

PARENTS' PERCEPTION AND INVOLVEMENT TOWARD ENGLISH FOR YOUNG LEARNERS IN RUSTIC AREA

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Abstract

The aimed of this research was to analysed the parents perception and their involvement toward the important of EYL in rustic area. To investigate the kind of phenomena specifically, qualitative approach is needed to applied in this research which employed a case study design. This study was conducted in Pakuniran village, Pakuniran district, ProbolinggoEast Java Province. This village is chosen because Pakuniran become one of the remote area in this distric but children enthusiasm in teaching and learning english is higher. The data was obtained through observation, interview and questionnaire. Fifteen parents from kindegarten and primary school volunteered to be the participants for responding to their choices in the questionnaire. Five parents of students (i.e. p1, p2, p3, p4, and p5) in each level were requested to perceive the perception and involvement in their children's English ability. The subjects were selected using Purposive Sampling techniques. The result of this research that parents' perception and their involvement toward EYL in rustic area, in this case is Pakuniran village Probolinggo Regency have positive response. Parents involvement becomes one of the biggest support systems to success in teaching and learning. Choosing the best school for their education child, additional English learning outside are the ways of parents' support.

Keywords: *consists of 3-5 words, important phrase, times new roman*

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INTRODUCTION

Learning a foreign language, children need to be emotionally secure and motivated to learn a new language, leading to children's positive perceptions and attitudes to learning English.¹ Moreover, Mattson & Norrby cited in Latifa found in her research that children 3-10 years old, learning English for young learners means to introduce English as a foreign language to young learners². Rintaningrum et al., stated that children in Indonesia, Vietnam, Japan, Korea, Lao, Cambodia, Thailand, Philippines, and China start learning English at an early stage with the purposes of introducing a foreign language as early as possible.³ It is proved by the curriculum used at Indonesia primary level education that English language taught mostly emphasizes on vocabulary learning as the basis language skill mastery.⁴

Nevertheless, in a rustic area the implementation of teaching English for young learners is not required although in Indonesia English has been started in some schools from 1994.⁵ Rintaningrum et al., noted in Indonesia English becomes a local content subject not compulsory subject in primary school. As Nufus confirmed that actually, young learners did not need the material of the subject but far from it, they need to know how the introduction of language and how to use it in real communication.⁶ Young learners' education basically aims to provide stimulation to all aspects of child development, including physical, intellectual, social, emotional and language development so that they can increase optimally⁷. In addition, Cameron cited in Prayatni says that the differences between teaching a foreign language to young learners, in contrast to adults are obvious.⁸ Young learners are often more enthusiastic and livelier as

¹ Mahmud, Y. S., Pujiastuti, A., Fitria, R., & Lestari, D. E. (2022). Elementary School Parents' Perspectives on Online English Language Teaching During Covid-19 Pandemic. *International Journal of Elementary Education*, 6(1).

² Latifa, A. (2020). The Role of Parents towards Early Childhood In the Process of Learning English in the Global Era. *Jurnal Pendidikan Progresif*, 10(2), 173–182.

³ Rintaningrum, R., Mahfud, C., Trisyanti, U., Saifulloh, Moh., & Prasetyo, B. (2022). Home-Based Practical Parents Involvement in Assisting Children Learn English. *Jurnal Obsesi : Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini*, 6(6), 6429–6442. <https://doi.org/10.31004/obsesi.v6i6.3343>

⁴ Sumanti, C., & Muljani, R. (2021). PARENTS' INVOLVEMENT AND ITS EFFECTS ON ENGLISH YOUNG LEARNERS' SELF-EFFICACY. 8(1), 78–89. <https://doi.org/10.22219/celtic.v8i1.14632>

⁵ Khulel, B. (2021). TEACHING ENGLISH FOR YOUNG LEARNERS IN RUSTIC AREA: TEACHERS' CHALLENGES. *LINGUA, Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa*, 17(2).

⁶ Nufus, T. Z. (2019). Teaching English to Young Learners in Indonesia (Pros and Cons). *English Language in Focus (ELIF)*, 1(1), 65. <https://doi.org/10.24853/elif.1.1.65-70>

⁷ Mulyadi, A. (2021). *TEACHING ENGLISH TO YOUNG LEARNERS*.

⁸ Prayatni, I. (2019). Teaching English For Young Learners. *Jurnal Ilmiah Profesi Pendidikan*, 4(2), 106–110. <https://doi.org/10.29303/jipp.v4i2.90>

learners than adults, and children often seem less embarrassed than adults at talking in a new language. Therefore, it's important to stimulate children to learn English from early age.

One of the main factors of successful education, parents who are the closest person to their children have an important role to make their children realize that English is important language to be learn⁹. Moreover, in learning English the role of parents is very necessary. In relation to Radian et al., found in their research that the role of parents not only has an impact on student achievement at school but will have an impact on behaviour and attitude.¹⁰ In other words, Hikmah et al., argued parental roles can be considered crucial for their children's learning, particularly amidst these challenging times.¹¹ It's supported by Lim stated that there is a widespread belief among parents that young learners can acquire a second or foreign language better than adults do, and more and more Korean parents want their children to start learning English early.¹²

Carmel did a research entitle Parents' Discourse on English for Young Learners focused in Israel.¹³ The aimed of the research to understand the forces that drive the EYL phenomenon and focuses on the analysis of parent's discourse from a critical discursive sociocultural perspective and the findings of the research stated that to understand the forces that drive the EYL phenomenon and focuses on the analysis of parent's discourse from a critical discursive sociocultural perspective. Other research came from Sumanti & Muljani about Parents Involvement and Its effects on English Young Learners' Self-efficacy, underlined that Parental participation in English should be taken seriously, particularly in public schools, where there was only a minimum period to learn English at school.¹⁴ It was revealed that parents' involvement in the learning and acquisition of English by the children could contribute positively to their learning achievement and motivation. Moreover, when Covid-19 Pandemic, all the school must be online class and the system teaching and learning used technology. Using technology should

⁹ Saputri, K., Larasati, F., & Febriyani, M. (2020). *AN ANALYSIS OF PARENTS' PERCEPTIONS ON THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEWORK IN IMPROVING ENGLISH ACHIEVEMENT*

¹⁰ Radian, R. R., Fatimah, A. S., & Sulastri, F. (2021). *TEACHERS' PERCEPTION OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT OF PRIMARY STUDENTS: A CASE STUDY IN EYL CONTEXT.*

¹¹ Hikmah, A., Wuryandani, W., Zubaidah, E., Herwin, H., & Jhon, W. (2021). *Online Learning in Primary School during Covid-19 Pandemic: How Does It Look Like?* 5(3).

¹² Lim, S. J. (2021). *Parents' Perceptions and Experiences of Early English Education in South Korea:*

¹³ Carmel, R. (2022). Parents' discourse on English for young learners. *Language Teaching Research*, 26(1), 141–159. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1362168819877080>

¹⁴ Sumanti, C., & Muljani, R. (2021). *PARENTS' INVOLVEMENT AND ITS EFFECTS ON ENGLISH YOUNG LEARNERS' SELF- EFFICACY.* 8(1), 78–89. <https://doi.org/10.22219/celtic.v8i1.14632>

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be controlled by the parents in home. Teachers faced challenges regarding preparation, implementation, and assessment of online learning. Thus, teachers implemented varied strategies by improving their own skills and having good collaboration and communication with parents, students, and other peers.¹⁵

Parents' involved their self in discussion of the children's social community. The parent also helps in guiding the homework or encouraging their children to read material on foreign language and solving the problems of their children experience in learning the foreign language.¹⁶ In some researchers also found from teachers perception toward the parental involvement in learning English to very young learners and primary school that it opens valuable opportunities for children to develop language skills (especially English), and allows brilliant English achievements.¹⁷ Rintaningrum et al., emphasized Parents with higher level of education are more likely to provide more systematically and more various assistance to their children.¹⁸ The study is expected to encourage schools and parents to work more collaboratively in improving their children with better performance. It showed educational background and professions of the parents play an important role on how parents provide assistances to their children.

From the studies above, the researcher interest to do the research of parents' perspective and their involvement toward the importance of English for young learners. The researcher focused on the rustic area which is various parents background study there. The researcher intends to know the position of English subject for young learners based on the parent's perspective in rustic area and how their involvement toward the education. Kinds of job that parents have with their background study, it will give impact to their children English ability. How the parental involvement in supporting their children to study English from very young learners. Moreover, today's education issue English become a local content subject in primary

¹⁵ Hikmah, A., Wuryandani, W., Zubaidah, E., Herwin, H., & Jhon, W. (2021). *Online Learning in Primary School during Covid-19 Pandemic: How Does It Look Like?* 5(3).

¹⁶ Latifa, A. (2020). The Role of Parents towards Early Childhood In the Process of Learning English in the Global Era. *Jurnal Pendidikan Progresif*, 10(2), 173–182.

¹⁷ Radian, R. R., Fatimah, A. S., & Sulastri, F. (2021). *TEACHERS' PERCEPTION OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT OF PRIMARY STUDENTS: A CASE STUDY IN EYL CONTEXT.*

¹⁸ Rintaningrum, R., Mahfud, C., Trisyanti, U., Saifulloh, Moh., & Prasetyo, B. (2022). Home-Based Practical Parents Involvement in Assisting Children Learn English. *Jurnal Obsesi : Jurnal Pendidikan Anak Usia Dini*, 6(6), 6429–6442. <https://doi.org/10.31004/obsesi.v6i6.3343>

school after in the past English becomes compulsory subject. In the technology era when all the basic language used in technology is English, but in fact some school doesn't aware with this situation.

Researcher analysed the research findings from Khulel that the teachers challenges of teaching English for young learners in rustic area are students socio-economic condition, the status of English in the school and covid-19 Pandemic.¹⁹ It showed that how the that students' social-economic status, as measured by parental income, educational background, and/or occupations, is linked to their academic English development and achievement at school. As Kasi et al., found parental involvement in children's education is essential in enhancing academic performance and encouraging good conduct among young people.²⁰ Having clear with all the studies, the researcher wants to know how the parents' perspective and their involvement toward the importance of English for young learners?

METHODOLOGY

The aimed of this research was to analysed the parents perception and their involvement toward the important of EYL in rustic area. To investigate the kind of phenomena specifically, qualitative approach is needed to applied in this research which employed a case study design. Principally, a case study design had applied a holistic single case study purposed to expose the understanding of the parents perception and their involvement toward the important of english for young learners in rustic area. This study proposed to answer the two focus questions concerning the perception of the parents and involvement and strategy in getting involved in their children's English ability. This study was conducted in Pakuniran village, Pakuniran district, East Java Province, Indonesia. This village is chosen because Pakuniran become one of the remote area in this distric but children enthusiasm in teaching and learning english is higher. It looks when the researcher did observation in this village. The activeness of childern take English course that held by village organisation every Sunday morning at the village hall. Fifteen parents from kindegarten and primary school volunteered to be the participants for responding to

¹⁹ Khulel, B. (2021). TEACHING ENGLISH FOR YOUNG LEARNERS IN RUSTIC AREA: TEACHERS' CHALLENGES. *LINGUA, Jurnal Pendidikan Bahasa*, 17(2).

²⁰ Kasi, Y. E. M., Suparno, S., & Asib, A. (2021). Parents' Perception: Roles and Involvement in Distance Learning Amid the Covid-19 Pandemic. *AL-ISHLAH: Jurnal Pendidikan*, 13(3), 1877–1887. <https://doi.org/10.35445/alishlah.v13i3.1170>

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their choices in the questionnaire. Five parents of students (i.e. p1, p2, p3, p4, and p5) in each level were requested to perceive the perception and involvement in their children's English ability. The researchers chose the respondents based on their deep understanding and experience of the case being studied in selecting these participants. Since the parents came from various job and different educational background they had. They were all categorized as the respondents required. In this case, the representative respondents were the available parents. The subjects were selected using Purposive Sampling techniques. Purposive Sampling is a technique of determining the sample with certain considerations. The reason for selecting the samples is because of the accessible factor; the access was easier, the atmosphere was more conducive, therefore the researchers could obtain more comprehensive data.²¹

The online questionnaires, semi-structured interviews, and documents were used to collect the data. Online questionnaires were used to acknowledge and expose the understanding of parents' responses based on their roles, involvement, and strategies. The use of the closed-ended questions was employed to measure up the statements given by the respondents. This will make it easier for parents to answer questions in the questionnaire provided. At the same time, the in-depth interview was used to deliver ten questions to the participants. The use of interviews to collect the data is related to the interviewee's statement about parents' perception of the roles and involvement in mapping students' English Learning achievement. These instruments were validated based on six factors of parental involvement in Epstein's theory. The data were then analyzed qualitatively using the stage from (Silverman, 2000 cited in Rahim & Fajriah, 2021), they are recording, transcribing, categorizing, analysis, and interpreting.²²

FINDINGS AND RESULT

Parents Perception of the Importance of EYL

In this research, the researcher focused on the parent's perception and their involvement toward English for young learners especially in rustic area and Pakuniran village was the object of research. The researcher had semi-structured interview by considering five parents from

²¹ Cahyati, S. S., Parmawati, A., & Atmawidjaja, N. S. (2019). *OPTIMIZING ENGLISH TEACHING AND LEARNING PROCESS TO YOUNG LEARNERS (A CASE STUDY IN CIMAH)*.

²² Rahim, F. P., & Fajriah, Y. N. (2021). *TEACHERS' AND PARENTS' PERCEPTION ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE POLICY IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. 3*.

different jobs and background education. After having the interview section, the researcher asked fifteen parents to fulfil the questionnaire the researcher data in the study. Documentation was also used to complete the requirement of analysing data.

Based on the data analysed, the parent's perception and their involvement were positive responses on EYL. Almost all parents agreed about the teaching English should be taught from early ages. Moreover, in this globalisation era they thought that early English education will be helpful for getting a good score on the college entrance exam and also will help them in looking for job in the future.

Table 1. Questionnaire Result of Parents Perception and Involvement of EYL

Statements	Participants' Responses	
	Agree	Disagree
Parents Perception of EYL		
English proficiency is necessary in the era of globalization.	100%	-
Early English education is very important in education.	93%	7%
Early English education will be helpful for academic excellence and getting good grades in primary and secondary school.	80%	20%
Early English education will be helpful for getting a good score on the college entrance	93%	7%
My child's English skills will be helpful for finding the job s/he wants in the future	93%	7%

From the table above, all parents 100% agreed that English proficiency is necessary in the era of globalization. Most of them also said that English should be taught from early level. It can be started from kindergarten, primary and secondary school. It's seen from the percentage is 93% from 15 parents. 80% from 15 parents showed early English education will be helpful for academic excellence and getting good grades in primary and secondary school. But 20% from 15 parents are disagreed about it. 93% from 15 parents are agreed, and 7% from 15 parents is disagreed about early English education will be helpful for getting a good score on the college entrance. It's also similar with their perception of my child's English skills will be helpful for finding the job s/he wants in the future.

In line with these results, some parents have been giving their perception of the important of English and should be taught from early ages of children.

Parent 1

"I think that if children are introduced to English from an early age, then when they are teenagers, they will be familiar."

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Parent 2

“English education is very important for the current era and it is better to give it to children because it is easier for them to capture and memorize new vocabulary and new languages, especially English.”

Parent 3

“Learning English for the modern era like now is very important, but for very young learner or Playground level children don't prioritize to learn English, it would be better to teach with a playing model, singing about objects around that is very important for them, just introducing English, and elementary school is better. It is emphasized that there is a regional language course in English, it would be better if elementary school also has English from grade 1.”

Parent 4

“In my opinion, learning English is not even necessary from an early age.”

Parent 5

“English will be easier given to children over 7 years.”

With those perceptions of parents 1, 2, 3 and 5, it can be seen that parents in Pakuniran village have assumption that English is very necessary introduced from childhood. They have attention in the era of globalization so that when entering the world of education, their children can understand English properly and correctly. Most of parents realized that young learner will be easiest to absorb new language. As parent 3 said in the interview above, in their age's children are curious and enthusiastic learner if the teaching and learning apply fun methods such playing, singing and guessing something. Although, parent 4 had different perception from all parents. The researcher analyzed the answer from the situation and condition of parent 4. The researcher took the perception from many considerations of parent's job and their background study.

Parent 4

“It's difficult to apply because parents also don't master English. In kindergarten there is no teacher's ability to speak English is very lacking. In public elementary schools, in general, there are no English teachers who are linear with their education. Sometimes, teacher comes from different major who teaches English”

From all the statements and perception from the parents, most of them realized the importance of English in this era. Moreover, parents agreed that the teaching and learning of English should be started from childhood. As De Wilde found that Studies investigating L2 English receptive and productive vocabulary knowledge in young learners have shown that English can be picked up through four fine-grained variables predicted the proficiency score:

word frequency, trigram frequency, age of acquisition and image ability.²³ Word frequency and age of acquisition belong to four fine-grained variables predicted the proficiency score of L2 English receptive and productive vocabulary knowledge. It means the age of the learner would affect to the English learner. In fact, this statement is supported by Lesia & Petrus in their research found that there are two critical factors must be addressed in teaching English for young learners.²⁴ The first aspect is perception; one of the most important aspects of teaching English to young learners is obtaining perception from parents and teachers. Teachers and parents firmly believed that the younger a child begins to study English, the more knowledge they get. The second aspect is strategy; the teacher implements a good strategy following the conditions and situations of the school. Actually, many kinds of factors which is affected to teaching and learning but some factors will be the main factor beside supporting factors.

Parents Involvement toward EYL

Parents involvement becomes one of the biggest support systems to success in teaching and learning. Moreover, for young learner who study new language its such a new challenge for them. In their age, they need guidance what should they do and need to their life.

Parent 1

I ask my children to join the English course held by Pakuniran Village Children Association every Sunday morning. Its free for all children in Pakuniran village. Not only English subject but also dancing, hadrah and others. My children join English because I think English is import for her future and fortunately, she likes English.

Parent 2

I'm happy to see my children effort. Najwa likes English but she likes to play with her friend so she always wants to school and come to TPQ. In every Sunday morning she joins Pakuniran Village Children Association.

Parent 3

providing smartphone and many books in home its my support to my children.

Parent 4

I think its enough to study in the school. English is not our language and its difficult for my children to understand it.

²³ De Wilde, V. (2023). Lexical characteristics of young L2 English learners' narrative writing at the start of formal instruction. *Journal of Second Language Writing*, 59, 100960. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jslw.2022.100960>

²⁴ Lesia, E. S., & Petrus, I. (2022). Teaching English for Young Learners in Elementary School: Perceptions and Strategies. *International Journal of Elementary Education*, 6(1).

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Parent 5

My son takes an English course in AHHA Course because I think its excellent course. I see his English skill is better and he is happy meet new friends. I also give smartphone to support his learning. Its important to support the facilities to get best result for their teaching and learning moreover in this globalization era.

Table 2. Questionnaire Result of Parents Involvement of EYL

Statements	Participants' Responses	
	Agree	Disagree
Parental Involvement of EYL		
Parental support for children's English Education	80%	20%
Children can learn English through technology	100%	-
Schools or Extra Course with expensive education fees affect learning achievement	30%	70%
Additional English learning outside of school needs to be given to children	100%	-
The reputation of the kindergarten is an important consideration when choosing my child's English kindergarten.	93%	7%
Academic-oriented learning is the most effective way to learn English in Indonesia.	67%	33%
Play-based learning is the most effective way to learn English in Indonesia.	100%	-
It is more effective to learn English from native English-speaking teachers than Indonesian teachers fluent in English.	67%	33%
The professionalism of the teachers is an important consideration when choosing my child's English kindergarten.	80%	20%
In English language classrooms for young learners, it is important to focus on the four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.	100%	-

The parents answer in questionnaire result above, 80% from 15 parents support their children's English education and only 20% didn't give support. Parents gave their support from many kinds of way to do. 100% from 15 parents allow children to use technology to learn English such handphone. The other way, all parents agreed with additional English learning outside of school needs to be given to children. It proved by the interview session most of parents guide her/his children to take English course. But most of parents 70% from 15 Parents disagreed that schools or Extra Course with expensive education fees affect learning achievement. And 100% from 15 parents agreed they believe that the reputation of the kindergarten is an important consideration when choosing my child's English kindergarten.

Parents also agreed 100% from 15 parents play-based learning is the most effective way to learn English in Indonesia. In English language classrooms for young learners, it is important to focus on the four skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. 67% from 15 parents showed agreed that it is more effective to learn English from native English-speaking teachers than Indonesian teachers fluent in English and academic-oriented learning is the most effective way to learn English in Indonesia.

In line with this result, one of the parents said in the interview;

Parent 5

In my opinion, English learning will be needed when they go to school to a higher level, but in English at kindergarten age to provide additional tutoring, in my opinion, is not quite right, because considering that they are still in a phase where they prefer to play, and at the age of Early on, parents should be sensitive to the child's interest, it will be seen if they like it, then parents can support it with things to play or read books and make light conversation at home in English.

From the questionnaire and interview result, the researcher realized that although in the rustic area Pakuniran village parents have been supporting their children to learn foreign language from childhood. The researcher could against the statement from Lesia & Petrus, (2022) that in Indonesia, teaching English to young learners was considered necessary in large cities. In fact, from this study was found although in the rustic area or small village English become one of the important subjects should be learned for young learners. Parents assumed English is important because it can help for the future of children such as the higher-level education and finding a job. Some parents asked their children to have extra course after school. On the other hand, most of parents provide technology to support L2 learning. Studies investigating the contribution of entertaining media, such as listening to music, watching TV shows or playing (multiplayer) digital games, and the use of Facebook, Instagram and YouTube showed positive relations between extramural English entertaining media exposure and English vocabulary knowledge.²⁵ Moreover, as Islam & Musdalifah found that modern technology is a

²⁵ Leona, N. L., van Koert, M. J. H., van der Molen, M. W., Rispen, J. E., Tijms, J., & Snellings, P. (2021). Explaining individual differences in young English language learners' vocabulary knowledge: The role of Extramural English Exposure and motivation. *System*, 96, 102402. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.system.2020.102402>

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useful and powerful tool that is now being used in English classrooms effectively and extensively.²⁶

Various way of parental involvement could do for their children education such consider to choose best kindergarten. But, most of parents disagreed that school or extra course with expensive education fees affect learning achievement. The professionalism of the teachers is an important consideration when choosing child's English kindergarten. Islam & Musdalifah, the teacher is able to manage and handle the students speaking activities, give example and model for students, choose the material in teaching speaking, explain the material to the students, and create fun and interesting activities and also give feedback to the students' performance. The role of teacher is one of the important factors to determine success in learning. Besides all that, parental involvement in educating and directing children is the main key in the child's first steps in gaining knowledge. Educational background or parental work is not a benchmark for someone to achieve success. Proven in this study, parents support their children to learn English from an early age.

CONCLUSION

Parents' perception and their involvement toward EYL in rustic area, in this case is Pakuniran village Probolinggo Regency have positive response. Almost all parents agreed about the teaching English should taught from early ages. Moreover, in this globalization era they thought that early English education will be helpful for getting a good score on the college entrance exam and also will help them in looking for job in the future.

Parents' involvement becomes one of the biggest support systems to success in teaching and learning. Choosing the best school for their education child, additional English learning outside are the ways of parents' support. Parents believe that best school don't depend on the higher fee in a month but the professional teacher and system in the school. Many children in this village join the English course held by Pakuniran Village Children Association and it is free for all citizens in the village. The use of technology also could help parents to introduce English and other subject in school. Technology should give positive impact for children. Educational

²⁶ Islam, R., & Musdalifah, M. (2022). Teaching Speaking Skill of English as Foreign Language in Secondary School Level. *Journey: Journal of English Language and Pedagogy*, 5(2). <https://doi.org/10.33503/journey.v5i2.2083>

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