

Single Parent Communication Patterns in Forming Child Independence in Medan City

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Abstract

One of the factors that influence children's independence is parenting style. Parenting style includes the process of educating, guiding, disciplining and protecting children to reach maturity in accordance with the norms in society. Divorce or death of a partner is something that cannot be avoided in the family. This often has a big impact on family life. The type of research used is qualitative research with a descriptive approach. The data analysis technique used in this research is to describe the research results obtained from the interview results. begins with data reduction which is carried out by selecting data, simplifying data, abstracting, and transferring raw data that emerges from written notes in the field then presenting the data by interpreting it descriptively. Communication patterns used by single parents can be categorized into linear, interaction and transaction. Several situations encountered in everyday life encourage the use of different communication patterns. Thus a single parent can use more than one communication pattern. The three types of communication patterns used by single parents can actually shape children's independence although at different levels. The term single parent is often used to refer to mothers who have a single parent role because most children whose parents are divorced are in the care of a mother. In addition to supporting and facilitating children, parents also need to give responsibility to them according to their abilities, this aims to build children's independence from an early age.

Keywords: Role of Communication, Single Parents, Independence

How to cite:

Ardhani, A. (2023), "Single Parent Communication Patterns in Forming Child Independence in Medan City", *IJRS: Internasional Journal Reglement Society* Vol 4(2), Pages 120-125

A. Introduction

The family environment is a very influential environment for a child. Children learn a lot from their parents. All the good and bad behavior of parents can be followed by children. The role of parents is very large in shaping the independence of children. Parents are expected to provide opportunities for their children to do whatever their children want to do but must be under the supervision of parents. In the family environment, interpersonal communication is needed in building close relationships for both parents and children. The relationship between parents and children within the scope of the family is a relationship that is built on the basis of communication. Every family on this earth must communicate with each other. Every time we communicate with other family members. We communicate while eating, communicate while watching television, we communicate when shopping at the mall, we even communicate to determine where to go, etc ¹

Interpersonal communication is communication between people face to face, communication allows each communicator to capture the reactions of others directly. Thanks to communication, humans can interact effectively and have an impact on their activities such as the process of communication within the family, especially regarding communication between parents and children. Therefore, it is important to establish effective communication between parents and children ². Interpersonal relations within the family are strongly influenced by the role of husband and wife, as parents in view and direction of education which creates a harmonious family atmosphere. Both

¹ Fabianus Fensi, 'Membangun Komunikasi Interpersonal Orang Tua Dengan Anak Dalam Keluarga', *Jurnal Pengabdian Dan Kewirausahaan*, 1.1 (2018) <<https://doi.org/10.30813/jpk.v1i1.1005>>.

² Rafieqah Nalar Rizky and Moulita, 'Penanaman Nilai-Nilai Islam Melalui Komunikasi Interpersonal Orang Tua Pada Anak', *Jurnal Interaksi*, 1.2 (2017), 206–19.

parents are expected to know their role in the family and play their role well so that the family becomes an ideal place for the development of family members³.

Family is the smallest social unit for a child before he gets acquainted with the world around him. Experience in the family will have a big influence on children's development for the future. Family is the place to determine the pros and cons of life afterward in society⁴. Parents are the main educators in children's daily activities, the task of parents is not just to meet needs and create a peaceful atmosphere at home, but the presence of parents as educators in shaping children's character is also needed. Some important points that must be taught by parents are manners, moral values, and religion. One of the causes of structural damage in the family is divorce. The term single parent is often used to refer to mothers who have a single parent role because most children whose parents are divorced are under the care of a mother.

One of the factors that influence children's independence is parenting style. Parenting style includes the process of educating, guiding, disciplining and protecting children to reach maturity in accordance with the norms in society. Divorce or death of a partner is something that cannot be avoided in the family. This often has a big impact on family life. These impacts include changes in roles and tasks that must be borne by single parents in caring for their children. These impacts include changes in roles and tasks that must be borne by single parents in caring for their children.

The impact on children if a divorced husband and wife already have children, namely the psychological impact, if the child is still small then it is not good for the child's mental development, for example in getting along with peers the child feels shy, inferior and so on. Children in divorced families do not get enough attention and affection from their parents, so they feel insecure, get angry easily, often feel depressed (depressed), act cruel or disturb other people who are younger or towards animals (animals), showing worry and anxiety, and feeling a loss of shelter and foothold. In the future, they will form a reaction in the form of revenge and hostility towards the outside world. These children often disappear from home, preferring to be homeless and looking for the pleasures of life elsewhere⁵. In shaping the child's personality in order to overcome all actions that violate the rules, several communication actions built by the family in shaping the child's personality include messages of advice that are always brought by parents⁶. In increasing children's independence, learning motivation is needed by participating in all learning activities through parental supervision of children⁷. In addition to that, in order to build children's independence, literacy is needed which is obtained from various media which is supported by parental supervision⁸.

Based on the explanation above, this paper examines the communication patterns of single parents in forming child independence, then analyzes the relationship between the environment and the characteristics of single parents and communication patterns between single parents and children, and analyzes the relationship between the environment and the characteristics of parents, single with child independence.

B. Research Methods

The research approach in this study is a qualitative approach. Qualitative research emphasizes that researchers must be active participants and able to understand a phenomenon from the point of view of

³ Dyah Ayu Nidyansari, 'Ketidakharmonisan Komunikasi Dalam Keluarga Pada Pembentukan Pribadi Anak (Pendekatan Humanistik)', *Jurnal Riset Komunikasi*, 1.2 (2018), 264–75
<<https://doi.org/10.24329/jurkom.v1i2.39>>.

⁴ Rizky and Moulita.

⁵ Putri Erika Ramadhani and Hetty Krisnani, 'Analisis Dampak Perceraian Orang Tua Terhadap Anak Remaja', *Focus : Jurnal Pekerjaan Sosial*, 2.1 (2019), 109 <<https://doi.org/10.24198/focus.v2i1.23126>>.

⁶ Sigit Hardiyanto Sigit hardiyanto, Daffa Muhammad, and Qarin Ensri Hidayat Qarin ensri hidayat, 'Slum Area Family Communication in Shapeing Children's Personality during the Covid-19 Pandemic', *COMMICAST*, 3.3 (2022), 237–41 <<https://doi.org/10.12928/commicast.v3i2.5735>>.

⁷ Sigit Hardiyanto and others, 'Parents' Interpersonal Communication in Improving Children's Learning Motivation in Medan City', 2022 <https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-494069-07-7_20>.

⁸ Fadhil Pahlevi Hidayat and others, 'The Impact of Social Media Use on Adolescents', 2022 <https://doi.org/10.2991/978-2-494069-07-7_22>.

its function with other phenomena⁹. The type of research used is qualitative research with a descriptive approach which aims to describe and describe the communication patterns of single parents on children's independence in the city of Medan. The purpose of qualitative research is written with the term "technical" research which originates from the language of qualitative research using several languages that limit the scope of participants or research locations¹⁰

The informants in this study used a purposive sampling technique which was used when the researcher already had individual targets according to the required character. The informants taken included single parents in the last 5-10 years who have custody of children aged between 12-24 years. The data analysis technique used in this research is to describe the research results obtained from the interview results. begins with data reduction which is carried out by the process of selecting data, simplifying data, abstracting, and transferring raw data that emerges from written notes in the field, then presenting data is carried out by interpreting descriptively excerpts from interviews with single parents to make it easier to see communication patterns and individual and environmental factors related to the process of forming children's independence, and finally drawing conclusions by verifying the presentation of research data in order to obtain valid data or information that is then interpreted descriptively and a conclusion is drawn.

C. Discussion

In a general context, the communication patterns of single parents in shaping children's independence can vary depending on factors such as culture, family values, and individual background. Nonetheless, there are several communication patterns that are commonly found in single parents' efforts to shape their child's independence, including:

1. Provide encouragement and support: Single parents often provide strong encouragement and support to their children. They may communicate with words that motivate and give children the confidence to develop their independence.
2. Assignment of responsibilities: Single parents may assign responsibilities to children in certain daily tasks or household responsibilities. It helps children learn to take initiative, manage their time and develop the skills necessary to be independent.
3. Open communication: Effective single parents often establish open communication with their children. They encourage children to talk about their feelings, problems and challenges they face. By communicating openly, children feel heard and can seek help or advice when needed.
4. Modelling behaviour: Single parents who are trying to establish independence in children often provide independent behaviour as an example. They can show how to solve problems, manage time, or make responsible decisions. Children tend to learn by observing and imitating their parents' behaviour.
5. Learning through mistakes: Single parents can help children develop independence by allowing them to learn from mistakes. They encourage children to take healthy risks, learn from failures, and develop resilience to face challenges.

The communication patterns used by single parents in shaping children's independence can vary greatly depending on the values, principles, and parenting strategies possessed by the parents. There are several communication patterns that are usually carried out by single parents to establish the independence of their children, namely:

1. Provide encouragement and support: Single parents can support and encourage their child to develop independence. This can be done with praise and appreciation when the child achieves something new or overcomes a challenge on their own.
2. Facilitating learning: Single parents can support their child's learning process. You can encourage children to try new things, offer help and guidance when needed, but also give them the opportunity to learn independently and try their hand at homework.

⁹ John W Creswell, *Research Design: Pendekatan Metode Kualitatif, Kuantitatif Dan Campuran* (Yogyakarta: Pustaka Pelajar, 2016).

¹⁰ T.A Schwandt, *Dictionary of Qualitative Inquiry (Edisi Ketiga)*. Thousand Oaks (CA: Sage, 2007).

3. **Assign Appropriate Responsibilities to Children:** A single parent can assign responsibilities to his child according to his age and ability. For example, giving children age-appropriate homework helps children learn to be responsible for their work.
4. **Teaches Problem Solving:** Single parents can help their child solve problems. You can teach a child to think logically, analysis situations and find the right solution. This can be done through conversation, discussion or role play.
5. **Allow freedom of action:** Single parents can grant freedom of choice and action to their children. This does not mean that children are completely free and unrestricted, but that they have the space to make their own decisions about things that are appropriate for their age and maturity. As a result, children learn to manage themselves and develop a sense of responsibility.
6. **Helps Manage Emotions:** Single parents can help their child manage emotions in a healthy way. You can teach children to recognize and express their emotions, resolve conflicts in a gentle way, and learn from emotional experiences.

Communication patterns used by single parents can be categorized into linear, interaction and transaction. Several situations encountered in everyday life encourage the use of different communication patterns. Thus a single parent can use more than one communication pattern. The three types of communication patterns used by single parents can actually shape children's independence, although at different levels. Linear communication patterns form independence by: ordering children to obey their parents, telling children to do what they can do themselves, and expressing difficulties to children. Interaction communication patterns form children's independence by: fostering a sense of ability in children, letting children make their own decisions for matters that concern their interests, training children to be responsible, and involving children in doing tasks at home. Meanwhile, transactional communication patterns shape children's independence by: instilling awareness for independence, teaching discipline, setting an example with action, letting children learn from experience, and letting children determine their peers and the mass media.

Parenting is an action taken by parents in interacting with their children. A single parent (widow) family is a family led by a single parent leader and the single parent family referred to here is a family headed by a single parent who already has children from his marriage and the single parent family cares for, educates, cares for and raises his child, self, caused by death. From the results of the study, the role of single parents is very important for children in the middle of the family. Losing a partner will not make a single parent abstain from enthusiasm in raising children on their own without help from anyone.

Parenting Patterns for Single Parent Families in Forming Adolescent Independence in Parents in Medan City

Parents' parenting style for children is very helpful and influential in shaping the child's personality, behaviour, and independence. Parenting styles are divided into several types, namely:

1. **Permissive Parenting.** Permissive parenting can be interpreted as a pattern of parental behaviour in interacting with children to do what they want to do without questioning it. This parenting style does not use strict rules and even guidance is not given in full and children are allowed to make decisions for themselves, without consideration from parents and behave without anything they want without any control from parents. Based on the expressions of the informants, it can be concluded that the parenting style that is attached to this single parent is permissive parenting, which means that parents still accept whatever the child decides to do.
2. **Democratic Parenting.** Democratic parenting uses two-way communication, the position between parents and children in communicating is equal. Children are given the freedom to be responsible. Parents and children cannot do anything arbitrarily to one party or both parties cannot do something without communicating first and the final decision is agreed by both of them without feeling pressured. Children are given the freedom to be responsible. Parents explain things that are expected with the consequences to children. It can be concluded that the democratic parenting pattern of parents has warmth, is involved, shows support and is happy with the child's behaviour,

takes into account the child's wishes and listens to the child's opinion, provides alternative problem solving and communicates with the child clearly. There are two types of parenting styles that are mostly used by single parents for parents of students in the city of Medan, namely the first is a democratic parenting pattern in which children are given the freedom to express their ideas on any matter, and the second is a permissive parenting pattern that uses directional communication because even though parents have full power in the family, especially over children, children decide what they want themselves, whether parents agree or not.

The role of a single parent for children's independence is very important. Considering that single parents must devote sufficient time to work and educate their children, good or bad single parent education for children will have a significant impact on the development and character of children in the future¹¹. This is as shown by research conducted by researchers involving single parents. This is evidenced by the statements of single parents and children about the function of a single parent in child independence, which is basically the role of a single parent is a task that must be fulfilled to teach independence to children. A child of a single parent should be monitored to see how the single parent affects the child's independence. Based on the research findings, the following matters are relevant to the single parent function

1. The moral role of a single parent. The role of single parents in independence for their children is realized through giving advice and setting an example, and emphasizing the importance of being independent for life. Parents realize that independence must be emphasized in children, because if it is not emphasized, children will become spoiled.
2. The political role of single parents. The role of a single parent for independence in children is realized through what parents have done in supervising children by giving orders and prohibitions, emphasizing the need to manage finances, and educating children about thrifty and wasteful issues.
3. Single parent as a role model. The role of a single parent for child independence is manifested through a mother/father who is a figure or example for the child, whatever the mother/father does or teaches, the child will imitate all of their actions and behaviour. Mother/ father is a moral figure, sacrifice, compassion, fortitude, patience, struggle, and friendship. Children will get lessons from their mother/father and will imitate the good and bad behaviour of their mother.
4. Single parent as a shelter. One of the roles as well as the position of a single parent is as a shelter for children. If a child feels uncomfortable, he will look for security in his mother. Without his mother, a child feels that he is helpless. There was no more room for him to discuss his thoughts and experiences. When he lost a parental figure, he would experience those kinds of feelings.
5. Single parent as educator. One of the roles of a single parent is as an educator for children. In this scenario, the mother is responsible for imparting knowledge to her child so that the child grows up healthily. A mother discusses natural and moral principles. In addition, a mother as a single parent also plays a role in providing healthy growth and development for children so that they become good individuals and can distinguish between what is good and what is bad.

Apart from educating children about independence, parents must also teach them about morals so that they continue to act well and not violate societal standards. Children are taught to consult, not to impose their will, and to always prioritize the public interest over personal wishes by mothers who become single parents who apply democratic parenting. Children are expected to be able to socialize and socialize well with the attitudes that have been taught¹².

¹¹ Sinikka Elliott, Rachel Powell, and Joslyn Brenton, 'Being a Good Mom', *Journal of Family Issues*, 36.3 (2015), 351–70 <<https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X13490279>>.

¹² Donna Hoskins, 'Consequences of Parenting on Adolescent Outcomes', *Societies*, 4.3 (2014), 506–31 <<https://doi.org/10.3390/soc4030506>>.

D. Conclusion

Children's independence can be trained in various ways with the right communication patterns. Single parent children certainly have different conditions from children whose parents are complete, especially in the process of forming independence. Single parents must be able to educate their children to be independent according to the required communication patterns. The term single parent is often used to refer to mothers who have a single parent role because most of the children whose parents are divorced are in the care of a mother.

Communication patterns used by single parents can be categorized into linear, interaction and transactions. In single parent communication patterns, there are several communication patterns that can foster children's independence so they don't always depend on someone. The first pattern of communication is to provide encouragement or support to children, and then parents can facilitate children, especially in the field of education, because education is one way to success and independence. In addition to supporting and facilitating children, parents also need to give responsibility to them according to their abilities, this aims to build children's independence from an early age. Then the need for parents to give freedom of action and give them the opportunity to solve their own problems, this pattern of communication is very necessary for the child to become an independent person.

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