

Interpersonal Communication of Parents in The Pandemic Covid-19 in Forming Childrens Personality in Medan City

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Abstract— Corona disease virus or better known as covid-19 is a frightening specter for families because this virus can result in death if it does not limit social interactions in carrying out various daily activities. The focus of the above problems is how the interpersonal communication of parents during the covid-19 pandemic in shaping the personality of children in Medan City. The method used in this research is qualitative research. The informants in this study used a purposive sampling technique, namely parents who have children aged 6 to 12 years. The results obtained indicate that there are several aspects that parents need to do in fostering good interpersonal communication in shaping children's personalities in Medan, including attention, understanding, motivation, reward, and punishment. Also, the strategies carried out by parents in shaping children's personalities such as parental role models, seeing children as playmates, and positive advice was given to children. In between activities, parents also always remind children of the importance of implementing health protocols such as maintaining distance, washing hands frequently, increasing body immunity by getting adequate rest, and eating regular food.

Keywords—*Interpersonal Communication, Family Relations, Child Personality*

I. INTRODUCTION

Each individual role in a family is related to the individual in order to achieve a harmonious family. For example, mother is considered as the main patron in shaping the child's personality because every day the communication and parenting patterns carried out by the mother are more intense than the father who is considered the head of the family. But the role of the father should not be neglected. It is undeniable that the role of the father as the breadwinner is also a major factor in meeting the physiological needs of the family and also has a decision-making role in general in a family. The family is also the smallest social unit group where human life is the first to form a human personality since he was born until he claims to be a social person who interacts with other social groups.

A study of the effect of the corona virus on the Egyptian family can be said that this virus affects the entire family structure and social class. In the family stability, the relationship between infection and mode of transmission on

the level of family awareness, healthy behavior has a correlation. Some families who are under pressure will definitely make more efforts to take precautions such as wearing masks, increasing their hobby of watching at home, conducting video conferences and doing most of their livelihood activities in the limited space at home.[1]

The problem that is said to be a crisis can afflict a family during the covid-19 pandemic often occurs when individuals in the family have a clash of values between family members, especially between parents and children who have different views between generations, for example, such as parents as the old generation with children who are have a difference. The rise of technological developments today, there are many gaps between the willingness of children and their parents. The term generational difference usually reflects the occurrence of gaps between generations, for example, today's children prefer to take pictures and aspire to become You Tubers or artists while parents still prioritize formal school education as a ladder to success.

Besides that, Medan City is a city that is prone to social deviations. Internal factors of parental indifference often arise because children feel unnoticed by their parents, children feel free, especially influenced by external factors such as information in the mass media today and this results in many cases of social deviation experienced by children such as gambling. online games, crime against status like truant, wild racing. This has become the focus of public attention, especially parents, making parents have to work extra hard in forming warm communication with children as family members.

Globalization that occurs in Medan City is very influential in the development of children's character and personality. Globalization is a condition where culture, norms and rules begin to fade as a result of modernization. For example, children against their parents because they often come home late at night, playing with peers who turn out to be children playing online games, online gambling which is increasingly being shown in the media, motorcycle gangs, illegal racing because it is influenced by the media broadcast on television broadcasting free culture or free culture such as the film Fast And Furious and so on. The impact of this globalization shows that the number of crimes

committed by children has increased from time to time in Indonesia.

Based on the background of the problem above, the focus of this paper is how the interpersonal communication of parents during the covid-19 pandemic in shaping children's personalities in Medan City is considered relevant in providing an overview for society, especially parents in shaping children's personalities in Medan City.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

A. *Interpersonal Communication*

Have we ever thought about the reasons why you should communicate? This question is sometimes overlooked but it is important to address it. William Schutz [2] relationship depends on how well it relates to three basic needs. The first need is affection, which is the desire to give and get affection. The second need is inclusive, namely the desire to be part of a particular social group. The third need is control, namely the need to influence people or events in life.

Abraham Maslow[3] proposes the idea that the purpose of human communication is to meet various needs. According to him, basic needs must be satisfied first before focusing on other needs such as physiological needs, security needs, the need to have, the need for self-esteem, and the need for self-actualization. Richard L. Weaver[4] states that there are eight characteristics of interpersonal communication, namely:

- Involve at least two people
- There is feedback
- It doesn't have to be face to face
- It doesn't have to be purposeful
- Produce several effects / effects
- Don't have to use words
- Influenced by context
- Influenced by noise

The function of interpersonal communication is to control the environment in order to obtain certain physical, economic and social rewards[5]

B. *Family Relationship*

Vangelisti[6], the family and our image of the family is based, formed and maintained through communication. Family members and family relationships simultaneously influence and are influenced by one another. Historically, the family has been defined from three perspectives, namely structural, psychosocial and transactional tasks[7]. The structural definition is based on the presence or absence of certain family members (parents and children) and the distinction between the original family, the procreation family and the extended family.

Communication experts Ascan Koerner and Mary Ann Fitzpatrick[8] argue that some families exhibit a conversational orientation in which they create an atmosphere in which all family members are encouraged to

voice their opinions on various topics. These families believe that openness and frequent sharing of information is essential for a fun and rewarding family life. Meanwhile, a family that shows conformity orientation creates a communication climate characterized by uniformity of values, attitudes, and beliefs. This type of orientation is usually associated with a more traditional family structure. There are four types of families, namely:

- **Consensual Family.** Families who have a high orientation towards conversation and conformity. Their communication is characterized by an emphasis on openness and exploring new ideas, as well as a desire to preserve the existing hierarchy in the family.
- **Pluralistic Family.** Families who have a high orientation towards conversation, but orientation towards their low conformity. They are more likely to engage in openness and unrestricted discussion among all family members about various topics.
- **Protective Family.** Families with a low level of conversation orientation, but high in conformity orientation. Their communication tends to emphasize parental authority along with the parental belief that they have to make all kinds of decisions for their children.
- **Free Family (Laissez-Faire).** Families with a low conversational orientation or conformity orientation. They have relatively few interactions between family members. Parents show less interest in their children's decisions. Nor does it show any value communication by parents to children.

Liu [1] sees that the Covid-19 pandemic has established family relationships in ways that have not been done before and forced many individuals to live physically close to their siblings. The lockdown makes all family members stay at home at one point since schools close, shops close and employees are laid off.

Nonetheless, staying family quality time with extended family is the most important part of maintaining well-being and staying positive while maintaining physical distance. Doing things together can increase family involvement in one's life [9].

C. *Basic Concept of Family*

In essence, the family is the smallest unit as the core of a social system in society. As the smallest unit, the family is the basic and embryo of various elements of the human social system. A conducive family atmosphere will produce good community members because it is in the family that all family members learn the various basics of community life[10]

The family is a part of society whose role is very important to form a healthy culture. It is from this family that education for individuals begins and from the family a good social order will be created, so that to build a culture, it should be started from the family. Family sensitivity and intelligence are also needed to run and make a family effective. There are eight family functions namely.

- Religious function

- Reproductive function
- Protection function
- Socialization and education functions
- Economic function
- The function of love
- Socio-cultural functions
- Environmental preservation function

Carrying out and making the eight family functions effective will clarify where the goals and direction for the formation of a family are, the results of which are family, community, nation and state and it will be made clear that the role of a mother in forming a family is not something that can be carried out by the mother alone but is an integral part of the role of a father, society and government[10]

Family members have the option of doing things that have become routine and used to be done before where they can do what they used to enjoy together or do new things, types of activities that have never been done before. Providing quality family time is an opportunity where all family members will get quality time in the family, encouraging the family how they handle situations[11].

D. Child Personality

The relationship between personality and socialization is essentially correlated, because a person's personality cannot be carried from the moment he is born. Personality definition is a person's psychological tendency to take an action including feelings, wills, thoughts, attitudes and open behavior or actions [12]. The definition of personality can include three things, namely [13]

- Is an abstraction of human behavior patterns
- Are characteristic characteristics that are distinctive and consistent as the identity of an individual

Discusses the habits, attitudes and values of the unique characteristics of a human when he deals with other people.

III. METHOD

The research method used in this study is a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. Qualitative research methods are distinguished from quantitative research methods in the sense that qualitative research methods do not rely on evidence based on systematic logic, the principle of numbers or statistical methods. Actual speech, gestures and other social actions are the mental material for qualitative analysis.[14] The data collection technique used was through interviews with parents in the city of Medan related to how parents' interpersonal communication in shaping the child's personality during the covid-19 pandemic and strategies for developing the child's personality during the covid-19 pandemic in Medan City, in addition to observation and documentation, needed to strengthen the validation of research data. The research data analysis technique used qualitative data analysis techniques with categorization patterns and data reduction obtained in the field based on the formulation of the problem studied regarding how parental interpersonal communication in shaping children's

personalities during the covid-19 pandemic and strategies for developing children's personality characters during the covid-19 pandemic in Medan City

IV. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Parents' interpersonal communication in shaping children's personalities in Medan is very interesting to discuss, because success in shaping children's emotions is influenced by who the parents are. One aspect of communication in shaping children's emotions is by paying attention to children. There are several important aspects in fostering good interpersonal communication in shaping children's personalities in Medan, among others. First, Attention is a mental process when a stimulus or series of stimuli in the form of verbal or nonverbal messages can become prominent in awareness when other stimuli are weakened about selective attention that must be considered, among others, we pay attention to certain things in accordance with beliefs, attitudes, values, habits followed, norms that are considered as standards of human behavior and the interests of parents. Parents tend to strengthen existing beliefs, attitudes, values and interests in directing our attention to children, either as communicators (message givers) or communicates (listeners), parents in general have an interest in their children by paying attention in the form of advice to their children regarding activities carried out by children in general so that messages conveyed through communication can shape the child's personality. Parents who have good personalities will usually have children who have good personalities too, because in a family as a complete unit, it is the first time a child grows and develops before knowing the outside world. The way of education forms the mindset of the first child when it is introduced in the family environment. Parents as the main actors in the formation of a child's personality that shape the character and mindset of a child as a whole person

Second, the understanding given by parents to children already has its own characteristics when conveying what they want and what they think. So, parents must also be able to understand their parents in order to determine their attitude wisely and wisely. The need for two-way communication, building friendships, and openness (open minded) are considered ways to shape children's personalities in Medan City to overcome anti-social behavior or contrary to the norm system that has been adopted by society due to modernism. Personal understanding that is built over time can encourage parents to understand and are willing to be understood. We share secrets, fears and personal experiences with someone who is trusted, but not everyone else. This is what Buber said by us becoming fully human in front of others. Personal understanding is a process that grows and develops as long as we communicate interpersonal.

Parents are encouraged to provide understanding to children about the activities carried out by children both in the family and in the environment so that existing problems can be overcome by parents so that open mindedness is created in fostering good and effective interpersonal communication. Parents are required to be able to understand and understand what the child wants, if that desire endangers the child, then what parents do is provide an explanation or advice about the pros and cons of an activity that the child wants, such as playing until coming home late at night will

have an impact on health. and security. In Medan City, social deviance and criminality actions are dominated by children, especially teenagers, such as truancy, illegal racing, playing internet cafes until late at night, fights between students are the responsibility of the parents together, because parents are the basic foundation for parents. has a characteristic that is fundamental in shaping the personality of the child. The persistence of parents in the guidance and responsibility of parents will reflect the extent to which parents are able to shape the child's personality.

Third, motivation really needs to be conveyed by parents to children. Motivation can be given in the form of advice or foresight. Motivation given by parents is usually positive so that children can increase their activities, motivation can also be given through rewards / rewards and punishments, for example giving gifts to children who excel in school and in their environment and punishment for children if they commit violations but punishment should be actions taken by parents that aim to educate the child not to injure the child.

The fourth is reward or punishment (reward or punishment). Reward or punishment is a reward or appreciation given by parents to children should need to be given because for children it can improve the quality of children's knowledge and punishment given to children if the child commits acts of violation committed in their environment. Behavior deviations committed by children can be overcome through positive efforts by parents in general. In order to deal with children's problems, sometimes all or part of the family (father, mother and children) performs therapy at the same time. Usually this is done if it is judged that the problems faced by children are closely related to the behavior or approaches taken by parents or other family members at home to the problematic teenager. The purpose of this family therapy technique is so that the family as a unit can function properly and each family member can carry out their respective roles that support and complement each other with other family members[15].

Strategy For The Development of Child Personality Characters during the Covid19

In shaping the child's personality to overcome all actions that violate the rules, there are several strategies carried out by parents, namely first Playing is an activity that the child likes the most. Playing can provide knowledge and understanding because in the process of playing there are observations. This observation can build a child's mindset and play can also lead to a higher degree of familiarity between parents and children. The child will feel that he is part of a family. Playing outdoors or doing physical activities together such as morning walks, morning sports and enjoying the morning sunshine are certainly an effort to shape children's personalities during the covid-19 pandemic and can also increase the body's immunity.

Second, the role models of parents during the covid19 pandemic are also part of the children's personality character development strategy. Indeed, the fruit does not fall far from the tree, which illustrates the similarity of character between parents and children, but the modeling that is done requires a process and must become a habit in the family. Children will accept / imitate / imitate actions that are considered habits (habit) they get from their parents. Parents who are diligent in worshipping, the children will imitate what behavior they

do, the habits of parents who are not smokers, so the children at home will follow the habit.

Third, a strategy that can shape children's personality development during the covid-19 pandemic is by routine advice by parents such as taking care of health, avoiding crowds. and keep your distance. Parents in general have an interest in their children by paying attention in the form of advice to their children regarding activities carried out by children in general so that messages conveyed through communication can run well. Advice given by parents usually makes a comparative picture of the good or bad of an activity carried out by the child so that the child can determine the attitude of the advice given by the parent. Difficulties experienced by children will be easily overcome and resolved through good and adequate communication. In this interaction the child will get affection, provide all the needs the child needs, acceptance, rules and discipline resulting from parental exemplary which can encourage the level of self-confidence competence in performing appropriate roles and is considered appropriate and normal in the environment.

Fourth, attention is an effort to shape the character of a child's personality during the covid-19 pandemic. The attention made by parents can be in the form of motivation for the importance of maintaining health, quality of life, and appreciation. Parents need to make communication patterns and children feel protected from parents and spared them from various difficulties or life tests. Attention can be said to be control (supervision) because the questions that are spoken by the parents are sometimes controlling or supervisory, such as the question this morning to learn what and whether there are assignments given by the teacher at home are questions that have multiple interpretive answers. The first answer just wants to know the activities of the child and the second wants to ascertain what is seen in the field and train the honesty of the child. Without the role of parents, children feel weak, afraid and discouraged.

The Fifth strategy is to apply the punishment method, which is a method that can be used by parents in educating children who are considered to have made mistakes such as violating health procedures (health protocol). In punishing children, it should not only use spanking, but it can be something that is educational.

V. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the research obtained, it can be concluded that parental interpersonal communication during the covid-19 pandemic in shaping children's personalities in Medan City can be seen in several aspects of behavior that parents need to do, including attention, understanding, motivation, rewards and punishments that are routinely carried out. in developing a child's personality. In addition, the strategies used by parents in shaping the child's personality include exemplary parents, considering children as playmates, as well as positive advice given to children. On the sidelines of activities, parents also always remind their children the importance of implementing health protocols such as keeping a distance, washing hands frequently, increasing the body's immune system by getting enough rest and eating regular food.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The authors profusely expresses his be grateful to Allah SWT. Thank you to APIK (Association of Communication Sciences Higher Education) as the organizer of the "Jogjakarta Communication Conference" activity, the Dean and Communication studies study program of FISIP UMSU and fellow lectures. For all the shortcomings of this paper, the authors expect input from criticism and suggestions to build a study of interpersonal communication during the covid-19 pandemic. I hope this article will be use to all.

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