

The Role Of Mothers As Agents Of Enculturation Of Masculinity In Boys Of Nias Ethnicity In Tegal Sari Mandala II Village, Medan Denai District

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to determine the role of mothers as agents of masculinity enculturation for Nias ethnic boys. This study uses a qualitative method with an ethnographic approach, data collected through participatory observation, in-depth interviews, and documentation of Nias ethnic mothers and boys. The results show that the role of mothers as agents of masculinity enculturation in Nias ethnic boys in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village emphasizes the instilling of masculine values through daily care that is appropriate to the context of urban life. Mothers instill the value of courage by accustoming children to dare to speak, appear, and defend the truth, while building strength through emotional control and assertiveness to be able to face pressure, develop resilience through independence, discipline, and adaptability, and teach leadership through responsibility, decision-making, and the application of traditional leadership values such as si'ulu and si'ila. The main challenges faced by mothers include the stubbornness of children, the limited role without a husband figure for single parents, and the negative influence of social media and diverse urban environments. Mothers make various efforts to overcome these obstacles by implementing a firm but loving parenting style, providing motivation when children experience failure, and involving other male family members such as uncles or church members to provide advice. The implementation of traditional Nias ethnic masculinity values is still attempted through oral narratives, the use of digital technology to demonstrate the Fahombo (Stone Jumping) tradition, and the involvement of boys to attend and witness various Nias ethnic traditions in urban areas to maintain their ethnic identity amidst modernity.

Keywords: Role, Agent, Enculturation, Masculinity, Ethnicity



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INTRODUCTION

Family is place take shelter in communities that have role important in form personality and values members. Family can differentiated become two category, namely family nuclear family and family extended family (Bershtling & Strier, 2022). Family nuclear family is family who lives together in One a house consisting of from Father, Mother and children those who have not married, while family extended family is derivative or relatives from family nuclear family consisting of from Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle, Aunt, Cousin, Nephew, Brother - in-law or The in-laws who live there together in One House or those who live nearby the same environment (Glinkowska-Krauze et al., 2020).

Every member family own mutual roles complete especially between father and mother. Father plays a role as seeker living main, protector, and leader in House responsible ladder answer on welfare family, whereas Mother own role in arrange House ladder, guide children, as well as give attention and love supportive darling development emotional and social they (Hegarty, 2021). Collaboration between father and mother is

very important For create environment harmonious and conducive family for grow flower children. Collaboration this is also capable forming a foundation strong and empowered family stand to various challenge life (Faridah et al., 2021).

Mothers in general own proximity more emotional strong with child men, while fathers tend to more near with child women. Closeness This show that role Mother in formation personality and development emotional child man tend more dominant. Research shows that proximity mother and child men in the study Matetovici, M., Spruit, A., Colonesi, C., Garnier-Villarreal, M., & Noom, M.J. (2025) related study difference gender effect (mother with child man, mother with child woman, father with child man, father with child women) in connection between quality secure, avoidant, ambivalent, disorganized and problematic attachment behavior internalizing children like anxiety or depression, and externalizing such as aggressiveness (Liu & Iwamoto, 2022). This study highlight that level proximity emotional (secure attachment) between mother and child man is in the range of 70–75%, the level proximity emotional This show that the strongest relationship compared to parental gender configuration child others and play a role important in lower risk behavior problems in children age early (Guo, 2024).

Proximity between mother and child men are very related close with masculinity shaped by the mother as agent enculturation in environment family. The role of mothers No only limited by ability biological For own heredity and abilities in work House ladder like cooking, cleaning, and caring child For guard continuity life family, but also plays a role active in transmit mark culture about identity gender to child man since age early. Through practice parenting everyday, mother become the main medium in introduce and instill draft masculinity that is considered ideal by society (Govender & Bhana, 2023).

Phenomenon This can found in one of the countries of Indonesia, especially in the community ethnicity Nias people in North Sumatra Province live in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village, specifically in Medan Denai District. Based on the data obtained from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) of Medan City (2025), shows that amount resident public ethnicity Nias in Tegal Sari Mandala II Subdistrict reached 1.03% and 98.97% of the population ethnicity others. Ethnic communities Nias in the Tegal Sari Mandala II sub-district area does not Again fully adhere to culture patriarchy as public ethnicity Nias on Nias Island which is more strong culture patriarchy. Conditions This show that construction masculinity child man ethnicity Nias No solely formed through the role of the father, but mother also has significant role in form values masculinity like courage, strength, toughness, and leadership through practice parenting daily (Govender & Bhana, 2023).

Ethnic communities Nias on Nias Island look at masculinity man seen in tradition Fahombo (Stone Jumping). Courage, strength, and resilience part in tradition Fahombo (Stone Jump) (Lase, IW, Indrawadi, J., & Montessori, M., 2021). Masculinity This tend to physical, such as Courage seen from ability jump over a high rock two meters without help, show readiness face risk real. Power measured from ability body For jump high and landing with stable, at the same time show Power endurance and strong muscles. Toughness reflected from ability body face sore, sore, or injury light consequence exercises and jumps, as well as Power stand face environment hard in hometown (Herskovits, 2022).

Masculinity leadership in ethnicity Nias seen from leader custom. System This covering leader hereditary so - called Si'ulu and the council of elders the so -called advisor Si'ila. Si'ulu is leader descendants who become center structure leadership highest in system customs Nias and Si'ulu responsible answer For guide community in matter customs, settlement conflict, rituals, and behavior ethical, whereas Si'ila is the council of elders acting advisor as supporting parties Si'ulu with give guidance and inner moral balance taking decision, ensure leadership in line with interest together, not interest personal (Medan, 2025). Si'ila must own knowledge deep about customs customs, values, and narratives history local. Ethnic communities Nias consider they proper become leader customary and proper respected (Harrington, 2021a).

Masculinity this, mother who is ethnic Nias transmit to child her man through parenting everyday, but tend to emotional, such as Courage, mother teach child man in speaking in front of group small and defensive truth. Strength, mother teach child man recognize and manage his emotions, child strong not the one holding back feeling but what can control it. Resilience, mother involving child man in challenging activities like finish task difficult house or try new thing without Afraid failed (Novalina et al., 2021). Leadership, mother involving child man in taking decision small like share task, decide timetable play, and lead game group.

Based on phenomenon above, urgency study lies in the importance of For understand How role Mother as agent enculturation masculinity form identity and character child man ethnicity Nias, especially in context

mark a culture that continues experience change consequence modernization (D. M. Lase & Rusli, 2024). Urgency study give contribution to preservation culture local with dig ways Mother continue mark masculinity traditional Nias which reflects courage, strength, toughness, and leadership in life society. Urgency study This help create method implant mark masculinity traditional Nias that remains relevant and balanced with modern views on gender equality, in a very open and changing world fast (Kamaludin & Syariful, 2023). Urgency study this is also important in a way academic Because enrich study anthropology and sociology about dynamics gender roles in enculturation, especially in groups community whose numbers more A little compared to group other ethnic groups in urban areas like Tegal Sari Mandala II Subdistrict. Based on background behind above, author interested For study in a way deep about role Mother as agent enculturation masculinity in children man ethnicity Nias in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village.

METHOD

This research use study qualitative with approach ethnography. Qualitative research is method For explore and understand meaning obtained from a number of individual or a group of people who are considered originate from problem social or humanity (Creswell, 2016), whereas ethnography is something work describe something culture, its purpose For understand something view life from something view resident original, the relationship with life, for get his views about his world (I. W. Lase et al., 2021). Ethnographic research own inherent characteristics namely ; description depth, angle view from public local and holistic. Author use study qualitative with approach ethnography aim For can describe related role Mother as agent enculturation masculinity in children man ethnicity Nias. This research will obtain the results data activity through observation participatory, interview in-depth, documentation, notes field and technique data analysis (Al Falaq & Puspita, 2021).

This research conducted in the Tegal Sari Mandala II sub- district. The author's reasons make Tegal Sari Mandala II Subdistrict as location study Because including many areas inhabited by ethnic groups Nias especially a Mother as agent enculturation masculinity in children man ethnicity Nias.

As for the area in Tegal Sari Mandala II Subdistrict which is location study namely Rajawali Street, Jalak Street, Pinguin Street, and a number of location others who are still is at in coverage administrative Tegal Sari Mandala II. Election dot, dot, dot location This based on considerations that area is settlement densely populated by families ethnicity Nias, so that make it easier researchers in do observation, interviews, and field data collection in a way consistent and focused (Lee et al., 2024).

Research conducted produce accurate and appropriate reports with situation field with using the data obtained through observation directly on location research. The method involving observation direct to role Mother as agent enculturation masculinity in children man ethnicity Nias. This research also involved interview with various party, not only mother who has child man or Mother single parents only, but a child man ethnicity Nias, father of child man ethnicity Nias, and the older sister of child man ethnicity Nias is also involved in interviews conducted by the author (Matetovici et al., 2025).

Informant in study qualitative in general is part most important in collect data. Every study scientific must existence informant, informant is primary data source in dig information studied by researchers, so that study depicted with good. The informant who has obtained so a researchers must own Work same good with informant, because the relationship between informants and researchers are very complex

Criteria informant in A study scientific that is enculturation full, involvement direct, atmosphere culture that is not known, enough time, and non- analytical (Murdock, 2020). Based on provision the so writer apply criteria informant as following

1. Mother who is still own husband and have child man ethnicity Nias, as the people who formed masculinity child his ethnic male Nias in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village.
2. Single parents who have child man ethnicity Nias, as the people who formed masculinity child his ethnic male Nias in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village.
3. Boy ethnicity Nias, as a people who were formed his masculinity by his mother in Tegal Sari Mandala II Subdistrict.
4. Father of child man ethnicity Nias, as informant supporters in see or notice his wife in form masculinity child his ethnic male Nias in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village.

5. Older Sister of child man ethnicity Nias, as informant supporters in see or notice his mother in form masculinity you bladder his ethnic male Nias in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Overview of Research Location

Tegal Sari Mandala II sub-district is one of the a sub-district located in the Medan City area, specifically in Medan Denai District, North Sumatra Province. This area including area settlements and activities urban communities, not industrial areas big or land agriculture wide, because be in the middle Medan city and including in densely populated district resident.

The coordinates of the Tegal Sari Mandala II sub-district are 3o35'9.600"N and 98'30.00"E with area of ± 89 Ha and consists of of 15 neighborhoods (BPS Medan City, 2025). This area including area plains low typical Medan city, with topography relatively flat without hills big.

The Role of Mothers as Enculturation Agents Masculinity in Ethnic Boys Nias

Enculturation agents is individuals who teach norms, values, and behavior certain to others so they can Study as well as adapt self with environment place residence. The process of enculturation This can ongoing in scope family, where the agent main usually is both father and son Mothers. Children, especially child men, to be recipient main learning This in family.

The role of father in family generally more emphasize on search living outside home. Mother has not quite enough answer main in look after House ladder at a time guide their children. Parenting Mother No only limited to fulfil need physique children, but also form character and personality they. Focus parenting Mother to child man covers formation appropriate masculinity with mark culture (Rosramadhana, 2020).

Masculinity covers properties or characteristics typical men, like courage, strength, toughness, and ability leading. Values masculinity This experience adaptation when child man ethnicity Nias growing up in the city, different with practice traditional on Nias Island, for example through tradition Fahombo (Stone Jump) and draft leadership si'ulu and si'ila. Mother as agent enculturation play a role implant values so that the child man can develop become brave, strong, tough and capable individuals lead.

Based on interviews conducted writer to family from Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) who has child man named Andika Jonathan Harefa (22 years old), looking at child man ethnicity Nias in the city must formed become a leader like leadership of the si'ulu and si'ila on Nias Island. Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) stated (Sari & Widiyanti, 2024):

“Nani'ilagu, famaterö si'ulu ba si'ila da'ö, ya'ia da'o animal here ena'ö Tobali He maedo maedo sisökhi, ba tagu Javanese, ba he göi ba wofosumange here bö'ö. Si'ulu daö, yes more ebu He bawamatörö, bring me bawamatörö lala, bawamaha'ö, bana si'ila bawamaha'ö yes ena'ö magide-ngide'ö tödö. Ba he göi bawahuwusa ba here bö'ö. Ba he göi bawamaerigu onogu matua, yao'do uombakhaö khöra, huku-huku ma fotufotu ndrasatua, enaö Ya'ira lai'la animal ena'ö Tobali irony si tagu jawa mi fönada.”

Indonesian:

“ In my opinion, leadership si'ulu and si'ila that 's where somebody Can become good example, responsible responsible, and also respect others. Si'ulu That more to lead and give direction, whereas Si'ila teach We For still low heart and guard good relationship with other people. In parenting child man I, I try implant values That so that he Can grow become responsible child answer and can become a good leader in the future.” (Interview on March 2, 2026)

The views of Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) emphasized that draft leadership in culture Nias No only focus on ability lead formally, but also on the moral and relational qualities inherent in the individual. The explanation of Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) shows that si'ulu understood as a capable figure give direction, take decisions, as well as become role model in life everyday life. Meaning to si'ila according to he refers to attitude low heart, ability guard connection social, as well as respect others in interaction community. The statement of Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) also reflects that mark leadership the implanted since early through pattern foster care to child her man named Andika Jonathan Harefa (22 years old), especially with give example real in life family. Emphasis from Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) shows that the process of

enculturation masculinity in children man directed so that children No only strong in a way role social, but also has character responsible answer as well as capable become wise leader in the future (Waruwu et al., 2025).

Furthermore family from Mrs. N. Gulo (46 years old) who has child

Table 1. The Role of Mothers as Agents of Enculturation of Masculinity in Nias Ethnic Boys

No.	The Role of Mother	Implementation
1.	Instilling Values	Mother instilled Nias cultural values such as <i>Si'ulu</i> and <i>Si'ila leadership</i> which were adapted to the modern context, such as responsibility and humility
2.	Be a Good Example	Mothers act as figures who provide direct role models in daily behavior so that boys have figures who can... imitated
3.	Leading and Direction	Giving Mothers act as guides in a boy's life, providing a vision of the future, especially through education
4.	Dare to Speak	Mother applies courage in the city, it is no longer about war as in <i>the Fahombo</i> (Stone Jumping) tradition, but rather the courage to speak in public or in... small group without nervousness
5.	Defending the Truth	Mother teaches children not to be afraid to stand up for what is right, which is a form of moral courage. social environment
6.	Firmness	Mothers are uncompromising about mistakes so that children understand the limits of what they can and cannot do
7.	Courage	Mother trains the mentality of her son so that he is not afraid and has self-confidence. appear in public
8.	Independence	Mothers focus on their sons' ability to survive and not become spoiled in the face of adversity.
9.	Leading Soul	Mother encourages son to be active in peer organizations or social groups to get used to organizing other people

What Mothers Face as Agents of Masculinity Enculturation in Nias Ethnic Boys

The role of mothers in the enculturation of masculinity in Nias boys carries a complex responsibility. The values of courage, strength, resilience, and leadership require a continuous learning process in daily life. Mothers position themselves as the primary figures who introduce and instill these values from an early age. Social realities in the neighborhood also influence how mothers navigate the process of masculine character formation in boys (Yan et al., 2022).

Challenges arise with changing social and economic conditions, as well as interaction patterns within families and communities. Differences in parenting styles, between Nias cultural values and external influences, create unique dynamics in the enculturation of masculinity. Mothers face situations that require a

balance between maintaining cultural values and adapting to diverse social environments. These conditions influence mothers' strategies for instilling courage, strength, resilience, and leadership qualities in their sons.

The reality of family life in Tegal Sari Mandala II Village shows that the process of enculturation of masculinity does not always proceed ideally (Wahyudi et al., 2022). Various time constraints, family economic conditions, and the influence of children's social circles present unique obstacles for mothers. These experiences demonstrate that the role of mothers is not only related to parenting, but also related to efforts to maintain cultural values (Yang et al., 2024).

A. Zebua (32 years old) who is a single mother and has 2 sons named Stefan Gulo (14 years old) and Relevan Gulo (13 years old) who faces major challenges in educating sons because of their stubbornness, lack of obedience, and the role of a father that is difficult to replace, especially for single mothers. Mrs. A. Zebua (32 years old) stated:

"The hardest thing is educating boys because they're stubborn and often forgetful. Sometimes, no matter how many times I tell them, I teach them to do good, they still revert to their old habits. For example, in this house, before he goes to school, I tell him to clean the house first, so it's tidy. Sometimes he does it, but often he forgets or just leaves it like that. Well, when that happens, we as mothers get emotional. It's true that boys can sometimes be careless. But actually, learning responsibility starts at home. If you can do small things at home, then when you go outside, people will trust you. As for the environment here, there's actually nothing difficult. It's safe and comfortable. Many of the neighbors are also kind, and some even help out. For example, neighbors who have sons sometimes remind each other. So, in terms of the environment, I don't think there's a problem. It all comes down to the child, how he socializes and whether he listens or not. But what's most noticeable is when he's not around a husband. I think that's the influence. Usually, boys are more fearful and listen more With his father. Even if his mother is angry or nagging at length, sometimes the child just feels like he doesn't care. It's different with his father; sometimes he just listens once or twice. So it really feels like raising a boy without a husband is harder. Even when it comes to advice, sometimes he listens, but sometimes he rejects it (Creswell, 2016).

Mrs. A. Zebua's (32 years old) view on educating boys presents quite complex challenges due to the stubborn and forgetful nature of her sons, Stefan Gulo (14 years old) and Relevan Gulo (13 years old). Daily experience shows that, despite repeated instructions to carry out responsibilities at home, both children sometimes respond half-heartedly or even ignore them. Feelings of frustration arise when children are inconsistent in following instructions, especially in simple things such as keeping the house tidy before going to school. The surrounding environment is considered safe and supportive, even neighbors who have sons also remind them, so the main obstacle remains the character and attitude of the children themselves. Mrs. A. Zebua (32 years old) emphasized that children's obedience to advice is easier to achieve if there is a father's role, while the presence of a mother alone is sometimes less effective because children tend to be indifferent.

Efforts Made by Mothers to Overcome Challenge As an Enculturation Agent Masculinity in Ethnic Boys Nias

The role of mother as agent enculturation masculinity in children man demand skills in guide and shape character. The approach taken Mother focused on development courage, strength, resilience, and leadership in children. Parenting strategies applied covers supervision, guidance, and giving support consistent emotional activity daily life, communication, and interaction social become means main in implant values masculinity This process ongoing in a way gradual and adjusted with ability as well as need child.

Activity Mother in overcome challenge parenting play a role important For ensure child man grow become a person who believes self and responsibility answer. The parenting pattern applied often involving combination between reprimand and love darling, so that discipline No cause fear or trauma. Parental support become factor amplifier motivation child in face failure or obstacles. Father involvement and cooperation between both parents strengthen the learning process healthy masculinity (Connell & Messerschmidt, 2022).

Experience concrete Mother in guide child man highlight importance firmness accompanied by attention and love darling. Every action parenting directed For grow balanced character between courage, determination heart, and empathy. Boys invited understand not quite enough answer through guidance, experience real, and positive encouragement. Parents' expectations to child still flexible, with emphasis on the continuous learning

process. This reflect dynamics adaptive parenting at a time emphasize values masculinity traditional ethnicity Nias (Koentjaraningrat, 2019).

Based on interviews conducted writer to family from IbM. Zebua (45 years old) who has child man named Andika Jonathan Harefa (22 years old) and her husband named Mr. Y. Harefa (45 years old), looking at child boys are educated with firm But full love, support child man grow believe self and responsibility Answer. Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) stated:

“If the child man I Andika is tough head or don't want to listen, usually I firm just. Sometimes got scolded too, but No anger that reaches rough times. More to We said The same he content heart We as parents. After that still We embrace again, it's impossible to finish it scolded Keep going ignored (Kaplan & Offer, 2022). Still We Ayomi Again with love darling (Offer & Kaplan, 2021). If it's about educate child man, I The same his father yes You're welcome just. We each other support You 're welcome guide he so that So a good boy. If he fail or disappointed, for example lost race or what, we encourage you again. We said Possible That Not yet his fortune he, still There is Again chance to front (Syarifah et al., 2024). The important thing Don't broken keep spirit and don't to the point of feeling inferior. We also remain support activity he is positive so that he still believe ourselves. We hope so child man This Can So man true Well, those who believe self, brave, responsible answer, and have commitment (Harrington, 2021b). But even if it doesn't match, it might be the same our hope, we continue to remind and we guide Keep going. We leave the rest with God, let God guide you he to the best way. ” (Interview on March 2, 2026)

Mrs. M. Zebua's (45 years old) views on educate child her man named Andika Jonathan Harefa (22 years old) sued firmness at a time love Darling. Firm implemented when child her man behave hard head or reject listening, but anger controlled so as not to nature rough. Embrace return child after reprimanded considered it is important to keep feel cared for and loved (Spradley & Elizabeth, 2016). Parental support in face failure child his men, like lost competition, become a strategy to build courage and resilience. Mrs. M. Zebua (45 years old) emphasized that strengthening trust self done through encouragement to activity positive things to do child (Hardani et al., 2020).

Mrs. M. Zebua's (45 years old) hopes for child her man covering formation character brave, responsible man answer, believe self, and have commitment. Guidance given in a way consistent by both parents, mutual support in the educational process (Shafer et al., 2019). Every failure or mismatch with hope considered part from the learning process and directed through advice as well as motivation. Submission decision end to God to be runway belief that road best will open for child Mrs. M. Zebua's husband (45 years old) emphasized importance balance between firmness and love Darling in form masculinity child man ethnicity Nias.

CONCLUSION

Based on results study about role Mother as agent enculturation masculinity in children man ethnicity Nias in Tegal Sari Mandala II Subdistrict, Medan Denai District, can concluded a number of matter following :

1. Mothers in Tegal Sari Mandala II Subdistrict play a role as agent enculturation masculinity with transform values traditional Nias to in life more urban emotional and functional. Transformation the realized through pattern foster care that emphasizes courage implanted through encouragement For brave speaking, appearing in front general, and defend truth through motivation and habituation. Strength formed through planting ability control emotion as well as attitude firmly so that the child No crybaby and capable face pressure. Toughness developed through habituation independence, discipline, and ability adapt and cope challenge live, while leadership implanted through learning not quite enough answer, ability take decisions, and implementation mark si'ulu and si'ila in life daily. Planting mark This done in a way consistent through role model, advice, habituation in life everyday, as well as strengthening through interaction social in the environment family and society so that children man still own teak self ethnicity Strong Nias even though grow in the environment diverse.
2. Challenges faced Mother as agent enculturation masculinity in children man ethnicity Nias covering the child's tough personal character head, social media influence, and lack of father figure in a single parent family. Environment multicultural urban cause child man Nias often lost reference direct to customs customs the original, so that Mother must Work extra hard For give verbal comprehension. Absence figure husband become challenge significant Because Mother feel his authority often less

- heard compared to If warning the come from father figure who is considered more firm. Influence socializing outside home and attachment child on device technology like cell phone smart also often obscures values discipline as well as not quite enough answer that tries implanted mother. Difference view between husband and wife in set standard discipline sometimes create exploited loopholes child For avoid rule the house that has been set.
3. Efforts made Mother in overcome challenge as agent enculturation masculinity in children man ethnicity Nias involving combination between firmness (discipline) and approach love persuasive darling. Mother applies method communication two direction with invite child discuss after situation emotional subsidize use give understanding about consequence from every action. Utilization technology like the video done by the mother For introduce tradition Fahombo (Stone Jump) for the sake of guarding attachment identity culture child his men. Involvement family big like uncle (brother) man mother) or member congregation in the church become solution effective For fill in emptiness figure authority masculine inside family. The hopes for the future are pinned Mother through moral and spiritual support aims to ensure that children man they grow become independent, fearless person of God, and capable become bone back a strong family.
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