



Family Communication Patterns in Javanese Culture and Their Influence on Children's Emotional Development: A Qualitative Study

Kalfin^{1*}, Astrid Sulistya Azahra², Siti Hadiaty Yuningsih³

¹*Statistics Study Program, Faculty of Science, Technology and Mathematics, Matana University, Tangerang, Indonesia*

²*Master's Program of Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, Universitas Padjadjaran, Jatinangor, West Java, Indonesia*

³*Department of Mathematics, Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, National University of the Republic of Indonesia, Bandung, Indonesia*

*Corresponding author email: kalfin@matanauniversity.ac.id

Abstract

This research examines the application of communication patterns in Javanese cultural families and their impact on children's emotional development. Qualitative descriptive methods were used with in-depth analysis of field data. Data was obtained from interviews and observations of 18 families with socio-economic variations. The results show that family communication patterns play a central role in shaping children's emotional development. Authoritarian, permissive, and authoritative/democratic communication patterns were identified as the main patterns. Implementing democratic communication patterns has a positive impact on children's emotional development. Family understanding regarding the relationship between family communication and children's emotional development needs to be improved. The combination of Javanese and modern cultural values and religious life plays an important role in supporting children's emotional development. This research provides an in-depth view of communication patterns and their influence on children's emotional development in the context of Javanese culture. It is hoped that the implications of these findings will help families strengthen positive relationships and support children's emotional well-being in a rich and diverse cultural context. By understanding more deeply about communication patterns in Javanese families and their impact on children's emotional development, it is hoped that this research can provide practical guidance for families in strengthening positive relationships and supporting children's emotional well-being in the unique Javanese cultural context.

Keywords: Family Communication, Patterns, Children's Emotional Development, Javanese Culture

1. Introduction

Every time we talk about child development, we cannot avoid discussing the very crucial role in this process, namely the family. Family is the first foundation a child knows, and the role of the family is very significant in shaping a child's development. Through the family, children learn how to interact with other people, recognize themselves, and at the same time learn to manage their emotions (Rhee et al., 2003). How these emotions are regulated and expressed depends greatly on the communication patterns implemented in the family, especially in the way parents educate and care for their children. In this case, parents are the main foundation in forming the values that will be held and practiced by children. The actions and behavior of each family member, especially parents, will be "recorded" in the child's memory and influence their emotional development, and ultimately even shape their personality (Salisch, 2001).

On the other hand, often emotional development, known as emotional intelligence, is forgotten by many families. Many parents still prioritize developing intellectual intelligence (IQ) alone. In fact, emotional intelligence is something that needs to be instilled and strengthened in every child, because emotional intelligence is very closely related to various other aspects of intelligence, such as social, moral, interpersonal and spiritual intelligence. Therefore, monitoring children's emotional development is not an easy thing for parents.

In fact, being a parent in today's age is a very challenging task. Changes in society have brought new values that are often very different from the values held by parents in the past. The way of communicating within the family is often considered no longer relevant to the dynamics of changes that are taking place. This happens because parents and their children come from different times with different cultures and changes taking place.

In today's changing atmosphere of society, families with a Javanese cultural background often experience clashes with new values introduced by the new social system. Problems related to children's education are inevitable. In this case, special knowledge is needed in an effort to build effective family communication patterns so that they are able to guide children towards healthy emotional development. Families are often faced with a dilemma between maintaining old cultural values or opening themselves to new cultural values.

New problems arise in the family when there is the presence of parties other than nuclear family members, such as servants, grandmothers, grandfathers, or other relatives. The phenomenon of the development of communication technology also plays an important role, even giving rise to the term "television generation" because children have such a close relationship with television.

Seeing this phenomenon, in line with the progress and dynamics of society, discussions regarding family efforts in building communication patterns for children's emotional development become very relevant as long as there is recognition that every child is a unique individual and has invaluable value.

From these problems, several key questions arise: (1) What are the communication patterns applied by Javanese families in their daily lives? (2) What is families' understanding and awareness of the importance of communication within the family and the emotional development of their children? And (3) What is the influence of implementing family communication patterns on children's emotional development, related to their socio-economic background?

In order to answer this research problem, the aim of this study is to deeply understand and analyze: (1) The application of communication patterns applied by Javanese families in daily life, including parents' efforts to instill cultural values that support emotional development. children, as well as factors that influence the choice of this communication pattern; (2) Family understanding and awareness regarding the importance of communication within the family and the emotional development of their children; (3) The influence of implementing family communication patterns on children's emotional development, taking into account socio-economic background factors such as parents' education level, family economic conditions, type of work, social status, and the influence of the living environment. To understand the phenomenon of communication in the family, it is necessary to understand the following aspects (Davies & Ikeno, 2011).

The family has a central role in children's primary socialization, where children learn values, morals, ethics and social norms. This process takes place intensively and continuously among family members from generation to generation. The family is the place where a person's behavior such as language, emotional expression, and skills are learned and developed. Through the family, children's personalities are formed, and they develop images of themselves, others, and principles that will guide them throughout life.

The essence of this whole process really depends on the implementation of communication patterns within the family. This communication pattern is reflected in the way parents interact and communicate with their children. In the book "Raising a Responsible Child," Elizabeth Ellis (Cole et al., 2002) identifies three communication styles for parents in carrying out their role, namely authoritarian, permissive and authoritative styles.

Parents with an authoritarian style apply strict rules that children must follow. They believe that children must obey and submit to authority without having room to voice their opinions. This communication pattern is based on structures and traditions that have rigid rules.

In contrast, parents with a permissive style try to educate their children with understanding, but often act very passively when it comes to setting limits or dealing with non-compliance. They are less strict and rarely have clear rules for children, believing that children should develop according to their own nature.

This family communication pattern plays an important role in shaping children's emotional development and impacts how children learn to communicate, manage emotions, and respond to the world around them. Furthermore, in the context of a family with a Javanese cultural background, this communication pattern can also be influenced by the values and cultural norms that have been passed down from generation to generation in the family.

Parents with an authoritative style try to create clear boundaries and provide an environment that supports children's development. They provide guidance but also allow children to provide their input and opinions. Children's independence is highly valued, but they are also required to meet high standards of responsibility towards family, friends and society (Hakim et al., 2012).

Toddlerhood is a key period in the formation of basic personality patterns, during which children's emotional potential develops rapidly. At this time, children look for ways to behave to gain recognition, feel significant, and feel involved in the family. The search for meaning and space in the family is very important for children, especially in the four to six year age range.

The family has a key role in revealing a child's personality and traits. Therefore, effective communication in the family is not only about how often communication occurs, but also how communication is carried out. Openness, empathy, mutual trust, honesty, and supportiveness are important components of effective family communication (Widyawati et al., 2021).

Being a good parent requires more than just intellectual intelligence, it also involves personality and emotional dimensions. Emotional openness includes awareness of children's feelings, the ability to empathize, comfort and guide

them. Affirmative affection, involving oneself actively in a child's emotional life, is a form of affection that facilitates a child's emotional development.

Emotions are impulses to act that are shaped by life experiences and culture. A person's ability to understand and respond to emotions, both in themselves and others, is part of emotional intelligence. Emotional intelligence includes qualities such as empathy, expression and understanding of feelings, self-control, independence, adaptability, likability, interpersonal problem solving, perseverance, solidarity, friendliness, and respect.

Parents who act as "emotional coaches" need to take advantage of precious moments in the family to build effective communication patterns. They play an active and meaningful role in training children to develop emotional skills through empathy and understanding. In this process, children are taught to deal with various emotions, both positive and negative, which will shape their emotions as adults later. This interaction process shapes children's experiences through interpretation of the meaning they capture during interaction, in accordance with symbolic interaction theory which emphasizes the importance of language, meaning and thought in shaping social reality.

2. Methodology

This research adopts a descriptive qualitative approach with in-depth interpretation of field findings based on existing facts regarding children's emotional development through the implementation of family communication patterns. The qualitative method is a research approach that produces descriptive data in the form of speech or writing, as well as the behavior of the people being observed.

This research uses a single case study form because the research target is Javanese families who have similar characteristics (Yum, 1988). The main data sources are informants or sources from 18 families selected based on various socio-economic status characteristics, with the aim of getting as much information as possible from various sources that have access to information related to the research problem.

The sampling technique used was purposive sampling or often called criterion-based selection (Sutopo, 2002). Data collection techniques include in-depth interviews and direct observation with the researcher's role as a passive observer.

Data analysis uses an interactive analysis model which consists of three main components: data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions (Susanto et al., 2020). These three analysis components are interrelated and interact in the data analysis process.

The validity of the data is checked using the triangulation technique, which is an inspection technique to ensure the validity of the data by utilizing other sources or data outside the existing data for checking or comparison purposes (Haslam et al., 2020). In this research, triangulation techniques were used on sources or data, methods and theories to ensure the validity of the findings.

3. Results and Discussion

A child's emotional abilities are something that has been there since birth, and even develops since in the womb. This means that every individual has an intrinsic emotional basis. However, as children get older, children's emotional development is greatly influenced by their interactions with the surrounding environment, indicating that emotions are a mental process that is formed through learning.

In this learning process, children absorb every behavior, assessment and treatment of the people around them. Apart from that, temperament or inherited factors also play an important role in forming the basis of children's emotions. This factor is influenced by genetics inherited from parents, especially from mothers during pregnancy. The hormones that develop during pregnancy will have a significant effect on the child's temperament.

A child's learning process begins in the family environment, making the family a key element in a child's emotional development. This is where family communication patterns play an important role in shaping and directing children's emotional development. As we get older, this learning process is not only limited to the family, but also extends to environments outside the family. Therefore, children's emotional development is also influenced by interactions with other people outside the family.

The application of communication patterns is a reflection of interactions between family members, especially between parents and children. There are several family socio-economic factors that influence this pattern, such as parental education, type of work, social status, living environment, and the beliefs held. These factors cannot be separated from cultural influences, especially Javanese culture which is reflected in values, norms, behavioral patterns, as well as ideas or thoughts that become symbols that communicate with each other in the context of their family and environment.

In the family, there are three main communication patterns used by parents towards children, namely authoritarian, permissive and authoritative or democratic patterns. These three patterns are often applied situationally, depending on the spatial and temporal context. At an early age, authoritarian communication patterns are considered more effective for instilling moral values. However, as children get older, democratic communication patterns become important to

train independence, courage to express opinions, hone the ability to solve interpersonal problems, courage to express feelings, and responsibility.

In social interactions, each individual builds self-identity by paying attention to and being cared for by other people. We also form our identity and self-worth by comparing ourselves to others. Communication here includes sharing experiences and understanding the experiences of others through the use of exchanged symbols.

Emotional development, as part of personality formation, cannot be separated from the cultural context. Our responses or actions are at some level determined genetically, but can also be influenced by cultural factors. Our ideas, values, actions, even emotions, including our nervous system, are products of culture. The central nervous system, especially its neocortex, grows and develops in interaction with culture. Without guidance from meaningful symbolic systems, the nervous system cannot direct behavior or organize our experiences.

The influence of culture, especially in the context of Javanese culture, is very real in the implementation of family communication patterns. In every society, the family acts as a bridge between the individual and his culture. An individual's childhood experiences are influenced by the institutional structures within the family and with these experiences, individuals gain understanding, emotional skills, and moral values that enable them to act as adult members of society.

The research results also show that families' understanding and awareness of the importance of communication within the family and its impact on children's emotional development is still low. Many families focus more on children's cognitive abilities than their emotional abilities. In addition, clear commitments and boundaries related to family communication and children's emotional development are often absent, so that family communication is considered a routine without significant meaning for children's development.

The influence of implementing family communication patterns on children's emotional development will have a positive impact if families implement a democratic communication culture. A democratic family is characterized by a balance between rules and freedom, so that every child understands that every action has consequences. Therefore, it is important for children to grow up in an atmosphere of freedom accompanied by responsibility, independence and obedience to order in social life.

To reach this stage, it is important to socialize values from an early age. In the context of Javanese culture, the combination of Javanese values and modern values that emphasize children's independence and resilience is very important. Some fixed Javanese moral values, such as etiquette, politeness and respect, must be maintained. However, the instillation of these values must be adjusted to the child's stage of development, their ability to understand, and their mental absorption capacity. Apart from that, values such as independence, consistency, order and responsibility must also be instilled from an early age.

This socialization process will be more ideal if it is supported by religious life factors in the family. A person's spirituality will fundamentally influence their thinking, feeling and behaving patterns. Families who practice their religious teachings in everyday life will provide great benefits. Children will understand good and bad moral values, they will be used to empathy, love others, be honest, consistent, and be able to solve problems with a clear mind without being marred by anger. All of this will thrive in a democratic, interactive and open communication atmosphere.

4. Conclusion

Based on this research, several important conclusions can be drawn regarding the implementation of communication patterns in Javanese cultural families and their influence on children's emotional development:

- a). Family as the Main Socialization Agent: The family plays a key role in children's socialization, both in terms of morals, ethics and social values. Interactions within the family form the basic pattern of a child's personality, especially at an early age (4-6 years).
- b). Three Main Communication Patterns Parents in families generally apply three communication patterns, namely authoritarian, permissive, and authoritative or democratic. This pattern can be applied situationally depending on the spatial and temporal context.
- c). Factors influencing the implementation of communication patterns The implementation of family communication patterns is influenced by family socio-economic factors, such as parents' level of education, type of work, social status, living environment and beliefs held. Javanese culture also influences values, norms and patterns of action in family communication.
- d). The Importance of Family Understanding and Awareness The conclusion of the research shows that family understanding and awareness of the importance of family communication and its influence on children's emotional development is still relatively low. Many families prioritize children's cognitive abilities over their emotional abilities.
- e). Positive Influence of Democratic Communication Implementing family communication patterns with a democratic approach has a positive impact on children's emotional development. Democratic communication

provides responsible individual freedom, teaches independence, courage to express opinions, and sharpens problem-solving abilities.

- f). Combination of Cultural and Modern Values In the context of Javanese culture, a combination of Javanese values and modern values is needed to support children's emotional development. It is important to maintain Javanese values such as etiquette and courtesy, while also teaching the values of independence, consistency and responsibility.
- g). The Role of Religion in Value Socialization Religious life in the family plays an important role in shaping children's moral values and behavior. Children who are raised with religious teachings tend to have empathy, consistency and the ability to solve problems clearly.

Thus, implementing democratic family communication patterns, supported by a combination of cultural and modern values and religious life, will make a significant positive contribution to children's emotional development. This requires awareness and active efforts from parents in forming a healthy and supportive family communication environment.

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