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# An Analysis of Parent's and Communities' Awareness of The Importance of Developing *Multiple Intelligences* in Early Childhood

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### **Article Info**

### **Abstract**

# Keywords:

Earlychildhood; Multiple Intelligence; Parent's and Communities Awareness Parents and society often demand that children master predetermined skills. This condition certainly hinders children's development. The method used in this research is Systematic Literature Review. The data used are taken from relevant journals, books and articles within 10 years. Then the data is analyzed and compiled so as to conclude the discussion with the keywords of parental and community awareness, multiple intelligences, and early childhood. The results show that Lack of awareness can have a negative impact on children's development, such as limited exploration of potential, low self-confidence, and difficulties in social and emotional development. Conversely, high awareness can encourage children to develop holistically, increase creativity, independence, and readiness to face future challenges. To increase parental awareness, various strategies are needed, such as parenting education and training, collaboration between parents and educational institutions, utilization of digital media, and strengthening parenting communities. With a systematic and sustainable approach, parents' awareness of multiple intelligences can be increased, thereby supporting more optimal child development in various aspects of life.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

Early childhood, spanning ages 0-6 years, is a period of rapid development that forms the foundation for their future lives. During this phase, young children have a significant opportunity to develop various types of intelligence, referred to as multiple intelligence. Multiple Intelligence is a theory proposed by Howard Gardner, which posits that human intelligence is not singular but consists of different types of intelligence that reflect each individual's unique potential. Gardner identified eight types of intelligence: linguistic, logical-mathematical, visual-spatial, musical, bodily-kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalistic intelligence. He emphasized that each individual possesses all eight intelligences, which are interrelated and cannot function independently (Kholida & Wayan Sutama, 2020). Thomas Armstrong complemented this theory with practical learning strategies to help children develop all aspects of these intelligences. This theory demonstrates that every child is intelligent in their own way, based on the dominant types of intelligence they possess (Wulan et al., 2023).

In line with Gardner's perspective, every child is born with potential abilities that vary in type and level and can be developed by providing stimulation aligned with the child's uniqueness and environmental influences. By recognizing and nurturing various types of intelligence, children can maximize their unique potential in both academic and non-academic fields. Multiple intelligence allows children to explore their creativity and enhance their ability to interact and collaborate with others (Mustajab et al., 2020). Children with diverse intelligences are better equipped to find creative and innovative solutions to the problems they encounter, preparing them to face challenges with greater confidence and adaptability in different situations. Moreover, fostering multiple intelligence supports holistic child development by creating a balance between intellectual, emotional, social, and physical intelligence, which serves as a vital foundation for their lives (Amini et al., 2023).

Multiple intelligence is influenced by various factors, including genetic predispositions. However, intelligence, skills, and creativity in children do not emerge spontaneously. They require guidance, even though children are born with inherent talents. The development of children's creativity requires a lengthy process and is influenced by several factors and the involvement of multiple parties (Prihatinta et al., 2021). While children have innate potential from birth, without proper stimulation, this potential will not develop optimally. Many parents still focus on traditional academic intelligence, such as math and language, neglecting other aspects like musical, kinesthetic, or interpersonal intelligence. This stigma often causes children to miss their golden opportunity to develop their multiple intelligences. There are no standardized attributes a person must have to be considered intelligent in a particular area. A child may struggle with reading but excel in storytelling or have an extensive spoken vocabulary. This assumption is also in line with the study by Eminita & Astriyani (2018), which suggests that many parents often make mistakes in raising their children. These mistakes are mostly caused by misconceptions or a lack of understanding of how to educate children appropriately according to their abilities.

In their research, Asmarani et al. (2022) stated that parenting styles are greatly influenced by parents' understanding of the dominant type of intelligence in their children. With a proper perspective, it is hoped that parents can accommodate their children's multiple intelligences, allowing them to develop to their fullest potential in accordance with their natural abilities. Furthermore, Sholichah et al. (2022) argued that teachers often demand children to learn reading, writing, and arithmetic due to pressure from parents. This pressure is generally rooted in the expectation that the child will meet the requirements for entry into elementary school. However, assigning daily reading tasks as a form of literacy stimulation for young children actually diminishes the essential concept of play and overemphasizes academic aspects.

According to Ilyas (2019), multiple intelligence recognizes the uniqueness of each individual and the different ways of learning to reach their full potential. Unfortunately, not everyone realizes this diversity and uniqueness. This phenomenon is seen in Indonesia's generally similar education system, where differences are often an obstacle for schools and children. The learning process often requires every child to master skills that have been determined in the curriculum, the grading system is also uniform, and even the report card must follow the rules of the education office. Such conditions clearly inhibit creativity in schools, which in turn will impact on the development of teacher creativity and hinder children's creativity.

This issue highlights the critical role of parental and societal awareness in fostering multiple intelligence in early childhood. Parents who understand this concept are better equipped to support their children holistically, creating an environment that nurtures the development of all types of intelligence. However, many parents lack awareness of this concept, leading them to neglect the necessary stimulation for certain aspects of intelligence. Education and community outreach, including parent training, are essential to raise awareness of the importance of developing multiple intelligence. Parents are expected to consistently provide for their children's needs—both biological and psychological—and to care for and educate them. Pestalozzi believed that the true hero in a child's education is the mother, who also serves as the child's primary motivator to learn. Education is a tool for shaping children into individuals of noble character and intelligence in all aspects. Thus, one of the fundamental rights of children that must not be overlooked is access to quality education (Kurnia et al., 2019).

Based on the background outlined above, the author is interested in conducting research on the analysis of parental and community awareness regarding the importance of developing multiple intelligences in early childhood. This research will provide a new contribution in identifying the level of awareness of parents and the

community about the significance of multiple intelligences, as well as strategies to increase their awareness and involvement in children's intelligence development. This model will link individual awareness (parents) with collective awareness (community) within a framework that emphasizes the importance of multi-role education to support the holistic development of children's multiple intelligences.

#### 2. METHODS

This study employs a descriptive qualitative approach based on a Systematic Literature Review (SLR). The Systematic Literature Review (SLR) follows the PRISMA framework (Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses) (Figure 1). The study adopts an empirical or theoretical approach, chosen because the research aims to systematically analyze various literature to provide a comprehensive understanding of parental and societal awareness in developing multiple intelligence in early childhood. SLR allows researchers to draw conclusions based on relevant, high-quality findings from various credible sources. This approach is considered effective for addressing exploratory research questions and synthesizing insights from multiple perspectives.

Identify and determine research questions about the importance of parental and community awareness in the development of multiple intelligences in early childhood.



Search the literature in various academic databases on relevant and reliable topics, and published in the last 5-10 years.



Apply the PRISMA framework to screen and select appropriate literature and then outline in tabular form accompanied by a brief explanation of each research finding.



Conduct an in-depth analysis of the selected literature by identifying key factors, development strategies and constraints in developing multiple intelligences in early childhood.



Compile a systematic research report and provide recommendations based on the findings that have been analyzed.

Figure 1. Research Flow Chart

Data collection is conducted through literature search techniques using academic databases such as Google Scholar, Scopus, and ResearchGate. The data collected includes primary literature, such as scholarly journal articles, conference proceedings, and books discussing the theory of multiple intelligence, early childhood development, and the roles of parents and society. Secondary literature, such as research reports or meta-analyses, is also included if relevant to the research theme and keywords (parental awareness, multiple intelligence, factors influencing early childhood intelligence development, and the role of family and community environments). A table of literature selection criteria is used, including indicators such as relevance to the research topic, publication in indexed and accredited journals, and articles published within the last 5-10 years. Data analysis is conducted in three main stages: filtering literature based on criteria, analyzing the content of the literature, and presenting findings in the form of a descriptive narrative supported by tables and providing recommendations based on the analyzed findings.

### 3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Based on the data analysis conducted, 15 sources were identified that discuss parental and societal awareness of the importance of developing multiple intelligence in early childhood. All the sources are indexed and accredited journals, selected using keywords such as "multiple intelligence," "factors influencing early childhood intelligence development," and "the role of family and community environments." The findings are presented in the form of a Table 1.

**Table 1. List Article Analysis Results** 

No	Title	Author	Year	Research focus	Metode	Main resul
1	The Influence of Parenting Patterns on the Interpersonal Intelligence of Early Childhood.	Yanuarsari et al.	2019	Relationship between parenting styles and the interpersonal intelligence of early childhood.	Quantitave	Family plays a crucial role as the first environment.
2.	The Role of Parents in Stimulating Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood.	Mustajab et al.	2020	The role of parents in providing stimulation for various types of intelligence.	Qualitative.	Parents who actively engage in creative activities help develop multiple intelligences.
3.	Optimizing Early Childhood Education in Efforts to Create Superior Quality Human Resources in Indonesia	Kurnia et al.	2019	The importance of public understanding of multiple intelligences in early childhood education.	Literatur Review	Public awareness is still low; education programs are needed to promote the importance of multiple
4.	Learning Based on Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood Education.	Faruq et al. 2022	2022	Strategies for developing early childhood education based on multiple intelligences.	Case study	intelligences. Teachers and parents must understand each child's uniqueness for more effective learning
5.	Multiple Intelligence	Mariani et al.	2023	Relationship between nature- based activities and children's naturalistic intelligence.	Descriptive quantitative	processes. Children frequently interacting wit nature show significant development i naturalistic intelligence.

No	Title	Author	Year	Research focus	Metode	Main result
6.	The Effect of Emotional and Logical- Mathematical Intelligence on Comprehension Levels.	Nurfajri & Rochmawati	2021	Use of educational games to enhance logical-mathematical intelligence.	Eksperimental	Games involving logic can improve children's understanding of mathematical concepts.
7.	Developing Multiple Intelligences as a Means to Shape Children's Character.	Prihatinta et al.	2021	The role of family education in children's intelligence development.	Qualitative	Consistent family education positively influences the development of multiple
8.	Optimizing the Development of Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood.	Masyhur	2017	The influence of parental awareness on children's success in early childhood education.	Correlation	intelligences.  High parental awareness correlates with better achievements in various aspects of children's intelligence.
9.	Training for Stimulating Multiple Intelligences in Toddlers.	Lestari & Ratnawati	2021	Training to enhance mothers' knowledge of stimulating multiple intelligences.	Quantitative (simple experiment)	Most mothers (82%) gained good knowledge of stimulation after training, while a small percentage (18%) had sufficient knowledge.
10.	Applying multiple-intelligence approach to education and analyzing its impact on cognitive development of preschool children.	Nadziroh & Karisma	2023	Multiple intelligence-based learning strategies in inclusive schools to develop student intelligence	Qualitative (case study)	Programs help students recognize their potential and develop their intelligences.
11.	Implementation Of The Theory Multiple Intelligences In Improve Competence Of Learners On The Subjects Of Islamic Religious Education.	Attamimi & Umarella	2019	Application of multiple intelligence theory to enhance learners' competence in Islamic religious education.	Qualitative (descriptive)	Low parental participation due to busyness reduces support for children's intelligence development.
12.	Learning Management to Enhance Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood.	Garnika et al., 2022	2022	Learning management based on multiple intelligences for early childhood.	Qualitative (descriptive)	Educators need to understand multiple intelligence concepts to develop children's various intelligences simultaneously.
13.	Analysis of Parenting Patterns'	Syahrul & Nurhafizah	2021	The influence of parenting	Qualitative (interviews)	Parents with lower

No	Title	Author	Year	Research focus	Metode	Main result
	Impact on Social and Emotional Development of Early Childhood During the COVID-19 Pandemic.			patterns on early childhood social and emotional development during the pandemic.		education often struggle to provide optimal learning, affecting children's social and emotional
14.	Overseas parents' perceptions of children's education.	Yanto	2020	Perceptions of overseas parents regarding their responsibility in children's education.	Qualitative (descriptive)	development. Low parental awareness of education due to focus on economic needs shifts educational responsibility entirely to schools.
15.	The Effectiveness of Parenting Seminars in Increasing Parental Awareness of Early Childhood Care	Siti Sholichah et al.	2021	Effectiveness of parenting seminars in improving parental awareness of early childhood care.	Qualitative (interviews and observations)	Parental awareness improved after seminars, leading to better parenting practices and synergy between school and home development.

After conducting the analysis, the articles were categorized based on subthemes. Subsequently, the subthemes with interconnections were consolidated into main themes. The results are presented in the Table 2.

**Table 2. List of Article Categories** 

No.	Main theme	Main theme Subtheme		Article source	
1.	The Role of Parents in Developing Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood.	The Influence of Parenting Styles on Early Childhood Intelligence	4	(Yanuarsari et al., 2019) (Syahrul & Nurhafizah, 2021) (Siti Sholichah et al., 2021) (Prihatinta et al., 2021)	
	in Early Childhood.	Parental Awareness and Stimulation of Multiple Intelligences	3	(Mustajab et al., 2020) (Masyhur, 2017) (Lestari & Ratnawati, 2021)	
2.	Multiple Intelligence-Based Learning Strategies for Early Childhood.	Development Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood Education (ECE)	2	(Faruq et al., 2022) (Garnika et al., 2022)	
		Implementation of Multiple Intelligence Theory in ECE	2	(Attamimi & Umarella, 2019) (Nadziroh & Karisma, 2023)	
3.	The Importance of Public Awareness in Developing Multiple Intelligences in Early Childhood.	Public Awareness of Multiple Intelligences	2	(Kurnia et al., 2019) (Yanto, 2020)	

No.	Main theme	Subtheme	Number of articles	Article source
		Specific Intelligence in Early	0	(Mariani et al., 2023)
		Childhood	2	(Nurfajri & Rochmawati, 2021)

The fifteen journals analyzed reveal various findings related to parental and societal awareness of the development of multiple intelligences in early childhood. The selection of these journals was based on their relevance to the research objective, which is to examine the level of parental and societal awareness regarding the importance of supporting the development of multiple intelligences in early childhood.

# Parents Awareness Level of Multiple Itelligences

Rumbewas et al. (2018) argued that in a family, the role of parents is very important for children, especially when children enter school age and begin to undergo education. Families have a crucial role in shaping and developing children's personalities. The family is also seen as an institution that can fulfill human needs, especially in supporting the development of the child's personality and human aspects.

Parents' awareness in educating and nurturing their children is a key factor in children's development, especially in developing multiple intelligences. Multiple intelligence is a concept introduced by Howard Gardner that includes various types of intelligence, such as linguistic, logical-mathematical, musical, kinesthetic, spatial, interpersonal, intrapersonal, and naturalist intelligence. Parents' awareness of the importance of multiple intelligences determines how children will develop in various aspects of life.

However, the level of parental awareness is not always optimal due to various factors that hinder the understanding and application of this concept in daily life. Therefore, it is important to discuss the factors that hinder parents' awareness, its impact on children's multiple intelligences, and strategies to increase such awareness.

# Factors Hindering Parents' Awareness

Parents' awareness of multiple intelligences is often hampered by various factors related to education, economy, culture, and access to parenting information. This will certainly also affect the success of children's developmental learning. Astuti (2022) suggests that factors such as the level of parental education, the size of the income, the attention and guidance provided, the harmony between the two parents, the closeness of the relationship between parents and children, and the condition of the home environment that is calm or not, can all be factors of parental awareness. Here are some of the main factors that hinder awareness. Fisrt, parents' low level of education. Parents' education greatly influences the way they understand their children's development and implement appropriate parenting. Parents with low education levels are less likely to understand the concept of multiple intelligences and the importance of varied stimulation for children. This risks leading to parenting that focuses only on academic aspects or even provides less stimulation at all. Yanuarsari et al. (2019) mentioned that parents' low knowledge of early childhood education is one of the main causes of limitations in developing children's multiple intelligences.

Second, economic factors and life priorities. Unstable economic conditions often make parents focus more on fulfilling basic needs, such as clothing, food and shelter, than on developing children's education. This leads to a lack of attention to non-academic aspects of children's intelligence. Yanto (2020) explains that in many cases, families with economic limitations tend to leave the responsibility for children's education entirely to schools or formal education institutions. Third, culture and traditional parenting. Some families still apply traditional parenting patterns that emphasize obedience and discipline without considering differences in children's intelligence and talents. Authoritarian parenting that only focuses on obedience can hinder children's exploration in developing their interpersonal and creative intelligence. Syahrul & Nurhafizah (2021) found that parents who tend to be authoritarian often ignore the importance of multiple intelligence-based stimulation because they think education is only related to academic achievement. Fourth, lack of access to parenting information. Lack of access to credible information on multiple intelligence-based parenting is an obstacle for many parents. Not all parents have the opportunity to attend parenting seminars or read relevant literature. Sholichah et al. (2021) mentioned that the lack of education about multiple intelligence-based parenting causes many parents to not understand their children's potential thoroughly.

### Impact of Awareness on Children's Multiple Intelligences

Parents' level of awareness of multiple intelligences has a significant influence on children's development. High awareness can have a positive impact, while low awareness can cause obstacles in child development. First, positive impact of high awareness. Parents' awareness of the concept of multiple intelligences plays an important role in optimizing children's potential. By understanding that each child has different intelligences, parents can provide appropriate stimulation according to the child's talents and interests. Children who receive appropriate

stimulation will more easily recognize and develop their potential in various fields. For example, children who have musical intelligence will be more developed if given the opportunity to learn musical instruments or participate in art activities. Similarly, children who excel in interpersonal intelligence will develop better if they often interact in a supportive social environment. With this awareness, children can explore more areas without being limited to academic aspects. In addition, parents' awareness in supporting multiple intelligences also contributes to the formation of a balanced character. Children not only develop in cognitive and academic aspects, but also in social, emotional, artistic and other life skills. A child who has the opportunity to develop interpersonal and intrapersonal intelligence will be better able to understand himself and interact with others effectively. On the other hand, a child who receives stimulation in naturalist intelligence, such as outdoor activities, will have better environmental awareness. Thus, the child grows into a person who is not only intellectually intelligent, but also has empathy, creativity, and balanced social skills. Furthermore, parents' awareness of multiple intelligences also increases children's independence and creativity. Children who are given the opportunity to explore various areas of intelligence tend to be more confident in developing their potential. Faruq et al. (2022) emphasized that children who grow up in an environment that supports multiple intelligences are more innovative in thinking and acting. They find it easier to find creative solutions to challenges because they are used to exploring many ways of learning and working. In addition to the aspects of creativity and independence, parents' awareness of multiple intelligences also contributes to children's readiness to face future challenges. The world of work and social life in the future demands individuals who have various skills, not just academic intelligence. Garnika et al. (2022) mentioned that children who grow up in an environment that supports the development of multiple intelligences will be better prepared to face the challenges of an increasingly complex world. For example, children who are accustomed to developing logical-mathematical intelligence from an early age will be more adaptive in solving analytical problems, while children who have strong interpersonal intelligence will find it easier to collaborate in teams and build extensive social networks. With better preparedness, children can grow into successful individuals and be able to face the changing times with confidence.

Second, negative impact of low parental awareness. Parents' lack of awareness in understanding and applying the concept of multiple intelligences can have a negative impact on children's development. One of the main impacts is the lack of appropriate stimulation, which can cause delays in children's cognitive and social development. Children need various forms of stimulation in order to develop their potential optimally. When parents do not provide enough stimulation, whether in the form of environmental exploration, play activities, or social interactions, children can experience obstacles in the development of thinking and social skills. For example, children who do not get enough experience in communicating and interacting with others may have difficulty in adjusting to the school or community environment. Limitations in exploring self-potential are also a result of parents' lack of awareness of multiple intelligences. Many parents still focus only on academic intelligence, such as the ability to read, write and count, without paying attention to other intelligences such as arts, sports or social skills. As a result, children lose the opportunity to develop the various potentials they have. By limiting children's exploration to academics, their creative potential and social skills are not developed to their full potential. Another impact is a low level of self-confidence in children. Children who are not given space to express themselves tend to feel less valued and have difficulty adapting to various situations. Marbun et al. (2019) emphasized that children who are not given the opportunity to develop their potential in accordance with their intelligence will experience obstacles in building self-confidence. For example, children who actually have kinesthetic intelligence and are more comfortable learning through movement may feel like failures if they continue to be forced to learn with methods that only rely on memorization and sitting still for long periods of time. As a result, the child feels less confident in their abilities and tends to withdraw from their social environment. The last and usually most influential impact will be the gap in the child's social and emotional development. Prihatinta et al. (2021) explain that children who are not used to interacting with others or are not taught how to recognize and manage their own emotions will have difficulty building healthy social relationships. Children who do not receive guidance in recognizing their emotions may have difficulty controlling feelings of anger, sadness, or frustration. Similarly, in the social aspect, children who are not taught how to communicate and cooperate with others will have difficulty in adapting to the school and community environment.

# Strategies for Raising Parents' Awareness

To raise parents' awareness of the importance of multiple intelligences, a systematic and sustainable approach is needed. Parents have a major role in providing the right stimulation for their children's development, so an understanding of the different forms of intelligence is essential. Some strategies that can be implemented to raise awareness include various aspects, ranging from education and training to broader community involvement. Fisrt, parenting education and training. One effective way to raise parents' awareness is through parenting education and training designed to equip them with an understanding of multiple intelligences and how to nurture children according to their potential. Sholichah et al. (2021) mentioned that this training not only provides theoretical insights, but also teaches hands-on practices that can be applied in everyday life. This seminar can involve experts in the fields of psychology, early childhood education and parenting practitioners to provide greater

insight into various aspects of intelligence, such as linguistic, logical-mathematical, kinesthetic, interpersonal, intrapersonal and other intelligences. In this activity, parents are given education on how to stimulate children's intelligence according to their potential.

Second, collaboration between parents and educational institutions. Schools as educational institutions have an important role in building parents' awareness of the importance of multiple intelligences. Therefore, collaboration between parents and schools is needed to create a learning environment that is more supportive of children's development. Schools can conduct parent involvement programs in the learning process, where they not only supervise children's academic results, but also play an active role in various educational activities that support multiple intelligences. Faruq et al. (2022) emphasized that parents' involvement in school activities, such as regular discussions with teachers, experience-sharing sessions or special training for parents, can improve their understanding of how to optimize children's intelligence in various fields. Not all parents have the same understanding of multiple intelligences, so parenting consultation services are needed to help them understand their child's unique characteristics and potential. Through this consultation, parents can discuss with teachers, child psychologists, or education experts to find solutions to parenting challenges. With parenting consultations, parents can be more confident in supporting their children's development according to their own intelligence.

Third, utilization of media and technology. In today's digital era, technology can be utilized to increase parents' awareness of multiple intelligences. Digital media offers broad and flexible access to information, so parents can gain insights anytime and anywhere. Platforms such as Instagram, YouTube, TikTok, and Facebook, articles, videos, or parenting guidebooks are plentiful and easy to access. With a variety of widely accessible sources of information, parents' awareness of the importance of multiple intelligences can increase significantly. Fourth, raising collective awareness through community. Awareness about multiple intelligences needs to be built not only at the individual level, but also collectively through parenting communities. Parent Discussion Group Building a parenting community can be one way to raise collective awareness about the importance of multiple intelligences. This discussion group can be a place for parents to share experiences, exchange parenting tips, and discuss various challenges in raising children. With the support of fellow parents, they will be more motivated to continue learning and implementing better approaches to parenting. Collective awareness can also be enhanced through community participation in creating an environment conducive to child development. Nuh (2018) emphasized that children who grow up in a supportive environment tend to have more optimal intelligence development. Therefore, cooperation between families, schools and communities is needed to build an environment that respects the diversity of intelligence and provides equal opportunities for every child to develop according to their potential.

# 4. CONCLUSION

Parents' awareness of multiple intelligences plays an important role in children's development. Parents who understand the concept of multiple intelligences can provide the right stimulation to support children's optimal potential. However, this awareness is often hampered by factors such as low education levels, economic limitations, traditional parenting, and lack of access to parenting information. Lack of awareness can have a negative impact on children's development, such as limited exploration of potential, low self-confidence, and difficulties in social and emotional development. Conversely, high awareness can encourage children to develop holistically, increase creativity, independence, and readiness to face future challenges. To increase parental awareness, various strategies are needed, such as parenting education and training, collaboration between parents and educational institutions, utilization of digital media, and strengthening parenting communities. With a systematic and sustainable approach, parents' awareness of multiple intelligences can be increased, thus supporting more optimal child development in various aspects of life.

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