

# The Role of Parent Communication in Accompanying Children during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Analysis Study of Family in Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, Aceh Utara Regency)

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## Abstract

Communication is very important in all areas of life, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic, especially in a family, parental communication is very important for children, where parents are novice teachers for children. This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive analysis approach. In the sense of seeing the extent of the role of parental communication in accompanying children during the COVID-19 pandemic and what obstacles and support were carried out by parents in assisting children during the COVID-19 pandemic in Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency by way of interviews, observations and documentation then the data that has been collected is analyzed. The results of the study can be seen that the role of parental communication in accompanying children during the COVID-19 pandemic is very effective, for example giving motivation to children, inviting children to study together, building intimacy in communicating with children, keeping the house clean and reminding children to always wash their hands. and feet every time they enter the house. The supporting factors are the existence of a gampong study center which is active as usual so that parents feel a little lighter in communicating, there is direction and guidance from school teachers even though it is done online. While the inhibiting factor is that parents do not understand how to operate cellphones so that they do not optimally control children when using cellphones, parents have difficulty understanding learning material from school, parents do not have enough time, even it is difficult in terms of economy in filling pulses, so that there is a lack of patience and also find it difficult to cultivate children's interest in learning.

## Keywords

communication; parents; children; covid-19



## I. Introduction

Today's world surprised by the emergence of the covid-19 virus or usually called the corona virus, is a creature invisible to the naked eye without any tools. Its rapid transmission can attack various groups of people in various parts of the world, this virus is very susceptible to causing death. China was recorded as the first country to report a case of COVID-19 in the world, which then spread to other countries.

Indonesia is one of the countries that have felt the impact of the pandemic, especially in the field of education, which has seen a very large impact. Because in order to stop the spread of the corona virus, all students and teachers are learning from home which is suddenly done without any preparation. The unpreparedness of all parties is a big obstacle too, the change from face-to-face or offline (outside the network) to online (in the network) requires readiness from all parties, starting from the government, schools, teachers, students and especially parents, because in this situation so that children spend all the time each day with their parents in their respective homes.

Talking about communication is talking about the interaction of human life, because without communication, interaction between humans will not occur, either individually, in groups, or in organizations. Two people are said to interact if each performs an action and a reaction. Actions and reactions carried out by humans, whether individually, in groups or in organizations in communication, are referred to as acts of communication.

Effective communication affects changes in opinions and attitudes, communication will be more effective if the communicant has pleasure in communicating. On the other hand, it cannot avoid failure in the event of a bad relationship. Every human being communicates, communicators not only convey messages but also the proximity of the communicator to the communicant. Communication is very important in all spheres of life, especially in the family as a person's main place to go home and gather with the closest people. In the family, parents act as companions as well as guides for children, in the process parents act as communicators and children act as communicants, so it becomes a conclusion that all these processes will not be achieved without communication.

Communication planning is the first step for all types of activities. Including starting development activities, communication planning is a very important part. Sean MacBride negates that communication becomes a cultural tool that causes social integration. With communication, attitudes and motivations someone will be encouraged or influenced to behave, and it will extend to other environments. That is why, individuals with their awareness will play a major role in development. (Kholil, S. et al. 2019)

The results of the first observation and interview with one of the private employees, Mr. Muhammad Isa, who fought in the field, showed the increasing need for the role of the family, especially parents in accompanying children in Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency, with a population of 1,345 people, most of whom are trading professionals and civil servants with 272 children attending school aged over 6/sd17 years. The reason the researcher chose this place as the research location is because in this village most parents send their children to formal education (not boarding schools), then one of the impacts of the covid-19 pandemic is that children learn online (on the network) at home very much also felt by parents.

Therefore, parents are required to be able to build good communication in carrying out their roles, it is hoped that parents will be able to interact and take full responsibility for their children and their future. While at the same time restoring the initial function of the family as the center of all activities, the main place of education for children.

## **II. Review of Literature**

The theory that the researcher uses here is the theory of information diffusion referring to the theory of the information diffusion model developed by Jalaluddin Rakhmat, which is a communication process that establishes certain points in the dissemination of information through space and time from one agent to another. This information diffusion model of mass

media has different effects at different points in time, ranging from generating information to influencing adoption, namely acceptance or rejection.

Using this model, researchers found how new information was spread to adoption units in the form of messages, news, events and new ideas during the COVID-19 period. In addition, it also looks at the extent to which the media affects the diffusion effect which is determined by the intermediate variable or called the antecedent.

As another supporting theory, this diffusion model was also developed by Marshall McLuhan in Stephen W. Littlejohn and Karen A. Foss, namely classical media theory. Then the theory of Richard and Graeme as stated in the book *Communication Science*, where there are ten communication functions that are often used by the public, including: (1) survival, (2) cooperation, (3) personal needs, (4) relationships, (5) influence, (6) power, (7) social needs, (8) information, (9) understanding the world, (10) forms of self-expression,

According to the researcher, this theory is very suitable to be associated in this study, because in the researcher's view parents are one of the main figures, so if it is associated with this theory, parents are one of the extensions for children to achieve a bright future.

### **III. Result and Discussion**

#### **3.1. Parent and Child Communication**

##### **a. Definition of Communication**

Communication becomes a very important thing in this life anywhere and anytime, including in the family environment. The formation of intensive, dynamic and harmonious communication in the family is everyone's dream. The following is the definition of communication according to some experts:

- 1) According to Wexley and Yukl in the book *Communication Theory*, Communication can be defined as the delivery of information between two or more people.
- 2) According to Dale S. Beach, communication is the transfer of information and understanding from one person to another.
- 3) Communication according to Onong Uchjana Effendi in the book *Management of Public Relations and Communication Media* comes from the Latin word: *communicatio* which means "notification" or "exchange of thoughts". Thus, broadly speaking, in a communication process there must be elements of similarity in meaning so that there is an exchange of thoughts or understanding between the communicator and the communicant.

From the various definitions of communication mentioned above, it can be seen that experts provide a definition of communication according to their point of view in viewing communication. Each emphasizes a different meaning, scope and context. This shows that communication science as part of social science is a multi-disciplinary science.

Harjani Hefni in his book entitled *Islamic Communication* writes that communication in Arabic is 'tawashul'. 'Tawashul comes from the word 'washala' which means 'until'. Thus tawashul / communication is the process of exchanging information carried out by two or more parties and then becoming mutual understanding.

##### **b. Understanding Parents**

Parents are people who are older or people who are elderly, but generally in society the understanding of parents is people who have given birth to us, namely mothers and fathers, apart from those who have brought us into this world, mothers and fathers are also those who take care of and who have guided their children. by setting a good example in living daily life, besides that parents also introduce their children to the things that exist in this world and answer clearly about something that the child does not understand, then the first knowledge

received by the child is from parents because parents are the center of the child's spiritual life and as a cause of getting to know the outside world, So every child's emotional reactions and thoughts in the future are influenced by his attitude towards parents or mothers and fathers play an important and very influential role in the education of children.

### **c. Definition of child**

In general, what is meant by children are descendants or generations as a result of sexual intercourse or intercourse (sexual intercross) between a man and a woman, both in marriage and outside marriage. Then in customary law as stated by Soerojo Wignjodipoero quoted by Tholib Setiadi, it is stated that: "unless the parents are seen as the successor of the generation, the child is also seen as a place where all the hopes of his parents in the future must be shed, are also seen as as a protector of their parents in the future when the parents are no longer physically able to earn a living.

Every child has its own privileges and uniqueness because it is a gift given by Allah SWT. We have no power and can't order what the child looks like, whether it's his face, body or character. That's all the rights of Allah swt. with the nature of His Qudrah and Iradah which will give us the gift of child trust. We can only ask and pray for the best gift and trust that is presented through our children.

### **3.2. Parental Responsibilities to Children**

Parents or family is the first and foremost educational environment for children, parental education emphasizes more on the moral aspect or personality formation than education to master science, the basis and purpose of providing individual family education, in accordance with the parents' view of life each, even though nationally for Indonesian families, they have the same basis, namely Pancasila.

Parents are the oldest educational institutions, informal, first and foremost experienced by children and educational institutions that are natural, parents are responsible for maintaining, caring for, protecting, and educating children so that they grow and develop properly.

That the development of a child's life is one of them determined by parents, then the responsibility of parents to children is very important for the future of the child, because a child first grows and develops with parents and according to the duties of parents in carrying out their role as responsible education providers. Prioritize the formation of the child's personality.

### **3.3. Factors Affecting Parental Communication**

Communicating is not easy, tSometimes a person can communicate well with the other person while at other times someone complains that they cannot communicate well with the other person. In the family, when two people communicate, they are actually in differences to achieve common understanding by expressing their own unique world. Even though those who communicate are between husband and wife, between father and son and between mother and child, and between child and child, only a small part of them know and share the same view.

There are a number of factors that influence communication in the family, as described below:

#### **a. Self-image and the image of others**

Everyone has a certain picture of his status, advantages and disadvantages. That image determines what and how he speaks and how he evaluates everything that goes on around him. In other words, self-image determines people's expressions and perceptions. Not

only self-image, the image of others also affects the way and ability of people to communicate. Other people have an image of what is unique to him. If a father imaged his son as a weak human being, snotty, ignorant, must be managed, then he is speaking in an authoritarian way. Finally, self-image and the image of others must be interrelated, completely complementary the combination of the two images determines the style and mode of communication.

b. Psychological atmosphere

Psychological atmosphere is recognized to influence communication. Communication is difficult to take place when someone is sad, confused, angry, feeling disappointed, feeling jealous, filled with prejudice, and other psychological conditions.

c. Physical environment

Communication can take place anywhere and anytime, with different styles, and ways. Communication that takes place in the family is different from what happens in school. Because these two environments are different. The atmosphere at home is informal, while the atmosphere at school is formal. Likewise, communication that takes place in society, because every society has norms that must be obeyed, then the communication that takes place must obey the norms.

d. Leadership

In the family a leader has a very important and strategic role. The dynamics of the relationship in the family is influenced by the pattern of leadership. The characteristics of a leader will determine how communication patterns will proceed in life that shapes these relationships.

e. Language Ethics

In verbal communication, parents and children must use language as a tool to express something. On one occasion the language used by parents to their children can represent an object that is being discussed appropriately. But on other occasions, the language used is not able to represent an object that is being discussed correctly. Therefore, in communicating, it is required to use language that is easy to understand between communicators and communication.

f. Age difference

Communication is influenced by age. That means everyone can't talk at will regardless of who they're talking to. Talking to young children is different from talking to teenagers. They have their own world to understand.

### 3.4. Covid-19 pandemic

#### a. Definition of Pandemic

The word pandemic in the KBBI (Big Indonesian Dictionary) is an epidemic that spreads simultaneously everywhere, covering a wide geographical area. Pandemic (from Greek pan which means all and demos which means people) are epidemic diseases which spread over a wide area, for example several continents, or worldwide. Flu pandemic events generally exclude seasonal flu cases. Throughout history, a number of disease pandemics have occurred, such as smallpox (variola) and tuberculosis. One of the most devastating pandemics is black death, which killed an estimated 75-200 million people in the 14th century.

A pandemic is an epidemic that occurs on a scale that crosses international borders, usually affecting large numbers of people. A disease or condition is not a pandemic just because it spreads widely or kills many people, the disease or condition must also be contagious, for example cancer responsible for many deaths but is not considered a pandemic because the disease is not contagious.

## **b. Definition of Covid-19**

Corona virus disease 2019 (corona virus disease/covid-19) is a new name given by the World Health Organization (WHO) to patients with 2019 novel coronavirus infection which was first reported from the city of Wuhan, China at the end of 2019. quickly and create a new pandemic threat. On January 10, 2020, the etiology of this disease was known for sure, including the ribonucleid acid (RNA) virus, namely a new type of corona virus, betacorona virus and one group with the corona virus that causes severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and middle east respiratory syndrome (MERS CoV). ). The diagnosis is made with the risk of traveling from Wuhan or an infected country within 14 days accompanied by symptoms of upper or lower respiratory tract infection, accompanied by laboratory evidence of the Covid-19 real time polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) examination. The World Health Organization divides the COVID-19 disease into suspected, probable and confirmed cases, while the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia (Kemenkes RI) classifies them into people under monitoring (ODP), patients under surveillance (PDP), people without symptoms (OTG) and confirmed patients if the Covid-19 RTPCR result is positive with any symptoms.

Until now there is no specific antiviral and vaccine so that supportive therapy is given according to the degree of disease. The spread of the disease is known through droplets and contact with droplets. The patient's prognosis is according to the degree of disease, mild upper respiratory tract infection is generally a good prognosis, but if there is acute respiratory distress syndrome (ARDS) the prognosis is poor, especially if accompanied by comorbidities, advanced age and a history of previous lung disease. The main prevention as well as management is case isolation to control the spread. Various studies are still needed to overcome the threat of this new virus pandemic.

## **c. The Importance of the Role of Parental Communication in accompanying Children during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

Interpersonal communication in the family that exists between parents and children is one of the important factors in determining individual development, the expected communication is effective communication. Effective communication can lead to understanding, pleasure, influence on attitudes, better relationships and actions as well as in the environment, it is hoped that effective communication between parents and children will be fostered, so that a harmonious relationship will occur.

Communication within the family is an important factor in determining whether a child is good or bad. If parents instill good attitudes towards their children, such as being honest, having noble character, being humble, being brave, being grateful for the blessings of Allah swt, carrying out amar ma`ruf nahi munkar and so on, then the child will grow up in honesty, formed with noble character, courageous and carry out the commandments of ma`ruf nahi munkar. Thus, if communication in the family is established harmoniously, the child will feel that he is very valuable, so that it will foster good attitudes and behavior in the child.

It looks very different what happens to closed or unequal communication in a family. This will cause the child to be closed, afraid, unappreciated, not getting attention from both parents and communication will not be a positive learning process for both of them. By creating effective communication where communication will promise communication between parents and children who have an extraordinary contribution to opportunities for the development of positive behavior. Obviously, the purpose of good communication between parents and children is to create a warm climate of friendship, so that children feel comfortable with their parents. In general, it can be seen that the role of parents during the COVID-19 pandemic is as follows:

### **1. Guiding and Providing Education as well as Motivation for Children in Learning**

The role of parents in guiding children to learn at home through various ways. The role of parents is a responsibility held by parents, especially in the field of education. In this case, parents have a role in guiding children to study at home to replace the function of teachers at school. Among the roles of parents in guiding children to learn, namely parents can become educators for their children, parents can be motivators, parents can become facilitators and parents can become guides for children in learning.

Educators in Islam are first and foremost parents, who are responsible for their students by seeking the development of all the potential of students, both effective potential, cognitive potential and psychomotor potential. The responsibility of parents as educators basically cannot be delegated to others, because teachers and community leaders in assuming educational responsibilities are only participation. So the responsibility borne by educators other than parents is a delegation of parental responsibilities because it is impossible for one thing or another to carry out children's education perfectly, especially in a society that is constantly developing.

### **2. Keeping and Ensuring Children to Implement a Clean and Healthy Life**

Parents need to emphasize the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy lifestyle for their children. Children are accustomed to always clean the body. Such parental treatment can make children always maintain personal hygiene .

The Covid-19 pandemic condition has finally made clean and healthy living behavior a routine and even a necessity. How not, the threat of the spread of Covid-19 is very easy to spread. This virus is able to survive on various types of objects within a few hours, some even up to several days. Therefore, the public is continuously encouraged to carry out clean and healthy living behaviors, which are most often done, such as washing hands every 1-2 hours, and washing hands in the right way. In addition, doing physical activities such as exercising regularly at home can be done. As well as, consuming healthy and balanced foods that contain various vitamins for endurance. However, high awareness alone is not enough, parents are also required to be able to manage their communication so that children feel unfettered by everything they have to get used to.

### **3. Maintaining Religious Values in Children**

Parents are highly demanded to be able to maintain religious values in a child, because parents are the main role model for their children. at the same time the family is the primary agent that determines the progress of a society because starting from the family basic education is taught. So that the civilization of society is determined by the civilization of a family, this means that the family is the primary social agent that makes a major contribution to the progress of society.

Communication within the family is an important factor in determining whether a child is good or bad. If parents instill good attitudes towards their children, such as being honest, having noble character, being humble, being brave, being grateful for the blessings of Allah swt, carrying out amar ma`ruf nahi munkar and so on, then the child will grow up in honesty, formed with noble character, courageous and carry out the commandments of ma`ruf nahi munkar. Thus, if communication in the family is established harmoniously, the child will feel that he is very valuable, so that it will foster good attitudes and behavior in the child.

Especially during this covid-19 pandemic that is being faced by the community, since the government decided students to carry out the formal education learning process online (in the network) then since then parents have returned to their main role, namely being fully responsible for their children, in the meaning of everything related to their children, both

regarding guiding and motivating children to learn, educating, caring for and ensuring children to live clean and healthy lives, as well as in guiding children to maintain religious values, all of these processes occur in families who make parents the main actors during the covid-19 pandemic.

### **3.5 The Role of Parental Communication in Accompanying Children During the Covid-19 Pandemic Period in Matang Bayu Village, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency**

Based on the results of interviews with Mrs. Fitri Handayani, S.pd, a civil servant as well as a teacher at one of the junior high schools outside the Baktiya Barat sub-district, who has a 14 year old daughter named Raisya Adilla Safitri said that motivating children is very important because children often feel very bored studying at home online and this lowers children's enthusiasm.

Sri Wahyuni, a trader who has a 9-year-old son named Aldi Saputra in an interview with the author, said that educating children during a pandemic is not easy because apart from that, parents are faced with various other household tasks. As a mother, Ibu Sri Wahyuni tries to build close communication with her child and often acts like a friend to her child so that the child feels comfortable at home. In guiding children to study, Mrs. Sri Wahyuni always reminds and familiarizes children to ask questions about anything that the child doesn't understand, so that Mrs. Sri Wahyuni will give motivation and solutions when children need. This is in accordance with the theory put forward by Onong Uchjana Efendi, effective communication can lead to understanding, pleasure, influence on attitudes, better relationships and actions as well as in an environment that is expected to foster effective communication between parents and their children, so that it will harmonious relationship occurs.

According to Mrs. Fitri Handayani, to stimulate children's learning enthusiasm, try to invite children to study together, try to provide solutions when children are confused in solving problems given from school and do not force children to study when they are bored. Meanwhile, in implementing a clean and healthy life for children, Ibu Fitri Handayani often invites children to keep the house clean, such as when the child has just finished playing outside the house, Ibu Fitri Handayani will remind the child to wash their hands and feet first and then be allowed to go back into the house.

From the results of interviews with several parents, it can be concluded that the main role of parents during the Covid-19 pandemic is in guiding and motivating children, providing education, maintaining and ensuring children to live clean and healthy lives, and maintaining religious values as explained above. Previously, this was in accordance with the theory explained by Amatus Y. Ismanto, parents need to emphasize the importance of maintaining clean and healthy living behavior for their children. Children are accustomed to always clean the body. Such parental treatment can make children always maintain personal hygiene.

So from the explanation above, it can be concluded that whatever the role of parents will be very easily accepted by children if only parents are able to process their communication as well as possible. Communication is often considered a trivial thing by some people, even though communication is the key to the success or failure of a person in carrying out his role.



### **3.6. Support and Barriers to Communication by Parents of Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency**

The support felt by the parents of Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency in assisting children during the covid-19 pandemic is an active children's study center as usual, although during the covid-19 pandemic, the existence of this study center is certainly very helpful. Children, this is part of the role of parents who are represented by the ustadz and ustadz who teach at the dayah.

According to Mrs. Sri Wahyuni, the obstacle faced when guiding children during the pandemic was that Mrs. Sri Wahyuni did not understand the child's learning material, so she could not help complete her child's school assignments to the fullest, while her 9-year-old son desperately needed an explanation of the material being studied. he studied. According to Mrs. Hallidza Wina Arfah and Mrs. Fitri Handayani, the obstacle while accompanying children during the pandemic is not having enough time to accompany children at home because they have to work.

In addition, the obstacles experienced by Mrs. Sumarni, Mrs. Nur Aini and Mrs. Sumarni are that she does not really understand how to operate a cellphone so that she is not able to control her child optimally, while children use cellphones every day with the excuse of completing school assignments, but over time his son looks like an addict and can not be separated from the cellphone.

Mr. Muhammad Isa said that the obstacle he experienced when accompanying children during the pandemic was that he found it difficult to cultivate interest in learning in his children, because his 6-year-old son preferred to spend time playing. While the obstacle experienced by Mrs. Eftiya Wahyuna is that she lacks patience in dealing with her child during the pandemic, her 17-year-old son is a little unruly.

From the respondent's information above, it can be concluded that the inhibiting factor is that parents do not understand how to operate gadgets, so they do not optimally control children when using gadgets which are also needed in terms of online learning, parents have difficulty understanding learning materials from school, parents do not have enough time to monitor and accompany children, parents are impatient and also find it difficult to cultivate children's interest in learning.

From the results of the study, it can be seen that the role of parental communication in assisting children during the COVID-19 pandemic in Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency, the first in the field of motivating and educating children is to motivate children, invite children to learn together, building intimacy in communicating with children, asking for assignments given at school and getting children used to asking about what they don't understand can be said to be very supportive for children, inseparable from religious values, both in children in reminding children to pray five times a day and giving more attention to children in terms of reciting, especially reciting the Koran. In terms of maintaining and ensuring that children practice a clean and healthy life, parents encourage them to keep the house clean and remind children to always wash their hands and feet every time they enter the house.

Although there are several obstacles that are difficult for parents to overcome, most parents in Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency, parents still try to carry out the roles that are their responsibility for their children to grow well. Communication has always been a supporter of every relationship, especially relationships within the family and more specifically between parents and children.

## IV. Conclusion

Based on the data that has been found and analyzed, it can be concluded that first, the role of parental communication in accompanying children during the Covid-19 period, Gampong Matang Bayu, Baktiya Barat District, North Aceh Regency is very effective, namely by building communication intimacy, especially in terms of learning before Covid. School is now learning at home so that parents are directly involved.

Second, the supporting factors are the direction and guidance from school teachers even though it is done online, the existence of a gampong recitation hall which is active as usual so that parents feel a little lighter in communicating with managing children because children are still being showered with advice from the ustadz and ustadz at the recitation hall so as to form a child's character that is a little easy to manage, so parents can more easily communicate with children while the obstacles are parents having difficulty accompanying children when there are complicated lessons from school, and being impatient in accompanying children, especially elementary and junior high school children.

### Suggestions

Parents, should cultivate more patience in accompanying children, especially in terms of building communication with children in order to achieve a complete and harmonious family and make children easy to manage, of course if communication can be arranged in such a way. And to children, to reduce the use of cellphones for things that are less important, use only as necessary. And should also be a child who is easy to manage.

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