

## THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION IN THE FAMILY BY DEVELOPING CHILDREN'S CHARACTER

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### Abstract

Family is the first and main place for a child to grow, learn and develop. Children at an early age are free to explore various curiosities that exist in their minds, with help from the environment and parents. At this age, forms of communication play a central role, meaning that the family is highly expected to participate as a model for children to emulate. Children are likened to white paper, the ones who determine whether the paper remains white or not, one of them is their parents. The phenomenon currently experienced by a large number of people in education is that parents surrender their duties completely to the school. In fact, this means that the child's character will not be formed well, because there is no continuity or strengthening of the character instilled by the teacher when the child is outside of school hours. Parents with a cultural background that has been rooted since childhood will teach their children the noble cultural values they got from their father and mother. As noble values are continuously passed down from generation to generation, a child's character can be formed from a pair of fathers and mothers who also have character. Education starts from when fathers and mothers get married and are ready to become parents who will one day have children who will be raised according to the cultural roots of their father and mother. Character can be developed from early childhood. The most effective instillation and development of character is through the process of communication and example from parents to their children.

**Keywords:** Family, Children, character.

### INTRODUCTION

Family is the first and main place for a child to grow, learn and develop. Children at an early age are free to explore various curiosities that exist in their minds, with help from the environment and parents. At this age, forms of communication

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Family is the first and most important place for a child to grow, learn and grow. From an early age, children are free to explore various curiosities that exist in their minds with the help of their environment and parents. At this age, forms of communication play a central role, so the family must be a role model worth emulating.

Every parent hopes that their children will make them happy in this world and the hereafter, but this is certainly not as easy as turning the palm of your hand. Because parents have to work hard and continue to pray to Allah SWT so that the child can become the person they want. (Nursanti et al., 2022) The hunt for information is strongly related to issues that arise for someone that needs to be handled as quickly as feasible by gathering as much information about them as possible to solve the problem. In order to find knowledge, one may question more experienced individuals, study books, or search the internet.

All parents want their children to be happy in the world and in the future, but of course it's not as easy as turning the palm of your hand. Because parents have to work hard and keep praying to Allah so that their children become who they want them to be.

The family is also a place for children to receive education from a young age because education in the family is the main education that a child receives. So that intelligence and knowledge are formed based on the family itself, how the family carries out their duties as parents and educates their children. The family is the first educator and front guard in realizing human resources. For this reason, total support from the family can bring about miracles in their lives. That is the urgency of the family's function as the smallest organization in the structure of society which also influences the character and mentality of the nation. Thus, a strong nation depends on good family development so that the family is able to become a pillar of development. The family is the first and foremost educator in realizing human resources. For this reason, full support from the family can give birth as if it were a miracle in their lives. This is the urgency of the family's function as the smallest organization in the social structure, which also influences the character and spirit of the country. Therefore, a strong country relies on building a good family so that it can support development.

According to the UN General Assembly resolution (in Megawangi, 2003) the main function of the family is as a vehicle for educating, nurturing and socializing children, developing the abilities of all its members so that they can carry out their functions in society well, and providing satisfaction and a healthy environment in order to achieve a prosperous family.

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experienced by a large number of people in education is that parents surrender their duties completely to the school. In fact, this means that the child's character will not be formed well, because there is no continuity or strengthening of the character instilled by the teacher when the child is outside of school hours.

In our daily lives we will never be separated from communication activities, in fact almost all of the time we spend is communicating with other people. Consciously or without realizing it, we can count from time to time, always involved in routine communication, the number of hours we spend talking, watching television, studying and so on. How far communication plays an important role in human life and the time spent in the communication process is very large. The question arises of how much time is spent in the communication process in daily life.

The question arises how long does it take to communicate in our daily life. Often found in nuclear families where there are father, mother, older brothers and sisters, of course there are various differences in communication patterns. Communication patterns can be understood as patterns of relationships between two or more people in sending and receiving messages in the right way so that the message in question can be understood. (Djamarah, 2004:1)

Of course, in a nuclear family with a father, mother, and siblings, there are many different types of communication patterns. Communication patterns can be understood as the relationship between two or more people when sending and receiving messages in the right way so that they can understand the message in question. (Djamarah, 2004: 1)

Communication patterns in the family, whether face to face, using friends or communication media such as cell phones, are interesting things to research. So the communication in the family has a big influence on the character and development of the child, so that the child will keep a lot of memories in the family. The communication created in a family that has a harmonious relationship will also have a very good impact on the growth and development of the child's character, in contrast to families that are based on disharmonious family conditions.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

The research method used is qualitative-descriptive. A qualitative approach is useful for describing reality, family conditions, relationships.

Observations are seen following the people studied in their daily lives, seeing what they see (Becker in Mulyana, 2001: 162). Data collection techniques using open or in-depth interviews which provide freedom for informants to provide views freely. Such interviews allow the researcher to ask in-depth questions.

## RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In communicating between parents and children in the family, most of the messages conveyed by parents to children can be concluded that on average the messages conveyed contain good message content. This is done because parents know that by giving good messages to their children it will influence the formation of their children's character into GOOD ones.

Families, in this case parents, always or often convey messages containing the meaning of honesty to each of their children in order to shape the child's character to be good and honest. The messages conveyed by parents or families in shaping children's character always provide messages or advice which include instructions not to act naughty. Most family communication patterns in shaping the character of children in the Beo Talaud subdistrict, the messages conveyed also contain elements of courage, or want to build a brave character for every child in the Beo Talaud subdistrict.

The communication patterns carried out by parents in the family using friends as media are often also used to convey messages about shaping their children's character. The communication patterns carried out by parents in the family using telephone or cellphone media are often also used to convey messages about shaping their children's character. Because cellphones have now become a necessity in modern society.

### 1. Training Children to Manage Karma

People who master good manners are always more successful in getting lots of friends, getting husbands or wives, getting jobs and being successful entrepreneurs, because they are able to make life enjoyable for everyone around them. Every child should gain knowledge about these manners.

### 2. Educating Children with Communication

Currently, most parents are successful in educating their children through two-way communication and relationships based on love. Proper communication will make it easier for children or parents to convey what they feel or know. With communication, parents can get to know each child as a unique person, and can establish a close relationship with their child (Go Setiawan, 2000, p.31).

There are three communication techniques that are most important to be able to build a type of loving relationship in the family, namely: telling, listening and empathizing. 1.) Tell stories. Parents can educate their children by telling stories. Parents who are willing to open up to their children will encourage children's self-openness. By giving children the opportunity to talk about what they have experienced, it will help children to open up more, be able to accept criticism and suggestions, improve themselves and help children to be able to express more about what they want. So children are more open with their parents. Children who never share their experiences with their parents will become children who tend to close

themselves off and are unable to express themselves. 2.) Listening. The ability to listen to other people is important for building relationships within the family. In essence, listening is accepting until a story ends, and trying to reconstruct in our minds the events and experiences of other people. When a child faces a problem, parents should listen to the child's story until the end before parents provide a solution. 3.) Having four means wanting to feel what other people feel. According to James Dobson, a psychologist says that the key to raising healthy and responsible children is to try to feel behind the child's eyes, meaning parents try to see what the child sees, think what they think, and feel what they feel. By empathizing we will be able to better understand the child's desires and needs.

### 3. Who Educates?

Many opinions say that a mother is much better at educating children than a father. This is not entirely true, because fathers also have the duty to educate children, wisdom, discipline and responsibility which are more dominantly owned by a father than a mother, need to be taught to children (Anisah, 2004, p.19).

### 4. When does children's education start?

Children's education begins when the baby is still in the mother's womb, by providing halal food, communication, listening to verses from the holy Koran, classical music, which can help the development of the child's brain.

Several things we can do to shape a child's good character and personality:

1. Introducing Allah SWT from an early age According to Ery Soekresno, a psychologist who is now an educational consultant at the IQRO Foundation, introduction to Allah SWT should start when the child is still in the womb. At that time, the baby can already hear, therefore, when pregnant, it is sunnah for a mother to do a lot of dhikr and stay away from ghibah gatherings, with the aim being that the child only hears what is good. The father of the prospective baby can participate by introducing Allah SWT by placing his cheek on the mother's stomach and starting to talk to her, or he can also pray together between the husband and wife. After the prayer, the wife listens to the husband's recitations.
2. Avoid bad words in front of children. "And Allah took you out of your mother's womb in a state of not knowing anything, and He gave you hearing, sight and a heart so that you would be grateful." (QS.16:78). Every day a baby picks up on the words of its mother and father. The mother is the person who is closest to the baby and the one who hugs him the most in a day, therefore the baby's life force absorbs the mother's voice along with every aspect of the mother's existence. Just like a recorder, a baby will use his instincts to absorb everything in his environment when he is learning to be a human.

3. Get children used to being honest. Be careful with the words we teach and say, don't let them contain the seeds of lies. Parents are role models for children.
4. Set an example in maintaining trust. Children are imitators, so parents are obliged to set a good example. Invite your child to pray on time, when he is seven years old, if he neglects to pray, hit him, this is to teach him to maintain his trust or learn responsibility. If it's time for your child to study but he's still watching TV, then reprimand him then turn off the television, tell the child to study and don't turn the TV on again. We accompany children to learn and ask about their difficulties.
5. Listen to children's criticism/reprimands. Listening to and appreciating children's criticism is not an insult that will lower your dignity as a parent, but is a gift for parents who have critical children, but we must teach them how to criticize politely.
6. Acting Fairly Think of us as fair judges in dealing with problems experienced by children, both between brothers and sisters and between our children and other people, first see what the problem is? which one is wrong? don't just blame!
7. Make time for your children. Take time to play with your children, listen to their complaints so that your children will feel relieved by reducing the burden on their hearts.
8. Encourage children to take any knowledge wherever they are. Provide quality reading for children at home, condition them so that they want and enjoy reading. Teach that you can get knowledge from anyone, this also teaches you to respect other people.

#### 5. Communication Strategies in Raising and Educating Children

Parent/family involvement in comprehensive child care is explained by Apstein (2001) in Patmonodewo, that there are 6 (six) types of involvement in child care and education, namely involving elements of (1) parenting, (2) communication, (3) volunteering, (4) studying at home, (5) decision making, and (6) collaborating with the community. In terms of communication, the aim is to design an effective form of communication between families and the place where the child takes part in educational/caregiving activities.

There are Patterns of Communicative Control (PCC) or communication control patterns which are a particular way of acting on something that one receives from another communicator (Miller & Steinberg, 1975). This communication control pattern can be used as a strategy to achieve desires. There are five patterns in communication control, namely: (1) dangling carrots or reward giving techniques which aim to change the level or direction of someone's behavior; (2) hanging sword or punishment strategy; (3) catalyst technique, which is a technique in which the source advises the

recipient to cooperate, namely to behave in a certain way for his own benefit. This strategy is used to encourage individuals to behave in order to strengthen themselves (self-reinforcing) without directly rewarding or punishing them; (4) Siamese twin strategy, which is a strategy that can be implemented by two people who already have a close relationship and are mutually dependent and have the same power by respecting each other or even one of them can take advantage of the other because he realizes that the relationship is connected. it is very high; and (5) fairyland strategy, which tends to ignore unwanted responses by giving them a positive meaning, in other words this strategy produces an illusion of control rather than real control. There is a difference between teaching and educating. Teaching concerns the process of conveying knowledge, while educating concerns the process of forming humans as a whole (Drost, 1998).

Teaching is the school's duty, while educating is the responsibility of parents and people in the community. According to Drost, the formation of a child's character is a part of education that parents should not hand over to other agencies. The main actors in education should be parents. Nowadays, parents tend to be busy taking care of work so that children's education is handed over to household assistants. Schools are the only place to educate children, so schools feel that it is a burden if they are left to fully educate children. The educational role should be held by parents, then education at school confirms, strengthens and straightens out the education that has been formed at home.

#### 6. Character building

Character is not just the result of an action, but is simultaneously the result of a process. Thus, character education is a whole rational dynamic between individuals with various dimensions, both from within and from outside, so that the individual can increasingly appreciate his freedom, so that he can be increasingly responsible for his own growth as a person and development. The aim of education that leads to character formation is individual freedom and authenticity so that they become individuals who are able to develop integral moral responsibility in building harmony in life together as well as in the nation and state.

There are six types of character that can be formed, namely: (1) trustworthiness, a form of character that makes a person: have integrity, honesty and loyalty; (2) fairness, a form of character that makes a person have an open mind and does not like taking advantage of other people; (3) caring, a form of character that makes a person have a caring and attentive attitude towards other people and the conditions of the surrounding environment; (4) respect, a form of character that makes someone always appreciate and respect other people; (5) citizenship, a form of character that makes a person have a caring and attentive attitude towards other people and the social conditions of the surrounding environment; and (6)

responsibility, a form of character that makes a person responsible, disciplined, and always doing things as best as possible (Chrisiana, 2005).

Character is formed from innateness because the child's cultural background is formed from family and society, so society should be given the opportunity to have the education it needs, not homogenized national education. So, children can develop according to the character of their cultural roots. Education that is universal can be made uniform in education, but noble culture that is local wisdom should be maintained, for example togetherness in the family, feeling ashamed if you violate applicable norms, fear of making mistakes and loving the extended family.

Parents with a cultural background that has been rooted since childhood will teach their children the noble cultural values they got from their father and mother. As noble values are continuously passed down from generation to generation, a child's character can be formed from a pair of fathers and mothers who also have character. Education starts from when fathers and mothers get married and are ready to become parents who will one day have children who will be raised according to the cultural roots of their father and mother. Character can be developed from early childhood. The most effective instillation and development of character is through the process of communication and example from parents to their children.

## **CONCLUSION**

After knowing that interpersonal communication is a process of instilling character in young children, all forms of communication between parents and children need to be planned so that they are in accordance with what is expected in achieving the goal of forming children's character. Interpersonal communication is not only carried out with words to instill honesty, moral and religious values but also in the form of behavior or example as well as actions that show affection. Finding out what the child feels needs to be done by communicating so that a suitable formula is found for the next action. Communicating also requires a strategy to achieve what we want. The communication pattern used by families, in this case parents, in shaping children's character, is more dominant in using an open or democratic communication model compared to a closed or authoritarian communication model.

Effective two-way communication is very necessary to form a harmonious relationship between parents and children. Parents must try to hear and understand their children's wishes, and parents must be able to direct and guide their children, because children's behavior, actions and attitudes start from the family.

Good communication patterns will definitely create good parenting patterns, and parenting will be successful if the communication patterns created are based on love and affection by positioning children as subjects who must be nurtured, guided and educated and not as mere objects.

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