
**Patterns of Family Communication in Preventing Grieving in Children whose Mothers Become Female Workers
in Cibedug Village, Rongga District, West Bandung Regency**

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ARTICLE INFO

Received: 18-08-2023
Revised: 20-10-2023
Published: 26-10-2023
Volume:6
Issue: 2
DOI:10.33019/berumpun.v6i.100

KEYWORDS

***Family Communication
Pattern, Grieving, Children,
Migrant Workers***

ABSTRACT

The presence of Indonesian female employees overseas yields both advantageous and unfavorable consequences. The potential beneficial effect has the potential to enhance the nation's foreign exchange reserves. Nevertheless, there are adverse consequences that manifest in the shape of diverse challenges, encompassing numerous instances of migrating laborers. The individuals in question have encountered instances of violence, as well as instances where their earnings were not remunerated, among other related matters. The aforementioned issues also manifest in the offspring they leave in their wake. The function of the mother is crucial for the development of children. Consequently, individuals would encounter a substantial detriment that would subsequently impact the trajectory of their attitudes and behaviors throughout their lifetimes. The objective of this study is to examine the role of family communication patterns in mitigating the grief stages experienced by children whose moms engage in migrant employment. The present study employs a qualitative research methodology, namely a case study approach. The focus of this study is on families residing in Cibedug Village, Rongga District, West Bandung Regency, who are responsible for rearing children while the mothers work as migrant workers. The findings of the study indicate that when democratic communication patterns are present within the family, children are able to navigate the stages of grief effectively. In contrast, families that employ authoritarian communication patterns pose challenges for children in effectively navigating the stages of grief, resulting in manifestations of irritability, introversion, mistrust, and limited ability to engage in social interactions with their peers.

1.INTRODUCTION

Presently, there continues to be a prevalence of diverse instances involving children, such as incidents of sexual abuse perpetrated by those in close proximity to them, exploitation of children, and youngsters who opt to discontinue their education in order to engage in street performances. Among the several instances examined, certain factors contributing to the situation were identified, notably the absence of a maternal figure due to the necessity of engaging in labor as migrant workers abroad, primarily affecting children. The emigration of mothers who are compelled to engage in labor as migrant laborers exerts a psychological influence on their offspring. The experience of being separated from loved ones can give rise

to emotional distress, particularly among children who may encounter difficulties in coping with feelings of abandonment.

These empirical observations prompt scholars to inquire further, necessitating a more comprehensive analysis of female laborers. The mainstream media extensively covers the numerous issues faced by migrant domestic workers (TKW). These issues mostly revolve around their susceptibility to exploitation, particularly at the hands of their employers. Exploitation manifests in several forms, including physical, sexual, and mental abuse. Additionally, TKW often endure excessive workloads while receiving inadequate compensation.

The issue of migratory laborers engaging in employment overseas has garnered significant attention from various institutions and governmental bodies. In contrast, the families that these individuals have left behind, particularly the children, have not been well attended to. The presence of a mother figure is known to have a significant impact on the attitude and behavior patterns of children who lack this maternal support.

The observed alterations in attitude and behavior exhibited by these youngsters can be attributed to their inability to effectively navigate the stages of grief, which can be attributed to a dearth of familial social support. Children are an important period in the development and formation of a person's personality, and require adequate protection, education and support to help them grow and develop properly. The issues surrounding children and moms who become overseas domestic workers (TKW) are closely connected to the significance of effective communication within the family. This serves as a means to offer social support to children, enabling them to navigate their grief process successfully. Communication serves multiple tasks, including the expression of emotions, the establishment of emotional connections, the influence of others' emotions, and the regulation or manipulation of interpersonal interactions and behaviors in certain contexts.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Djamarah (2004: 1) defines communication pattern as a relational pattern between multiple individuals, involving the transmission and reception of messages in a manner that facilitates comprehension of the intended message. Effendy (as cited in Gunawan, 2013: 225) posits

that communication pattern is a systematic procedure that aims to depict the interconnectedness of the items involved, hence promoting systematic and logical thinking. The role of communication in persuading individuals to act and behave in alignment with desired objectives is of significant importance. The development of one's character is frequently influenced through interpersonal communication. Verdeber (1986) posits, as cited in Rahkmat (2007), that interpersonal communication can be defined as a dynamic process involving the exchange and interpretation of ideas and emotions. The primary objective of interpersonal communication within the familial context is to enhance and fortify social connections among members within the family unit. The proposed model of family communication, as outlined by McLeod and Chaffee in Reardon's work (1987), encompasses four distinct patterns: laissez-faire, protective, pluralistic, and consensual. The four patterns outlined by McLeon and Chafee are observed in both traditional and industrial communities.

Numerous prior study investigations have examined family communication patterns, including the scholarly contributions of Rahmawati and Muragmi Gazali (2018) pertaining to the discourse patterns within familial contexts. The findings of the study indicate that several communication patterns exist within the familial context, encompassing authoritarian, permissive, and democratic modes of communication. Based on the aforementioned three communication patterns, it is evident that they do not collectively apply within the family context. This is mostly due to the fact that the primary family unit necessitates a distinct strategy for children at different stages of development, such as young children, adult children, and those approaching adolescence. Hence, it is imperative to establish an independent approach distinct from parental influence, particularly that of the father and mother who serve as the home leaders. This approach is particularly crucial for the mother, who assumes the primary role as the principal educational institution for a kid, responsible for nurturing and shaping their moral development.

In a separate investigation conducted by Yuli Setyowati in 2005, the focus was placed on examining the relationship between Family Communication Patterns and the Emotional Development of children. The findings indicated that there exists a relatively low level of

family comprehension and recognition concerning the significance of family communication and its impact on the emotional development of children. This observation is supported by the existence of numerous families who either do not prioritize the significance of this matter or possess an accurate comprehension of the interconnection between these two phenomena. Indeed, it is evident that a significant number of families place greater emphasis on fostering their children's cognitive capacities rather than their emotional competencies. Additionally, numerous families lack well-defined boundaries and commitments pertaining to familial communication and the nurturing of their children's emotional growth. Consequently, family communication tends to be perceived merely as a customary practice, devoid of any intrinsic significance for developmental purposes. The term "child" refers to a young human being who is in the early stages of The potential impact of implementing family communication patterns on the emotional development of children is likely to yield beneficial outcomes when a democratic culture of communication is present within the family unit. The concept of democratization within the family is characterized by the establishment of norms and the provision of freedom, with the aim of ensuring that every child comprehends the notion of accountability for their actions. The cultivation of robust emotional growth necessitates the presence of an environment characterized by personal autonomy, accountability, self-sufficiency, and adherence to societal norms.

3. METHODOLOGY

The research employed a qualitative methodology. According to Lexy J Moleong (2002:3), Bogdan and Taylor define qualitative methodology as a research approach that generates descriptive data in the form of written or spoken words from individuals and observable behavior. Researchers commonly employ the case study method, aiming to obtain a precise and comprehensive depiction of a particular phenomenon. This aligns with the viewpoint articulated by Maxfield in Moh.Natsir (1988: 66), wherein case study research is defined as an investigation into the condition of research subjects pertaining to a specific aspect or attribute of their overall personality.

The process of selecting informants as main data sources will be conducted using a purposive sample technique, specifically researchers will select individuals who align with

the aims and objectives of the research. This study will employ the following strategies for data collection:

1. Semi-structured interviews, also known as in-depth interviews, are a qualitative research method that involves conducting interviews with participants using a flexible interview guide.

According to Esterberg, as cited in Sugiyono (2008: 231), an interview is a structured interaction between two individuals aimed at exchanging information and ideas through a series of questions and answers, with the ultimate goal of constructing meaning within a certain issue. The researcher will perform a semi-structured interview, which allows for greater flexibility in implementation compared to structured interviews. The objective is to adopt a more inclusive approach in identifying issues, wherein the interview participants are solicited for their perspectives and suggestions. During the interview process, the researcher attentively listened to the informants and diligently documented their statements.

2. Intensive Observation

According to Sugiyono (2008: 231), focused observation, also known as mini tour observation, refers to the practice of narrowing down the observation process to concentrate on specific areas. The act of observation, in a broad sense, refers to the process of gathering data through visual perception. Researchers will conduct observations to examine the daily activities of families in their provision of social support to children who have been subjected to exploitation, acts of violence, neglect, or abuse.

3. Examination of Documentation

Sugiyono (2008: 240) asserts that documents serve as archival records documenting historical events. Documents can manifest as written texts, visual representations such as images, or significant artistic creations attributed to an individual. Written documents encompass a variety of textual forms, such as life histories, narratives, biographies, regulations, and policies. Visual representations take the form of images, including photographs, live images, sketches, and other similar mediums. Documents can take the

shape of artistic works, including visual representations such as paintings, sculptures, films, and other mediums.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The findings indicated that the manner in which family communication is characterized by authoritarian tendencies has a significant impact on children's ability to navigate the many stages of grief they encounter. The authoritarian communication pattern refers to a certain mode of communication in which one party possesses a higher level of authority and exercises control over both the direction and substance of the communication. Within this particular framework, the individual receiving the communication encounters few instances to engage in verbal expression or articulate own viewpoints. Consequently, they just receive messages from the sender without any form of reciprocal connection or debate. In the context of familial bereavement, an authoritarian communication pattern is observed, when families impose expectations on children to conform to desired behaviors. Families often fail to provide youngsters with the opportunity to articulate their feelings of grief. During the phase of denial, the child's rejection, the family refrains from providing the child with an explanation regarding the underlying reasons for the mother's engagement in employment. Children are commonly perceived as lacking the cognitive capacity to fully comprehend their surroundings, which therefore leads to their reluctance in readily embracing these circumstances. As a result, they may undergo adverse emotional encounters, including but not limited to rage, worry, and sentiments of mistrust. The subsequent stage is characterized by the emotion of fury. During this particular phase, the youngster experiences a sense of disappointment and anger as a result of his mother's prolonged absence. Children develop a sense of apathy towards their immediate surroundings. During this particular era, the family refrains from inquiring about the children's experiences and emotions, instead allowing them to navigate their own paths autonomously. During the bargaining phase, the informants expressed their willingness to forgo attending school in order to assist with work, with the aim of preventing their mothers from leaving. This insight was obtained through interviews conducted with the informants. The observed communication pattern has a discernible influence on youngsters who exhibit a propensity to become socially withdrawn

and disengaged from their immediate environment due to inadequate familial support. This syndrome presents challenges for youngsters in attaining the acceptance phase.

Permissive communication patterns have been found to be beneficial in facilitating children's progression through the grief process. A permissive communication pattern refers to a certain mode of communication when the individual initiating the conversation holds a lower position of authority and grants the recipient of the message the liberty to freely articulate their thoughts and opinions. This pattern entails the presence of interaction and discussion between the sender and the recipient of the message, with the sender typically lacking control over the flow and content of the communication. Permissive communication patterns are frequently employed in contexts that require active engagement from all involved individuals, as well as in situations characterized by a high level of trust and familiarity among the communicators. Within the context of a child's facial expression denoting denial or rejection, the family unit affords the child an avenue to articulate the sorrow he is undergoing, so enabling the youngster to communicate his disapproval of the departure of his offspring. In this particular scenario, the family imparts comprehension and insight to the child regarding the rationale behind the mother's departure. Additional family members, such as grandparents or aunts, provide significant levels of care and affection to children, so temporarily assuming the role typically fulfilled by the mother. This approach expedites the child's progression towards the acceptance phase. Furthermore, the emotional support provided by the family, manifested via expressions of love, care, and empathy, is evident in the experiences and reactions of both the family members and the children. Children are also provided with encouragement by their families to persist in leading their lives in a manner similar to their peers.

Similar to permissive communication patterns, democratic communication patterns also exert a positive influence on the grieving process in children. Democratic communication patterns refer to communication patterns characterized by the equitable distribution of rights and opportunities for all parties involved. Within these patterns, individuals possess equal entitlements to voice their perspectives and opinions, while also being afforded equal chances to engage in the process of decision-making. Within this particular framework, there

exists a dynamic exchange and discourse between the individual transmitting the message and the individual receiving it. Moreover, all involved parties actively engage in the act of attentive listening and comprehension, thereby fostering a mutual understanding. Democratic communication patterns are frequently employed in contexts that need active engagement from all involved parties, as well as settings that prioritize fairness and the implementation of equitable legislation. The prevailing mode of democratic communication employed by families in which moms assume migratory employment entails the provision of equitable opportunity for children to freely articulate their emotions. The family in this particular instance endeavors to offer counsel, guidance, and constructive criticism regarding the child's emotions and sentiments. During the phase of denial or rejection in response to the mother's departure, the family facilitates an environment where the kid can openly express their reluctance. Additionally, the family offers guidance and empathy towards the mother's decisions. In this particular scenario, the family endeavors to acknowledge and validate each emotional expression sent by the child, refraining from assigning blame to the child. Following the child's emotional expression, the family enhances child communication by providing justifications for the mother's departure. This mode of communication is expected to enhance the child's comprehension of each event he encounters and facilitate his progression through the several stages leading to acceptance of his mother's departure, while receiving support and guidance from his family.

In permissive and democratic communication patterns, children whose mothers become migrant workers only go through a phase of rejection and acceptance. The role of the family in helping children go through the grieving phase with this communication pattern has a big influence. Even though the child has lost a mother figure for quite a long time, the family can give a lot of love and attention to the child so that the child's sadness does not last long. Children still live their lives happily like children in general whose mothers do not work far away.

5. CONCLUSION

The findings of studies examining family communication practices in assisting children in navigating the stages of grief following the departure of their mothers for migrant

employment exhibit a degree of variability. The presence of authoritarian family communication patterns poses challenges for children as they navigate the many stages of the grief process. The utilization of this particular communication pattern results in a prolonged duration for children to reach the acceptance stage about their mother's absence. Furthermore, the absence of familial assistance for children results in their social isolation, heightened susceptibility to anger, and inclination towards emotional withdrawal. In contrast, families who employ permissive and democratic communication patterns to assist children in navigating the grief process tend to facilitate a more expeditious progression through this period. Children receive significant familial support through the provision of empathy, love, affection, and attention. The child has a sense of worth as a result of being afforded the opportunity to openly articulate his emotions pertaining to the sorrow he endured upon his mother's departure to engage in migrant labor. Families have a crucial role in offering emotional support and guidance to children during times of grief.

Children whose moms engage in migrant employment share a common aspiration for their mothers' prompt return to provide support and guidance throughout their upbringing and maturation, despite the presence of other caretakers. These individuals also want to achieve success in order to alleviate the burden on their mother, who currently works at a distant location to fulfill their requirements.

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