

THE ROLE OF MOTHERS IN BUILDING EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION WITHIN THE FAMILY IN ABIANSEMAL DAUH YEH CANI VILLAGE

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ABSTRACT

This study aims to explore the role of mothers in establishing effective communication within the family in Abiansemal Dauh Yeh Cani Village, Bali. Using a qualitative descriptive approach, this research employs in-depth interviews, participatory observation, and document studies to gain a deeper understanding of the communication patterns employed by mothers within their families. The study involves mothers, as well as other family members such as spouses and children. The results indicate that mothers play a central role in creating open communication in the family, both through verbal communication and the use of digital technology. Open communication between mothers and family members helps strengthen interpersonal relationships and foster family harmony. However, challenges such as differing perspectives between mothers and children, as well as social and work pressures, affect the quality of communication. This research provides insights into the importance of effective communication within families and how mothers play a key role in maintaining family harmony and stability.

Keywords: *mother's role, effective communication, interpersonal communication*

1. INTRODUCTION

The family is the basic unit of society, holding a central role in shaping individual values, character, and social behavior. Within this context, the role of mothers in the family is crucial in fostering effective and harmonious communication. Mothers are not only caregivers and educators but also mediators in various social interactions within the family. Effective communication within the family plays a vital role in strengthening relationships among family members, reducing conflicts, and enhancing emotional well-being. Through proper communication, mothers can create an environment that supports children's emotional, social, and psychological development.

In contemporary family communication studies, several recent theories provide deeper insights into how maternal communication affects family dynamics. One of them is the Family Communication Patterns theory, updated by Ping & Lee (2021). According to this theory, communication within families is seen as a pattern shaped by conversation orientation and conformity orientation. High conversation orientation, often practiced by mothers, creates space for family members, particularly children, to express their feelings, opinions, and needs. This increases children's self-confidence and fosters the development of their social skills.

Furthermore, Zhao and Wang (2022), in their research on technology-based family communication, emphasized that mothers play a crucial role in adapting family communication to the development of digital technology. In this context, mothers not only maintain open verbal communication but also manage communication through digital platforms, which have become increasingly important in the current digital era. Mothers act as a bridge between the digital world and the real world, ensuring that children remain connected to the family while learning to use technology wisely.

Additionally, the **Family Systems Theory** introduced by McGill & Anderson (2021) provides insights into the role of mothers in maintaining family harmony. This theory considers the family as a system consisting of interconnected elements, where any change or conflict in one part of the family affects other parts. In this context, mothers often serve as managers and maintainers of balance within the system, ensuring that each family member communicates effectively to preserve harmony.

However, the challenges of fostering effective communication have become increasingly complex with the changing times and social dynamics. Khan & Lee (2023), in their research, highlighted how globalization and social pressures have transformed communication within families. For instance, mothers face various challenges, such as work-related stress, changing family structures, and societal pressures, in creating open and healthy communication within the family.

This research focuses on Abiansema Dauh Yeh Cani Village, located in Abiansema Subdistrict, Badung Regency, Bali. The village has a population of approximately 5,941 people, comprising 2,992 males and 2,949 females. As an area rich in cultural heritage and artistic traditions, the village faces challenges in integrating traditional values with modern social and technological developments. The village's artistic and cultural activities create unique social dynamics, and mothers play an essential role in maintaining effective communication within families amidst these changes.

Amid the challenges faced by modern families, the role of mothers in fostering effective communication becomes increasingly significant. This study aims to explore how mothers in Abiansema Dauh Yeh Cani Village play their role in building healthy communication and its impact on the emotional well-being of family members and the development of children in the village. By utilizing the latest family communication theories, this research is expected to provide new insights into family communication dynamics in the modern era, particularly in the context of a village with strong cultural values and traditions.

2. RESEARCH METODOLOGY

This study employs a **qualitative descriptive approach** to provide a detailed depiction of the role of mothers in fostering effective communication within families. This approach was chosen to understand phenomena occurring in the daily lives of family members, particularly mothers, and to explore how communication is carried out within these families. The study does not aim to generalize or make comparisons but rather to delve into the subjective and in-depth experiences of mothers and other family members regarding the communication patterns within their families.

The research informants consist of members of the PKK (Family Welfare Movement) in Abiansema Dauh Yeh Cani Village. Purposive sampling will be used to select mothers with school-aged children and those considered to have relevant experience in building communication with family members.

Data Collection Techniques

The data collection techniques used in this study include the following:

1. In-Depth Interviews

Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with housewives and other family members. These interviews aim to explore in greater depth the communication patterns practiced by mothers within their families, how these communication patterns influence relationships among family members, and the challenges faced in fostering effective communication. The interview questions will focus on the daily experiences and perceptions of informants regarding family communication.

2. Participatory Observation

Direct observations will be conducted to examine the dynamics of communication within families in the household setting. The researcher will observe interactions between mothers and other family members, both during household activities and in

other social situations. This observation aims to identify communication patterns that may not be revealed during interviews.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

1. Communication Patterns in Families

The study results indicate that mothers play a central role in fostering open and effective communication patterns within the family. Based on interviews with housewives in **Abiansemal Dauh Yeh Cani Village**, it was found that the mothers in this village tend to prioritize open communication in their daily interactions with family members, especially with their children. Mothers act as active listeners who provide space for children to express their feelings, opinions, and problems. This aligns with the **Family Communication Patterns Theory**, which posits that open communication within families strengthens relationships and facilitates problem-solving (Ping & Lee, 2021).

Observations revealed that communication between mothers and children often occurs in various situations, such as during meals, household activities, or problem-solving moments. Mothers tend to use positive verbal communication, offering supportive feedback and addressing their children's emotional needs. This approach helps create a harmonious family environment and reduces the potential for conflicts among family members.

2. The Role of Technology in Family Communication

Although face-to-face communication remains dominant in families in **Abiansemal Dauh Yeh Cani Village**, technology, such as mobile phones and social media, also plays a crucial role in maintaining communication between mothers and other family members. Interviews revealed that mothers in the village actively use digital technology to stay connected with their children, particularly teenagers who are often busy outside the home.

Mothers also use technology to provide information and remind their children about their responsibilities, such as completing homework or household chores. In some cases, mothers even use text messages or social media to communicate with their spouses, coordinate family activities, or share important information. However, the use of technology also presents challenges, particularly regarding digital monitoring and managing children's screen time. Mothers in the village acknowledge the importance of balancing face-to-face and digital communication to prevent excessive reliance on electronic devices.

3. Challenges in Building Effective Communication

Despite many mothers in **Abiansemal Dauh Yeh Cani Village** prioritizing open communication, they face several challenges in fostering effective communication. One of these challenges is the difference in perspectives between mothers and children, particularly regarding the mother's role in guiding and directing their children. Some mothers feel they need to be more assertive in giving guidance, while their children desire more freedom and space to express themselves.

Another challenge is the social and work-related pressures often faced by mothers. Some mothers in the village work outside the home or are involved in social and cultural activities, which can impact the time and energy they have available for communicating with their families. This sometimes leaves mothers feeling overwhelmed in balancing their work, social activities, and roles as family communication managers.

Moreover, although open verbal communication is practiced, not all mothers feel comfortable expressing their feelings or problems directly, especially regarding personal or family issues. Some mothers tend to hold back when communicating about sensitive topics, which can affect the overall quality of family communication.

4. The Impact of Effective Communication on Family Harmony

The findings also show that effective communication fostered by mothers positively impacts family harmony. Mothers who maintain open communication with their spouses and children can resolve conflicts more easily and keep the household atmosphere warm. This is also reflected in the close relationships between mothers and children, where children feel heard and valued by their mothers, which in turn boosts their self-confidence and communication skills with others.

Furthermore, mothers with strong communication skills are more successful in imparting family values and cultural traditions to their children. In the context of **Abiansema Dauh Yeh Cani Village**, which is rich in cultural traditions, mothers play a role in transmitting cultural values through daily communication. This is vital for preserving the village's cultural identity and strengthening a sense of togetherness within the family.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study, it can be concluded that the role of mothers in fostering effective communication within families in **Abiansema Dauh Yeh Cani Village** is vital for creating harmonious relationships among family members. Mothers in this village have successfully implemented open communication, both through face-to-face interactions and the use of technology, despite facing challenges such as differences in perspectives between mothers and children as well as social and work-related pressures. This effective communication has had a positive impact on family harmony and the development of children in a nurturing and attentive environment.

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