

## Looking For Diamond From Fatherless Family: Descriptive Study of Entrepreneurial Characteristics on Fatherless Teen

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Some entrepreneurs came from fatherless family, for example Frederick W Smith as the founder of FedEx, Jerry Yang as Yahoo!-Creator, Stephen Tong as Reformed Evangelical Movement Founder, and also Ciputra as the Ciputra Group owner. They experienced many difficult conditions and those experiences formed their character to be entrepreneurs as they are today. The purpose of this study was to find characteristics of fatherless teen successful entrepreneurs. Subjects in this research were 13-18 years old-junior and senior high school students from fatherless family ( $N=85$ ). Data were collected through questionnaire consisting statement about entrepreneurial characteristics and questions related to their fatherless family. The result and discussion will be explained in this article.

*Keywords:* entrepreneurial characteristic, fatherless teen

Beberapa *entrepreneur* lahir dari keluarga tanpa ayah, seperti Frederick W Smith sebagai pendiri FedEx, Jerry Yang sebagai pencipta Yahoo!, Stephen Tong sebagai pendiri Gerakan Reformed Injili, dan juga Ciputra sebagai pemilik Grup Ciputra. Mereka bercerita bahwa mereka telah mengalami banyak situasi sulit dan pengalaman ini mengasah karakter mereka menjadi *entrepreneur* seperti sekarang. Fenomena tersebut mendorong penelitian ini yang bertujuan untuk menemukan karakteristik *entrepreneur* pada remaja tanpa ayah. Subjek penelitian ini adalah siswa SMP dan SMA dari keluarga tanpa ayah ( $N=85$ ). Data dikumpulkan melalui kuesioner yang berisi pernyataan tentang karakteristik *entrepreneurship* dan pertanyaan terkait keluarga tanpa ayah. Hasil dan diskusi akan dijelaskan dalam artikel ini.

*Kata kunci:* karakteristik kewirausahaan, remaja tanpa ayah

The number of fatherless family are increasing these days because of father's death, divorce, and out-of-wedlock birth. As a consequence, the number of single mother was increasing three times since 1960 to 2000 (Daly, 2006). Many children was born and raised without the presence of father. Approximately 23.6 billion children lived without their biological father (U.S. Census Bureau, 2004). It was reported that from 1975 until 2000, out of wedlock birth has increased from 10% to 40% (National Statistics, as cited in O'Neill, 2002). Divorced family also quadrupled to 17.6 million in U.S. (Saluter, as cited in Father Heart Communications, 2003).

Based on the Fathering in America pool (as cited in Father Heart Communications, 2003), fatherlessness is mentioned by 72% of the U.S. population as the most significant family/social problem in America. In most of

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the quantitative studies, many fatherless children are associated with social, emotional, academic problems, even financial one.

Interestingly, some entrepreneurs came from fatherless family. The first example is Frederick W. Smith. As the founder of FedEx, the first company of overnight express delivery, he grew in fatherless family. Because his father passed away when he was 4 years old, he learnt a lot of things by himself. This situation has contributed to his character (Kurniawan, 2008).

Another story came from Jerry Yang, creator of Yahoo.com. His father died when he was 2 years old (Sandy, 2009). With his mother and younger brother, Jerry Yang moved from Taiwan to San Jose, California. Facing difficult conditions didn't make him fail to achieve success.

The founder of Reformed Evangelical Movement in Indonesia, Stephen Tong, also became a fatherless when he was 3 years old. In that difficult situation, his mother gave significant contribution for supporting this fatherless family. For helping the mother in fulfilling daily needs,