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Interpersonal Communication Patterns of Parents and Children in Preventing the Spread of Hoax Information

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Abstract

The development of information currently circulating requires sorting and selecting actions for all information obtained to prevent hoax information. One of the people who must play a role is parents by providing an understanding of the importance of media literacy. This research aims to find out 1) the methods used by parents in supervising their children's use of gadgets and social media, and 2) the role of parents in carrying out media literacy in children so that they can minimize the negative impact usage of gadgets and social media. The research was conducted using a qualitative approach with data collection techniques through interviews with three informants who already have children in their teens, and each owns a cellular phone. The analysis uses interpersonal communication theory by DeVito, He highlights the importance of effective communication in relationship development, emphasizing that it occurs within specific cultural, social, and environmental contexts. The results were processed by reducing the data, presenting the data, and verifying the data. The research results found that parents' actions towards children in monitoring the use of cellphones and social media are not an act of distrust towards children, but rather an effort to provide literacy to children about the impact of incorrect information

Keywords: Reception analysis; Instagram; social media followers; politics

Introduction

The development of technology and digital information is quite rapid nowadays, and the role of the family is part of the front guard in anticipating the spread of hoax information in society. The family, in this case, parents, plays a strategic role in providing education or media literacy for their children. The supervision and understanding provided by parents for their children in using devices is an obligation that parents must carry out to minimize the negative potential that occurs to children due to hoax information obtained (Lionetti et al., 2019). Symons et al. (2020) say that greater parental supervision can

reduce the risks posed by teenagers' use of social media, especially concerning contact with strangers. It is also in line with the words of Child and Family Psychologist, Anna Surti Ariani, that making friends with children on social media is useful because it allows parents to know their children's behavior and the comments of their peers on social media (Putra & Patmaningrum, 2018).

The trust that parents place in their children in owning and using devices should be in line with the child's responsibility in accessing and obtaining information through social media. In adolescence, which is part of the cycle of searching for identity and

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the need for more curiosity, a process of assistance from parents is needed so that the information obtained by teenagers is not simply accepted without a process of reviewing the information. Several previous research results found that the use of social media by teenagers is positively correlated with depression, anxiety, lack of sleep, and loneliness (Barry et al., 2017; Primack et al., 2017; Wallace, 2022; Woods & Scott, 2016). For this reason, the act of assisting parents with their children is a step to finding out whether the information obtained is true or whether it is just false information or a hoax.

When children are unable to understand information properly and correctly, the child has the potential to consume the information and even disseminate it to other parties. This will have a negative impact on the child's future growth. Parents have a responsibility to be able to teach their children about what their children get and need. Through interpersonal communication, accompanied by a mutually open and equal approach, everything the child needs or all the information obtained by the child can easily be resolved if the information is not correct.

The development of information technology is currently experiencing rapid development. One of the media used to channel information in all areas of life is through social media. Social Media is a combination of interactivity with innovative characteristics for mass communication - unlimited types of content, audience reach, and global nature in terms of communication (McQuail, 2000).

The presence of social media in the middle of community life has indirectly influenced the value system and culture that has been going on all this time (Mohd Yusoff et al., 2015). Information delivered through

social media is no different from information delivered through other media, where there is a positive side and a negative side in understanding the information obtained. The truth is that the information obtained is part of reducing the uncertainty of something, but the reality is that the information circulating through social media is sometimes a manipulative source and tends to be a hoax.

Most hoax information spread in Indonesia occurs through social media platforms, especially through WhatsApp and social media. Where WhatsApp and social media users in Indonesia amount to 83% (Riyanto, 2020). In fact, the large number of hoax news circulating has an influence on its readers, the real impact is that it is easily sparked by provocation, there is an attitude of mutual hatred (Aminah & Sari, 2019). Even though in Indonesia there is a legal umbrella to limit the spread of hoaxes through the Electronic Information and Transaction Law (UU ITE), the facts on the ground are that the growth of hoax information is growing very rapidly.

Hoax information or fake news has many meanings and is most closely related to misinformation that is created intentionally to deceive readers. Hoax can be interpreted as the act of obscuring actual information, by flooding the media with the wrong message to cover up the correct message. The message conveyed can be in the form of bad information, propaganda, or satire. Inaccurate information or hoax information will certainly create less conducive conditions in society. The phenomenon of hoax information in Indonesia has raised many doubts about the information received and this information tends to confuse the public (Juditha, 2018)

To overcome the development of hoax information, one way that can be done is through good media literacy, to prevent hoax information on social media, which is a necessity, as a manifestation of the concept of National Vigilance. Where this must be built through the ability to detect that information is a hoax, prevent its dissemination and have an understanding that the impact of hoaxes on social media will have implications for nationalism and national integrity (Yani, 2019). One way is through media literacy by families in providing supervision and understanding to children.

The family as a social institution has an important role in educating and directing children's growth and development patterns. Through the family, children will find a place to understand the meaning of life and existence. In the family, children find the first and last teachers in their lives from their parents. The family is the basic social institution from which all other social institutions and institutions develop (Soekanto & Sulistyowati, 2017). Ahmadi stated that the family is a very important forum between individuals and groups, and is the first social group where children become members, and in the family is the first place where children carry out the socialization process (Rostiana et al., 2015). Where in the family there is direct contact and there is also intimacy between group members in the family. The family has functions, among others, such as a hereditary control function, economic or production function, protective status determining maintenance function and affection function.

The role of the family in the process of socializing children as stated by Vemrianto (Adison & Suryadi, 2020) namely, (1) the family is a small group whose members

interact face-to-face on a regular basis, (2) parents have a strong motivation to educate children because they are the fruit of love between husband and wife and (3) because social relationships in the family are relatively permanent, parents play a very important role in children's socialization.

Research on communication patterns between parents and children in overcoming the spread of hoax information aims to find out the ways or methods used by parents in supervising children's use of gadgets and social media as well as the role of parents in carrying out media literacy in children so that they can minimize the negative impact of using gadgets and social media.

Method

In this research, researchers use a qualitative approach, where this research seeks to explore and understand the meaning ascribed to social problems (Creswell, 2014). Meanwhile Leavy (2017) explained that qualitative research was carried out to examine the inward and subjective values of people's experiences and how to make meaning of existing things.

Data collection in this research was carried out through in-depth interview techniques. Lune and Berg (2017) explain that interviews are information-seeking activities such as face-to-face social interactions between interviewers and informants in a study. Determining the sources was carried out using a purposive sampling technique, where the sources were selected based on research needs, where the sources had children over 10 years old and had their means of communication.

The primary data in this study is in the form of individual experiences obtained through in-depth interview instruments, thus enabling researchers to connect directly with the world of construction of social actors who interact with information hoaxes.

There were three individuals in this study, consisting of one woman and two men. and have different backgrounds, one person works as a teacher and has four children, with three of them ten years and over. One resource person is a housewife and has two daughters aged 12 and 14 years. and one other resource person is a private employee who has 1 child aged 13 years.

The data analysis technique in this research is narrative analysis by carrying out data condensation steps, data presentation, and drawing conclusions. (Miles et al., 2014).

Joseph DeVito's key concept of interpersonal communication revolves around the idea that it is a dynamic, transactional process characterized by the interdependence of individuals (DeVito, 2019). Communication involves encoding and decoding messages in a two-way exchange, with active participation from both parties. DeVito highlights the importance of effective communication in relationship development, emphasizing that it occurs within specific cultural, social, and environmental contexts. The symbolic nature of communication, where words and gestures carry meaning, is a central aspect, and communication competence, adapting strategies to different situations, is crucial for successful interpersonal interactions.

Result and Analysis

The existence of media today can have both positive and negative impacts on its users,

such as implementing lifestyles in society, especially children (Juwita et al., 2015). If there is no socialization and supervision function in the family in dealing with hoax information, it is feared that children will not have attitudes that are reflected in values and norms. Hoaxes or fake news currently continue to flood social media and are disseminated widely to the public. Not a few of the perpetrators of spreading hoaxes have been convicted, which has caused panic and fear in the community. On the other hand, the use of social media is currently growing very extraordinary because social media allows everyone to exchange information with other social media users. Ironically, the victims of hoaxes are sometimes not lower middle class people who only have junior high school level education, but there are quite a few people in general who already have higher education who become victims of this hoax information (Hujjah, 2022). This is in accordance with the statement of resource person Agung Saputra stating that the existence of hoax news is currently considered to have a provocative effect on children, resulting in the news being in accordance with reality.

"For today's teenagers, it is easy for them to receive existing news and information and not immediately digest what they see, what they read, then they consider that information to be a benchmark, that what is being circulated is what they think is correct, so they are involved in the information that is being circulated. fake or hoax and they also spread this information to their friends on social media when they discuss it." (Interview with Informant Agung Saputra, 2023).

To overcome hoax information in children, parents need to be responsible by looking at everything that happens in the family. The task as a parent here emphasizes implementing a supervisory function,

providing direction and motivation as part of moral responsibility by having effective interactive abilities (Sauri, 2023). The View from informant Muhammad Nahar regarding the efforts made by parents in dealing with hoax information emphasizes a spiritual approach by prioritizing moral support from parents. This is a form of effort made by parents for their children so that children have activities that are positive and more meaningful than the child's desires.

"Give him positive activities, for example nowadays, the example of today's children is that what he wants is popular, what is his hobby, playing football, then channel him to football schools or other positive activities, such as evening recitation activities with introduce the letters of the Koran ". (Interview with Informant Muhammad Nahar, 2023).

Several indicators in implementing interpersonal communication patterns between parents and children in overcoming the spread of hoax information include communication carried forms out, attention, openness, and increased literacy for children. Attention is the mental process in which a stimulus or series of stimuli becomes prominent in consciousness at a time when other stimuli are attenuated. Selective attention that must be paid attention to includes paying attention to certain things according to beliefs, attitudes, values, habits, and interests. In the informant's family, parents have an important role in paying attention to their children to avoid hoax information in the city of Medan. Attention can be given in the form of all children's activities in general in dealing with hoax information circulating. When researchers asked what attention parents gave their children in dealing with hoax information, informant Sri Wahyuni answered:

important because is verv communication regarding attention is between parents and children and that is a priority. In general, this attention is carried out in all things, such as openness in conversations between parents and children and there we can find out what the child's needs are and the information that is available and the speaker is sometimes held in the evening, we are eating together or on holiday, but if it's during the day "On a normal day, they have activities like school in the morning, meet them in the afternoon, they'll be tired, and then at night, what will happen? What happens from morning until evening" (Interview with Informant Sri Wahyuni, 2023).

Parents generally have an interest in their children by providing attention in the form of advice to their children regarding the activities carried out by children in general so that the messages conveyed through communication can run well. When the researcher asked what attention was being taken in dealing with hoax news information about children, informant Agung Saputra answered.

"From my personal point of view, paying attention is asking how his activities are directly or face to face, then we ask what his problems are when he is outside, whether in lessons or whether he has problems with his friendships so that we can find solutions to the problems he has. have by offering solutions so that it doesn't become a dilemma for him to keep the problem bottled up so that if it doesn't come out it will become a problem for the child he will look for protection or whatever it is called, comfort outside of the family so that's what happens a lot deviation on social media to find one's identity and satisfaction" (Interview with Informant Agung Saputra, 2023).

Personal understanding built over time can motivate you to understand and ask to be understood. Understanding is carried out by sharing secrets, fears, needs and personal experiences with parents who always trust children in all their activities which are not the same as all parents. Personal understanding is a process that grows and develops through interpersonal communication carried out by parents with children in dealing with hoax information. When researchers asked what parents understand about what children do in dealing with hoax information, informant Muhammad Nahar answered:

"Yes, it is very important because if we don't understand children's needs, the danger will be that activities that parents don't want, such as crimes, such as negative activities, will arise if parents don't take approaches to understand children" (Interview with Informant Muhammad Nahar, 2023).

Parents in general often provide understanding to children regarding the activities carried out by children both in the family and in the environment so that existing problems can be resolved by parents to create an open mindedness in fostering effective interpersonal communication. Some attitudes of openness are carried out by parents towards children in dealing with hoax information circulating by knowing the right time to communicate effectively with children, the communication process is carried out as an effort carried out by interacting with prioritizing sharing of experiences and the roles each has. both introspect their behavior. If each communication actor in this case is still not effective, then there is a need for a third party to provide views from their experience. When researchers asked what principles of openness parents apply to their children in dealing with hoax information, informant Agung Saputra answered:

> "We still ask that, right? For example, if we ask our daughter whether we don't want to, we can ask her mother to maybe open her up when she is relaxed. So, when we have a problem, we can say that it is

something that might be wrong, or we can introspect it and it turns out to be something that is not right. "For example, if he doesn't accept it, we invite him to share his response to the information he has provided, so it is a direct interaction between the child's father or through the intermediary of the mother because not all children will be comfortable with their father, perhaps with their mother, we have to be able to see that" (Interview with Informant Agung Saputra, 2023).

The word "literacy" which expresses the ability to read and write is increasingly important along with the development of multimedia technology in the digital era. The aim of refining the definition of media competency is to give the public greater control over the interpretation of messages conveyed by the media. The relationship between literacy and eradicating hoax news lies in the role of people's cognitive abilities in verifying information. In fact, a higher level of digital literacy can help society provide information that is different from what is wrongly believed. When the researcher asked what literacy skills parents did in dealing with hoax information to their children, informant Sri Wahyuni answered:

"Give him positive activities, ask him what he wants, accompany him in using his cell phone, don't force our children because if we force our children, it could be dangerous. We teach you that this information is misleading, don't follow it. Monitor him like his activities on social media, check WA because that's where we can find out, right? If we make a mistake, don't reprimand us like that, it should be like this" (Interview with Sri Wahyuni, 2023).

"Yes, the way to do this is by doing a children's recitation activity with the ustad, then the ustad tells stories about twenty-five prophets, the behavior of the prophets, how the prophets interacted, so that's a lesson for them that they will digest, it turns out

that what they did in worship has already been done" (Interview to Informant Agung Saputra, 2023).

Digital culture is very important in the world of communication for three reasons. First, the increasing use of digital media, especially the internet and social networks. Gadgets are unauthorized devices that still exist and are the most reliable means of communicating and seeking information. Digital media is developing very rapidly, with the offering of information and other content being produced continuously without knowing any boundaries such as distance and time. Since then, information updates have occurred within seconds. Second, people trust search engine websites, like Google, Yahoo or Bing and social networks to retrieve information. New media offers a solution for everyone's search for information because the use of the Internet is better because it offers fast information delivery times and is comfortable in accessing some necessary information. The same thing happens to social networks as another way to access information by selecting information from various available sources. With the various models available, information requires special skills supported by digital culture. With these skills, individuals will have greater control over the process by interpreting messages so that we can select accurate specific information/content (Sabrina, 2019).

Digital literacy emphasizes the basic skills of individuals utilizing digital media in this case also social networks are based on including information processing and technical, cognitive, and social skills. This is important to do so that internet users are more susceptible to information filtering so they can differentiate between true and false

information. Digital culture can be an effective alternative for dealing with hoaxes, the steps include checking the information and always following the information in the required cognitive categories. The need for good communication will always create a good relationship between parents and children to minimize the disputes experienced. When receiving information from various message platforms on social media, filtering efforts before sharing are expected to be able to ask again or carry out searches for the truth of the information before passing the information on to other people. When researchers asked about effective communication carried out by parents in dealing with hoax information to children, informant Agung Saputra answered:

"Yes, we have to chat a lot with our children, right? It's good in the form of chatting directly, then we chat via WhatsApp, so every day we ask about what they do in their daily activities, then we always discuss it. We have to carry out intensive discussions, whether at the dinner table or in casual chats that are not patronizing in nature, but we try to find information about what he sees or what he does on social media or on his gadgets." (Interview to Informant Agung Saputra, 2023).

Communication technology is the main cause of division in every element of society. The dissemination of information from the media today can influence people's behavior patterns, therefore the importance of literacy education needs to be an urgency that can give birth to good communication ethics as a manifestation of communicative interaction. Ethics can provide humans with a form in carrying out their lives through every series of daily activities. Ethics can provide decisions regarding what actions to take, especially as part of parents' efforts to overcome hoax information about children.

Discussion

Communicationserves multiple functions, including conveying information, influencing attitudes, and managing relationships. In this study, parents and children play distinct roles in the communication process, each contributing to the prevention of the spread of hoax information within the family unit (Devito, 2012). One aspect of DeVito's theory is the concept of interpersonal needs, which includes the need for affection, inclusion, control, and escape. Within the familial context explored in the manuscript, parents may seek to fulfill the need for control by guiding and educating their children about discerning reliable information from hoaxes. Meanwhile, children may seek inclusion and affection by actively engaging in discussions with their parents, fostering an open and communicative environment. Interpersonal needs are crucial for designing effective communication strategies that resonate with both parents and children.

The importance of communication climates, which can be either supportive or defensive (DeVito, 2019). In the context of preventing the spread of hoax information, a supportive communication climate within the family would encourage open dialogue, active listening, and mutual understanding. Parents who create a supportive climate are likely to facilitate constructive conversations with their children, enabling them to critically evaluate information sources and develop the skills needed to identify misinformation. Conversely, a defensive climate may hinder communication, leading to a breakdown in understanding and collaboration between parents and children.

Parents may engage in self-disclosure, sharing their experiences with misinformation and its consequences, to establish a connection with their children. Likewise, children may reciprocate by disclosing their own encounters with potentially misleading information. This mutual self-disclosure fosters trust and strengthens the bond between parents and children, contributing to a more effective collaborative effort in preventing the spread of hoax information within the family.

Conclusion

The role of parents in providing understanding to children regarding information on the use of social media and sorting information obtained through social media has become a necessity to anticipate acts of distributing information that is incorrect. The persuasive approach taken by parents in communicating with children is one of the right steps to provide understanding to children.

Children's attachment to gadgets causes many changes in children's behavior patterns and attitudes which tend to be less productive. To overcome this problem, parents must be able to provide space and activities with positive value, such as providing space for developing children's hobbies and creativity, as well as continuing to strengthen religious studies to prevent children from committing negative actions.

Interaction between parents and children must always be carried out, providing understanding for children using language and actions that are easy for children to understand. Give children the opportunity to express what they want while still providing

signs or rules in accordance with applicable norms. So, there is no impression of restraint on children in their daily activities.

By considering interpersonal needs, communication climates, and self-disclosure, researchers and practitioners can gain valuable insights into how families can navigate and counteract the challenges posed by the spread of hoax information through effective interpersonal communication strategies.

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