

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION

The film "Fatherhood" (2021) provides an interesting perspective on the life of a single parent, particularly a father, who navigates the task of raising his child alone amidst the gender inequality prevailing in American society. Gender issues and equality emerge as a conflict, resulting in disparities in gender equality, especially for men. At that time, men were considered mere breadwinners, focused on work and careers, and were deemed incapable of caring for children. However, the role of a father in child-rearing comes with its dynamics and challenges.

The film is based on a true story. It utilizes the strong theory of R. W. Connell (1998: 3) to depict the lives of single parents in America in "Fatherhood" (2021) and how Gender Issues and Equality affect the characters in the story. The research question reveals values and norms within American society. It examines how widows, single parents, and children grow up in America from the perspective of a society that views single parenthood as highly challenging, including facing financial responsibilities alone, emotional and physical challenges, finding a balance between work, child-rearing, and self-care, as well as requiring positive social support.

However, conflicts regarding Gender Issues and Equality arise when social support in America regarding the role of fathers in child-

rearing is considered not up to par as a parent. This leads to the character Matthew facing various issues related to custody disputes that trigger conflicts with family members. Nevertheless, Matthew remains steadfast in his decision to care for Maddy alone.

As a single parent, Matthew must balance tasks and time management by carefully planning everything to meet all needs. Matthew nearly gets transferred from his job when he brings Maddy to work, but his excellent performance earns him respect from his boss. Some changes in job choices, working hours, or flexibility may need to be made to align with the role of a single parent.

Based on data from chapters 1-4, the researcher can conclude that American society views the difficulty of child-rearing as a result of individualism and the American perspective. Through adaptation, patience, and explicit social norms, it is evident that American society has a solid attachment to the ability to build a trusting relationship between the mother and the primary caregiver. In the author's view, love and family values serve as the rational foundation for single parents and how their children grow into individuals aligned with American culture.