

# **Sharenting Behaviour: Role of Social Motivation on Mother's Sharenting Behaviour**

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**Abstract.** One trend that is present in social media is sharenting. Sharenting is parents' behaviour in publishing child identity information through photos, videos, and others on social media. This study analyses social motivations' influence on the mother's sharenting behaviour in social motivations. This study involved 100 mothers who lived in East Jakarta, Indonesia and were selected using a purposive technique. Research respondents must meet the following criteria: mother resides in East Jakarta, mother has a social media account, and family have children aged 0-12 years. Data was collected from April until May 2021 by completing research questionnaires online. The data contained in this study consisted of family characteristics, social motivation, and sharenting behaviour. This study used descriptive statistics and a simple linear regression test to analyze the data. The results showed that mothers had social motivation in the low category and sharenting behaviour in the medium category. Social motivation significantly and positively affected the mother's sharenting behaviour (β=0.937, p<0.01). This study indicates that higher social motivation can increase mothers' sharenting behaviour. Thus, parents should learn digital literacy to control their actions on social media.

Keywords: social media, social motivation, sharenting behaviour

# 1 Introduction

According to data from the Association of Indonesian Internet Service Providers (APJII), one in five people used the internet to play social media in 2019. Facebook and Instagram are the social media choices most frequently used by the public [1]. Parents also use the internet to access social media. Data shows that seven of ten parents use social media accounts [2]. Based on these data, mothers use social media more than fathers.

Parents play social media to see friends' posts or to post information about themselves and family. One trend that is present along with the increasing use of social media is publishing about their child, which is called sharenting behaviour. Sharenting is parents' behaviour in publishing children's identity information through photos, videos and other social media posts. Sharenting happens when parents post extensive information about their kids online, endangering their kids' long-term safety and their ties with their parents [3]. Sharenting is a form of violation of children's privacy [4].

Many new parents love to share their cute baby photos online as a token of affection. For example, nine of ten mother in the United States post about their children on social media [5]. Parents post many images online to document practically every stage of their children's lives, including birth, development, and growth. They may also post photos that could be embarrassing for the children [4].

The negative impact of publishing or sharing confidential information on children is that parents cannot protect a child's identity appropriately. The identity of children shared on social media can invite crimes, such as targeting pedophiles, abuse for marketing, and also kidnapping children [6]. Another result of sharenting behaviour is the violation of children's privacy. In the future, children as parties with information are not pleased with their digital footprints created by their parents without their consent [7], [8]. Sharenting makes children feel uncomfortable and insecure when their parents share their identities and activities on social media.

Sharing information about a child on social media does not align with incorporating family responsibilities. The family has a function as a protector who should protect children from various threats from within and outside. Comfort and security are one measure of the family's protection function. Families must provide security, calm and serenity for their family members [9]. Because parents protect children, parents must also be able to help protect children's personal information to prevent crimes against children. Parents should protect children from harm in social media networks.

Children must give their consent before sharing information about them on social media. Sharing children's information involves pressure on parents to post pictures or videos of their children online. The desire to connect with family and communities, provide childcare, be proud of their children's accomplishments, and engage in social interactions are some of the many reasons why parents post information about their children on social media [10].

Previous research found that when parents share photos of their children, more than 90 per cent expect their photos to be liked by friends on social media [11]. Parents also felt more satisfied when their friends gave responses about the photos they had shared. Some parents also report that their friends on social media like baby photos which they usually share [12]. Sharenting behaviour by parents has various motives. Four motive factors can be analyzed from parental sharenting behaviour: parental advice, social, impression management, and informative archiving [8].

Motives are encouragement, will, desire, and driving force that comes from within humans to do something [13]. Motives are the forces within organisms that urge individuals to act, while motivation is individual conditions that generate motives, generate locomotion, or move a person or oneself to do something to achieve something. Motivation generates a motive or moves someone to do something to achieve satisfaction or a goal. Motivation is based on the fulfilment of needs, and one of the components is people's interests.

Motivation that influences human needs is known as social motivation [14]. Social motivation is human encouragement or interaction with the social world, which is

based on three forms of motivation: achievement motivation, affiliation motivation and power motivation [15]. Surrounding environmental and social conditions in society are related to one's motivation. Social motivation is a force that arises in humans to carry out activities that have social value that aims to gain recognition or appreciation from the environment and is measured through achievement motivation, affiliation motivation, and power motivation.

Sharenting behaviour has also started to become a topic of study in Indonesia. Previous research studied the sharenting phenomenon using the literature review method [16]. The study's findings demonstrate that sharing behaviour only sometimes preserves children's privacy and can disseminate children's identities on social media. Additionally, sharenting might put pressure on children and lead to internet crimes. Another research also studied sharing lifestyle in the capital city using the narrative review method [17]. Millennial mothers do sharenting to get information about parenting and also to get recognition for the care they do. Millennial mothers need to understand the consequences of sharing. Protecting children's privacy rights from sharenting abuse by parents in Indonesia is the subject of another study on sharenting [18]. The study results show that sharenting behaviour occurs because parents do not understand the negative impact of sharenting on children. Apart from reviewing the literature, several researchers have also begun to raise this sharenting issue as a qualitative research topic. First, qualitative research that conducted to analyze sharenting practices via Instagram [19]. Similar research is about content analysis of sharing activities by single mothers on Instagram [20].

Based on this explanation, research on sharenting has yet to be widely carried out, especially in Indonesia. Sharenting behaviour and social motivation that encourage sharenting behaviour are exciting phenomena to study. Therefore, this study aims to analyze the role of social motivation on sharenting behaviour in mothers. This research is expected to provide an overview of sharenting behaviour in mothers and social motivations that encourage mothers to engage in sharenting behaviour.

# 2 Method

# 2.1 Participant

This study involved 100 mothers in East Jakarta who were selected using a purposive technique. The respondents met the criteria, namely: the family has preschoolage children or school-aged children, the mother lives in East Jakarta, the mother has a social media account, the mother has shared about her child on social media, and the mother is also willing to be a respondent in this study.

# 2.2 Design

This study uses a cross-sectional design, namely research conducted at one time. In a cross-sectional study, the researcher simultaneously assesses the participants' exposures and outcomes [21]. This research uses quantitative research methods. Researchers describe a problem numerically, measure and analyze variables to provide

findings, and use specialized statistical techniques to answer research questions [22]. An associative quantitative approach analyses the influence of social motivation on a mother's sharenting behaviour. Research data collection was conducted in April-May 2021 in East Jakarta City, DKI Jakarta Province, Indonesia.

# 2.3 Procedure

The data in this study is primary data. The technique used in the collection is self-report. The data collected consists of the characteristics of children and families, so-cial motivation, and sharenting behaviour. Child characteristics consist of the age and sex of the child. Family characteristics consist of the mother's age, mother's education, mother's employment status, the number of social media accounts, and the number of children.

Social motivation is an impulse that arises in a person to carry out activities that have social values that aim to gain recognition or appreciation from the environment. McClelland's theory developed the instrument for measuring social motivation [15]. Social motivation consists of three dimensions, namely achievement, affiliation, and power motivation. The social motivation instrument consisted of 27 statement items, with the response options being strongly disagreed, disagree, agree, and strongly agree. This research uses a valid and reliable instrument (Cronbach's alpha value 0.966).

Sharenting is a behaviour carried out by parents by posting about their children on social media to exchange information on parenting advice and get affirmation and support from others through the publication of identity information as measured by the dimensions of number, frequency, content and audience. Developing a sharenting instrument using Brosch's theory [4]. The sharenting behaviour instrument has four dimensions: number, frequency, content, and audience. The sharenting instrument consisted of 39 statements, with the response options being strongly disagreed, disagree, agree, and strongly agree. This research uses a valid and reliable instrument (Cronbach's alpha value 0.963).

# 2.4 Analysis

After data collection, the next step is data processing. Each research variable's data is totaled and divided into three groups: low (index less than 60), medium (index between 60 and 80), and high (index greater than 80). Determine the minimum, maximum, average, standard deviation, and frequency for each category using descriptive statistics. Furthermore, A simple linear regression test is employed in the study to examine how social motivation affects sharenting behaviour. A simple linear regression model assumes a linear connection between the value of one independent variable and the mean response [23].

# 3 Result and Discussion

### 3.1 Child's Characteristic

Child characteristics consist of age and sex. The results showed that children were included in the categories of infant age (56%), preschool age (14%) and school age (30%). Regarding gender, 54% of the children were boys, and 46% were girls.

Family characteristics consist of the mother's age, education, occupation, use of social media, and number of children. Mothers who were respondents in this study were in the early adult (86%) and middle adult (14%) categories. Based on the last education level, the mother's lowest education was elementary school (6%), and the highest was at the master's level (2%). The highest percentage of mothers' education is at the senior high school level. Based on employment status, 66% of mothers are housewives and another 34% work in the formal and non-formal sectors. All mothers use social media in various ways. The results showed that the three social media with the highest percentage were WhatsApp (97%), Instagram (82%) and Facebook (80%). For the number of children, 93% of families have children under government recommendations, namely 1-2 children.

# 3.2 Sharenting Behaviour

Sharenting is the practice of parents sharing extensive details about a child's identification through social media in the form of images, videos, and other posts [4]. Sharenting behaviour can cause concern to child psychology and is also a form of violation of child privacy [8]. Information shared by parents on social media can last a long time in storage after being shared on social media. When parents hold power over the management of children's privacy and expand parties who can access it outside the scope of the family in general, children have the potential to become aware of the digital footprints about themselves created by their parents and are not pleased with their private information that has been published. Future of children may be affected by parents' actions when disclosing information about their children on social media. Four out of five mothers engage in sharenting behaviour in the moderate category (Table 1).

### 3.3 Social Motivation

Social motivation is based on one's activities towards others to build and maintain a relationship [24]. Social motivation is an urge from within a person to perform an act that has social value and to gain recognition and appreciation from the environment [25]. Social motivation is human encouragement or interaction with the social world based on three forms of motivation: achievement, affiliation, and power [15]. Social motivation is an urge from within humans to carry out an activity or interaction that has social value and to gain recognition and appreciation from the environment. Six out of ten mothers have social motivation in the low category (Table 1).

Category	sharenting behaviour		social motivation	
	Total	(%)	Total	(%)
Low (Index < 60)	38	38	60	60
Moderate (Index 60-80)	44	44	36	36
Height (Index > 80)	18	18	4	4
Total	100	100	100	100
Minimum-Maximum value	33-94		37-84	
Mean ± Standard Deviation	$64.21 \pm 14.3$		$58.95 \pm 10.59$	

Table 1. Distribution of sharenting behaviour and social motivation categories

# 3.4 Influence of Social Motivation on Mother's Sharenting Behaviour

The test used to analyze the role of social motivation on sharenting behaviour is a simple linear regression analysis. The analysis model has a coefficient of determination of 0.323 (Table 2). That is, as much as 32.3% of the mothers' sharenting behaviour variance can be explained by social motivation. The results also show that social motivation significantly and positively affects sharenting behaviour ( $\beta$ =0.937, p<0.01). If mothers' social motivation increases, mothers' sharenting behaviour will increase too.

Variable	β		C:-
	Unstandardized	Standardized	Sig.
Constant	2.493		0.018
Social Motivation	0.937	0.575	0.001
R	0.575		
R Square	0.330		
Adjusted R Square	0.323		
Sig.	0.010		

Table 2. Regression test results

# 3.5 Discussion

One of the phenomena that appear along with the advancement of science and technology is the phenomenon of sharenting. Sharenting is a behaviour that parents carry out by creating content on social media with the number and frequency of long enough account holdings that aims to exchange information on parenting advice and get confirmation and support from others through the publication of child identity information, which is a form of violation to child privacy which can cause concern to child psychology. Sharenting is the act of parents, guardians, or relatives posting information regarding their young kids online, typically on online social networking sites [26].

The amount of social media that parents have played an essential role in sharenting behaviour. Social media is a place for parents to record moments in a child's life, starting from birth, development and growth of children. The number of likes and comments on social media is also one of the causes of sharenting. By implementing an attention score calculation based on the number of likes and comments received, posts containing children's names received more attention from viewers [27]. This situation can be interpreted as photos of children getting more attention from the audience. Respons make parents continue to post photos or videos.

The amount and frequency of information posted allow for setting the level of parental activity in sharing. Sharing involves publishing large amounts of information. The more parents share, the more information is available on social media. Because of this, many youngsters have a lot of photos, posts, and updates about their lives on social media [4].

One example of parental sharing behaviour is displaying the many kinds of child information posted by parents on their social media profiles. Parents upload pictures to the internet to document special moments in their children's life, such as their birth, their first steps, entering school, and puberty, such as the child's entire name, date of birth, or sharing pictures that can be embarrassing to children [4].

Various factors motivate parents to do sharenting, including establishing communication with family and communities, providing child care, being proud of children for their achievements, and participating in social interactions [10]. Parents also want to know and learn about the development of social media. Social media can disseminate information to influence, motivate, and take the desired action by the message's sender. In addition, four motives to do sharenting behaviour, including parental advice, social, impression management, and informative archiving [8]. It means that sharenting behaviour by parents has various motives.

Motivation is the cause of the existence of individual action. Motivation is very closely affiliated with sharenting; this can be seen in sharing photos or videos of children carried out by parents; there is an urge to continue to communicate with family, other people, and the community, and it can be used as a medium for social interaction. Motivation to affiliate in doing sharenting is in the medium category. Motivation for affiliation is an urge in humans to continue to be in touch with other people to socialize by working with suitable and experienced people in a group [28]. In this case, the motivation for affiliation that parents illustrate in sharenting is to establish communication with family and community and participate in social interactions, with parents sharenting to establish communication with family and community and participate in social interactions [10].

They were sharing about children on social media as a medium to share the news with families who rarely see each other. The parent did a sharenting to continue being in touch with other people. Then the individual will maintain that interpersonal relationship with others. The way is through frequent interactions during status updates by exchanging comments between social media users, where if this behaviour is maintained, it will give positive feelings associated with close (intimacy) interpersonal relationships.

Posting about their children on social media certainly gets praise from other people for photos or videos of children that are shared. It is one aspect of achievement motivation. Achievement motivation is defined as an impulse contained in humans to keep trying until they reach superior standards and get the title of praise. Sharing children's images and videos can give parents feedback and a chance to enlist the support of loved ones no matter where they are. Individuals who use social media and share their activities in cyberspace will show an accurate picture of their personality. The humans whose needs for appreciation have been fulfilled are ready to pursue self-actualization, which is the highest need.

Motivation for power is an encouragement to give confidence that he can influence the behaviour of others and can regulate others. Parents who broadcast videos or pictures of their children on social media to make others feel envious of them exemplify the power motive in action. People may feel envious if parents post images or videos of their children on social media to make them proud [10]. Of course, for all of this to happen, parents need responses from their followers. Photos shared on social media then get "likes" from other people and get comments about this is an aspect that drives the effect of self-esteem on humans. A photo can directly influence existing social comparisons, and it can encourage feelings of envy.

For parents whose online identities can be monetized, such as professional influencers, children can be part of the advertising activities carried out for brands [29]. Users of social networks have been found to have higher self-esteem because they have more influence over what information is disseminated and hence are more likely to promote positive information about themselves [30].

Therefore, for humans who have fulfilled their basic needs, their self-esteem will increase even if the human gets nasty comments about themselves or sees other people who are more than himself, the human's self-esteem will not be affected. Empirical evidence supports that when sharing on social media, individuals will be motivated by the need for impression management and the desire to foster social and emotional connectedness with essential people [31].

Based on the research results, social motivation is one factor that encourages mothers to do sharenting behaviour. The findings of this study corroborate those of earlier studies on sharenting behaviour. Sharenting happens because parents want to maintain their child's developmental stalls, want social support from their followers on social media, want to get over their loneliness as new parents, and they don't think they're very good at preserving their children online privacy [32]. This research also produces instruments to measure sharenting behaviour quantitatively. Previously, the study of the sharenting phenomenon used qualitative research methods. Sharenting behaviour is a new phenomenon, so valid instruments to measure sharenting behaviour still need to be available. Future research needs to examine how the sharenting behaviour instrument evolved.

# 4 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 4.1 Conclusions

Sharenting is the practice of parents posting images, videos, and other social media posts that reveal their children's identities. The findings indicated that social motivation was one of the variables that substantially impacted a mother's sharenting behaviour. Sharenting behaviour happens because of the encouragement of affiliation motivation and the urge to interact with others. The more there is the encouragement of social motivation, the higher the sharenting behaviour of parents.

# 4.2 Recommendations

This study only examined the sharenting behaviour of parents in general without looking at the order in which the children received the object of sharenting. It is necessary to discuss sharenting with the order in which the children were born. A digital literacy program is essential to help parents better monitor their children's behaviour on social media since the importance of parental sharenting behaviour is still relatively high.

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