


## Interpersonal Communication Between Parents and Children in Households in Bontomate'ne Village, Maros Regency, South Sulawesi

Azizah Lutfiah Syam<sup>1\*</sup>, Muh. Akbar<sup>2</sup>, Arianto<sup>3</sup>

<sup>123</sup>Program Studi Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Hasanuddin, Indonesia

Corresponding Author  azizahlutfiahsyamofficial@gmail.com <sup>1\*</sup>

### ABSTRACT

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*This research focuses on how communication between parents and children occurs in families in Bontomate'ne Village, Maros. The researcher wants to deeply understand the communication process that takes place, as well as what obstacles parents face in communicating with their children. To achieve this goal, researchers used a qualitative approach with observation, interviews, and documentation methods. The data obtained was then analyzed in depth to describe the situation of communication in families in the village. The results showed that communication between parents and children in Bontomate'ne Village generally involves verbal and non-verbal communication. Parents tend to use a non-coercive approach and try to instill religious, social and moral values in their children. This study also identified several barriers that parents often face in communicating with their children. These obstacles include difficulties in understanding children, the influence of a less supportive surrounding environment, and children's emotional immaturity.*

**Keywords:** *Interpersonal Communication, Parents, And Children, Household..*

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## INTRODUCTION

Communication is something that is closely related to all aspects of social life. Humans as social beings always want to connect with other humans, always want to interact with other people, exchange information with people around them and even want to know what is happening in themselves. So, this curiosity forces humans to communicate. Communication is an interactive activity that cannot be avoided by anyone. Therefore, everyone must communicate. In general, communication is a process of conveying messages from one person to another with the aim of influencing a person's knowledge or behavior (Cangara, 2016). Interpersonal communication is communication carried out by individuals to exchange ideas or thoughts with other individuals (Hanani, 2017).

Interpersonal Communication according to Joshep A. Devito is the process of sending and receiving messages between two people, or between a small group of

people with some effects and some immediate feedback (Effendy, 2003). Meanwhile, according to R. Wayne Pace, interpersonal communication is a communication process that takes place between two or more people face to face (Cangara, 2014).

Communication in family relationships is also very important. Family relationships are relationships that are not easily broken off. In a family, parents play an important role in every development of their child. If in the family environment, parents and children have a good relationship, then the child will certainly set a good example. If parents provide good lessons, then the child will also set a good example. Interpersonal communication is communication that only exists between two people, such as husband and wife, two friends, teacher and student and so on (Mulyana, 2015).

Interpersonal communication can be interpreted as a process of exchanging meaning between two people who are communicating with each other. Each process of delivering a message refers to changes in attitudes and actions that occur, it can also be understood as an exchange that delivers and receives messages reciprocally. While in terms of meaning, interpersonal communication is something that is exchanged in the communication process that has a common understanding between the two people who are communicating with each other regarding the message delivered in the communication process (Daryanto & Raharjo, 2016).

In a household, parents play a very important role in the formation of a child's personality, especially in morals, socio-culture and prayer. Because, since childhood they grow, develop and live together in family ties. Many parents do not pay attention to how their children grow and develop. Currently, most parents are busy with their own activities, while their children are busy with their friends and games. Therefore, many families do not communicate well with each other because of their respective busyness. Most children who are not noticed by their parents and develop on their own with their environment are families that are not very harmonious. In fact, communication in the household between parents and children is very important in the form of interpersonal communication.

According to Imam Abu Al-Hamid Al-Ghazali in *Ihya Ulum ad-Din*, "children's education is a very important matter and must be prioritized over other matters" (Ministry of Religion of the Republic of Indonesia, 2017).

Early knowledge about religion is very important in the growth and development of children. In this case, the role of parents to communicate well is very important because children spend more time with their parents at home. Good interpersonal communication in shaping children's character is that parents must prioritize the interests of their children, but parents must also continue to control and supervise their children well, so that children's character can be formed well, can control themselves, have a good personality, be independent and have the nature to interact well with their friends. Conversely, if the communication between parents and children is wrong, the child is vulnerable and easily falls into negative things.

The role of parents is very important in educating children starting from implementing moral values to praying. This is because parents are the initial madrasah for children's education. However, some parents are still less aware that teaching children is an obligation that they must do and in this case many parents allow their children to not have morals, not have good ethics towards other humans and also do not perform prayers. This is because parents are busy outside the home which results in a lack of attention in educating children. Like parents who have the status of civil servants (PNS) who spend more time doing activities outside the home

than spending time educating children at home. Many teenagers, especially in Bontomate'ne Village, Mandai District, Maros Regency, do not have good morals towards their parents or friends, the socio-culture is not so good and they have not performed the five daily prayers, and the children here, especially teenagers, spend a lot of time just playing and socializing on media. This fact is what is happening in the Bontomate'ne Village community at this time. This is very concerning because teenagers their age should be studying but instead they only play games and socialize on media. This happens because of the lack of control from parents to supervise their children, so that children do what they want without any supervision from their parents.

## **METHOD**

Qualitative descriptive research is used to examine the condition of natural objects. Qualitative research can strengthen predictions of a symptom that applies based on data obtained in the field (Sukardi, 2007). This qualitative research is in the form of written or spoken words from people whose behavior is observed (Meoloeng, 2000). So, this can be used as a guide in clarifying the analysis of data to be studied in interpersonal communication between parents and children. This study also uses a descriptive research design format to describe, summarize various conditions, situations or social phenomena that exist in the community that are the objects of research and attempt to draw conclusions as a reality regarding the characteristics, nature or character of the phenomena studied (Bungin, 2007).

Primary data collection is needed to answer the researcher's questions. Primary data sources are considered more accurate because they are presented in detail (Purhantara, 2010).

Data collection techniques are carried out by observation, interviews and documentation which aim to make this research reliable. In data analysis, using the process of data reduction, data presentation and drawing conclusions.

Data analysis is an important part of research, especially qualitative research, because it helps collect and understand facts on the ground. The process includes data reduction to simplify and make it easier to understand data, data presentation to show meaningful patterns, and drawing conclusions to understand the meaning of the data clearly and simply.

The qualitative research instrument is the author himself conducting observations, interviews with informants with the help of tools such as mobile phones, books, pens and cameras. Mobile phones are used to take important pictures for recording, cameras are used to take pictures or important events during the interview, while books and pens are used to note down important things during the interview.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **1. Interpersonal Communication Process**

The communication process carried out between parents and children in the household is verbal communication, non-verbal communication, non-coercive communication and persuasive communication.

Verbal Communication is communication that uses spoken and written language. This communication becomes effective communication if the communicator and the communicant understand each other's language. Communication that is often done with each other at home proves that the

communication that is done is verbal communication which uses spoken language because they tell each other stories. Verbal communication is one of the effective communications that can be done in a household.

Nonverbal communication is communication that does not use spoken or written language but uses symbols. In households, parents also use a lot of nonverbal communication in certain situations. For example, if a child wants something but the situation and conditions do not allow the parents to grant it, then usually the parents use nonverbal communication with certain symbols.

In a household, there are many things that are the responsibility of parents to their children. If there is coercive communication in the household, then the communication that occurs in the household is not good, especially between parents and children. Interpersonal communication is effective communication carried out in the household between parents and children. Parents are responsible for teaching good education to children. Morals, socio-culture and prayer are important things to instill in children. Parents are the first people who should teach children about morals, socio-culture and prayer in everyday life.

Persuasive communication is one of the effective ways to educate children to be better by persuading them and enticing them with something they like, but if this is done continuously it is also not good for children because they will do something if they get a reward.

## 2. Barriers to Interpersonal Communication

The obstacles that occur in carrying out interpersonal communication activities between parents and children in households in Bontomate'ne Village are that it is difficult to understand especially in educating children in religious teachings, of course parents need high patience in educating their children. Teaching children must be done by repeating continuously so that children can understand what is being taught.

A bad environment becomes an obstacle for parents in educating children. Therefore, parents must fortify their children with religious knowledge.

Children who are still teenagers have an emotional level that is still unstable. Usually teenagers only want to do something according to their wishes. When controlled by their parents, they usually avoid and do not want to do what their parents tell them to do. Teenagers usually only want to do what they want, children also want their parents to just supervise their children without having to force them to do things they don't like.

Technological advances have good impacts but also have bad impacts on human life. But the bad impacts that are more pronounced are due to technological advances. Gadgets make humans into individual beings. In this case, it is not entirely the gadgets that are to blame, but humans must be able to better manage themselves. However, when children are in that position, the role of parents is what should be relied on. Parents must be able to provide an understanding to their children that playing gadgets too often is not a good thing.

Table 1. Types of Communication Used

Types of Communication	Example	Frequency
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Verbal	Everyday conversation, telling stories, giving instructions	Very often
Nonverbal	Gestures, facial expressions, eye contact	Often
Persuasive	Persuading children to pray, providing motivation	Quite often

Table 2. Main Communication Themes

Theme	Example
Instilling Values	Teaching honesty, good manners
Socialization	Teaches how to interact with others
Religious education	Teaching prayer, reading the Quran

Table 3. Communication Challenges Faced

Challenge	Reason	Impact
Difficulty Understanding	Difference in age and experience	Miscommunication
Environmental Influence	Peers, social media	Deviant behavior
Unstable Emotions	Hormonal changes, peer pressure	Conflict

## CONCLUSION

Based on the main discussion of interpersonal communication between parents and children in households in Bontomate'ne Village, namely parents carry out interpersonal communication with children using verbal communication, communication using non-verbal communication, communication without forcing, instilling moral values in children, instilling socio-cultural values in children, instilling prayer worship values in children.

The obstacles faced by parents in carrying out interpersonal communication with children are difficulty in understanding, poor environment, unstable emotions, and being busy with their own world.

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