



FAMILY COMMUNICATION PATTERNS IN THE FORMATION OF ADOLESCENT CHARACTER IN CENGKEH TURI VILLAGE, BINJAI CITY

Vira Ade Natasya¹, Muaz Tanjung²

Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mendeskripsikan pola komunikasi keluarga dalam pembentukan karakter remaja di Kelurahan Cengkeh Turi Kota Binjai. Remaja merupakan fase perkembangan yang rentan terhadap perubahan biologis, psikologis, dan sosial sehingga membutuhkan komunikasi yang efektif dalam keluarga. Di tengah kesibukan orang tua dan meningkatnya penggunaan gawai oleh remaja, intensitas komunikasi langsung dalam keluarga mengalami perubahan yang berdampak pada proses penanaman nilai dan pembentukan karakter. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif deskriptif dengan melibatkan tujuh keluarga yang terdiri dari tujuh orang tua dan tujuh remaja yang dipilih secara purposive. Data diperoleh melalui wawancara mendalam dan observasi, kemudian dianalisis melalui tahapan reduksi data, penyajian data, dan penarikan kesimpulan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa pola komunikasi dialogis atau dua arah lebih dominan diterapkan, dimana orang tua tidak hanya memberi perintah, tetapi juga memberikan penjelasan serta ruang bagi remaja untuk menyampaikan pendapat. Pola komunikasi tersebut berkontribusi terhadap pembentukan karakter remaja khususnya dalam aspek kedisiplinan, tanggung jawab, keterbukaan, dan religiusitas. Sebaliknya, pola komunikasi satu arah cenderung menghasilkan kepatuhan, namun kurang mendorong keterbukaan. Dengan demikian, komunikasi keluarga yang terbuka dan responsif berperan penting dalam pembentukan karakter remaja.

Kata Kunci: pola komunikasi keluarga, karakter remaja, komunikasi interpersonal, keluarga.

Abstract

This study aims to describe family communication patterns in shaping the character of adolescents in the Cengkeh Turi Sub-district of Binjai City. Adolescence is a developmental phase that is vulnerable to biological, psychological, and social changes, thus requiring effective communication within the family. Amidst the busyness of parents and the increasing use of gadgets by adolescents, the intensity of direct communication within families has changed and has impacted the process of instilling values and character formation. This study used a descriptive qualitative approach involving seven families consisting of seven parents and seven adolescents who were selected purposively. Data were obtained through in-depth interviews and observations, then analyzed through the stages of data reduction, data

¹ Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, email: vira0603221011@uinsu.ac.id

² Universitas Islam Negeri Sumatera Utara, email: muaztanjung@uinsu.ac.id

presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results of the study show that a dialogical or two-way communication pattern is more dominant, where parents not only give orders but also provide explanations and space for adolescents to express their opinions. This communication pattern contributes to the formation of adolescent character, particularly in the aspects of discipline, responsibility, openness, and religiosity. Conversely, one-way communication patterns tend to result in obedience but do not encourage openness. Thus, open and responsive family communication plays an important role in shaping adolescent character..

Keywords: family communication patterns, adolescent character, interpersonal communication, family.

INTRODUCTION

The family is the primary social environment and plays a fundamental role in an individual's life. From childhood to adolescence, the family is the initial setting for the formation of values, norms, and character. During adolescence, individuals experience significant biological, psychological, and social changes, necessitating support and effective communication from parents. Open and dialogic family communication allows for a healthy exchange of messages, ultimately supporting the development of adolescent character. (Nurkholida & Luqman Hakim, 2020)

In the context of interpersonal relationships, family communication is the primary means of conveying life values and norms. Open, empathetic, and responsive communication patterns to adolescents' needs provide a space for them to express their thoughts, receive emotional support, and understand the positive values espoused by the family. Numerous studies have shown that open family communication patterns contribute to adolescents' ability to manage their emotions and build self-confidence amidst increasingly complex social dynamics. (Rosyad et al., n.d.)

Previous research has also revealed that family communication patterns are linked to the development of children's personal and social identities. Ramadhana, Utari, and Kartono (2019) found in the Journal of Family Sciences that family communication that encourages open conversation is significantly correlated with children's identity development. This finding demonstrates that positive communication within the family has significant potential in shaping adolescent character. (Ramadhana et al., n.d.)

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

Various empirical studies have also confirmed the role of family communication patterns in character formation. Research in Kramat District, Central Jakarta, showed that democratic and open family communication helps children internalize values such as discipline, responsibility, and empathy. (Komunikasi et al., n.d.) Similarly, Billa and Imawan (2024) stated that good family communication makes adolescents feel heard and understood, thus supporting positive character development in facing the challenges of the digital era. (Aoelia et al., 2024)

In contemporary developments, the influence of digital media and the social environment also influences adolescent attitudes and behavior. If communication within the family is ineffective, adolescents are at risk of experiencing psychological distress such as anxiety and feelings of isolation. Research by Wu et al. (2023) showed a relationship between ineffective family communication and increased levels of anxiety and depression in adolescents. (Huang et al., 2023) This confirms that family communication plays a role not only in character formation but also in maintaining adolescent mental health.

This phenomenon was also observed in Cengkeh Turi Village, Binjai City. Based on initial observations, busy parents, limited interaction time, and high use of gadgets by adolescents have reduced the intensity of direct communication within the family. This situation gives rise to varying communication patterns that have different impacts on adolescent character development, including aspects of discipline, responsibility, and social relationships.

Although numerous studies on family communication have been conducted, most research focuses on large urban areas or formal educational settings. Research specifically examining family communication patterns within the context of the village community is still relatively limited. However, local social and cultural characteristics can influence interaction patterns within the family. Therefore, this study was conducted to empirically analyze family communication patterns in adolescent character formation in Cengkeh Turi Village, Binjai City, while also contributing to the development of family communication studies in the local context.

METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with descriptive methods to examine family communication patterns in shaping adolescent character in Cengkeh Turi Village, Binjai City.

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

This approach was chosen because the research focuses on the interaction processes, experiences, and meanings formed in the daily relationships between parents and adolescents.

The study subjects consisted of seven families, each involving one parent and one adolescent, for a total of fourteen informants. Informants were selected purposively: families living in the same household, having children aged 12–18, and willing to participate in the study. The number of informants was determined based on the principle of data saturation, when the information obtained demonstrates recurring patterns.

Data were collected through semi-structured interviews, direct observation, and documentation. Interviews were conducted to explore the forms of parental communication in instilling values of discipline, responsibility, and religious attitudes in adolescents. Observations were used to directly observe interaction patterns in family life, while documentation served as supporting data.

Data analysis was conducted through data reduction, presentation of data in narrative form, and drawing conclusions. Data validity was maintained through triangulation of sources and techniques by comparing information from parents and adolescents and matching interview results with observational results.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Research Finding

Family Communication Patterns in Cengkeh Turi Village

The research results show that communication between parents and adolescents in Cengkeh Turi Village occurs routinely in daily life, but its intensity is influenced by the parents' activities and busy schedules. Based on interviews with informants, most family communication occurs in the evening after parents finish work. At this time, family members usually gather at home, allowing for conversation between parents and children. Conversely, communication in the morning tends to be shorter because adolescents have to leave for school and parents are also preparing for their work activities.

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

In daily interactions, the most frequent form of communication is providing directions or reminders regarding children's obligations, such as studying, helping with homework, or attending religious services. Parents generally provide direct advice to their children when they observe behavior that needs improvement. Several adolescents reported that their parents not only give orders but also explain the reasons behind the rules implemented in the family. This demonstrates parental efforts to build communication that is not only instructive but also provides understanding to their children.

However, the interview results also indicate that the level of openness in family communication varies. Some adolescents feel comfortable expressing their opinions or sharing their experiences with their parents, especially when the conversation takes place in a relaxed atmosphere. However, others feel less free to express personal feelings or problems due to fear of reprimand or judgment from their parents. This situation indicates that family communication in the research environment is not yet fully dialogical and in-depth.

The study also found that some family rules are not always communicated formally or in writing. Many household rules are understood indirectly through prevailing family customs. For example, rules regarding cell phone use, study time, or the obligation to help parents around the house are often communicated verbally and not always discussed specifically in family conversations. This results in each family having different ways of managing communication and monitoring adolescent behavior.

The Impact of Communication Patterns on the Formation of Adolescent Character

The research results show that communication patterns implemented within the family influence the development of discipline and responsibility in adolescents. Based on interviews with parents and adolescents, most families instill the value of discipline through regular reminders regarding daily obligations, such as doing schoolwork, keeping the house clean, and adhering to family rules. Parents usually provide direct guidance if their children exhibit behavior deemed undisciplined.

Several adolescents reported that they have become accustomed to helping their parents with household chores, such as cleaning the house or helping with family business. These habits

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

are formed through ongoing communication between parents and children. Parents not only give orders but also set an example in carrying out daily responsibilities. This helps some adolescents understand the importance of taking responsibility for the tasks assigned to them.

The research findings indicate that the way parents communicate with their children influences adolescents' level of openness in sharing personal feelings or problems. Some adolescents stated that they feel more comfortable talking to their parents when the conversation takes place in a calm and caring tone. In such situations, adolescents tend to be more open about their experiences at school and in their daily lives. The research also revealed differences in social characteristics among the adolescents who participated in the study. Some adolescents were described as friendly, sociable, and able to collaborate with peers and family members. Adolescents with these characteristics generally come from families where discussions are common and children are given the opportunity to express their opinions.

Interviews with parents revealed that instilling moral values such as courtesy, honesty, and mutual respect is often done through advice and examples of behavior in everyday life. Parents typically reprimand their children directly if they engage in actions deemed inconsistent with the values taught in the family. This communication process is one way for parents to instill moral values in adolescents within the family.

Discussion

The research results indicate that family communication patterns in Cengkeh Turi Village tend to be semi-dialogic, meaning communication that allows space for conversation between parents and adolescents while still maintaining parental authority in decision-making. This pattern is evident in daily communication practices, which are dominated by the delivery of advice, reminders of obligations, and behavioral guidance, particularly regarding school activities, religious observances, and household responsibilities. These findings demonstrate that family communication remains the primary means of transmitting social and moral values to adolescents. From the perspective of family interpersonal communication, the process of conveying these values is a crucial part of the primary socialization mechanism that shapes individual behavioral orientations from an early age (Ritonga et al., 2024). Therefore, the quality

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

of interactions between parents and adolescents is a crucial factor in determining the success of internalizing character values within family life.

Furthermore, the research results indicate that family communication is directly related to the development of discipline and responsibility in adolescents. Adolescents who receive consistent guidance from their parents tend to exhibit more organized behavior in carrying out daily obligations, such as completing schoolwork, helping with housework, and adhering to family rules. This situation confirms that regular and structured communication can shape positive habits in adolescents' lives. Previous research also shows that intensive and consistent family communication plays a role in developing adaptive behavioral patterns and improving adolescents' ability to cope with social and academic demands (Nursita & Sudiapermana, 2025). Thus, family communication serves not only as a means of conveying messages but also as a mechanism for forming habits that support adolescent character development.

Research findings also indicate that the emotional quality of communication influences adolescents' levels of openness and emotional control. Adolescents who feel listened to and valued by their parents tend to be more open in sharing their feelings and personal experiences. Conversely, communication that occurs in a high-pitched or blaming tone can lead to defensiveness and a tendency to withdraw from family interactions. These results reinforce previous research findings that suggest that supportive and empathetic family communication plays a crucial role in shaping adolescents' psychological stability and self-identity (Rahmadhania, 2023). A positive communication environment provides a space for adolescents to express themselves healthily, while also helping them develop emotional regulation skills in dealing with interpersonal conflict.

This study also found that family communication patterns are influenced by various contextual factors, such as parental busyness, adolescents' use of gadgets, and the quality of emotional relationships within the family. Workloads often limit interaction time between parents and children, resulting in brief conversations focused on conveying practical messages. Furthermore, the use of gadgets and digital media also contributes to a decrease in the intensity of face-to-face communication within the family. This phenomenon aligns with research findings that suggest that the development of digital technology has changed the dynamics of family communication, particularly in terms of the intensity of interaction and the depth of

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

conversations between parents and children (Batubara et al., 2025). In this context, families face the challenge of maintaining the quality of interpersonal communication amidst the increasing use of digital technology in daily life.

Theoretically, this study's findings can be explained through Family Communication Patterns Theory, which emphasizes that the balance between conversation orientation and conformity orientation determines the effectiveness of communication within the family. Families with a high conversation orientation tend to provide more dialogue for family members to express their opinions, while families with a high conformity orientation emphasize the importance of adherence to family values and rules (Bakhtiari et al., 2024). The research results show that families in Cengkeh Turi Village generally apply a combination of these two orientations, allowing family communication to provide space for discussion while remaining within the framework of parental authority. This combination plays a role in shaping adolescents' character, which is relatively disciplined, responsible, and able to adapt to their social environment. Thus, open, empathetic, and consistent family communication can be an important foundation for building positive adolescent character amidst ever-evolving social and digital dynamics.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that family communication patterns play a significant role in shaping the character of adolescents in Kelurahan Cengkeh Turi, Binjai City. The findings indicate that communication within families generally occurs through semi-dialogical interactions, where parents provide guidance and advice while still allowing adolescents to express their opinions. This communication pattern enables the transmission of values related to discipline, responsibility, openness, and emotional control. When communication is carried out consistently and empathetically, adolescents tend to develop more positive behavioral attitudes and stronger social identities. Conversely, communication that is dominated by instructions or emotional pressure tends to reduce openness and may lead adolescents to withdraw from interaction within the family.

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

The study also reveals that several contextual factors influence the effectiveness of family communication. Parents' work activities and limited interaction time often reduce opportunities for deep conversations between parents and adolescents. In addition, the increasing use of digital devices among adolescents contributes to decreased face-to-face communication within families. Despite these challenges, the findings demonstrate that families who maintain supportive, open, and respectful communication environments are more successful in fostering adolescents' moral awareness, emotional stability, and social responsibility.

From a practical perspective, this research implies that families need to strengthen dialogical and empathetic communication practices in everyday interactions. Parents are encouraged to allocate sufficient time for meaningful conversations with their children, listen actively to adolescents' perspectives, and create a supportive emotional environment that allows open dialogue. Strengthening communication quality within the family is essential not only for character development but also for maintaining adolescents' psychological well-being in the context of contemporary social and digital challenges.

Finally, this study suggests that future researchers may expand the scope of research by involving larger and more diverse family contexts, including different socio-economic and cultural backgrounds. Further studies may also explore the influence of digital communication within families and its impact on adolescent character development using mixed-method or longitudinal approaches. Such research would contribute to a deeper understanding of how family communication dynamics evolve in modern society and how they can be optimized to support the holistic development of adolescents.

REFERENCES

- Aoelia, P., Billa, T., & Imawan, K. (2024). Family Communication in Supporting Adolescent Mental Health in the Digital Era. 5(4), 475–482.
- Bakhtiari, A., Kashefi, F., Pasha, H., Nasiri Amiri, F., Bakouei, F., & Saffari, E. (2024). Role of family communication patterns as predictors of behavioral health among students of public universities in north of Iran. *Journal of Education and Health Promotion*, 13(1). https://doi.org/10.4103/jehp.jehp_1406_23
- Fadila Rahma Batubara, Jihan Marwa Alya, Ezra Azzahra Hasibuan, Berlianti Berlianti, Alya Shalsabila Lubis, & Aurelia Serbina Sitepu. (2025). *Dinamika Sosial Keluarga di Era*

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id

- Digital: Studi tentang Pola Komunikasi antara Orang Tua dan Remaja. *Jurnal Ilmiah Teknik Informatika Dan Komunikasi*, 5(1), 106–117.
<https://doi.org/10.55606/juitik.v5i1.1080>
- Faizah Annisa Yuhada, & Ramadhana, M. R. (2023). Pengaruh Komunikasi Keluarga Protektif Terhadap Keterbukaan Diri Remaja Akhir pada Siswa SMAS Regina Pacis Bogor. *JURNAL SIMBOLIKA Research and Learning in Communication Study*, 9(2), 111–120.
<https://doi.org/10.31289/simbolika.v9i2.10383>
- Huang, X. cheng, Zhang, Y. ning, Wu, X. yu, Jiang, Y., Cai, H., Deng, Y. qian, Luo, Y., Zhao, L. ping, Liu, Q. ling, Luo, S. yue, Wang, Y. yan, Zhao, L., Jiang, M. min, & Wu, Y. bo. (2023). A cross-sectional study: family communication, anxiety, and depression in adolescents: the mediating role of family violence and problematic internet use. *BMC Public Health*, 23(1). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-023-16637-0>
- Khairiyyah, L., & Rina, N. (n.d.). PADA DIRI REMAJA AKHIR. 2024.
- Komunikasi, J., Ilmu Politik, dan, Fajar Wulandari, Y., & Himawan, S. (n.d.). Retorika POLA KOMUNIKASI ORANG TUA DALAM PEMBENTUKAN KARAKTER ANAK (STUDI KASUS KELURAHAN KRAMAT JAKARTA PUSAT).
- Nurkholida, E., & Luqman Hakim, M. (2020). Aseing Parenting Education: Parenting Styles Of Adolescents In Rural And Urban Society *INDONESIAN JOURNAL OF EDUCATIONAL STUDIES (IJES)*. *Indonesian Journal of Educational Studies*, 23(1).
<http://ojs.unm.ac.id/index.php/Insani/index>
- Nursita, Y., & Sudiapermana, E. (2025). *JURNAL COMM-EDU PENGARUH POLA KOMUNIKASI INTERAKSIONAL DAN KETELADANAN ORANGTUA TERHADAP PEMBENTUKAN KARAKTER REMAJA*. 8(1), 2615–1480.
<http://www.kpai.go.id>
- Rahmadhania, B. (2023). Triwikrama: Jurnal Multidisiplin Ilmu Sosial PERAN KOMUNIKASI KELUARGA DALAM PEMBENTUKAN IDENTITAS REMAJA.
- Ramadhana, M. R., Karsidi, R., Utari, P., & Kartono, D. T. (n.d.). Role of Family Communications in Adolescent Personal and Social Identity.
- Ritonga, I., Yazid, M., Komunikasi, L. M., Islam, P., Dakwah, F., & Komunikasi, D. (2024). Pola Komunikasi Keluarga dalam Pembentukan Karakter Anak. *Religion Education Social Laa Roiba Journal*, 6, 5147. <https://doi.org/10.47476/reslaj.v6i11.3883>
- Rosyad, A., Kurniawan, R. A., & Abnisa, A. P. (n.d.). THE ROLE OF FAMILY COMMUNICATION IN ADOLESCENT IDENTITY FORMATION IN THE MODERN ERA.
- Siregar, D. A., Harahap, M. H., & Harahap, N. (2024). Pengaruh Media Sosial terhadap Komunikasi Interpersonal Remaja dalam Keluarga. *Da'watuna: Journal of Communication and Islamic Broadcasting*, 4(2), 893–900.
<https://doi.org/10.47467/dawatuna.v4i2.6221>

Nivedana: Journal of Communication and Language

Sekolah Tinggi Agama Buddha Negeri Raden Wijaya Wonogiri
 Volume 7, Number 2, April – June 2026/ nivedana@radenwijaya.ac.id