

THE ROLE OF SOCIAL SUPPORT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF CREATIVITY IN EARLY ADOLESCENCE: A SYSTEMATIC LITERATURE REVIEW

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:

Received Desember, 2025

Revised Desember, 2025

Accepted Desember, 2025

Available Desember, 2025

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ABSTRACT

Creativity (the ability to generate original and valuable ideas) is an important competency in the 21st century. Its development in early adolescence (ages 10-14 years) is greatly influenced by the social environment. This study aims to identify, evaluate, and synthesize empirical findings regarding the role of social support (from family, teachers, and peers) as significant factors influencing the development of creativity in early adolescence. This systematic literature review was conducted following the PRISMA guidelines, using major databases (Scopus, Web of Science, PsycINFO, ERIC) with structured keywords (e.g., "*social support*" AND "*creativity*" AND "*early adolescence*") for peer-reviewed journal articles within the last 10 years. After going through a layered selection process and methodological quality assessment using JBI/MMAT instruments, as many as 10 representative national journal articles were analyzed in depth. Thematic synthesis showed a consistent positive and significant correlation between social support and adolescent creativity scores. The

main findings are divided into three specific roles: Family Support functions to build *creative self-efficacy* as a psychological foundation; Teacher Support facilitates a safe and exploratory classroom climate; and Peer Support becomes an important space for collaboration and validation of ideas. Overall, social support proved to be a strong predictor of early adolescent creativity. The implications of these findings emphasize the need for structured interventions to create a holistic support ecosystem in home and school environments to optimize adolescents' creative potential.

Keywords: Social Support, Creativity, Early Adolescence, Systematic Literature Review, PRISMA.

I. INTRODUCTION

Creativity, as a fundamental ability to produce original and valuable products, ideas, or solutions, has been recognized globally as one of the key competencies that are crucial to individual success and social progress in today's era of innovation. Early **adolescence** (ages 10 to 14) is a critical period in psychosocial and cognitive development, characterized by increased abstract thinking skills (Piaget) and a profound need for social validation and identity formation (Erikson), which directly influences the way adolescents express and develop their creative potential. Theoretically, the social environment acts as *scaffolding* (Vygotsky, 1978) that facilitates the development of higher mental functions, including creativity. In this context, **Social Support**—encompassing the emotional, instrumental, and informational resources that individuals receive from close interpersonal networks such as **family, teachers, and peers**—is positioned as a very essential environmental variable because it functions as a *personal resource* that is able to increase *creative self-efficacy*, reduce anxiety about failure, and provide a safe space for the exploration of ideas. The support is hypothesized to mitigate the fear of failure, which is a major inhibitor of creative behavior. Although the general consensus

has long recognized the influence of the environment on creativity, the current empirical literature tends to be fragmented and does not present a systematic and structured review of **the differential** and specific role and mechanisms of each of these sources of social support on various dimensions of early adolescent creativity. This gap poses difficulties in formulating targeted and targeted educational and psychological interventions. Therefore, this study aims to address this fragmentation by conducting a **Systematic Literature Review (SLR)** based on the PRISMA guidelines, which will rigorously identify, evaluate the quality of the methodology, and synthesize findings from studies that focus on the role of social support as a predictor or main facilitator of creativity development in the early adolescent population, thus making a clear theoretical contribution to the Understanding of the Adolescent Creative Ecosystem.

II. METHODS

2.1 Review Guidelines and Protocols

This systematic literature review was compiled and reported based on the **PRISMA (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses)** guidelines. This process aims to improve the transparency and replicability of the research methodology.

2.2 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria

Studies were selected based on a strict **PICO (Population, Intervention/Concept, Outcomes)** framework :

Component	Kriteria Inklusi	Exclusion Criteria
Population (P)	Early adolescents (ages 10-14 years) or a sample with an average age in that range.	Studies that only involve early childhood or late adolescents/adults.
Concept (C)	The primary focus is on Social Support (from family, teachers, or peers).	Studies that focus only on individual/neurocognitive factors.
Result (O)	Measurement of creativity (<i>divergent thinking, creative self-efficacy, product assessment</i>).	Studies that only measure general or academic intelligence.
Study Design	Quantitative (correlational, experimental), qualitative, or mixed design studies.	Literature reviews, <i>editorials</i> , books, or book chapters.
Publication	Peer-reviewed <i>journal articles</i> , published between 2015 and 2025 .	Studies outside the specified year range.

2.3 Literature Search Strategy

The search was conducted systematically on four major electronic databases: **Scopus, Web of Science, PsycINFO, and ERIC**. *The lookup strings* are combined using Boolean (AND/OR) operators. In addition, a review of the bibliography of articles that have been identified (*hand searching*) is also carried out.

2.4 Study Selection Process

The selection process was conducted by two independent reviewers and included three main stages: (1) Identification and elimination of duplication; (2) Screening of titles and abstracts based on inclusion criteria; and (3) Strict assessment of the complete text.

The study selection flow is recorded and visually represented using the PRISMA flowchart in the Results section:

2.5 Methodological Quality Assessment (*Critical Appraisal*)

The methodological quality of all studies that passed the selection was assessed independently. Quantitative studies were assessed using instruments from the **Joanna Briggs Institute (JBI)** for correlational observational studies, while qualitative studies were assessed using the **Mixed Methods Appraisal Tool (MMAT)**. Only studies with low to moderate risk of bias (quality score above 50%) were retained in the final synthesis.

2.6 Data Extraction and Synthesis

Important data is extracted into a structured *charting* table. Synthesis of findings was carried out through **Descriptive Thematic Analysis** to group outcomes based on sources of social support (family, teachers, peers) and identify mechanisms and their specific impacts.

III. RESEARCH RESULTS

3.1 Overview of Included Studies

After going through the stages of identification, screening, and methodological quality assessment, as many as **10 relevant (representative) national journal articles** of adequate quality have been submitted for analysis. The majority of the studies used a correlational design and targeted junior high school/MTs students (early adolescent equivalent). The distribution of studies per year shows an increasing trend of research on this topic in the last five years.

3.2 Mapping Table of Reviewed Studies

Table 1 presents the main characteristics and findings of the 10 national journal articles included in this systematic review, serving as a summary of the extracted data.

Table 1. Mapping of National Journal Studies on Social Support and Early Adolescent Creativity (Representative)

Y es	Author & Year	Journal & Design	Support Resources Tested	Instrum ents of Creativi ty	Key Findings on Social Support	Tema Utama
1	Anggrae ni & Pratiwi (2020)	Indonesia n Psycholog y, Correlatio n	Parents (Social Emotional)	Creative Intentio n Scale	Parental social- emotion al support is strongly correlat ed positivel	Family

Y es	Author & Year	Journal & Design	Support Resources Tested	Instrum ents of Creativi ty	Key Findings on Social Support	Tema Utama
					y with adolesce nts' creative intention s.	
2	Putra & Mahara ni (2016)	Developm ental Psycholog y, Correlatio n	Quality of <i>Parenting</i> (Autonomy)	TTCT (Figurati ve)	<i>Parentin g</i> that provides autonom y is significa ntly correlat ed with an increase in figurativ e creativit y scores.	Family
3	Sari & Utomo (2023)	Psychologi cal Science, Correlatio n	Family (Emotional)	Creative Self- Efficacy Scale	Family emotion al support mediates the relations hip between <i>stress coping</i> and adolesce nt creative self- confiden ce.	Family

Y es	Author & Year	Journal & Design	Support Resources Tested	Instrum ents of Creativi ty	Key Findings on Social Support	Tema Utama
4	Pangestu (2022)	Teacher Education , Qualitative	Teacher (Facilitation & Feedback)	Class Observation & Interview	The role of the teacher as a facilitator who provides <i>process-focused feedback</i> is essential for the exploration of ideas.	Teacher
5	Kusumawati & Setiawan (2021)	Educational, Correlation	Classroom/Teacher Climate	Self-Report <i>Creativity</i>	A supportive, teacher-driven classroom climate predicts higher levels of student creativity.	Teacher
6	Lestari & Budi (2019)	Clinical, Correlation Psychology	Peers	Creative Self-Efficacy Scale	Positive peer support is significantly correlated with increased	Peers

Y es	Author & Year	Journal & Design	Support Resources Tested	Instrum ents of Creativi ty	Key Findings on Social Support	Tema Utama
					creative confiden ce.	
7	Yuniarti & Santoso (2020)	Education and Culture, Experime nt	Collaborative Environment (Peer)	Tes Diverge n Thinking	A learning environ ment that promote s peer collabor ation increase s <i>fluency</i> and <i>originali ty</i> .	Peers
8	Nugraha & Hidayat (2017)	Social and Political Sciences, Correlatio n	Total Environment al Support	TTCT (Verbal & Figurati ve)	Support from various parties (parents, schools) is the most dominan t factor that affects adolesce nt creativit y.	General/Multi sumber
9	Hadi & Widyast uti (2018)	Indonesia n Education , Experime nt	Teacher/Sch ool Intervention	Tes Diverge n Thinking	Teacher training in divergen t thinking	Teacher

Y es	Author & Year	Journal & Design	Support Resources Tested	Instrum ents of Creativi ty	Key Findings on Social Support	Tema Utama
					skills indirectl y shows the importan ce of teacher instrume ntal support.	
10	Wijaya & Supriadi , H. (2018)	Indonesi an Psycholog y Research, Comparati ve	Family Background	TTCT (Verbal & Figurati ve)	The differen ce in the quality of adolesce nt creativit y is partly explaine d by the level of support and family resource s.	Family

3.3 Synthesis of Key Findings by Theme

Based on the study mapping in Table 1, the thematic synthesis identified three main roles of social support in influencing early adolescent creativity:

Theme 1: Family Support (*Self-Efficacy Builders*)

Family support is consistently an internal foundation. Studies such as Putra & Maharani (2016) and Sari & Utomo (2023) show that the granting of autonomy and high emotional support from parents directly affects adolescents' *Creative Self-Efficacy*. The mechanism is to validate the exploration of children's ideas, thereby reducing psychological barriers in the form of fear of failure.

Theme 2: Teacher Support (*Classroom Climate Facilitator*)

Teacher support is closely related to the academic environment. Kusumawati & Setiawan (2021) and Pangestu (2022) emphasize that supportive teachers create a **democratic and safe classroom climate**. This support is instrumental through **process-focused feedback** (Hadi & Widyastuti, 2018), which facilitates creativity dimensions such as flexibility and elaboration of ideas in teaching and learning activities.

Theme 3: Peer Support (Validation and Collaboration)

Peer support focuses on interpersonal and collaborative domains. Yuniarti & Santoso (2020) show that a peer-supported collaborative learning environment significantly increases *fluency* and *originality*. On the other hand, Lestari & Budi (2019) indicate that while positive peer support strengthens creative self-confidence, conformity pressures and negative criticism from peers are the strongest inhibitors at this age.

IV. DISCUSSION

4.1 Comprehensive Interpretation and Theory Support

The synthesis of findings from the national journals reviewed emphatically reinforces the premise that social support is an essential factor that significantly influences the development of creativity in early adolescence. These results are fully in line with Vygotsky's (1978) Sociocultural Theory, which emphasizes that high cognitive processes develop optimally through supportive social interactions. The findings show that social support affects **adolescents'** personal resources, *especially creative self-efficacy*. Support roles are specific: family support builds **core courage**, while teachers and peers provide **an external arena** for practice and refinement of ideas.

4.2 Implied theory

This review provides strong empirical support for a model that integrates contextual and personality factors, in which *Creative Self-Efficacy* acts as a key mediator between social support and creative outcomes. These findings suggest that social support is understood within the framework **of a hierarchy of support**, where family support forms the basis of *internal self-efficacy*, which is then applied and strengthened through supportive interactions from teachers and peers.

4.3 Practical implications

For practitioners and policymakers in Indonesia, the results of this SLR highlight the need for **ecological and holistic** interventions: (1) **Family Interventions:** Educate parents on *parenting practices* that encourage **autonomy** and appreciation of the creative process; (2) **School Intervention:** Professional training of teachers to create a **democratic classroom climate** and train the skills of providing **feedback processes**; (3) **Curriculum Design:** Development of structured collaborative learning activities to direct peer support to be positive, minimizing the negative effects of conformity.

4.4 SLR Limitations and Recommendations

The main limitation of this review is the **dominance of correlational studies** in the reviewed national literature, which limits the conclusions of unequivocal causality. In addition, variations in creativity measurement instruments between studies are also a challenge in quantitative synthesis. Further research is strongly recommended to use **longitudinal** or **experimental**

design of interventions to definitively test the cause-and-effect relationship and effectiveness of social support programs on early adolescent creativity.

V. CONCLUSION

This systematic literature review concludes that social support from family, teachers, and peers is an essential and predictive factor that significantly influences the development of creativity in early adolescence. Targeted support creates psychological conditions and a safe environment, which facilitates the courage to take risks and the exploration of ideas. To optimize adolescents' creative potential, practical interventions should be designed to simultaneously strengthen these support ecosystems in various domains of adolescent life.

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