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THE EFFECT OF NEGLECTFUL PARENT TOWARDS CHILDREN  
DURING MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER (MCO) OF COVID-19

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**Iylia Mohamad, Hazhari Ismail, Mohamad Albaree Abdul, Syazwani Aniyah Manja, Nurul Izzah Yusof: The Effect of Neglectful Parent Towards Children During Movement Control Order (Mco) Of Covid-19.-- Palarch's Journal Of Archaeology Of Egypt/Egyptology 17(6), ISSN 1567-214x**

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## ABSTRACT

Being a parent and a worker at the same time is not an easy task. The responsibilities of both job need an understanding from a spouse and also the superior of the company to understand their workers. As parent, they need to take care of their children while as a worker, they need to complete the task given as ordered. All these make parents have to choose which will be their priority to do on that day. Unfortunately, if most of the day they decided to choose work as their priority, the outcomes is, parents did not realize they have neglect their children. Weather busy working of office work or doing house chores children are abandoned. They let the children play alone, watch television alone unattended, not responding to the questions and more. Children by themselves are force to understand their parents' "work" while deep inside, they are emotionally abuse by their parents. Therefore this study is to find what effects parents to neglect their children. There are 158 parents were involved in this study during the Movement Control Order (MCO) period. They are at least having one child. Result found, there are not significant but, by mean score, a father is more likely to neglect their children because by perspective, a father is less likely to involve with their children compared to a mother. A father roles also is usually to fulfil the family's necessary needs such as food, shelter, clothes and money. They rarely at home with the children. By having helpers such as maid or spouse, it can be help to ease their burden.

Hence, it can prevent them to neglect their children. Lastly, this study is to find the working affairs of the family. Result shown by mean score comparison, parents who get high pay RM 8001 and above is leading to parental neglect and those who need to go to work during MCO, also lead to parental neglect.

## INTRODUCTION

Neglectful parenting, a behavior of ignoring, unattended and to worse, upsets it is an emotional abuse to the children. Parents were excited waiting for their first born and counting days of the delivery. The moment baby were born, parents were happy and attentions were given as much as they can. As the child grows up, parents need to prepare their necessary needs such as food, clothes, shelter and education. No one knows what might happens in the future so do the child and parents. Living in this world nowadays is not easy. Kuala Lumpur were at rank of 96<sup>th</sup> among the highest rank of the most expensive cities reported by worldwide cost of Living Survey 2017 reported by Aqmin et.al (2019). There are very costly living in the big cities but parents have no choice. They need to work not only one but both parents need to work. At some cases, there are some parents need to do more than one job to make sure their basic needs fulfilled. They are working tireless from morning until midnight.

Due to that, they might not aware they have neglect or ignore their child/children in their upbringing. Manzoor Hussain & Mohd Anzar Warr (2019), had defined neglectful parenting as uninvolved, detached, dismissive or hands off. To the extend, (Samantha et.al, 2017; Allnock, 2016; Graham et al., 2010), said that neglect is the most harmful behavior for children's development. Neglectful is unseen, it does not left any scars to children so parents will not realize of their behaviour. They do not attend to their children's questions, being supportive of their children's interest, and even do not care what their children are doing. At their mind, parenting is as long as they have provided their children with food, clothes and shelter. They do not realize that emotional well- being is a part of it. Love and belongingness is a must for the children's development.

Cases falls under this neglecting were leaving children in the car drowning, drowning toddler in bathroom, hands cut due to firecrackers, leaving the children taking care by themselves alone at home and more. Worse cases, parents nowadays were busy with their mobile phones play social media, watch YouTube, updating stories online and let their children play by themselves. Emotionally, children were abuse due to this unattended attention by parents. At some research, children with parental neglect usually tend to be delinquent in future. This is agreed by the theory of Baumrind, permissive neglectful or uninvolved parenting where the parents demonstrates minimal warmth and minimal control over the child. Their preferences on children is, "children must be seen but not heard". Thus Johnson (2016) in his research said, children who were raised under this types of parenting is at higher risk of behavioral disorder because of the lacking in parenting such as rejecting that might cause them to experience depression, narcissism, antisocial and violence.

## BACKGROUND

During this research, most of parents were at home at the end of Phase 3 followed the ordered announced by Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin. He had enacted the Movement Control Order (MCO) at its first phase on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020 and continue until today at Phase 5 with Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO). All Malaysian citizen was asked to stay at home to combat with this new infectious disease which World Health Organization has called it as a pandemic infectious the new Coronavirus (COVID-19). This viruses infected human through the droplets. Everyone needs to wear mask, keep washing hands and keep social distance between each other at least 1 meter to prevent them from infected. Within the past three MCO phases, Ministry of Health (KKM) and other authorities involved as front liner has achieved their strategy in combating this COVID-19. Their aim to flatten the curve seems success. Now, starting 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020, Malaysian had applied the CMCO until the latest date given on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Some of the company had started their businesses and parents started to work.

During MCO, all schools, kindergarten and nursery were closed. Therefore, parents need to take care of their own child/children during the MCO period. It has already passed 2 months of MCO and this study is going to see the effects of parental neglect in children during the MCO of COVID-As we can see in the studies of Emotionally Parental Burnout by Syazwani Aniyah et.al (2020), parents' level of burnout was at average to high level. This is in need of concern by many agencies, NGOs and other party to consider and take some actions. Staying at home too long, working from home, and taking care of children all day are burden to some people and make them feel burnout. From that study, we come out to see the parental neglect during MCO. How parents deal with their children and what effects them to neglect their children.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

The rate of child neglect cases occurring in Malaysia is increasingly alarming. According to statistics from 2013 to June 2018 reported by the Department of Social Welfare (JKM), 1769 child neglect cases occurred in 2013, 2035 cases in 2014, 2236 cases in 2015, 2547 cases in 2016, 2410 cases in 2017 and 1318 cases through June 2018. On average about nearly 400 children are abandoned each year by a parent or guardian and majority are Malay Muslims (Aminah Ayob, 2018). This increase represents an endless concern and can have adverse effects if certain precautions are not betaken.

Neglect described by Bernett et.all (1993) cited in Judith C.B & Colleen D.M (2006) is a behaviour of the caregiver that failed to provide food, clothing, hygiene, shelter, supervision, and medical care. Other than that, neglect is also known as child maltreatment which is widely use as parents who failed to provide such essential needs for the children. Sethi et.al (2014) in Bywaters P. et.al (2016) child maltreatment refers to all forms of physical or emotional or sexually abuse, deprivation, and neglect of children or commercial or exploitation that resulting harm for children's health, survival, development or dignity that falls under the responsibilities and trust or power of the children. According to Irfan Fayyaz (2019), said child neglect often happened to a parents who took substance abuse including alcohol and drugs which may

impair their judgment and the child left unsafe and unprotected by their parents.

Ahmad et.al (2000) in Irene Guat & Choo (2006), in his study reported hardship and financial difficulties faced by the families had forced the parents especially the mother to work long hours outside. Thus, children were left unsupervised by their mothers and this situation allowed a father or male siblings to take advantage on them to sexually abuse. This is the example of negligence, which may affects children to be a sexual victim. Being an abuse victim is worse than neglect. Irfan Fayyaz (2019) again in his research explain the effects of being neglect will affect their relationship attachment and the brain development. According to him, children who don't get love and care from their parents will find it difficult to get along with other people. They might experience mental health problem including depression, and post-traumatic stressed disorder.

There are some factors that reflect to parental neglect which are, poverty, and parents' relationship are among the most. Cases reported by Irene Guat & Choo (2006), happened in Hospital Kuala Lumpur, the risk factors to child maltreatment are low socioeconomic status, family disharmony or disruption, divorced or separate parents, personality disorder and parental substance abuse. World Health Organization (WHO) reported, there are about 41,000 children under 15 years old are victims of homicide and the consequences affects their lifetime. WHO then lists five effects of the maltreatment of children which are they can be a victim of violence, having depression, obesity, high risk sexual behaviour or unintended pregnancies and taking of harmful use or alcohol and drugs.

Mohammad Ramzi Zakaria (2015) in his study said, children will be the victims of neglect due to unintentional and negligent parenting of their responsibilities. It affects through two parts; (1) Physical such as stunted growth, always dirty and unkempt; and (2) the treatment of the child itself. Meanwhile, Nurul Izzah Izati, Wafaa, and, Zuliza (2019) conclude in their study that the effects of parental neglect on children depend on the form of neglect by the parents themselves. There are four common forms of parental neglect; (1) Physical neglect; (2) Sexual neglect; (3) Abandonment of education; and (4) Emotional neglect.

In addition, Mohamad Albaree et. al (2018) explains that parental neglect will affect the child's development and character. This is evidenced in his study of two children, namely (A) and (B) 10-year-olds with different developmental and behavioural disorders, as a result of parental neglect arising from divorce issues. The findings show that children (A) have a stubborn attitude, are often angry, do not listen to adult instructions, and have problems in discipline and academics. Meanwhile, children (B) often suffer from depression, always sad, do not get along with others and demonstrate behaviour that is difficult to understand.

This shows that children need the care and attention of their parents or guardians. According to Monica & Stefanie (2014), their failure to meet the needs and concerns of children causes them to feel depressed, inadequate, rebellious, and shamefully difficult to interpret. Therefore, all these forms of neglect are the result of the failure of parents and guardians to fulfil the needs of their children (Mayer et al., 2007).

## METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this study is to discover about the parental neglect happened during Movement Control Order (MCO) Covid-19. Therefore a quantitative methodology was adopted and develop to counter the questions listed in the questionnaire.

Research questions of this study are;

1. What is the level of parental neglect among parents during the MCO?
2. Is there a significant effects of parents' age and gender role with parental neglect during MCO period?
3. Is there a significant effect of having a helper (maid or spouse) at home with parental neglect during MCO period?
4. Is there a significant effect of having many children and varies at age with parental neglect during MCO period?
5. Is there a significant effect of parents working matters with parental neglect during MCO period?

### Sampling

158 respondents were participate in this questionnaire. They are all Malaysian citizens who were obey with CMO order due to COVID-19. The pilot study has took place before the actual study were run.

### Instrument

The questionnaire provided and used was replicate from the Parental Burnout Inventory (PBI1, Roskam, Raes & Mikolajczak, 2017). The questionnaire then were divided into 2 sections which are social demographic and parental neglect sections.

*Social Demographic.* Respondents were asked based on their age, gender, number of children, children age, educational level, occupation status, net household income, working arrangement, working hours demand and type of assistants at home.

*Parental neglect.* This section consist of 16 questions that assessed by the Parental Neglect Scale (Mikolajczak, Briand et al, 2018) and is using 5 points Likert Scale (Strongly Disagree, Disagree, neither agree nor disagree, agree and strongly agree).

The questionnaire was distribute by using Google Form Link via email, Telegram, Whatsapp and Facebook application since MCO still ongoing during the distribution period.

### Data Analysis

The result of this research was analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 20.0 software in order to acquire frequency, percentage, mean, standard deviation, and inference tests based on the research questions.

## FINDINGS

The survey was participated by 158 parents which either a father or mother of Malaysian citizen. They at least has 1 child staying with to entitle them to answer the questionnaire. Participants were informed and invited to answer the questionnaire through social networks. Table 1 show the demographics of the participants.

**Table 1** Demographic Distribution of Respondents

Demographic	Frequency N=158	Percentage %
<b>Age of the parents</b>		
Below 30 years old	20	12.7
31-40 years old	88	55.7
41-50 years old	24	15.2
51 years old and above	26	16.5
Total	158	100%
<b>Parents Gender Roles</b>		
Father	38	24.1
Mother	120	75.9
Total	158	100%
<b>Total of children</b>		
1 child	32	20.3
2 children	54	34.2
3 children	27	17.1
4 children	23	14.6
5 children and above	22	13.9
Total	158	100%
<b>Children range age</b>		
Below 1 year old	6	3.8
Below 1 year & 1-3 years old	5	3.2
Below 1 year & 4-6 years old	6	3.8
1-3 years old	26	16.5
1-3 & 12 years above	1	0.6
1-3 & 4-6 years old	21	13.3
1-3, 4-6 & 7-12 years old	8	5.1
7-12 & 12 years above	1	0.6
1-3 & 7-12 years old	6	3.8
1-3, 7-12 & 12 years above	1	0/6
4-6 years old	13	8.2
4-6 & 7-12 years old	8	5.1
4-6 years old & 12 years above	2	1.3
4-6, 7-12 and 12 years above	4	2.5

7-12 years old	11	7
7-12 & 12 years above	9	5.7
12 years old and above	30	19
Total	158	100%

**Educational Level**

SPM	22	13.9
DIPLOMA	28	17.7
DEGREE	76	48.1
MASTER	29	18.4
PHD	3	1.9
Total	158	100%

**Helpers at home**

Yes	8	5.1
No	150	94.9
Total	158	100%

**Spouse to help**

Yes	133	84.2
No	25	15.8
Total	158	100%

**Pilot Test**

The purpose of a pilot study is to try out the research approach to recognize problems that may effect the quality and validity of the result. Before measuring the full research, a pilot test were begin with 30 parents or respondents. Therefore, the researcher measured is to achieved the reliability of Alpha Cronbach's on questions prepared.

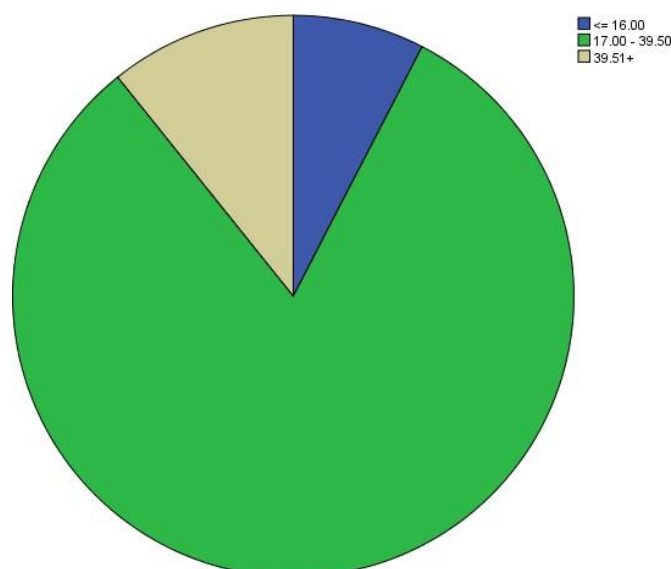
**Table 1.1** Reliability Statistic

Cronbach's Alpha	No. of Items
$\alpha = .919$	16

**Inference Analysis****By aspects of Parental Neglect level****Table 2** T-test of between Parents Gender Roles with Parental Neglect

Score	Frequency	Percentage	Level
<16.00	12	7.6	Low
17.00 – 39.50	129	81.6	Average
39.50+	17	10.8	High
	158	100%	

**Chart 1** Pie chart Level Score of Parental Neglect



The above result of Parental Neglect level shown above was clearly show that most of the parents were at Average level with  $n=129$ , 81.6%. This is an alarm for us to take an action to overcome this behaviour of negligence in children by their parents. The effects of this negligence will not be seen now but it took years where it may affect their behaviour.

**By aspect of parents age and gender roles among parents**

**Table 3** T-test of between Parents Gender Roles with Parental Neglect

		<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
Neglect	Father	38	58.342	21.18	1.94	156	.071
	Mother	120	52.141	15.62			

Above result was a T-test of parents gender roles with parental neglect with ( $t(158) = 1.947$ ,  $p > 0.05 = .071$ ). This shown there was no statistically significant result of parents gender roles and parents neglect. However, if we see the mean score, between a role of father and mother, father was at the highest score with  $M=58.34$  compares to a mother  $M=52.14$ .

**Table 3.1** Means and Standard Deviation on the Parental Neglect during MCO with Age

<i>Neglect</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Self-directed learning inventory score</i>	
		<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Below 30 years old	20	49.8000	13.923



31-40 years old	88	53.5682	17.537
41-50 years old	24	56.1667	19.940
51 years old and above	26	54.4615	16.403
Total	158	53.6329	17.261

**Table 3.1.2** One Way Analysis of Variance of Parental Neglect during MCO with Age

Source	df	SS	MS	F	p
Between Group	3	466.123	155.374	.517	.671
Within Group	154	46312.586	300.731		
Total	157	46778.709			

Parental Neglect, Parenting, COVID-19, Movement Control Order (MCO), Abandoned children Based on the above result shown tested with ANOVA to see at which group age parents neglects more effected. Unfortunately, result was not significant with  $F(3,154)=.517$ ,  $p>0.05=.671$ . But, by mean score, parents with age range between 41-50 years old tend to do parental neglect  $M=56.17$  followed by parents at age 51 years and above  $M=54.46$ , then 31-40 years old  $M=53.57$  and the less parental neglect happened is among parent age below 30 years old  $M=49.80$ . Referring to both tables of parents age and gender roles, both shown there are no statistically significant with parental neglect. But, by mean score, we can conclude that a role of father is leading to parental neglect compared to a mother. By age, it seems older parents tend to neglect more than the younger parents. Younger parents, the excitement of having children is still new, especially those with small number of children. They feel excite seeing their children grow up day by day. The older parents, usually their children age is within primary or secondary school or older. In psychology, this is the identity stage where the children tend to have less communication with parents compared to their peers.

#### By aspect of having helpers at home among parents

**Table 4** T-test of between Having Helpers at Home with Parental Neglect

		n	Mean	SD	t	df	p
Neglect	Yes	8	44.6250	12.420	1.521	156	.307
	No	150	54.1133	17.381			

Result above was a T-test result between having helpers at home with parental neglect. Result shown there was not significant ( $t(158) = 1.521$ ,  $p > 0.05 = .307$ ) either having a helper or not. But, by mean score, we can conclude that, those who does not have helper is having high mean score  $M=54.11$  compared to those who has helper  $M=44.63$ .

**Table 4.1** T-test of between Parents Neglect with Having Spouse to Help

		<i>n</i>	<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>	<i>t</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>p</i>
Neglect	Yes	133	52.78 2	16.74 2	1.43 4	156	.127
	No	25	58.16 0	19.54 8			

By having a spouse to help is a less burden to parents to take care their children while doing other house chores, working matters and more. Thus, above result is to see weather having a spouse to help is significant to parental neglect. Unfortunately, result shows there was no statistically significant result ( $t(158) = 1.434$ ,  $p > 0.05 = .127$ ) of having spouse to help and parental neglect.

Although both result of having a helper in terms of maid or spouse, both shown shown not significant, but when we see the mean score, parents with getting help by a spouse or other kind of help will less leading to parental neglect compared to those not getting any help. Therefore, it can be conclude that, having any such of help can ease parents' job at home and can let them spent more time with their children to avoid from being neglect. Thus, parents with helper is less leading to parental neglect.

#### By aspect of having many children and varies at age range

**Table 5** Means and Standard Deviation on the Parental Neglect during MCO with Total of Children

<i>Neglect</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Self-directed learning inventory score</i>	
		<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
1 child	32	52.4063	19.37 7
2 children	54	52.5000	16.37 5
3 children	27	56.8519	16.27 1
4 children	23	56.3913	16.72 9
5 children and above	22	51.3636	18.51 8

Total	158	53.633	17.26 1
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**Table 5.1** One Way Analysis of Variance of Parental Neglect during MCO with Total of Children

<i>Source</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Group	4	685.514	171.378	.569	.686
Within Group	153	46093.195	301.263		
Total	157	46778.709			

Based on the results tested with one way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) on the total of children and parental neglect, result shown there was not statistically significant with  $F(4,153) = .569$   $p > 0.05 = .686$ . But, when we do mean comparison, it shows that those who in group of 3 to 4 children is at high score  $M = 56.8519$  and  $M = 56.3913$  tend to have parental neglect, followed by those who have 1-2 children  $M = 52.4063$  and  $M = 52.5000$ . Surprisingly, those who have 5 and more children is the lowest mean score  $M = 51.3636$  to have parental neglect.

**Table 5.2** Means And Standard Deviation on the Parental Neglect during MCO with Children's Age

<i>Neglect</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Self-directed learning inventory score</i>	
		<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Below 1 y/o	6	38.5000	10.578
Below 1 year & 1-3 y/o	5	51.0000	15.953
Below 1 y/o & 4-6 y/o	5	48.0000	20.669
1-3 y/o	26	53.7308	20.095
1-3 & 12 y/o above	1	53.0000	
1-3 & 4-6 y/o	21	52.8095	15.178
1-3, 4-6 & 7-12 y/o	8	52.6250	17.138

1-3, 4-6, 7-12 & 12 y/o above	1	33.0000	
1-3 & 7-12 y/o	6	62.3333	19.128
1-3, 7-12 & 12 y/o above	1	93.0000	
4-6 y/o	13	51.3846	9.368
4-6 & 12 y/o above	2	49.0000	25.456
4-6 & 7-12 y/o	8	52.0000	15.427
4-6, 7-12 & 12 y/o above	4	60.0000	25.047
7-12 y/o	11	55.6364	14.868
7-12 & 12 y/o above	9	53.1111	16.3664 6
12 y/o above	30	56.9333	18.716
Total	158	53.6329	17.261

**Table 5.2.1** One Way Analysis of Variance of Parental Neglect during MCO with Children's Age

Source	df	SS	MS	F	p
Between Group	16	4717.269	294.829	.988	.473
Within Group	141	42061.440	298.308		
Total	157				

Referring to the above table test of ANOVA inference of children's age and parental neglect, result was not significant  $F(16,141)=.988$ ,  $p>0.05=.473$ . But, looking for the mean score, among all age ranges, parents who have many children and also at different ages lead to parental neglect. As shown in above table, parents who are having children age 1-3, 4-6 and 7-12 years old above are the highest score with  $M=93.000$ .

These explain, the parents at least have 3 children with different age range is leading to parental neglect. Referring to previous result test at total of children, it also reported, parents with 3 children is at high mean score of having parental neglect behaviour. This is because at this period of MCO, most of the children are having learning at home activity given by their class teacher either to do online or offline. So parents need to check on everyday what their task to be done is. Another job scope to be added.

#### By aspect of working affairs of the parents

**Table 6** Means and Standard Deviation on the Parental Neglect during MCO with Working Background

<i>Neglect</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Self-directed learning inventory score</i>	
		<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Government Servant	101	53.7624	17.24609
Private Sector	35	56.3143	19.34177
Self Employed (Business)	9	52.7778	12.90133
Unemployed	13	46.0000	12.79974
Total	158	53.6329	17.26133

**Table 6.1** One Way Analysis of Variance of Parental Neglect during MCO with Working Background

<i>Source</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Group	3	1017.313	339.104	1.141	.334
Within Group	154	45761.395	297.152		
Total	157	46778.709			

Referring to the above result that was tested using ANOVA to see which working background is the most effected to have parental neglect. Thus, result shown, there was no statistically significant  $F(3,154)=1.141$   $p>0.05=.334$ . By mean score, private sector hold the highest score with  $M=56.31$ , followed with government servant  $M=53.76$ , self-employed (business)  $M=52.78$  and at the lowest score those unemployed with  $M=46.00$ .

**Table 6.2** Means and Standard Deviation on the Parental Neglect during MCO with Working Arrangement

<i>Neglect</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Self-directed learning inventory score</i>	
		<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Going to office	24	55.6250	3.804
Not working	33	50.0606	2.545
Working from home	101	54.3267	1.763
Total	158	53.6329	1.373

**Table 6.2.1** One Way Analysis of Variance of Parental Neglect during MCO with Working Arrangement

<i>Source</i>	<i>df</i>	<i>SS</i>	<i>MS</i>	<i>F</i>	<i>p</i>
Between Group	2	564.987	282.494	.947	.390
Within Group	155	46213.722	298.153		
Total	157	46778.709			

During MCO, only the essential services is working as a frontlines for example doctors, nurses, police, army, postman, market and other services that are provide essential needs for the citizen. Thus, this working arrangement is tested to see whether it give impact to parental neglect. Result tested by ANOVA shown  $F(2,155)=.947$   $p>0.05=.390$  was not statistically significant. But, by mean score, parents who need to go to work is at highest score  $M=55.63$  that lead to parental neglect.

**Table 6.3** Means And Standard Deviation on the Parental Neglect during MCO with Parent's Salary

<i>Neglect</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>Self-directed learning inventory score</i>	
		<i>Mean</i>	<i>SD</i>
Below RM 2000	16	54.1875	14.793
RM 2001- RM 4000	53	52.8302	15.004
RM 4001- RM 8000	56	53.1250	19.893

RM 8001 and above	33	55.5152	17.55 0
Total	158	53.6329	17.26 1

**Table 6.3.1** *One Way Analysis of Variance of Parental Neglect during MCO with Parent's Salary*

Source	df	SS	MS	F	p
Between Group	3	170.432	56.811	.188	.905
Within Group	154	46608.27 7	302.65 1		
Total	157	46778.70 9			

During MCO, salary is the big matter among the Malaysian citizen because they can't go to work but need to provide food and pay other commitments. Therefore this result is to see whether salary give an effect to parental neglect. Based on the above result, it shown that,  $F(3,154)=.188$   $p>0.05=.905$  which there is not significant. But, when we compare the mean score, parents with salary RM 8001.00 and above was at the highest score  $M=55.51$  followed with those who get salary RM4001-RM8000  $M=53.13$ , then those below RM 2000 with mean score  $M=54.19$  and the lowest score those who get salary RM2001 – RM 4000.

Referring to the three variables above, it shows that, the working affairs which parents' working background, working arrangement and salary were not significant effect parents to do parental neglect. But, by seeing on the mean score, those variables which get high mean score can lead them to do parental neglect for example those working with private sector, need to go to work and also those who get salary pay at high pay. All these have their own reason why it can lead them to do parental neglect.

## DISCUSSION

### Age and Gender Roles

In this study both mother and father figures are actively engaged in children's lives. Is parental involvement linked with a decreased negligence in children's lives particularly during the emergency situation? The neglect rates did not vary according to the relative importance of father or mother figures. There were no group variations in the number of adults in the household; mothers who did not stay with one man were more likely to live with another major provider of support. By these mean score, we can say, between father and mother, a role of father is more leading to parental neglect behaviour. This condition happened because a mother use to be at home, do house chores while taking care of their children but rarely happened to a father (Nurul Izah Izati, Wafaa and Zulia, 2019). A father's job usually as a leader of the house is to prepare the family essentials' need such as shelter, groceries, and money for everyday use. However, during the movement control order

both parents are required to stay at home and do their work from home for non-essential services. The unusual circumstance will lead father involvement to associate with less neglect over a prolonged period, indicating a stronger relationship may have formed over time. A measure of social harmony and continuity of carers may also be the longer length. As supported by Hussain and Warr (2019), mother may be less likely to be involved with father who do not handle their kids well. The significance of the optimistic opinion of fathers regarding their parental positions in protecting against neglect supports paternal participation in the background. Motivation aspect, having related skills and knowledge can inspire commitment, enjoyment and responsiveness. Causality, however, cannot be implied; mother may have seem edmore successful, as neglect was not an issue especially during the MCO. By age matters, older parents likely to do negligence more compared to young parents. This can be relate with they have are aging, having many commitments to look on such as work matters, children and the entire family. Their children are growing up at teenage age, and some of them usually they are in the stage of identity crisis. According to Rahman S. and Younus Butt (2016), there are significant result in his study of parental and peer attachment bonds. The peer attachment is strong at age of adolescent life. They choose their friend who can accept and encourage them with a risk either positive or negative impacts.

### **Children Matters**

Children are depending on their parents to provide foods, shelter, education, medication as well as protection. Parents, they don't have to be perfect but enough to protect their children from being neglect. Once they neglect their children, there are impact on the children's development such as physical, emotional, cognitive and social. Having many children and managing them is a strategy for parents to handle. How parents can do their house chores at the same time taking care and giving love, affection and attention to their children. Thus, in the study of Mata et. al (2017) ; Bazon and Bergamo (2010), he studied two groups on the socio-demographic plane, with non-negligent families and the negligent. Result found, family with negligence would have a higher number of pregnancies and also reflected to non-planned conceptions, and would be characterized by having greater economic difficulty. Based on this study, result has shown, parents with 3 children with varies age range are at the highest mean score of parental neglect. With varies of age range, parents need to give different attention to all their children. Some still need full attention while others might need less depending on their maturity as well. Referring to the age of parents also, it reported older parents tend to do negligence more than the younger parents. Age matter, they might easily tired to handle children rather young parents who has less children.

### **Helping**

Having helper can ease parents' job at home and can let them spent more time with their children to avoid being neglect during the both critical and normal situation. Thus, parents with helper is less leading to parental neglect. Also, by having a spouse to help is a less burden to parents to take care their children while doing other house chores, working matters and taking care the child. Although, result shown not significant, the mean score show that parents with a spouse's help is not leading to parental neglect. Lower risk of neglect was also linked to increased parental participation in domestic chores.



Assisting with duties could relieve the burden of mothers, and could also be an indicator for the overall parental family presence, reinforcing other studies suggesting that fathers contribute to the well-being of families and children (Brook et. al. 2020). It was unanticipated that greater participation of father in child care would be associated with further neglect. If mothers were comparatively inaccessible, perhaps fathers played a greater role, a finding reinforced by other studies (Wang et al. 2020).

### **Salary and Working Affairs**

The highest salary RM 8001 and above is more having parental negligence effect. This is because they do not entitled to get money aid given by the government for example like Bantuan Prihatin Nasional (BPN). Hence, they need to work more during this period to make sure all commitments can be paid and groceries enough for the entire family members with constant barrier such as not allow to go for work during the MCO. Consideration of the factors that were not substantially correlated with neglect is important. As supported by Dubowitz et. al (2015), the financial contributions of the working fathers were not a factor, possibly because the majority of the families lived in poverty and the men made small financial contributions. Neglect levels among these all other groups, however, did not differ. Many parents in low-income communities may play important roles in the lives of their children, even if they do not live at home. Private company are vary in their services. Some are depending on the customers and some only available during working hours. There are also who get paid by monthly, weekly and daily basis. Salary matter and working time are the factors that might lead to this matter (Mikolajczaka, 2018). This need further study what might affect them to have parental neglect. By mean score, parents who need to go to work is at highest score that can lead to parental neglect. This might happened due to they already tired when reach home and need rest after working. Therefore, children were left neglect. Other than that, parents who works on shift time during MCO have to follow the order. The children either with spouse or perhaps neighbours because all nursery and kindergarten were closed. The school closure will become the factor on how parent who are still working during the MCO to take care their children. None of the family members and relatives are responsible in taking care of the child due to the MCO and potential dangerous that affected those groups. As suggested by UNICEF (2020), the importance of parents to follow the guidelines is needed in order to reduce the further mental health problems.

### **IMPLICATION**

The average to high incidence of neglect during the MCO in this population is troubling, and it demands careful attention to meet the needs of children and avoid neglect-related sequelae. Most children had figures of mothers or fathers in their lives and this study indicates a correlation between greater involvement of father and a lower risk of neglect. The key issue may be how to motivate fathers to engage themselves more with their children in ways that are optimally nurturing.

Big attempts were made to ensure parents are meeting child support responsibilities. Since economic security promotes marriage and participation of both parents, tax code changes that boost the financial benefits of marriage could help families. An number of initiatives have been developed for parents

to enhance child schooling, parenting, and work skills during the emergency situation but none have been rigorously evaluated. More modest interventions can be successful, too. It's interesting, for example, how clinicians and child care providers frequently concentrate on mothers and neglect fathers. Health care providers will regularly encourage fathers to take part in visits and cultivate their participation in the lives of their children.

Moreover, men, particularly young men, may not know how to raise their children, particularly if they have been brought up in fatherless households. We need more father services that create specialized skills to meet the child care and developmental needs of the children. Paediatric health care providers should seek opportunities for fathers to pass on parenting knowledge and skills. Furthermore, paediatric health care professionals should promote the emotional and material support of the fathers for the mothers of their children. We can also inspire mothers to allow fathers to become more involved in the lives of their children by illustrating the important roles fathers can play. Finally, improvements to the tax code, reform of child care and attempts to help people become good fathers are not enough. There needs to be a cultural change understanding the roles fathers can play. The media are increasingly showing men as nursing parents and men suggest they want more time with their kids. A coordinated effort for public education will involve skill-building programs that would teach parents how to include people in fathering roles.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the research done, even the level of parental neglect were at average level, but the total number of parents on that level is quite high. Referring to this condition, working parents do the hard work of ensuring that both tasks as a worker and parent run well. This is become more difficult when most parents need to stay at home, work from home and at the same time they have to deal with their children in all aspects of life during movement control order (MCO) and this situation may lead to negligence. In ensuring that things go smoothly without causing any major problems, parents need to be alert and aware of the best way to manage household chores and office work. Beside that, parents need to work together and have mutual understanding to make sure everything goes well. As a matter of fact, parents should learn how to handle problems and manage emotions in order to perform all tasks well, smoothly and effectively.

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