

Adolescent Empathy Concerning Parenting Style and Peer Social Support Based on Gender Differences

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ABSTRACT

Empathy is crucial for individuals to interact well with others, but it has been declining among teenagers. This decline has led to increased bullying and antisocial behavior. This study aims to examine empathy in adolescents in terms of parenting, peer social support, and gender. The study involved 176 samples using a cluster random sampling technique, which included all 11th-grade students of SMA 11 Jambi City. The research follows a quantitative approach using multiple linear regression tests and independent sample T-tests to compare empathy based on gender. The results showed that authoritarian parenting affects empathy by 0.8%, democratic parenting affects empathy by 5.8%, permissive parenting affects empathy by 4.7%, peer social support significantly affects empathy by 27.9%, and overall parenting and peer social support together influence empathy by 71.9%. A comparison of empathy by gender found that women scored higher than men, with a mean difference of 1.43 and a significance of 0.005, indicating a significant difference. The novelty of this study lies in its exploration of how gender differences also impact adolescent empathy, which can help parents optimize their parenting and create a positive peer environment for adolescents in order to foster empathy within them.

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INTRODUCTION

Humans are essentially social creatures who cannot live without the presence of other people and basically always need help from others. Helping each other, respecting, and having empathy for others is one form of human beings as social creatures (Miralles et al., 2019). Empathy is defined as a person's ability to put themselves in the situation faced by another person (Israelashvili et al., 2020). Individuals who have empathy tend to control anger more easily and have high concern and understanding for others (Alinejad-Naeini et al., 2023; Decety & Holvoet, 2021). This is necessary so as not to cause problems for individuals, such as being antisocial and being ostracized because they do not care and understand their role in the environment (Fernandez & Zahavi, 2020; Yarbrough, 2023). The importance of empathetic behavior in individuals to interact well with others makes it important to develop empathy for an individual's life progress (Moudatsou et al., 2020).

Not only adults but also teenagers and even children should have empathy within themselves (Taylor et al., 2020). The development of adolescents when achieving their roles as women and men is in the process of social and responsible behavior. Empathy is very necessary to create an attitude of responsibility in adolescents (Bøhlerengen & Wiium, 2022). However, as time goes by, society, especially teenagers, seems to push empathy aside. Many teenagers today are indifferent to their surroundings (Gee & Cooc, 2019; Sukhragchaa et al., 2021). Teenagers begin to act individualistically, have less respect for others, and act as they please without paying attention to others' feelings (Rakhmonovich, 2022). Some behaviors that can be seen in everyday life include many teenagers making fun of each other, insulting each other, and even laughing at their own friends (Steer et al., 2020). In Indonesia alone, in the last five years, bullying cases at the adolescent level reached 43.75% of all bullying cases in Indonesia. The high cases of bullying show that bullying has become a culture among Indonesian adolescents (Safaat, 2023). Many things cause low empathy in teenagers, one of which is the family care that teenagers experience at home.

Parenting factors in the family can influence the development of empathy in children (Krauthamer Ewing et al., 2019; Wagers & Kiel, 2019). Children who are raised in good care and a comfortable home atmosphere will cause the child's empathy to grow well, too (Harahap & Sahputra, 2023). Parenting style is also a form and process of interaction between parents and children, which influences the development of the child's personality (Bahmani et al., 2023). Parental parenting styles greatly influence a child's cognitive, social, and emotional development (Aslamiyah et al., 2023; Hura et al., 2023). There are three forms of parenting, namely authoritarian parenting, democratic parenting, and permissive parenting (Aisyah et al., 2022; Zahara & Azwarni, 2022). The form of parenting instilled by parents influences the individual's formation in adulthood, meaning that parents' treatment of children from childhood will have an impact on their moral development in adulthood (Matthys & Schutter, 2023; Sari, 2023).

Parents who educate their children's character well through modeling behavior and habits, good parenting, and involving children in decision-making make children feel more fulfilled in their love, children become more independent, and children become more obedient (Purwandari et al., 2022; Sikorska, 2023). This different parenting style is what sometimes becomes an obstacle for individuals in developing empathetic behavior or attitudes because parents are less supportive in terms of providing attention that can develop children's empathetic attitudes (Stockdale et al., 2023). Apart from parents, support from a teenager's social environment can also support the emergence of empathy in teenagers.

Peers are an important source of emotional support throughout the transition of adolescence (Ferguson et al., 2022). The intensity and time spent with friends are greater in adolescence than at any other time in one's lifespan (Morrissey & Engel, 2023). Peer social support has a major role in teenagers' lives because teenagers think friends can better understand their desires, including their empathetic behavior (Wang et al., 2023). Social networks of peers of the same age play a special role in an individual's socioemotional development (Finnvold & Dokken, 2023; Yundianto et al., 2023). One of the most important functions of peer support is to provide a source of information and comparison about the world outside the family (Butler et al., 2022). Peers can provide psychological comfort by creating conditions for someone to become part of a social group (Murrar et al., 2020). This support can take the form of empathy, compassion, attention, positive appreciation, and advice (Wang & Wu, 2020). Such conditions will give individuals a sense of acceptance, warmth, and understanding so that they can help individuals increase empathy within themselves as well (Tarrasch et al., 2020).

Apart from the issue of parenting patterns and social support from peers, researchers also looked at the role of gender in influencing a person's empathy. Gender division is the division of positions or tasks between men and women determined by society based on characteristics deemed appropriate according to the norms, customs, beliefs, and customs of society (Matud et al., 2019). Gender is one of the determinants of a person's empathic abilities (Löffler & Greitemeyer, 2023). Women's empathy with men is clearly different and vice versa, although the difference is still not that big (Rochat, 2023). Women report higher empathic responses than men, and the gap between the genders increases during the transition to adolescence (Trentini et al., 2022). Stereotypically, women are also depicted as more caring and empathetic, while men are depicted as less emotional and more cognitive (Carrard et al., 2022).

This is supported by several previous studies that have been used as references by researchers. Firstly, research conducted by Ramadhanti et al. (2023) found a positive and significant relationship between parents' democratic parenting style and empathetic attitudes in high school teenagers. Then, research by Fahrurnisa et al. (2023) explains a positive relationship between social support from peers and empathetic behavior in high school adolescents. Similarly, research by

Syahrul and Nurhafizah (2022) found that democratic parenting was proven to optimize children's emotional development, especially empathy in children. Lastly, research by Aprilliani et al. (2023) proves differences in early childhood empathy based on gender in Purwakarta District, where girls have higher empathy than boys.

The difference between the research that the author will carry out and existing research is that the author will examine each type of parenting style and social support from peers and also look at gender roles simultaneously with empathy for teenage students. Meanwhile, existing research tends to look directly at one type of parenting style or only examines one variable (Kurniawati et al., 2022; Pangaribuan & Yusra, 2021; Syahrul & Nurhafizah, 2022). Thus, researchers are interested in researching the influence of parental parenting and peer support on teenagers' empathetic attitudes in terms of gender differences.

METHODS

This study applied a quantitative approach using a survey design since it aims to examine the influence of parental parenting and friends' social support on empathy and to investigate gender differences in empathy between women and men. The population in this study consisted of class XI students at SMA 11 Jambi City. The sample in this study was comprised of 176 class XI students at SMA 11 Jambi City. This selected portion of the population had been chosen using specific techniques and represented the population as a whole (Kadosh-Laor et al., 2023; Pereira & Oliva, 2023; Ramadhanti et al., 2023; Shaleh, 2023). The sample used in this research was obtained using a cluster random sampling technique. The parenting style scale is based on Baumrind's (1971) theory with 31 items, and the instrument grid can be seen in Table 1.

Table 1. Grid of Parenting Style Instrument

No	Types of Parenting Patterns	Indicator	Total
1	Authoritarian	Parents act under strict limits	3
		Stiff, hard, and dictatorial	4
		There is coercion from parents to obey the rules.	4
2	Democratic	Encourage and support children's desires	4
		Make decisions by deliberation	3
		Parents listen and provide explanations that children understand	3
3	Permissive	Setting few rules at home	3
		Lack of supervisory control from parents	4
		Parents do not refuse and always obey their child's wishes	3
Total			31

In addition to parenting, the researcher also uses an instrument. The peer social support scale is based on Sarafino's (2012) theory, which has 30 items. The instrument grid can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Grid of Peers Social Support Instruments

No	Aspect	Indicator	Total
1	Emotional Support	The feeling of empathy, care, and attention received from a partner	6
2.	Instrumental Support	It can take the form of goods, services, financial support, providing equipment needed to carry out various activities	4
3.	Information Support	Assistance in the form of advice, guidance, and providing information	10
4.	Award Support	Positive appreciation received from a partner	10
Total			30

Finally, the researcher also used the empathy scale based on Davis Mark H's (1983) theory with 17 items. The instrument grid can be seen in Table 3.

Table 3. Grid of Empathy Instrument

No	Aspect	Indicator	Total
1	Perspective Taking	Can understand other people's feelings because they see it from that person's perspective	4
2	Fantasy	The tendency of individuals to identify and equate positions according to characters in novels, dramas, or other individual situations	4
3	Emphatic Concern	There is warmth and sensitivity towards others	2
4	Personal Distress	It's uncomfortable to see other people's suffering	7
Total			17

The data analysis method in this research includes the use of descriptive and inferential statistics. Inferential statistics is a technique for processing data with the aim of testing a proposed hypothesis in order to reach a conclusion. Inferential statistics consists of prerequisite tests and hypothesis tests (Pereira & Oliva, 2023; Putra et al., 2023; Yaoa et al., 2023). Inferential statistics are used to test hypotheses, which consist of prerequisite tests, namely the normality test, multicollinearity test, and heteroscedasticity test, then continued with hypothesis testing, namely the multiple linear regression test with a significance level of 5%, where the test results will be compared with t table. Then, to see the comparison between genders, researchers used the Independent Sample T-test. The flow of thinking of the variables in this study is as follows:

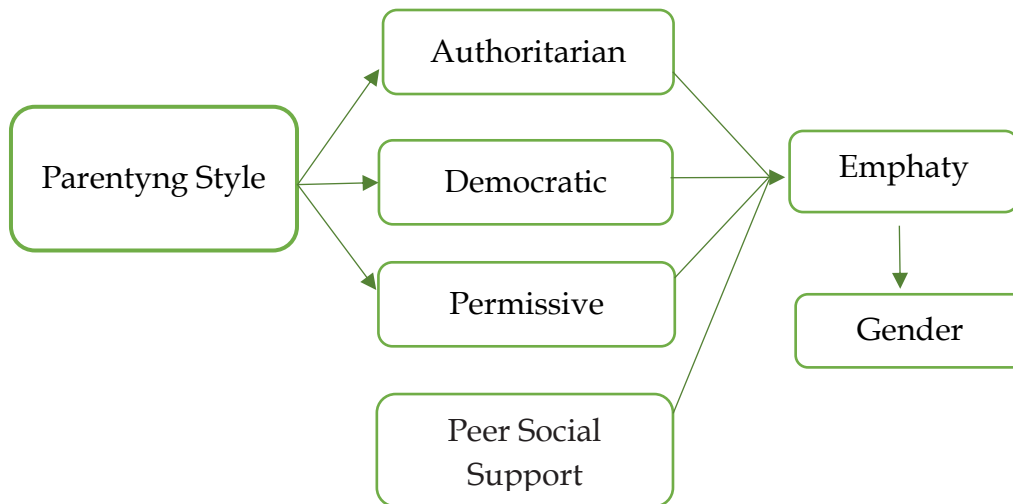


Figure 1. Flow of Thinking of Study Variables

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Result

The research was conducted at SMA 11 Jambi City. The subjects in this research were 176 class XI students. The description of the research data is explained in Table 4. From Table 4, the minimum empirical value of empathy is 42, social support from peers is 119, authoritarian parenting is 13, democratic parenting is 17, and permissive parenting is 14, while the maximum empirical value of empathy is 83, social support from peers is 168, authoritarian parenting is 47, democratic parenting is 65, and permissive parenting is 37. Then, the empirical standard deviation of empathy is 6,953, social support from peers is 10,313, authoritarian parenting is 5,536, democratic parenting is 4,873, and permissive parenting is 4,367. The mean empirical value for empathy is 66.92, social support from peers is 140.73, authoritarian parenting is 28.96, democratic parenting is 34.96, and permissive parenting is 25.39. The hypothetical minimum value of empathy is 17, social support of friends is 36, authoritarian parenting is 11, democratic parenting is 10, and permissive parenting is 10. Then, the hypothetical maximum value of empathy is 85, social support of friends is 180, authoritarian parenting is 55, democratic parenting is 50, and permissive parenting is 50. The hypothetical standard deviation value of empathy is 11.3, friends' social support is 24, authoritarian parenting is 7.3, democratic parenting is 6.6, and permissive parenting is 6.6, for the hypothetical mean value of empathy is 51. Friends' social support is 108, authoritarian parenting is 33, democratic parenting is 30, and permissive parenting is 30.

Table 4. Description of Research Data

Variable	Empirical					Hypothetical			
	N Item	Min	Max	Standard Deviation	Mean	Min	Max	Standard Deviation	Mean
Empathy	17	42	83	6,953	66.92	17	85	11.3	51
Peers Social Support	36	119	168	10,313	140.73	36	180	24	108
Authoritarian Parenting Style	11	13	47	5,536	28.96	11	55	7.3	33
Democratic Parenting Style	10	17	65	4,873	34.96	10	50	6.6	30
Permissive Parenting Style	10	14	37	4,367	25.39	10	50	6.6	30

Next is the categorization of the variables empathy, social support from peers, and parenting styles. The following is a categorization of the variables: empathy, social support from peers, and parenting styles. Based on Table 5, out of 176 students in class XI of SMA 11 Jambi City, there are 22 students in the low empathy category with a percentage of 12.5%, then 121 students are included in moderate empathy with a percentage of 68.8%, and 33 students with a percentage of 18.8%. Thus, it can be concluded that the level of empathy in class XI students at SMA 11 Jambi City is in the high category.

Table 5. Categorization of Empathy Variables

No	Score	Amount	Category	Percentage
1.	$X < 59.5$	22	Low	12.5%
2.	$60 \leq X < 73.5$	121	Currently	68.8%
3.	$74 \leq$	33	Tall	18.8%
Total		176		100%

Based on Table 6, it can be seen that of the 176 students in class XI of SMA 11 Jambi City, 40 students are included in the social support of moderate friends with a percentage of 22.7%, then 136 students are included in the social support of high friends with a percentage of 77.3%. So, it can be concluded that the level of social support of friends in class XI students of SMA 11 Jambi City is in the high category.

Table 6. Categorization of Peers' Social Support Variables

No	Score	Amount	Category	Percentage
1.	$X < 84$	0	-	0
2.	$84 \leq X < 132$	40	Currently	22.7%
3.	$132 \leq$	136	Tall	77.3%
Total		176		100%

Based on Table 7, it is known that of the 176 students in class XI of SMA 11 Jambi City, students with parents who apply authoritarian parenting are 31 people, with a percentage of 17.6%. The number of students with parents who apply democratic parenting is 119, with a percentage of 67.6%. Students with parents who apply for permissive parenting number 26 people, with a percentage of 14.8%. Therefore, it can be concluded that of the 176 students in class XI of SMA 11 Jambi City, democratic parenting is the parenting pattern that is most widely applied, with 119 respondents and a total percentage of 67.6%.

Table 7. Categorization of Parenting Styles

Types of Parenting Styles	Number of Respondents	Percentage
Authoritarian	31 people	17.6%
Democratic	119 people	67.6%
Permissive	26 people	14.8%
Total	176 people	100%

Next, the normality test was used to determine whether the data population was normally distributed. In this research, the One-Sample Kolmogorov-Smirnov test was used. In Table 8, the empathy variable shows a value of $Z = 0.423$ and $P = 0.172$, peers' social support shows a value of $Z = 0.554$ and $P = 0.200$, authoritarian parenting shows a value of $Z = 0.081$ and $P = 0.097$, democratic parenting shows a value of $Z = 0.067$ and $P = 0.069$, and permissive parenting shows a value of $Z = 0.087$ and $P = 0.073$. Based on the test criteria, if the significance value is > 0.05 , meaning it is normally distributed, then it can be said that the distribution of the two variables is normal.

Table 8. Statistical Description of Normality Test Results

Variable	Z	P	Information
Empathy	0.423	0.172	Normal
Peers Social Support	0.554	0.200	Normal
Authoritarian Parenting Policy	0.081	0.097	Normal
Democratic Parenting Style	0.067	0.069	Normal
Permissive Parenting Style	0.087	0.073	Normal

Next, the multicollinearity test was conducted to determine whether there was a significant correlation between the independent variables in the regression model. This was evaluated by checking the Tolerance and Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) values. If the tolerance value is ≥ 0.10 and $VIF \leq 10$, it can be concluded that there is an indication of multicollinearity in the model. From Table 9, the multicollinear test for the social support value of tolerance peers is $0.985 > 0.10$ and $VIF 1.015 < 10$, authoritarian parenting style tolerance $0.896 > 0.10$ and $VIF 1.116 < 10$, democratic parenting style tolerance 0.879 and $VIF 1.137 < 10$, and permissive parenting style tolerance $0.971 > 0.10$ and $VIF 1.030 < 10$. So, it can be concluded that there are no symptoms of multicollinearity in the regression model.

Table 9. Multicollinearity Test Results

Model	Collinearity Statistics	
	Tolerance	VIF
1	(Constant)	
	Peers Social Support	0.985
	Authoritarian Parenting Style	0.896
	Democratic Parenting Style	0.879
	Permissive Parenting Style	0.971

Next, the heteroscedasticity test was used to evaluate whether there were differences in the level of variation of the residuals between observations in a regression model. If the residual variation between observations remains constant, this is called homoscedasticity. We can assess the presence of heteroscedasticity by examining the scatter plot. If the points on the scatter plot are randomly distributed around the zero reference line on the Y-axis, then it can be concluded that there is no heteroscedasticity problem. In Figure 2, the scatter plot shows the points scattered randomly without forming a special style around the diagonal line. Even though these points are above and below zero on the Y axis, there is no indication of heteroscedasticity. Therefore, the regression model can be used to predict the level of empathy based on peers' social support, authoritarian parenting, democratic parenting, and permissive parenting.

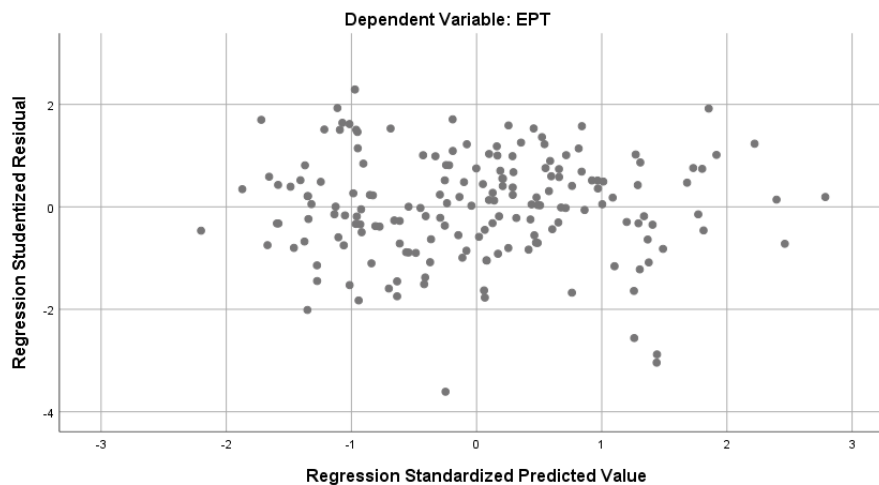


Figure 2. Heteroscedasticity Test Results with Scatterplot

Next, the hypothesis test in the research was that parenting styles and peers' social support influence the empathy of class XI students at SMA 11 Jambi City. In this research, regression calculations used simple linear regression and multiple linear regression. In Table 10, social support from peers with empathy has a significant effect because the significance value obtained is $0.002 < 0.05$. The coefficient of determination analysis test (R^2) was used to assess how much peers' social support influences students' empathy. Data obtained from statistical

analysis provided information regarding the level of influence of peers' social support on empathy in students.

Table 10. Statistical Description of the Regression of Peers' Social Support with Empathy

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	7,148	1	7,148	10,147	,002
	Residual	8453.739	174	48,585		
	Total	8460.886	175			

Table 11 depicts the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.279, which means that social support from peers will influence empathy by 27.9%. Next, look at the influence of the three types of parenting with empathy.

Table 11. Description of Regression Coefficient Test Peer Social Support with Empathy

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
1	,529	,279	,315

In Table 12, authoritarian parenting with empathy has a significant effect because the significance value obtained is $0.049 < 0.05$. Democratic parenting also has a significant effect with a value of $0.004 < 0.05$. Finally, permissive parenting also has a significant effect with a value of $0.024 < 0.05$. Next, the coefficient of determination analysis test (R^2) was used to assess the extent of authoritarian parenting. Democratic and permissive influence empathy in students. Data obtained from statistical analysis provided information regarding the level of influence of each type of parenting style on empathy in students.

Table 12. Statistical Description of Regression Parenting Styles with Empathy

Types of Parenting Styles		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Authoritarian	Regression	70,198	1	70,198	1,456	,049
	Residual	8390.688	174	48,222		
	Total	8460.886	175			
Democratic	Regression	165,589	1	165,589	18,473	,004
	Residual	8295.297	174	47,674		
	Total	8460.886	175			
Permissive	Regression	400,701	1	400,701	8,650	,024
	Residual	8060.186	174	46,323		
	Total	8460.886	175			

Table 13 depicts the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.008, which means that authoritarian parenting influences adolescent empathy by 0.8%. Next, looking at the influence of democratic parenting on empathy, it was found that the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.058, which means that democratic parenting influences teenagers' empathy by 5.8%. Next, looking at the influence of permissive parenting on empathy, it was found that the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.047, which means that permissive parenting influences teenagers' empathy by 4.7%. Next, we look at the influence of peers' social support, authoritarian parenting, democratic parenting, and permissive parenting with empathy.

Table 13. Description of Regression Coefficient Test Parenting with Empathy

Types of Parenting	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
Authoritarian	,091	,008	,005
Democratic	,240	,058	,053
Permissive	,218	,047	,042

The data in Table 14 shows a significant influence between the three types of parenting and peer social support on empathy in students, with a significance value of $0.027 < 0.05$. Next, the coefficient of determination analysis test (R^2) was used to assess how much the three types of parenting styles and peer social support influenced empathy in students. Data obtained from statistical analysis provides information regarding the level of influence of the three types of parenting styles and peer social support on empathy in students.

Table 14. Description Multiple Linear Regression Statistics

Model	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1 Regression	522,073	4	130,518	20,811	,027
Residual	7938.813	171	46,426		
Total	8460.886	175			

Table 15 shows the coefficient of determination (R^2) = 0.719, which means that the three types of parenting and peer social support contribute an influence of 71.9%, which means the remainder will be influenced by other variables. Next, look at student empathy based on gender.

Table 15. Description of Regression Coefficient Test Multiple Linear

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square
1	,848	,719	,642

Based on Table 16, the number of data for empathy in men is 98 people, while for optimism in women, it is 78 people. The average value of empathy results for men or the mean for empathy for men is 66.29, while for empathy for women, it

is 67.72. Thus, from descriptive statistics, it can be concluded that women's empathy is higher than men's. Whether this difference can be determined to be significant (meaningful) or not, it needs to be interpreted in the independent sample t-test table below.

Table 16. Group Statistics

	Gender	N	Means	std. Deviation	std. Error Means
Empathy	Male	98	66.29	7,131	,720
	Female	78	67.72	6,684	,757

Based on Table 17, it is known that the Sig. Levene's Test of Equality of Variance is $0.509 > 0.05$. This means that the data variance between men and women is homogeneous or the same. In the 'Equal Variance Assumed' section, it is known that the Sig. (2-tailed) of $0.005 < 0.05$. Thus, it can be concluded that there is a significant difference between the empathy results for male and female students in Class XI SMA 11 Jambi City.

Table 17. Independent Sample Test

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
Empathy	Equal variances assumed	,439	,509	-1,361	174	,005
	Equal variances not assumed			-1,371	169,366	,002

Discussion

Based on the results obtained, many students at SMAN 11 Jambi City experienced democratic parenting by their parents. Democratic parenting is a parenting style where parents encourage and support the child's wishes, decisions at home are taken by deliberation, and the parents' attitude is to listen to the child and provide explanations about things that are easy for the child to understand (Tan & Yasin, 2020). In this parenting style, parents do not dispute what the child says, but parents always listen and provide explanations in sentences that the child understands if what the child does is not good (Supriyatno & Susilawati, 2020; Diana et al., 2021). In a democratic parenting style, parents are flexible with children. The rules made by parents are not rigid and are made based on deliberation between parents and children (Rouzi et al., 2020; Satriawati et al., 2023). Children with democratic parenting usually have outstanding behavior and are good at socializing with their environment (Hosany et al., 2022).

This is confirmed by research conducted by Ramadhanti et al. (2023), who found that the higher the democratic parenting style applied by parents, the higher the

empathy in teenagers. This shows that parents' democratic parenting style is an important factor in someone's empathetic attitude. In addition, research conducted by Kurniawati et al. (2022) also states that parents implement democratic parenting by providing rules that must be followed by children, always giving good directions to children, and always supporting children's wishes according to their abilities while being positive. This is what makes children's sense of empathy develop well. In line with research conducted by Wang et al. (2021) states that the emergence of empathy in children has many factors, one of which is the parenting style applied in the family. If a child is raised in a family that applies discipline with an excessive punishment system, does not provide understanding to the child, has rigid rules, and always scolds the child, then this attitude will make the child tend to be hindered in his prosocial development, which includes empathy.

Apart from parenting styles and peer social support, the results of this research are in accordance with the opinion of Van Ryzin and Roseth (2019) that increasing peer support and interaction is ultimately expected to have an effect on increasing empathy abilities. Perceived peer social support will be a predictor that can generate empathy in adolescents (Lestari, 2020). Therefore, social support from other people, especially peers, will have an impact on teenagers' empathetic attitudes by having feelings, warmth, concern, and compassion for others (Mufidah et al., 2021). Moudatsou et al. (2020) suggested that one of the important factors that encourages someone to provide positive support is empathy, namely feeling the distress of others with the aim of anticipating emotions and motivating behavior to reduce distress and improve the welfare of others. Individual adaptation and social skills need to be developed to establish good social interactions (Muarifah et al., 2023). Empathy is important for children's ability to interact socially with peers (Taylor et al., 2020). When children are able to empathize, they can understand the emotional and social effects of their behavior on other people. They are also able to interpret the social cues of peers accurately and understand the attention given by peers. Conversely, children who lack the ability to empathize tend to show aggressive behavior toward others (Espejo-Siles et al., 2020; Segura et al., 2020).

No less important, gender division also plays a role in an individual's empathetic attitude. Initially, stereotypes said that women were more nurturing and interpersonally oriented compared to men, which had an impact on their level of empathy (Bastomi, 2020). The results of this study are in line with several studies which state the same thing. Women are described as more caring and empathetic, whereas men are described as less emotional and more cognitive (Löffler & Greitemeyer, 2023). Findings from a large number of gender studies indicate that women in the general population and women in health professional training often score higher in empathic attitudes than men (Strekalova et al., 2019). Rieffe et al. (2021), in their research, found that girls were more empathetic in verbally responding to other people's distress. Then Dyrendal et al. (2021) also conducted research, the results of which showed differences between women and men

regarding external and internal orientation. Women were more externally oriented (oriented towards other people), while men were more internally oriented (oriented towards themselves).

This research implies that it can provide an understanding of how the parenting style chosen by parents at home will influence how empathetic attitudes will be formed in children throughout adolescence (Nurmawati et al., 2022). Apart from that, the social environment of children's peers is also a predictor because teenagers spend more time with their peers. The social support provided by peers will help children to increase their empathy and care for each other so that children's social interactions will grow well. It is also important to consider how different genders will influence how a child's empathy is formed. Other factors such as human evolutionary history (e.g., sexual selection, parental investment in child-rearing, and division of labor), prosocial attitudes, religiosity, school climate, and biophysiological hormonal factors also contribute to differences in empathic attitudes, which is currently a weakness due to research limitations.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on the research findings, democratic parenting emerges as the most supportive style for fostering adolescent empathy. This approach involves parents who actively engage with, appreciate, and validate their children's emotions, facilitating a better understanding and resonance with others' feelings among adolescents. Additionally, the social interactions adolescents have with their peers significantly contribute to empathy development. Those surrounded by empathetic friends tend to exhibit greater empathy themselves, as peer support cultivates essential social and communication skills necessary for empathetic expression. Moreover, gender plays a notable role in empathy expression, with women generally demonstrating higher levels of empathy compared to men. However, the research is limited by its singular methodological approach, overlooking various influential factors such as parental involvement in childcare, prosocial attitudes, religiosity, school climate, and biophysiological hormonal factors. Addressing these limitations is crucial for a more comprehensive understanding of empathy development, particularly regarding the gender-based differences among male and female adolescents. Future research endeavors are encouraged to employ a mixed-methods approach to better capture the multifaceted nature of empathy and its determinants.

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