Does parenting play a role in the development or prevention of radical beliefs? Indonesian case study

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- **Radicalisation** is a process that moves an individual's beliefs from moderate to extreme views, they vary in the use of violent action in order to obtain ideological, political, social (Attorney-Generals Department, 2014; Striegher, 2015) or religious change (Striegher, 2015)

- Characteristics of radical people:
  - Implement Islam in full and literal context according to the Qur'an and Hadith without flexible understanding of Islam (Fealy, 2004).
  - Reactive to respond forces associated with secular or materialist and often use violence through language, ideas, physical actions or wars (Bartlett, Birdwell, & King, 2010).
  - The fundamental Islamic teachings as the basis to rebuild the society and state (Fealy, 2004).

Background

Radicalism and terrorism are global phenomena with large impact

The process of radicalisation are now involving families through family relationships in the recruitment process
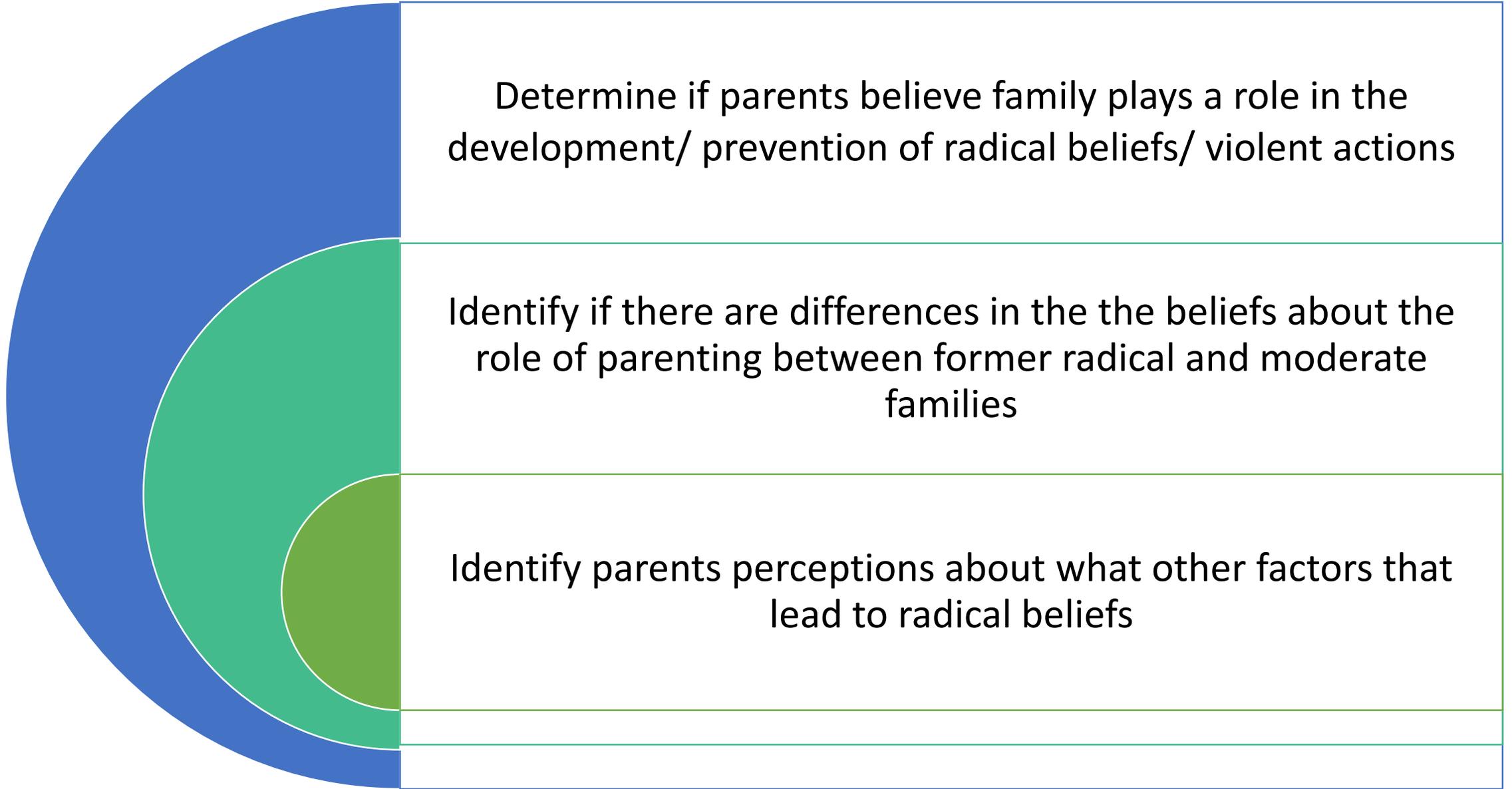
Researchers argue the important of family in radicalisation but little is known about family roles

Family may play a role in development/ prevention of radical beliefs

Indonesia is an ideal context to examine the issue of radicalisation

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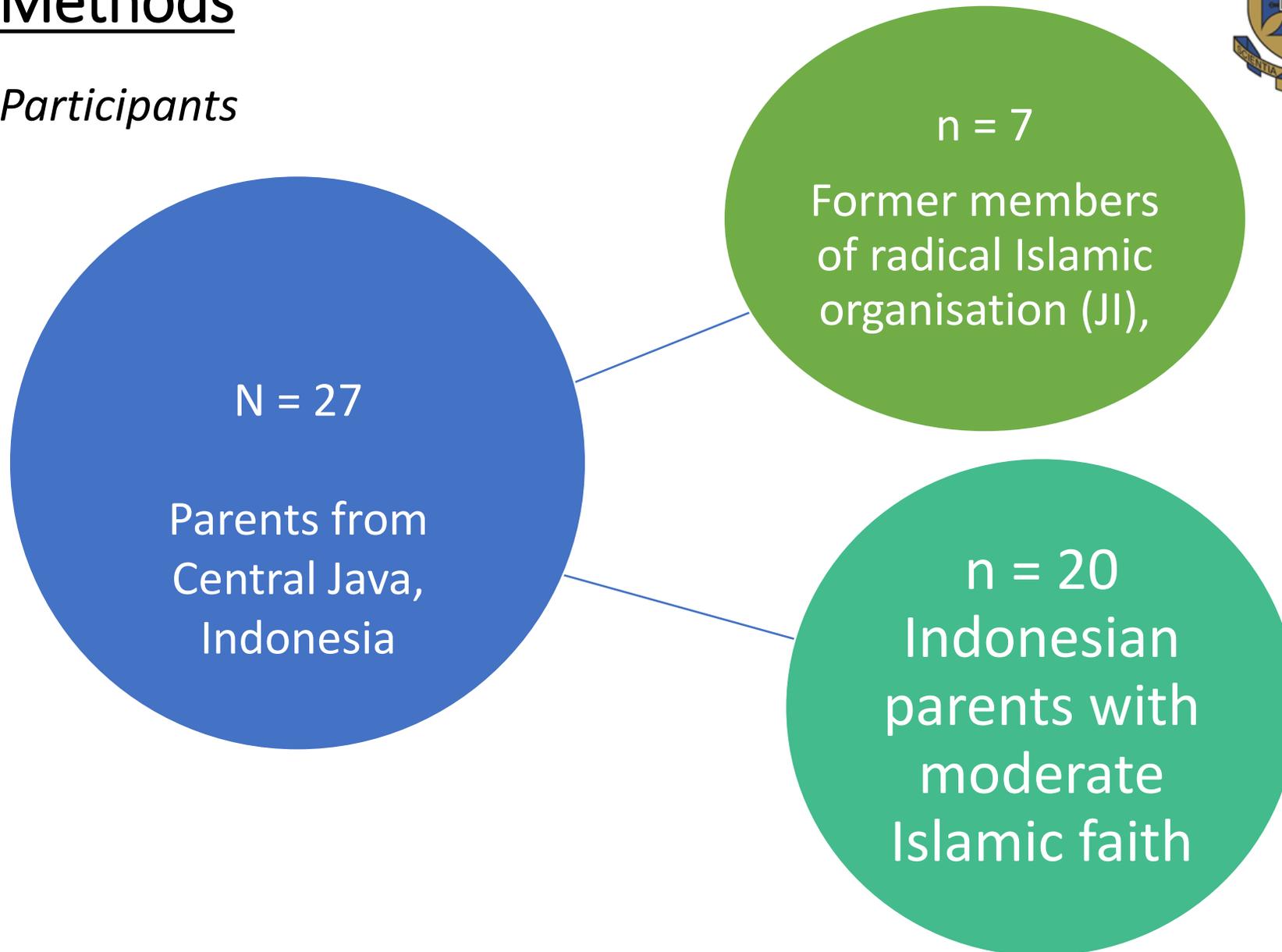AUSTRALIA

The present study: Aims

Determine if parents believe family plays a role in the development/ prevention of radical beliefs/ violent actions

Identify if there are differences in the the beliefs about the role of parenting between former radical and moderate families

Identify parents perceptions about what other factors that lead to radical beliefs

Methods

Participants

N = 27

Parents from Central Java, Indonesia

n = 7

Former members of radical Islamic organisation (JI),

n = 20 Indonesian parents with moderate Islamic faith

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Results
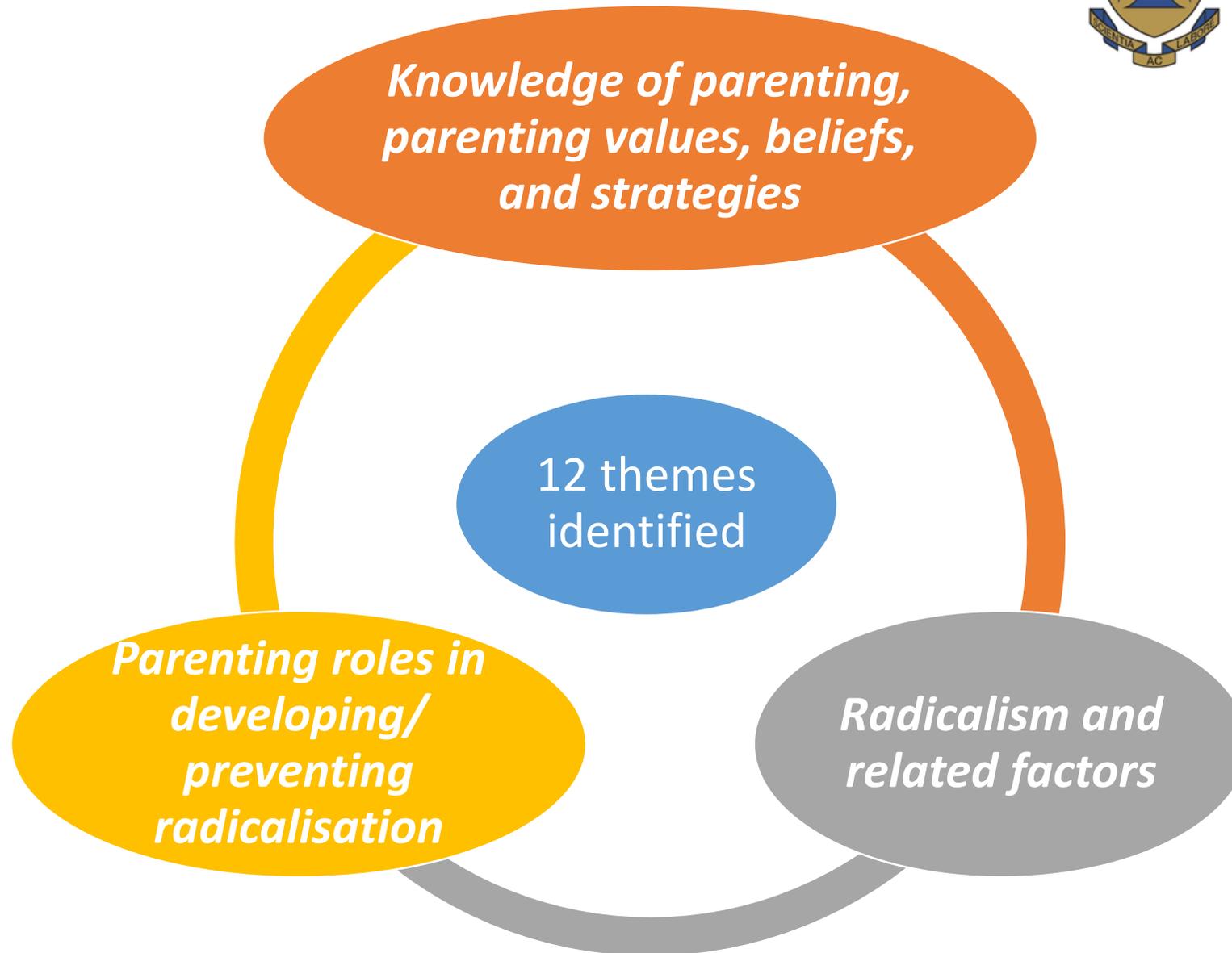
Research Question 1: Exploring participants' knowledge of parenting, parenting values, beliefs, and strategies
(When you hear the words parents or parenting, what comes to mind? What is your value to promote child development? What do want to teach your child to promote the values?)

Themes	Group 1	Group 2
Islamic parenting	√	
General parenting		√
Moderate Islamic parenting values		√
Parents' authority	√	
Family function in parenting		√
Parenting strategies:		
• **Providing role model**	√	√
• **Teaching independent skills**	√	√
• **Teaching children life skills**	√	
• **building good communication**	√	√
• **Providing emphasises on religious parenting**	√	√
• **Teaching Qur'an and Hadith properly everyday**	√	
• **Practicing or habituating of good character**	√	√
• **Introducing children to the environment**		√
• **Setting limit to children**		√

Research Question 2: Radicalism and associated factors to radicalisation
(When you hear about radical or radical community, what comes in mind?
What do you know about radical community in Indonesia? Why do you think some people involve in radical activities?)

Themes	Group 1	Group 2
Radicalism as positive ideology	√	
Radicalism as negative ideology		√
Radicalism is not associated with Islam	√	√
Associated factors:		
• **environment and doctrine about injustice for Islam**	√	√
• **exposing radical ideology through media**	√	√
• **joining Islamic youth organisation**	√	√
• **attending exclusive Islamic courses**	√	√
• **having encouragement for jihad**	√	√
• **Joining Islamic boarding school.**	√	√
• **family problems**		√
• **lack of understanding about Islam**		√
• **less social interaction**	√	√
• **excessiveness of religious ideology**		√
• **factor associated with politic, socio-economy, and culture**		√

Research Question 3: Parenting roles in developing or preventing radicalisation
(Do you think parents or parenting influences some people to become radical?
What do you think parents can do to prevent radicalisation?)

Themes	Summary of theme content	Group 1	Group 2
Developing radical ideologies	• Teaching children to inflexible and literal ideology • Preparing risks for children to fight on the name of Islam. • Teaching fundamental ideology • Practicing the "real" Islamic beliefs and changing the political system which was not according to Islamic beliefs.	√ √ √ √	
Parenting roles in preventing radicalisation	• Family factors (i.e. building positive communication, relationship, supervision, and control) to prevent radicalisation • Providing moderate, friendly, flexible, and comprehensive Islamic education • Developing child's critical thinking through better education • Giving understanding about Islam that loves peace in earth • Checking child perspective for every adopted values		√ √ √ √ √

Discussion and Conclusion

This study provides an evidence that de-radicalised individuals may not be effective to eradicate the radical ideology.

Family factors may play a role in the development of radical beliefs especially among children of former radical parents.

Other factors also play a role eg Lack of understanding about comprehensive Islam, Social and political issues about injustice among Muslims through media, exclusive Islamic courses, or Islamic organisation used to infiltrate radical doctrines to non-resilience youths.

Strengthening parents through effective parenting approaches will be critical to support counter-radicalism strategies.

Future Research

- Future studies could investigate the role of family strategies in supporting the existing counter-radicalisation approaches.

- Examine the interaction between family and social environments

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Disclosure

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Thank you