



Interpersonal Communication in Interpersonal Relationship between Single Mother and Children

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Abstract

The role of a single mother is very important in the lives of children, especially in building relationships with one another. One way to build this relationship in this context is to communicate effectively between single mother and children, especially by using two roles. To see the quality of a relationship. This can be seen from the quality of the communication itself. In this study, researchers used several conceptual and theoretical studies for research. The concepts used by researchers include the concept of interpersonal communication, the concept of interpersonal interaction, the interpersonal relationship value concept, the stages of interpersonal relations concept, the concept of interpersonal relations, and the theory used in this research is role theory according to Biddle and Thomas. This research was conducted using a qualitative descriptive approach. The data collection technique used the in-depth interview method, while the data collection used the observation and documentation method. Then the data would be analyzed using Miles and Huberman analysis. The conclusion of this research is from the five informants can be said that three informants have good interpersonal relations with communication that runs effectively even though there are those who need a process, but the progress is very visible. Two other informants, have poor interpersonal relations with ineffective communication and there is no balance reciprocity. The process of forming a relationship depends on interpersonal communication in every aspect, which is also influential in maintaining a relationship.

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INTRODUCTION

Family is an environment consisting of a father, mother, and children forming a family from marriage. In family relationships, communication becomes very important to strengthen emotional bonds between family members (Widowati, Widodo & Yackie 2022). The family is the first place for children to learn, but unfortunately, not all get a complete family because there are families who experience problems such as divorce and being abandoned by their partners because of death so some end up being single parents or commonly called single mothers.

A single mother means a woman who has separated or been left by her husband and has children whom she raised alone and has decided not to remarry. In reality, being a single mother still has a negative stigma such as being weak, not independent, and there are still those who underestimate it, especially in giving, and providing for the physical and emotional needs of the child alone. This is evidenced by a statement quoted on Nova.grid.id news, July 12 2019 which stated that it would be difficult to find support from outsiders because the name single mother already carries a negative stigma.

Women who are heads of households in Indonesia are dominated by single mothers who are likely to increase every year. Based on the women's edition of the Konde.co news on January 2, 2022, the number of women as heads of families in which single mothers are included amounts to 15.46% of the total heads of families in Indonesia. The majority of causes for the emergence of single mothers themselves are also due to divorce and spouses who have died.

Based on statistical data reported by Katadata, divorce cases in Indonesia will reach 516,334 cases in 2022 which has increased by 15.31% from 2021 which reached 447,743 cases. The reasons for this divorce are motivated by disputes, quarrels, economic problems, and infidelity. Meanwhile, based on data collected from the Central Statistics Agency for 2022, the percentage of single mothers is 10.25% due to the death of a partner and 2.58% due to divorce.

Child custody after divorce is a major problem that often occurs. Meanwhile, for a wife whose husband has died, her child will most likely come with her mother. This is the beginning of being a single mother. Child custody rights also tend to be given to the mother and the father will still provide a living but the father's role is not entirely in the child's life. Therefore a single mother who chooses not to remarry, must do everything alone.

The large number of these cases provide a perspective that women who have become single mothers and raise their children alone will trigger a negative influence on the child's life because there is no relationship between mother and father as a whole family but only relations with the mother. This is also supported by previous research from Ela Ratnawati (2023) which states that incomplete families have a negative influence on children because children need a family atmosphere that is full of warmth and affection.

Because many single mothers decide to live alone, often a mother is forced to play two roles, being both father and mother at the same time because the husband or father of their child is no longer in the family. Of course, if the father's role is lost, it will affect the child's life so that single mothers must be able to compensate.

Roles are used to maintain relationships with children, in this research the theory used is role theory according to Biddle Thomas which defines roles as a series of behaviors that are expected of other people for their position in a system to achieve goals. This theory is a basic tool to help researchers find a general understanding and explain an event.

The role model itself is one way to maximize communication with children. This is also in line with previous research from Nisrina, Veny (2020) which states that roles are related to interpersonal communication because individuals involved in interpersonal communication must play their roles in everyday life, so roles can help build a relationship because a single mother must build relationships with their children with interpersonal communication even though there is no father's role in his life.

The relationship between a single mother and her child is usually seen as a relationship between two individuals. The relationship can be intimate and romantic because it contains affection to the relationship between individuals who are rational. The human relationship with one another or the relationship between two individuals is better known as interpersonal relations. Interpersonal relations themselves have a close relationship with interpersonal interaction and communication, besides that, they are also interconnected and influence one another.

In the context of interpersonal relations, interaction is an important aspect because interaction is the nature of the relationship itself. Interpersonal interaction can affect the form and quality of interpersonal communication, and conversely, interpersonal communication can affect the form and quality of interpersonal interaction. Effective communication is supported by good interpersonal relations.

Meanwhile, interpersonal relations themselves can be formed from the interactions and communications that occur between these individuals. In this case, interaction and communication play a role in forming interpersonal relationships that continue to develop and change over time. To find out interpersonal communication in interpersonal relations, one must know interpersonal interactions, the stages of relationships, and the values of interpersonal relationships, because interpersonal communication definitely exists in these aspects.

Briefly, it can be explained like this; interactions, interpersonal relations, and interpersonal communication are things that are interconnected. Interaction triggers interpersonal communication, meaning that interpersonal communication occurs when interacting both verbally and non-verbally and reciprocating each other. Then interpersonal

communication is able to show values in interpersonal relations and stages in interpersonal relations, besides that also in interpersonal relations, it can show the quality of interpersonal communication in it.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher wants to analyze in more depth about interpersonal communication in interpersonal relations between single mothers and their children with role theory. The use of role theory is used to look at interpersonal interactions, the values of interpersonal relations, the stages of interpersonal relations and interpersonal communication in interpersonal relations more deeply where single mothers take on multiple roles to continue to carry out interpersonal communication in interpersonal relationships with their children.

Based on the main problems found, the researcher identifies several problems that are the focus of this research, as follows: 1. How is the interpersonal interaction between single mother and children? 2. What are the values in the interpersonal relations of single mother and children? 3. What are the stages of interpersonal relations between single mother and children? 4. How is interpersonal communication in interpersonal relationships between single mothers and their children?

This research is essential as it explores the complexities of interpersonal communication in single mother-child relationships, addressing the challenges arising from the absence of a complete family structure due to divorce and partner loss. By applying role theory, the study aims to understand how single mothers navigate their roles and communication strategies, contributing valuable insights to promote healthier family dynamics for this growing demographic in Indonesia.

LITERATURE REVIEW

This research uses several theories and concepts from several sources so that comprehensive knowledge and various perspectives, and approaches, on the topic that is being discussed. The object of this research is interpersonal communication in interpersonal relations between single mothers and their children. The research design used in descriptive qualitative research according to Sugiyono (2019) states that the research method is based on the philosophy of postpositivism used to conduct research on natural object conditions. Researchers here as instruments, combined data collection techniques, inductive or qualitative analysis, and research results emphasize the meaning of generalizations.

First interpersonal communication. Interpersonal communication (interpersonal communication) is a communication process carried out between two or more people face to face, which allows the communicator to convey messages directly and there is reciprocity from the communicant who responds at the same time. Interpersonal communication is communication

between two people and Communication can take place in 2 ways, namely face-to-face communication and media communication. First, interpersonal communication will be successful if there is positive attention to a person. Second, interpersonal communication will be well maintained if a positive feeling towards the other person is communicated (Meisyaroh 2022).

According to Parnawi (2020) the function of interpersonal communication has two main functions, namely the social function and the decision-making function. The social function means that communication occurs in a social context, the individuals in it interact with each other. Social functions are emphasized to fulfill social obligations, develop reciprocal relationships, improve and maintain self-quality and handle or avoid conflict.

While the decision-making function means that humans have the ability to make decisions which they think are the right choices. This function emphasizes that humans communicate to share information that is used as decision-making material and influences others. Because communication and cooperation determine decision-making.

Second, interpersonal relationships. Interpersonal relationships are relationships between two or more people who interact to meet physical and emotional needs that can occur in a short or long time. According to Rakhmat (2018) states that the factors that foster interpersonal relationships in interpersonal communication are trust, supportive attitude and open attitude. To see interpersonal communication in interpersonal relationships, it can be seen from interpersonal interactions, interpersonal relationship values, and stages of interpersonal relationships.

Third, interpersonal communication in interpersonal relationships. Humans need communication with other people throughout their lives. One of the most common types of communication used by humans in this world is interpersonal communication (Meisyaroh 2019:37). It can be concluded that the role of communication in interpersonal relations, where it is said that (1) communication is the basis of every interpersonal relationship including effective communication which is the key to the longevity of a relationship, because if individuals do not communicate effectively the impact will be felt on interpersonal relations along with other aspects. (2) communication plays an important role in reducing misunderstandings and strengthening bonds between individuals, and (3) an interpersonal relationship will lose its charm if individuals do not respond with various modes of communication.

Fourth, interpersonal interactions. Interpersonal interaction is the nature of interpersonal relations themselves. Interpersonal interaction explains the effects of each other and always changes where there are actions and reactions because there is an interaction between them. The interaction itself also triggers the occurrence of communication. Interpersonal interaction refers to the communicative part of the experience as well as the nonverbal cues displayed.

Fifth, the values of interpersonal relations. In the values of interpersonal relations, there are strengths and weaknesses based on interpersonal communication. The strengths are things that strengthen relationships such as effective communication and a sense of openness. While the weaknesses are things that weaken relationships such as ineffective communication and lack of trust. Communication can be said to be effective if the message given can be fully understood by the recipient and the recipient reacts or responds as expected by the sender of the message (Felicia & Meisyaroh, 2020).

Sixth, relationship stages. According to Devito (2019) provides an understanding that there are six stages of relationship development. According to him, the stages of interpersonal relations are (1) contact, (2) involvement, (3) intimacy, (4) deterioration, (5) repair, and (6) termination (dissolution). And when interpersonal relationships grow, there are four patterns of relationships that will be formed when interpersonal relationships occur, namely (1) supportive and defensive attitudes, (2) dependent and independent attitudes, (3) progressive and regressive, and (4) independent attitudes. fulfillment. and the defecation profession itself.

Seventh, single mother or single parent. Single mother means a woman who has separated or been left by her husband and has children whom she raised alone and has decided not to remarry. The causes of single mother cases are due to various things such as separation, divorce, or being abandoned due to death. Therefore being a single parent is certainly not easy, because they have to be able to replace the role of the missing parent for their child. This is done in order to continue to support the life of their children.

Eighth, single mother who use multiple roles. Single mother must be able to build interpersonal relationships alone by using multiple roles because of social pressure that forces individuals to fulfill the roles that have been assigned to them, such as having to be the role of father and mother for children. This study uses the theory of role theory according to Biddle Thomas which defines a role as a series of behaviors expected of other people to achieve their position in a system. With this role, it will help to see interpersonal communication in interpersonal relationships between single mothers and their children.

RESEARCH METHODS

The subjects in this research were single mothers and their children, while the object was interpersonal communication in interpersonal relations between single mothers and their children. The age criteria for single mothers are from the age range of 30 to 60 years. Meanwhile for children in the age category; of preadolescents, adolescents, early adults, and adults. This is because researchers want to get various results.

This study used a qualitative research method with a descriptive approach. Qualitative methods assist researchers in helping to find answers about all understandings, knowledge, and

interpersonal communication in interpersonal relations between single mothers and children which require descriptive answers about the facts of the problem being investigated.

In this research, the data used are primary data and secondary data. Primary data is data directly from informants or informants while secondary data is indirect data from sources or informants. The data is primary data which is an informant, namely 5 single mothers and their children who will be interviewed. Then the secondary data from this study are books, essays, and research journals about interpersonal communication, interpersonal relationships of single parents and their children, and communication theories which are very useful for this research

In this research, several data collection techniques were used. First, is observation. Through this stage, the researcher collects data about interpersonal relationships between single mothers and their children. Observations made such as monitoring how the relationships, interactions, and communication of single mothers in everyday life. It is at this time that you will see how interpersonal relationships are formed between single mothers and their children.

Second, interview. The process of asking questions and providing answers to these questions is carried out by both parties. The types of interview techniques used by researchers are in-depth interview techniques so that researchers can dig up information in depth, openly, and focus on their own research and are directed at the research center. This technique uses a list of questions that have been prepared beforehand.

Third, documentation. Documentation is a data collection technique by analyzing documents, starting from written documents or documents in the form of images or electronically. Documentation data collection is carried out through books or various theories about relationships, interactions, and interpersonal communication between single mothers and children which will be analyzed in reality. Then other documentation such as pictures during interviews with single mothers and their children.

For data analysis techniques used by researchers using the model from Miles & Huberman which is described as follows, data collection, data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. First, is data collection. Data collection, namely collecting data at the research location and from other sources and recording all data objectively and as it is. Data is collected by conducting observations, interviews, and documentation by determining the appropriate data collection strategy so that the information obtained is clear.

Second, data reduction. Data reduction is summarizing, choosing the main things, focusing on important things that are in accordance with the research topic, looking for themes and patterns, in the end providing a clearer picture and making it easier to carry out further data collection. (Sugiyono, 2018). In short, data reduction removes the unimportant and organizes the data so that a final conclusion is obtained and verified.

Third, data display. The next step is presenting the data. Presentation of data is the activity of grouping data that has been reduced. Through the presentation of data, the data can be organized, and arranged in a relationship pattern, so that it will be easy to understand. In presenting the data, a clear picture of the overall data will form which will form a conclusion.

Fourth, conclusion drawing. The final step in analyzing this research is drawing conclusions. The conclusions that have been obtained are checking the accuracy and validity of a study that has been studied. This is also supported by valid data evidence that has been carried out so as to produce credible conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

(1) Interpersonal interactions between single mothers and children. Interaction itself is the ability to relate to other people which can be in the form of direct conversation or face to face which is usually private. All informants have their own interactions with each other, from direct conversation, body language, physical touch and so on. Even though some are distracted by time, they can still find time to interact.

Three of the five informants indicated that their interpersonal interactions were going well, but for the rest, the two indicated that their interpersonal interactions were not going well due to a lack of self-disclosure, past events that caused trauma and busy times so they lack interaction with one another. Of course, this interpersonal interaction will greatly affect interpersonal communication and interpersonal relations between single mothers and children.

(2) Values in the interpersonal relations of single mothers and children. The values in interpersonal relations themselves are divided into two, namely the strengths of interpersonal relationships and the weaknesses of interpersonal relationships. These values directly or indirectly affect and are influenced by various experiences of interpersonal encounters that have been experienced.

The experiences described during the interview also show the weaknesses and strengths of the interpersonal relationships between single mothers and their children. This experience brings real value to life and can be used by single mothers and their children to build valuable relationships, starting from strengthening relationships that bring value and conducting effective interpersonal communication with children.

Then about (3) the stages of interpersonal relations between single mothers and children. The dynamics of interpersonal relationships grow, develop, and ended. The stages of interpersonal relations function to see the development of relationships because the development of relations itself follows a stage where a person cannot enter the stage without going through the previous stage, but not all relationships must enter the six stages because it

depends on the quality of the relationship itself and the quality of interpersonal communication contained therein.

(4) Interpersonal communication is found in interpersonal relations carried out by single mothers and their children. Interpersonal communication has a great influence, if interpersonal communication is not effective it will weaken relations marked by misunderstandings and fights. While effective interpersonal communication will strengthen relationships that are characterized by trust, openness to one another and fulfillment of adequate physical and emotional needs, it can be seen from the three informants and their children, although some need a process, progress is visible.

For the ineffective communication felt by the two informants with their children, mothers need to strengthen interpersonal communication with their children, because after good interpersonal communication is established, interpersonal relationships can form and develop by themselves. When communicating with children, mothers need to open themselves to listen and understand the perspectives and feelings of children, as well as provide support and trust in children to help children feel closer and open to their mothers.

In the discussion, the researcher began to categorize all informants based on the pattern of interpersonal relations that were carried out. There are four patterns of relationships that will be formed when interpersonal relations occur, namely (1) supportive and defensive attitudes, (2) dependent and independent attitudes, (3) progressive and regressive and (4) self-fulfilling and self-defeating professions.

(1) Single mother (TT) and her children (AN) have a pattern of supportive relationships because both of them really support interpersonal communication where there is an orientation, that is, both of them invite each other to set goals together, then there is also empathy which is also a door for can be open to each other, understand each other, appreciate each other and create togetherness relationships and harmonious interpersonal relations.

(2) Single mother (LN) and her children (RN) have a regressive attitude relationship pattern because even though they communicate every day the interpersonal communication is not effective where, it only happens because of one topic, there is no openness and lack of communication because they don't have much time together which causes the relationship to lead to a negative climate. This means that the relationship continues to develop but creates dissatisfaction and disharmony.

(3) Single mother (DW) and her children (RI) have a relationship pattern of Self-Fulfilling and Self-Defeating Prophecies. The main concept itself is that when you want something to happen, you will try to make it happen. Interpersonal communication can be said to be effective because there is effort and encouragement from the mother (DW) to keep the relationship with

her child (RI) growing after a change in her child's behavior (RI). As a result, their children can be open and able to understand each other even though there needs to be a process.

(4) Single mother (AE) and her children (AW) have a defensive attitude relationship pattern, because it only occurs unilaterally without balanced reciprocity so that interpersonal communication does not work 100% effectively. His mother (AE) pays attention, is open and tries to understand, but her child (AW) behaves neutrally, which distances himself from the feelings or attention of other people. Apart from that, he also acts with certainty where he acts on his own beliefs and perceptions without wanting to change them.

(5) Single mother (FB) and her children (IM) have a dependent relationship pattern. Their relationship really applies effective interpersonal communication such as openness, empathy, support for one another which causes one individual to depend on other individuals. This dependence causes the involvement of both of them which can build strong and harmonious interpersonal relationships.

The theory of the role itself is in line with this research, because the mother's ability to play certain roles greatly influences interpersonal relations with children both in terms of interaction, fulfillment of physical and emotional needs, interpersonal communication between them and the process of forming interpersonal relations itself through the use of these two roles.

A single mother plays the role of a father and mother for the survival of the child. This is done to fill the void in the missing father role. Even though physically the father figure is no longer there and some of the children of single mother feel the loss and still need this figure, single mother still struggle to carry out the role of father even though they also feel they have not been a good father role for their children.

The role played by single mothers has a significant impact on the interpersonal relationships of the two of them. This is in line with previous research conducted by Nisrina Syifa Aisy and Veny Purba (2020) that single mothers have an influence on the relationship between mother and child both in terms of communication and interaction, some create very close and effective relationships and some create ineffective relationships.

However, this research is not in line with research by Nisrina Syifa Aisy and Veny Purba (2020), which also states that the role played by single mother reduces interaction and communication because they have to carry out the role of father to earn a living and there is no free time because they are busy, because based on her research, it can cause misunderstandings and fights, but based on the results of the researcher's analysis of the findings, it all comes back to how an individual communicates.

As busy as a single mothers is, conflicts, misunderstandings and fights can be minimized if there is an effort to continue to have effective interpersonal communication with their children

so that they return to each other personally. If you want to maintain good communication, there will definitely be efforts to maintain it.

This is supported by Aulia Farhan's research (2021) which states that the way parents communicate with children can explain the concept of relationships with children. So if you want the child's relationship to run well and harmoniously, then you have to maintain good communication, while if there is a lack of communication it will cause problems and the relationship will become disharmonious between one another. Communication also plays a very important role in creating a harmonious relationship (Lusyana & Nuraryo 2021).

CONCLUSIONS

Interaction triggers the emergence of communication and greatly influences the existence of an interpersonal relationship. Good interactions will create good relationships while bad interactions will create bad relationships between single mother and children because interpersonal relations contain the nature of the interaction itself.

Then the values of relationships consist of the strengths and weaknesses of interpersonal relationships where the strengths and weaknesses are taken based on experiences that have been experienced so that these experiences can bring real value to life, build more valuable relationships, strengthen relationships that bring value and are able to communicate effectively

Furthermore, the stages of the relationship show the development of the stages of the relationship that must be passed. This stage cannot continue if the previous stage has not been carried out, but not all relationships that are formed have to go through all the stages or it could be that one relationship goes through all six while the other relationship only goes through three of these stages depending on the quality of the relationship and the quality of interpersonal communication in it.

Then interpersonal communication on interpersonal relations. Interpersonal communication is an important aspect because the quality of the communication itself will affect the interpersonal relationships that are built. It is also necessary to pay attention to interpersonal skills in building a relationship so that basically interpersonal skills coupled with interpersonal communication will produce interpersonal relationships. Based on the findings obtained from the five informants, it can be concluded that interpersonal communication affects interpersonal relationships and when you want to start a communication, you have to start with an interaction that will lead to the formation of a relationship.

When individuals meet and interact with each other on a regular basis, they can develop a more familiar feeling and mutual understanding, which in turn forms interpersonal relationships. After the formation of interpersonal relationships, interpersonal communication

can be an important tool for maintaining and strengthening these relationships. But all three actually run simultaneously and influence each other

Three informants namely single mother (TT) and her child (AN), single mother (FB) and her child (IM) and single mother (DW) and her child (RI), have close and trusting interpersonal relationships that can facilitate more open interaction and communication and to be honest, even though the single mother (DW) and her child (RI) are still in the process of being more open, there is progress. Meanwhile, single mother (LW) and her children (RN) single mother (AE) and her children (AW) have poor interpersonal relationships where there is no balanced reciprocity which can hinder healthy interaction and communication.

The final conclusion of this study is that the role models carried out by the five single mothers informants for their children are very influential and have an impact on interpersonal relationships. Interpersonal communication can be seen in interpersonal interactions, the values of interpersonal relationships, the stages of interpersonal relationships, and interpersonal relationships that are carried out with roles both being the role of the mother and father's role as well as for the survival of the child.

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