families, and children who come alone, even among them, quite a few are also forced to languish in immigration prisons throughout Indonesia. Taking into account the mandate of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, as well as the awareness of the vulnerability that may be experienced by these children, UNHCR as the most responsible institution in Indonesia regarding the handling of refugees makes all children who come to Indonesia with the status of asylum seekers considered as UNHCR's *people of concern*. Several care *arrangements* are tried to be built especially for children who are in the most vulnerable situations in the following categories:

1. Alternative care within *the centre* (with *group home arrangements*)
2. Entrusting children to refugee families from the same communities as the child's origin
3. Entrusting certain children to families within the local community
4. Entrusting certain children to child service centers such as RPSA, orphanages, etc.

However, with the limited capabilities and reach of UNHCR services, these services are only able to target a small portion of the huge number of refugee children. Most of them are forced to survive alone without any care from anywhere.

The nurturing environment is believed to provide protection and support the growth and development of children. In the concept of attachment expressed by Wilson and Jackson (2013) it is stated that the nurturing environment is one of the main factors in supporting child

development from various aspects, one important aspect in child development is the psychological aspect.

Psychological conditions are formed by one of the environmental influences, in this case the family environment is considered the main environment in the formation of a person's self. The process of forming personality and self-concept begins from childhood to adulthood, one of the influences is the parenting environment.

*Self-concept* according to Agustiani (2009) is a picture of oneself that is formed through interaction with the environment. Fitts in Agustiani (2009) divides self-concept into two main dimensions, namely internal and external dimensions. Aspects in the internal dimension are Self-Identity, Behavior, and Acceptance / Assessment. Aspects in the external dimension are physical, moral - ethical, personal self, family self, and social self. Fitts explains that *self-concept* has a strong influence on a person's behavior. Poor *self-concept* will hinder the *interaction of refugee children* with their environment which will have an impact on their social functioning.

This study aims to explore the self-concept of cross-border refugee children ( *refugees* ) who are cared for by foster parents from the local community while waiting for placement in a country that is willing to accommodate them.

## Literature review

### Self Concept

Self-concept is a person's image of themselves, which is formed through experiences gained from interactions with the environment. Self-concept is not an innate factor, but rather develops from continuous and differentiated experiences. The basis of an individual's self-concept is instilled in the early moments of a child's life and becomes the basis that influences his or her behavior later on.

William H. Fitts (1971) stated that self-concept is an important aspect in a person, because a person's self-concept is a frame *of reference* in interacting with the environment. He explained the self-concept phenomenologically, and said that when an individual perceives himself, reacts to himself, gives meaning and assessment and forms abstractions about himself, it means that he shows self-awareness *and* the ability to get out of himself to see himself as he does the world outside himself.

Fitts also said that self-concept has a strong influence on a person's behavior, by knowing a person's self-concept we will be able to predict and understand the person's behavior more easily. In general, an individual's behavior is related to ideas about themselves. If someone perceives themselves as inferior *to* others, although this is not necessarily true, usually the behavior they display will be related to the shortcomings they perceive subjectively.

Hurlock (2005: 372) states that self-concept is an individual's impression ( *image* ) of his/her characteristics which include physical, social, emotional, aspirational and achievement characteristics. In line with this opinion, Cawangas (Pudjijogyanti, 1993: 2) stated that self-concept is the entire view of an individual regarding his/her physical dimensions, personality characteristics, motivation, weaknesses, intelligence and failures. Self-concept is something

that a person will strive for to achieve optimal desires and realize his/her life. It can also be said that self-concept is a framework for organizing the experiences a person obtains.

### **Refugee Children**

John Locke in Gunarsa (1982) defines a child as a person who is still clean and sensitive to stimuli from the environment. According to Hurlock (1982) states that a child is a period that begins after passing through a baby period full of dependency, approximately 2 years of age until the child is sexually mature, approximately 13 years for women and 14 years for men. Meanwhile, according to Law of the Republic of Indonesia Number 35 of 2014 concerning child protection, a child is someone who has not reached the age of 18 years including children who are still in the womb.

Kasiram (1994) said that children are creatures who are in the development stage who have their own feelings, thoughts, wills, all of which are psychic totalities and different characteristics and structures at each phase of their development.

### ***Children People of concern* UNHCR**

The 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees defines a refugee as “a person who, owing to a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political party, is outside the country of his nationality and does not avail himself of the protection of that country.”

When a refugee leaves their country of origin or previous residence, they leave behind most of their life, home, possessions and family. Such refugees cannot be protected by their home country because they are forced to leave their country. Therefore, their protection and assistance becomes the responsibility of the international community according to UNHCR.

UNHCR divides several groups in handling refugees, and one of them is they divide attention for people who need special attention ( *People of concern* ) and one of them is children. Children are made *people of concern* by UNHCR because of their vulnerable social conditions. Every large-scale displacement always involves children who are involved in the displacement. Children who move are not only children who have parents, but many children also move alone because they are separated from their parents due to various factors. Children are made a vulnerable group that requires more attention.

The strong reason why children are made *people of concern* by UNHCR is because according to the mandate of the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, children have the right to growth, protection, participation, and survival. Therefore, UNHCR is obliged to fulfill these children's rights to support their development and save them as the next generation.

### **Child Social Work**

Social Work is a profession that helps individuals, groups, and communities in an effort to improve social functioning. The science of social work is closely related to social welfare. Every individual is inseparable from the problems they face. One of these problems is a social problem. Someone who has social problems cannot be said to be prosperous in the field of social welfare. In relation to social welfare, here are some definitions of social work according to experts:

- 1) According to *the Council on Social Work Education* in Adi Fahrudin (2012),

*“Social work seeks to enhance the social functioning of individuals, singly and in groups, by activities focused upon their social relationships which constitute the interaction between man and his environment, these activities can be grouped into three functions; restoration of impaired capacity, provision of individuals and social resources and prevention of social dysfunction .”*

Based on the definition above, it can be interpreted as follows: Social work seeks to improve the social functioning of individuals, individually or in groups, with activities that focus on their social relationships which are interactions between other people and their environment. These activities can be grouped into three functions: restoration of impaired abilities, provision of individual and social resources, and prevention of social dysfunction.

2) According to *the National Association of Social Work* in Adi Fahrudin (2012),

*“Social work is professional activity of helping individuals, groups, or communities to enhance or restore their capacity for social functioning and societal conditions favorable to their goals. Social work practice consists of professional application of social work values, principles and techniques to one or more of the following ends; helping people obtain tangible services; providing counseling and psychotherapy for individuals, families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in relevant legislative processes. The practice of social work requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social, economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interaction of all these factors.”*

Based on the definition above, it can be interpreted as follows: Social work is a professional activity helping individuals, groups, or communities to improve or restore their ability to function socially and to create social conditions that support these goals. Social work practice consists of the professional application of social work values, principles, and techniques to one or more of the following goals: helping people obtain real services; providing counseling and psychotherapy for individuals , families, and groups; helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services; and participating in related legislative processes. Social work practice requires knowledge of human development and behavior; of social, economic, and cultural institutions; and of the interactions between all of these factors.

### **Social Work with Refugees**

*The International Federation of Social Workers (IFSW)* explains that the main needs of *refugees* , including *Refugee Children* , are the fulfillment of basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, health services and also protection from threats they may experience that could disrupt their social functioning.

Social work as a helping profession that focuses on helping individuals, groups, or helping communities to function socially, *refugees* according to IFSW are included in the group that needs the help of social workers. IFSW explains that the main focus of social work services with refugees is related to their psychosocial problems, according to IFSW the focus of handling social work with refugees includes:

- 1) The traumatic treatment experienced by refugees is related to their previous experiences

- 2) Advocacy and counseling related to the fulfillment of their basic needs as well as administrative guarantees related to the refugee handling process / resettlement process they are currently undergoing.
- 3) Assisting refugees in providing guidance regarding economic fulfillment and their adaptation in their new community environment to help them become independent.
- 4) Providing education regarding the service process being carried out and regarding the administrative process they must go through.
- 5) Accompanying refugees during their stay in the new environment until they are ready to be released without the assistance of social workers.
- 6) Preparing refugees to be ready to be in a new environment.

Webb (2009) explains that the role of the social work profession can help overcome children's and family problems. Children's problems must receive special attention both as individuals, family members, and as part of their social environment.

Children's issues are cross-cutting, therefore social work practices with children need to pay attention to the social environment that greatly impacts children and families in addition to paying attention to the biological and emotional conditions of children. However, from a rights perspective, social workers also need to pay attention to how to fulfill children's rights. Social workers need to pay attention to the principles of children's rights which include what is in the best interests of children, discrimination, participation and child development.

Children as individuals who need support and direction regarding their development and growth processes will really need support from the surrounding environment. A good environment will have an impact on the formation of a good child, in this study, namely the formation of their self-concept. As explained by Fitts, a good self-concept will have a positive impact on children. Social workers need to pay attention to and help create a good environment for children to support their growth and development. In handling refugees, the role of social workers is not only as an advocate but more broadly as a broker, enabler, counselor, and so on according to the problems found in the field.

## RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach to three respondents . The qualitative research method with a case study approach is intended to obtain information and also study in depth the background of the current situation, and the interaction of the environment of a social unit: individual, group, institution, or community and obtain a clear picture of the self-concept of *Refugee* Children who live with foster parents from the local community in Bojong Gede, Bogor Regency .

The interview and observation instruments of this study were compiled based on aspects of self-concept put forward by Fitts (1971), namely aspects of 1) personal self; 2) moral ethics; 3) physical; 4) family; and 5) social self. Burns (1993) put forward a scale regarding children's self-concept from Piers and Harris (1964), indicators in seeing children's positive or negative self-concept were taken to strengthen the preparation of the instrument. The interview and observation guideline instruments were compiled to find answers through

expressions from research respondents. The data analysis techniques used in this study were data reduction and data triangulation.

## DISCUSSION

The self-concept that researchers study looks at the external dimension of the self-concept itself, as described by William Fitts, that the self-concept is constructed of two dimensions, namely internal and external. The external dimensions of the self-concept include the physical, social, moral, ethical, family, and personal self-concepts.

A person who has a positive self-concept will develop self-esteem, optimism, positive behavior, assertiveness, good socialization with their environment, and be able to place themselves in the environment. Fitts explains that self-concept is closely related to interaction, because a person's self-concept is a frame *of reference* in interacting with the environment .

Self-concept has a strong influence on a person's behavior, by knowing a person's self-concept we will more easily predict and understand the person's behavior. In general, an individual's behavior is related to ideas about themselves. If someone perceives themselves as inferior *compared* to others, although this is not necessarily true, usually the behavior they display will be related to the shortcomings they perceive subjectively.

Related to the self-concept of refugee children who have been the focus of research, several facts and data have been found related to the child's self-concept. The self-concept studied looks at its external dimensions, namely physical, social, moral-ethical, family, and personal self-concept. To make it easier to analyze the self-concept formed by these children, the researcher created a recapitulation table that can describe the self-concept of these children in the following table.

**Table 4.6** Recapitulation of Refugee Children's Self-Concept

Name	Self Physique	Family Self	Social Self	Moral-ethical Self	Personal Self
AR	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative
RA	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative
NN	Positive	Positive	Positive	Negative	Positive

### Physical self-concept

In general, researchers found that refugee children, namely AR, RA and NN, have a positive physical self-concept. This is indicated by their understanding, reactions, and perceptions of their physical condition, health and existence in Indonesia. There are several key factors found in this study that enable them to develop their positive self-concept.

#### a) Racial differences

The racial differences that AR and RA have when they set foot in Indonesia are very visible. AR and RA have white skin, tall, sturdy bodies, and faces typical of Pakistani children. Their presence in Indonesia received a positive response from the environment

and society. This was acknowledged by AR and RA as increasing their self-confidence to be able to blend in with society.

For AR and RA, physical differences are recognized as not a problem in being able to socialize with the environment because it shows the beauty of differences where everyone must learn to understand and appreciate each other.

AR and RA believe that many Indonesians like their appearance, and according to both of them, this is an advantage for being able to socialize in society.

b) Racial equality

Unlike AR and RA, NN has a physical form that is similar to Indonesian society. He admitted that this increased his confidence in society even though he is not Indonesian. For NN, living in an Indonesian society is no different from living in his environment.

Physical similarities also make it easy for him to socialize with his environment. NN explained that this makes it easy for him to be accepted and makes him feel like a part of Indonesian society.

NN said that the good acceptance of society towards him, regardless of his origin and physical form, has made him feel accepted and part of society. His face, which is similar to Indonesian children in general, is an advantage for him so that he can mix with the surrounding community.

NN's self-confidence and acceptance of the environment are inseparable from the physical similarities he has with the people in his environment. NN admits that his physical form makes him not feel awkward and different from other children in his environment. For NN, everything is a gift from God.

c) Weather and environmental adaptation

AR and RA come from a temperate country, when they first came to Indonesia they needed to adapt to the weather. The weather in Indonesia is very different from the weather in their home country which is generally cold. AR and RA admitted that they had difficulty adapting to the weather.

Due to the hot weather, AR and RA often suffer from dehydration, this is acknowledged by both of them as a challenge for them while living in Indonesia. Fortunately, this did not have a further impact on their health. They said that their health condition is good.

AR and RA can also adjust to the food in Indonesia, as it is known for those who come from outside Indonesia, consuming Indonesian food is not easy because the spicy taste can cause diarrhea for them. AR and RA have no problem with the food in Indonesia and admit that they can eat anything. They sometimes do not eat regularly but it is acknowledged that this does not have much impact on their health.

NN comes from a country that has the same climate as Indonesia, NN admitted that it did not take long to adapt to the weather in Indonesia. In addition, the food he consumes is similar to Indonesia because it contains many spices. He admitted that he did not need to adapt.

This condition made NN develop acceptance of his life in Indonesia, he felt like he was at home because of the similarity of conditions between Indonesia and his environment.

In addition to weather and food factors, AR, RA, and NN are in direct contact with the Indonesian people's closed, polite, and neat clothing style. They consider this as something good and follow suit to look good like Indonesian people.

AR and RA explained that their appearance was greatly influenced by their environment. According to them, a neat appearance is a must because it characterizes the person, they want to look good in the public eye. In line with AR and RA, NN also agreed that appearance is very important and they showed the characteristic that a good appearance is important for them to be able to look good in the public eye.

Based on these results, it can be seen that AR, RA, and NN developed a positive physical self-concept, this is characterized by good acceptance of their condition and themselves, as well as adjustments such as physical appearance which is implemented in a style of dress as the environment wants from them.

### **Family Self Concept**

The family self-concept built by AR, RA and NN is diverse. In general, the self-concept owned by the three of them shows a positive family self-concept. The three of them feel they have a bond and appreciation from the family, they are also able to describe themselves as part of the family.

AR and NN feel a special closeness to Mrs. S as their adoptive mother. They said that the affection given by Mrs. S towards them has helped them adapt and build their self-confidence. RA is different, he admitted that he was not very close to Mrs. S, but the affection she gave him had made him confident and optimistic in facing everything that would happen to him. Some facts found by researchers related to the formation of family self-concept for these children include:

### **Social Self Concept**

A child's social self-concept is closely related to how he or she responds and behaves in his or her social environment. As explained by Fitts, self-concept will build a frame of reference for a person to behave and socialize in society. Social self-concept is related to how a person can perceive, place himself or herself, and respond to his or her environment.

AR, RA, and NN based on the results of the study on the aspect of their social self-concept showed positive results, this is indicated by their ability to socialize in society and develop an understanding of themselves. This ability is indicated by their ability to socialize in their environment. In addition, they are also able to answer the challenges of socializing in their environment by learning normative things in society such as language, dress, and behavior. They are also able to define and place themselves in society.

Research on the social self-aspect of AR, RA, and NN has found characteristics of someone who has a positive self-concept that has been shown not only in words but also in real actions from the three children who are active in community activities and are able to define themselves as part of society.

### **Moral Ethical Self Concept**

Of the three refugee children, AR and RA have a positive moral ethical self-concept, marked by their ability to accept and implement the values and norms that exist in Indonesia into their daily lives, however, they still maintain their personal values and norms, where there

are similarities in values and norms in the religion they adhere to such as Indonesian society. In contrast to NN who was identified as having a negative moral ethical self-concept, this is based on NN's failure to implement and understand the values and norms that exist in Indonesia.

Based on the results of the study by revealing facts and data in the field, researchers can draw conclusions that in the moral and ethical self-concept of refugee children AR, AR, and NN there are differences. NN has a negative self-concept, this is characterized by his failure to understand the values and norms that apply in society and apply them to his life so that a negative stigma arises in him. AR and RA are different, they characterize someone who has a good moral ethical self-concept, with the characteristics of how they maintain relationships in society, describe existing values and norms and apply them to his life.

### **Personal Self Concept**

Personal self-concept as explained by William Fitts is related to whether someone can assess their own abilities and describe their identity. A person's self-concept can be considered positive if they see themselves as a person who is full of happiness, has optimism in living life, is able to control themselves, and is full of potential. It can be considered a negative self-concept if they see themselves as individuals who never (rarely) feel happiness, are pessimistic in living life, have less control over themselves, and have not developed their potential optimally.

The results of the research on the personal self-concept of AR, RA and NN have shown that all three of them have negative personal self-concepts, which are generally characterized by pessimistic attitudes, sadness, anxiety, and lost hopes within themselves. In the research on the self-concept of refugee children, researchers describe the formation of this self-concept caused and supported by various internal and external factors. Specifically, what happened to AR, RA, and NN, researchers saw four main factors that influenced their self-concept.

The first is their past experiences, as we know all three have had bad experiences. Bad pasts will cause trauma for children as expressed by Gina Ross (2010) who stated that trauma destroys a sense of security, making children feel helpless and vulnerable in a dangerous world. The destruction of a child's sense of security will make the child perceive himself as someone who is threatened, weak, helpless, and the world as a dangerous place. This past trauma can be identified as a trigger for negative concepts and perceptions that will be built by the child.

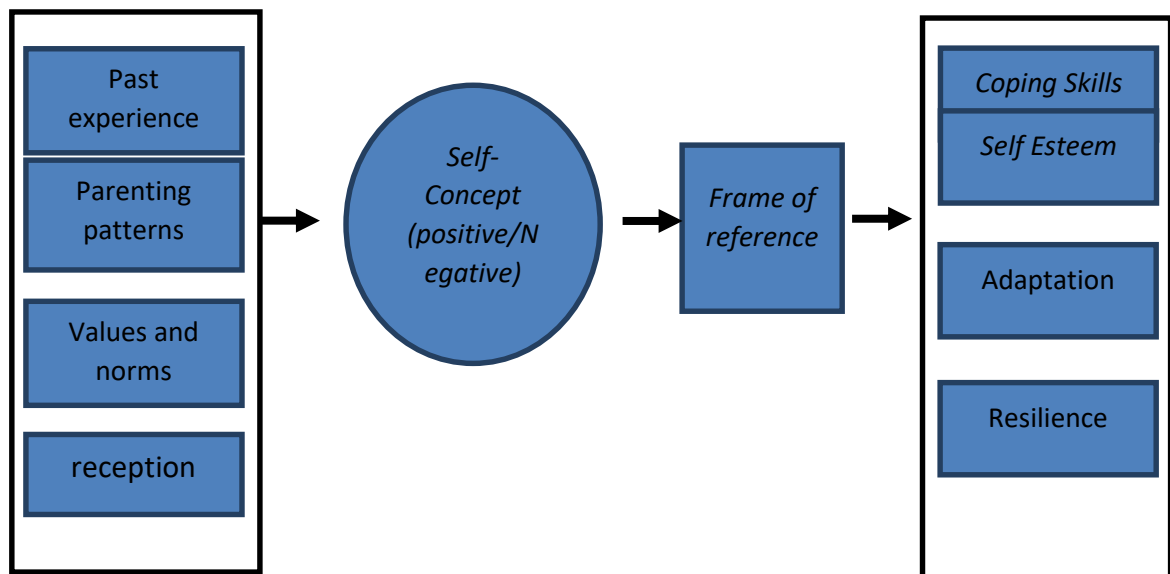
Next, the second is the role of foster parents, the role of foster parents in helping refugee children deal with their trauma is very vital, especially since all three are also identified as experiencing separation from their parents, a condition where refugee children are not accompanied by adults. The role of substitute foster parents in providing affection and building attachment with children will help children recover from their trauma and help children develop in a positive direction (Karol Wilson and Rosemary Jackson, 2013). The child's development in question is not only from the physical elements but also their psyche such as the ability to recognize their environment, and also their coping skills.

After that, the values and norms that apply in society also contribute to the formation of a child's self-concept. The values and norms that will then be adopted by the child while living in Indonesia can be accepted or rejected. Acceptance or rejection of the values and norms that apply to him will lead to behavior that is either appropriate or not. There needs to be education and guidance for a child who lives with a different community so that he can adapt.

Then there is Acceptance from the community, the behavior shown by the child becomes one of the main factors of the acceptance of the community towards his presence. Good behavior and in accordance with the values and norms of the community that apply can result in acceptance where, for those who have just arrived for the first time will feel the appreciation from the community so that they can build positive interactions in the community.

These things will then form a self-concept in the child which is used as a frame of reference for behavior as explained by William Fitts. The frame of reference will build the child how to form a pattern of interaction with society where then these things lead to a result such as how the child will have a perception of society, how he interacts, how he will develop his coping skills and also how his adaptation will be formed in society, and how his self-confidence and resilience are formed.

To simplify, the researcher created a thought process regarding the formation of self-concept in refugee children who were research informants.



**Figure 4.2** The thought process of forming the self-concept of refugee children cared for by foster parents.

This line of thought describes how external factors such as past experiences experienced by children, whether good or bad, then the parenting patterns applied in the foster family environment, will also accumulate with the values and norms that exist in society and also the values and norms that he holds personally, as well as the impact of acceptance

given by the environment. These things will accumulate to form the child's self-concept, whether it will be positive or negative.

The self-concept that is formed will then become a frame of reference for the child to then interact with the environment as explained by William Fitts. This interaction will culminate in how the child's ability to adjust (adjustment) , such as how he will develop problem-solving skills ( coping skills ), the ability to adapt to the environment, how he will have self-confidence ( self esteem ), and how resilience he will have.

In responding to this, there needs to be an integrated effort involving stakeholders, both domestic and international, as a resource system to handle this problem. Several parties that can be involved besides UNHCR as an organization responsible for international refugee issues can also involve domestic institutions in Indonesia such as the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Social Affairs, and the Government both at the central and regional levels. These institutions are involved because of their authority to live and the needs of many people so that cooperation can be built.

In addition, there are also various professions that can handle international refugee issues, in handling the professions that are usually involved in handling international refugees as was done by the URP-UNHCR team which involved Social Workers, Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Doctors, Teachers, Anthropologists, Religious experts, etc. to support the service and handling process to address this refugee issue. These resource systems have their respective roles and functions which if initiated and work together can produce good results in the existing service system. Basically there must be an integrated effort between all resource systems if we are serious about handling this refugee problem.

## CLOSING

The results of the study on the self-concept of children conducted by researchers on three refugee children who received care from the local Indonesian community, namely AR 18 years old and RA 17 years old from Pakistan and NN who was 16 years old from Myanmar. In general, the results of the study on the self-concept of refugee children showed positive results. In general, all three have a positive self-concept seen from the dimensions of external self-concept as explained by William Fitts, namely the physical self, family self, social self, moral-ethical self, and personal self.

In the results, it is known that the physical, family, and social aspects of the three respondents show a positive self-concept. This is indicated by statements, actions, and reinforced by statements from people around them. For the personal self-concept of AR and RA showed negative results, this was identified as being caused by their past experiences which then formed their self-concept and views of themselves. While the negative moral ethical self-concept was shown by NN which was identified as NN's failure to adapt and adjust to the values and norms in his environment.

More clearly, the formation of a positive self-concept on the physical aspect of the self is owned by all three. This can be seen from various expressions and statements from the three and is reinforced by the behavior they show. All three do not feel awkward or inferior

about their physical form, especially for AR and RA who have a very clearly visible body shape.

The family self-concept of the three also showed positive characteristics. They felt acceptance and appreciation for the family that cared for them. Fitts explained that the main characteristic of family self-concept is acceptance and appreciation for the family. The three of them, AR, RA, and NN, accepted the presence of the family as their family. They also expressed that there was a relationship and contact that they built with the family. The new family has helped them to be able to adapt and socialize with the environment and grow their self-esteem.

Furthermore, in the social self-concept, all three still show positive characteristics. This is indicated by their statements and behavior to socialize and adapt to their environment. As explained by William Fitts, the characteristics of a positive social self-concept are the existence of appreciation and positive behavior shown to society and the desire to be part of society. AR, RA, and NN enjoy socializing with their environment to build an intense relationship. All three are known to be able to socialize in society. For them, their status as immigrants is not an obstacle to socializing with their environment.

In the results of the study on the moral-ethical self-concept aspect, only NN was identified as having a negative moral-ethical self-concept. This is indicated by NN's failure to understand and apply the values and norms that apply in society in his life. He rebelled against his family by running away from home and this was considered a violation of existing values and norms. Then AR and RA were identified as having a good moral-ethical self-concept with their behavior that could adjust to existing values and norms.

In the concept of personal self, someone will be considered positive if they have optimism about their future and a desire to change for the better. Unfortunately, this is not possessed by AR and RA who show pessimistic behavior, this is evidenced by their statements that they feel depressed and do not know how to start their future. As well as a feeling of despair with their indifference to whatever fate will befall them in the future. NN is lucky because now she is in a third country and starting her new life, NN is filled with optimism in welcoming her future so that she develops a positive understanding that fate can change and she still has hope at her young age.

In addition to the role of foster parents, the role of the community and their environment in helping refugee children to be empowered is also very important. A real example can be seen in AR and RA who can survive and develop positive patterns of interaction and social relationships with the community and their environment, saying that there is support and acceptance from the local community who know them. This community acceptance is very important for them to be able to develop positive interactions with their environment as expected.

The results of the study showed that the existence of substitute foster care from different community groups for refugee children showed positive results in the formation of their self-concept which helped their development as explained by Karol Wilson and Rosemary Jackson. Children need protection from various threats, regardless of race, ethnicity or religion. All children must be protected from danger.

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