

Analysis of Adolescents' Communication Ethics Toward Parents in the Digital Era: A Study of the Sidoarjo Hilir Community, Medan Tembung District

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Abstract

The rapid development of digital technology has significantly changed communication patterns within families, especially among teenagers. Adolescents growing up in the digital era tend to be more familiar with communication through social media and electronic devices rather than direct face-to-face interaction. This condition gradually affects teenagers' communication ethics toward their parents, such as the use of overly casual language, lack of attention during conversations, and reduced intensity of family interactions. From the perspective of Islamic Education, ethics in speaking to parents is an important part of moral education that must be maintained under any circumstances, as explained in Surah Al-Isra verse 23 regarding the prohibition of speaking harshly to parents. This study aims to analyze teenagers' communication ethics toward parents in the digital era within the community of Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District, and to identify the factors influencing these changes. This study employed a descriptive qualitative approach using interviews, observations, and documentation as data collection techniques. The research informants consisted of two teenagers and one parent selected through purposive sampling. Data were analyzed through data reduction, data presentation, and conclusion drawing. The results showed that digital technology has both positive and negative impacts on family communication. The positive impact can be seen in the ease of long-distance communication between children and parents. However, the study also found changes in communication ethics, such as the use of informal language toward parents, lack of focus during interaction due to smartphone use, and reduced meaningful face-to-face communication. This research also found that family roles and religious education play an important role in shaping teenagers' communication ethics in the digital era. Therefore, strengthening moral education within the family is necessary so that technological development does not erode the values of respect toward parents.

Keywords: Communication Ethics, Teenagers, Parents, Digital Era, Islamic Education

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INTRODUCTION

Communication is an essential aspect of human life as social beings. Through communication, individuals are able to express their thoughts, feelings, needs, and establish relationships with others. Within the family context, communication plays a crucial role as the primary means of fostering emotional

closeness between parents and children. Effective communication contributes to harmonious family relationships, whereas poor communication may lead to misunderstandings and even conflicts within the family. From the perspective of Islamic Religious Education, communication is not merely understood as a process of message transmission but also as an integral part of moral and character development. Islam teaches children to communicate with their parents in a gentle, respectful, and courteous manner. This principle is clearly emphasized in the Holy Qur'an, particularly in Surah Al-Isra' verse 23.

The verse demonstrates that Islam places significant emphasis on maintaining proper communication ethics with parents, even prohibiting children from speaking harshly or showing disrespect toward them. Therefore, communication ethics constitutes a fundamental component of moral education within the family environment.

The rapid development of digital technology in the modern era has significantly transformed communication patterns in society, including the relationship between adolescents and their parents. The emergence of the internet, social media platforms, and smartphones has made communication faster and more convenient. However, these technological advancements have also contributed to changes in adolescents' social behavior. Contemporary adolescents tend to spend more time using digital devices than engaging in direct interactions with their family members. Data from the Indonesian Internet Service Providers Association (APJII) indicate that adolescents represent the most active internet users in Indonesia. The high intensity of social media usage gradually influences adolescents' speaking styles, interaction patterns, and communication ethics in their daily lives. The use of abbreviated language, slang expressions, and informal communication habits commonly found on social media often carries over into interactions with parents. This phenomenon raises concerns regarding the erosion of politeness, respect, and filial values within family relationships. According to Nasrullah (2017), social media has transformed communication patterns into forms that are more open, rapid, and informal, thereby influencing users' social behavior.

This phenomenon has also begun to emerge within the community of Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District. The local community traditionally upholds cultural values and norms of politeness in everyday life, particularly in parent-child relationships. Nevertheless, the advancement of digital technology has also affected the communication patterns of the younger generation in this area. Preliminary observations revealed that many adolescents communicate more frequently through mobile phones than through direct conversations with their family members. Furthermore, some adolescents were observed using excessively casual language when speaking to their parents and displaying a lack of attentiveness during conversations due to distractions from social media. If this condition continues without adequate supervision and moral guidance, it may negatively affect the quality of family relationships and diminish respect toward parents. Therefore, this study is important to investigate the communication ethics of adolescents toward their parents in the digital era from the perspective of Islamic Religious Education and to identify the factors influencing such

communication practices among the community of Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Communication Ethics

Communication ethics refers to the norms and principles that guide individuals in communicating appropriately in order to establish respectful and harmonious interpersonal relationships. Communication ethics encompasses the manner in which individuals speak, select words, express opinions, and demonstrate attitudes during interactions with others. According to Bertens (2013), ethics consists of moral values and norms that serve as guidelines for regulating human behavior within society. In the context of communication, ethics is essential to ensure that the process of message delivery does not generate conflict, misunderstanding, or harm to others.

Ethical communication is characterized by politeness, respect for interlocutors, appropriate tone of voice, and sensitivity to the psychological conditions of others. Within the family environment, communication ethics plays a crucial role in fostering harmonious relationships between parents and children. Children who are accustomed to speaking respectfully to their parents are more likely to develop positive social character. Conversely, rude and disrespectful communication may weaken family relationships and create emotional distance among family members.

From an Islamic perspective, communication ethics extends beyond social interaction and is considered an act of worship. Islam teaches its followers to guard their speech and use good words in everyday life. Allah SWT states in Surah Al-Ahzab (33:70):

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا

سَدِيدًا ﴿٧٠﴾

“O you who believe! Fear Allah and speak words of appropriate justice.” This verse emphasizes that Muslims are commanded to speak truthfully and kindly to everyone, including their parents. Therefore, communication ethics in Islam is closely related to moral and character development.

Adolescents in the Digital Era

Adolescence is a developmental stage characterized by the transition from childhood to adulthood. During this period, individuals experience significant physical, emotional, social, and psychological changes. According to Hurlock (2011), adolescence is a period of identity exploration marked by a desire to experiment with new experiences and gain recognition from the social environment. In the digital era, adolescent development cannot be separated from the influence of technology and social media.

Advancements in digital technology provide adolescents with greater access to information, communication, and social networking opportunities. Social media platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, WhatsApp, and Facebook have become integral components of adolescents' daily lives. However, excessive use of technology may also influence adolescents' social behavior and communication patterns. Mulawarman and Nurfitri (2017) argue that social media can foster more

individualistic communication behavior and reduce the quality of direct social interaction among adolescents.

Communication Ethics from an Islamic Perspective

Islam strongly emphasizes the importance of maintaining proper manners and moral conduct in communication. In Islam, communication is not merely understood as the act of conveying messages but also as a form of moral responsibility toward fellow human beings. Every word uttered by an individual will ultimately be accountable before Allah SWT. Therefore, Islam teaches believers to guard their speech, speak gently, and avoid expressions that may hurt or offend others. According to Quraish Shihab (2012), communication in Islam should be founded upon honesty, politeness, and respect for others in order to establish harmonious social relationships.

In the relationship between children and parents, Islam places considerable emphasis on communication ethics. Honoring and showing devotion to parents (*birr al-walidayn*) is regarded as one of the most virtuous acts after the command to worship Allah SWT. This principle is clearly stated in Surah Luqman verse 14:

وَوَصَّيْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ بِوَالِدَيْهِ حَمَلَتْهُ أُمُّهُ وَهَنَا عَلَى وَهْنٍ وَفِصَالُهُ فِي عَامَيْنِ أَنِ اشْكُرْ لِي وَلِوَالِدَيْكَ إِلَيَّ الْمَصِيرُ
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"And We have enjoined upon man [care] for his parents. His mother carried him, increasing her in weakness upon weakness, and his weaning is in two years. Be grateful to Me and to your parents; to Me is the final destination" (Qur'an 31:14).

This verse emphasizes that children are commanded to be grateful to Allah and to treat their parents with kindness and respect. One manifestation of such devotion is expressed through polite and respectful communication. Children are prohibited from speaking harshly, shouting, or displaying disrespectful attitudes toward their parents, whether in direct interactions or through digital communication media.

Furthermore, Islam promotes the principle of *qaulan karima*, which refers to speaking in a noble, respectful, and honorable manner. This principle remains highly relevant in contemporary society, particularly in the digital era, where many adolescents have become accustomed to using abbreviated and informal language in their daily interactions. The habitual use of social media language may unconsciously influence the way adolescents communicate with their parents. Therefore, moral education within the family plays a crucial role in ensuring that technological advancement does not erode the values of politeness, respect, and filial piety toward parents.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also emphasized the importance of maintaining respectful speech toward parents. A hadith narrated by Bukhari and Muslim states that Allah's pleasure is dependent upon the pleasure of one's parents, while Allah's displeasure is dependent upon their displeasure. This hadith highlights that a child's behavior toward parents, including the manner of speaking and communicating, has significant implications for the spiritual life of a Muslim. Consequently, communication ethics toward parents is not merely a

matter of social norms but also constitutes an essential component of Islamic teachings and moral character formation within Islamic Religious Education.

In the context of the digital era, the application of *qaulan karima* requires adolescents to maintain respectful communication not only in face-to-face interactions but also through digital platforms and social media. Ethical communication characterized by courtesy, attentiveness, and respect for parents serves as an important manifestation of Islamic moral values. Therefore, strengthening moral and religious education within the family is essential to help adolescents navigate technological developments responsibly while preserving the ethical principles taught in Islam.

The Influence of Social Media on Family Communication

Social media is one of the most influential outcomes of digital technological development in contemporary society. It enables individuals to communicate across geographical and temporal boundaries. Adolescents represent one of the most active groups of social media users due to its ability to fulfill their needs for entertainment, information, and social interaction. Kaplan and Haenlein (2010) define social media as a group of internet-based applications that allow users to create and exchange content in the form of text, images, and videos rapidly and extensively.

On the one hand, social media contributes positively to family communication by facilitating communication between parents and children when they are physically separated. It also enables family members to share information and maintain relationships more efficiently. On the other hand, excessive social media use may reduce the quality of face-to-face interaction within families.

Adolescents who are overly focused on smartphones tend to engage less frequently in direct communication with family members. They often continue using social media while conversing with their parents, resulting in less effective communication. Additionally, the informal and rapid communication culture of social media may influence adolescents' communication ethics in real-life interactions. The frequent use of abbreviations, slang expressions, and brief responses can gradually be transferred into conversations with parents, potentially diminishing values of politeness and respect within the family.

Research conducted by Putri and Nirwana (2021) found that excessive gadget use among adolescents may reduce emotional closeness within families because direct interaction becomes increasingly limited. Therefore, parental supervision and guidance are necessary to ensure that social media use does not negatively affect children's communication ethics.

The Role of Parents in Adolescents' Moral Education

The family is the first and most important educational environment for children. Within the family, children learn how to speak, behave, and understand social values. Parents bear significant responsibility for shaping children's character and morality, including communication ethics. According to Abdullah Nashih Ulwan (2015), moral education should begin early through role modeling, habituation, and parental supervision.

In the digital era, the role of parents has become increasingly important because children are exposed to various influences originating from social media and the internet. Parents are responsible not only for meeting their children's

material needs but also for providing moral education and supervising technology use. Without adequate parental involvement, children may become more susceptible to adopting unrestricted communication styles prevalent on social media.

One strategy parents can employ is to cultivate warm and open communication within the family. Children who are accustomed to discussing issues openly with their parents tend to develop stronger emotional bonds. Moreover, parents should consistently model polite language in daily interactions, as children often imitate behaviors observed within the family environment.

From the perspective of Islamic Religious Education, moral education cannot rely solely on verbal advice but must also be demonstrated through exemplary behavior. Parents who maintain ethical communication practices provide valuable role models for their children. Consequently, families play a vital role in preserving values of politeness and respect amid the challenges of the digital era.

Previous Studies

Previous studies have examined adolescent communication ethics in the digital era from various perspectives. Nasrullah (2017) investigated the influence of social media on communication patterns in modern society and concluded that social media has transformed communication into forms that are faster, more open, and increasingly informal, thereby affecting users' social behavior.

Mulawarman and Nurfitri (2017) explored adolescents' social media behavior and found that excessive social media use may influence psychological conditions and social interactions, including the ways adolescents communicate with their surroundings.

Similarly, Sari (2020) examined family communication in the digital era and reported that intensive gadget use reduces the quality of face-to-face communication between parents and children, as children tend to prioritize digital devices over direct family interaction.

Fauziah (2019) investigated communication ethics from an Islamic perspective and concluded that Islam promotes communication characterized by politeness, honesty, and respect as essential components of moral development.

Although previous studies have extensively discussed social media and adolescent communication, limited research has specifically examined adolescents' communication ethics toward parents from the perspective of Islamic Religious Education within semi-urban communities such as Sidoarjo Hilir. Therefore, this study contributes novelty by focusing on the relationship between digital technological development, adolescents' communication ethics toward parents, and the values of Islamic Religious Education within family life.

RESEARCH METHOD

This study employed a qualitative method with a descriptive approach to gain an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon of adolescents' communication ethics toward their parents in the digital era within the community of Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District. A qualitative approach was selected because the study focused on understanding behaviors, experiences, and social

interactions occurring in everyday life, emphasizing the meaning and interpretation of social phenomena rather than statistical measurements. According to Moleong (2018), qualitative research aims to understand phenomena experienced by research participants holistically through descriptions expressed in words and language within a natural context. The descriptive approach was applied to systematically portray the actual conditions of adolescents' communication patterns with their parents amid the rapid development of digital technology without manipulating the research setting. Furthermore, this approach enabled the researcher to obtain a deeper understanding of the changes in communication ethics occurring within the family environment (Sugiyono, 2017).

The research was conducted in Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District, Medan City, North Sumatra, in May 2026. The site was selected because the local community continues to uphold cultural values and norms of politeness while simultaneously experiencing substantial influences from digital technological developments, particularly among adolescents. In this study, the researcher acted as an observer-participant and was directly involved in the data collection process. Such direct involvement facilitated the observation of communication patterns between adolescents and their parents in natural settings, thereby generating more contextual and comprehensive data (Spradley, 2016). Moreover, the researcher's presence in the field enabled a direct understanding of the participants' social behavior as it occurred in reality (Creswell, 2014). In qualitative research, the researcher serves as the primary instrument responsible for collecting, interpreting, and analyzing data comprehensively (Moleong, 2018).

The research participants consisted of two adolescents and one parent residing in Sidoarjo Hilir. The adolescents selected were active users of social media and smartphones in their daily lives, while the parent participant was chosen due to direct involvement in family communication processes. Participants were selected through purposive sampling, a technique that identifies informants based on specific criteria relevant to the research objectives. This technique ensured that participants possessed adequate knowledge and experience regarding the phenomenon under investigation and were capable of providing relevant and meaningful information (Sugiyono, 2017). Additionally, participant selection considered their direct experiences with changes in communication patterns in the digital era, thereby enriching the quality of the data obtained (Patton, 2002).

Data were collected through observation, interviews, and documentation. Observation was conducted by directly examining adolescents' communication behavior toward their parents in everyday situations, including smartphone use during interactions, communication attitudes, and family communication patterns. This method enabled the researcher to gain an authentic understanding of the social realities occurring in the field (Sugiyono, 2017). Semi-structured interviews were conducted to explore participants' experiences, perceptions, and views regarding communication changes within the family. This interview technique was selected because it facilitates a deeper understanding of the subjective meanings attached to participants' experiences related to the phenomenon under study (Creswell, 2014). Documentation was utilized as supporting data, including photographs, field notes, and other relevant records associated with the research process (Arikunto, 2016).

Data analysis followed the interactive model proposed by Miles, Huberman, and Saldaña, consisting of data reduction, data display, and conclusion drawing. Data reduction involved selecting and focusing on information relevant to the research objectives. Subsequently, the data were organized and presented in descriptive form to facilitate interpretation and analysis. The final stage involved drawing conclusions based on the findings obtained throughout the research process. Data analysis was conducted continuously from the beginning of data collection until the completion of the study, allowing for ongoing verification of field data (Miles, Huberman, & Saldaña, 2014). The purpose of data analysis was to identify patterns, relationships, and meanings embedded within the social phenomenon under investigation, thereby generating a comprehensive understanding of adolescents' communication ethics toward their parents in the digital era (Moleong, 2018).

The trustworthiness of the data was enhanced through source triangulation and method triangulation. Source triangulation was conducted by comparing information obtained from adolescent and parent participants to assess consistency and validity. Method triangulation involved comparing findings derived from observations, interviews, and documentation to strengthen the credibility of the data. These triangulation techniques were employed to ensure that the research findings accurately reflected actual conditions in the field (Denzin, 2012). Furthermore, member checking was conducted by reconfirming interview results with participants to minimize misinterpretation and ensure that the findings accurately represented their lived experiences (Lincoln & Guba, 1985).

Therefore, the research methodology employed in this study is expected to provide a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of adolescents' communication ethics toward their parents in the digital era within the community of Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District. Consequently, the findings are expected to accurately portray existing social realities and contribute to a broader understanding of family communication from the perspective of Islamic Religious Education.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

RESULTS

Intensity of Gadget Use Among Adolescents

Based on interviews conducted with two adolescents in Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District, it was found that gadget use has become an integral part of their daily activities. Both participants reported using smartphones almost continuously throughout the day, particularly to access social media platforms such as TikTok, Instagram, WhatsApp, and YouTube. One participant stated that he spent approximately five to seven hours per day using a smartphone, and even longer when not engaged in school-related activities. Gadget usage was not only intended for entertainment purposes but also for communicating with peers and obtaining information through social media.

The high intensity of gadget use has led adolescents to spend more time in the digital environment than interacting directly with family members. Field observations revealed that adolescents frequently continued using their

smartphones while sitting with family members or when being addressed by their parents. In several situations, their attention appeared to be more focused on the smartphone screen than on ongoing conversations. One participant admitted experiencing difficulty separating from the device because of a habit of constantly checking social media. The participant also expressed concern about missing updates and information from friends if social media was not accessed regularly.

Interviews with parents indicated that excessive gadget use has altered communication habits within the household. Parents reported that their children increasingly preferred spending time alone in their rooms using smartphones rather than gathering with family members. Although family communication still occurred, it was no longer as frequent or intensive as before, as adolescents devoted more attention to social media and digital entertainment. These findings demonstrate that digital technological developments have significantly influenced adolescents' lifestyles and family interactions.

Changes in Adolescents' Communication Ethics Toward Parents

Digital technological advancement has affected not only the frequency of family communication but also adolescents' communication ethics toward their parents. The findings revealed noticeable changes in adolescents' speaking patterns during everyday interactions. One of the most evident changes was the increased use of casual and informal language when communicating with parents.

One adolescent participant admitted that the habit of using abbreviated expressions on social media often carried over into daily family conversations. The participant frequently responded to parents with short expressions such as "yes," "wait," "later," or "I know," reflecting communication patterns commonly practiced on social media platforms. Furthermore, the participant acknowledged that he was often unaware that his tone of voice sounded less respectful when he was focused on using his smartphone.

Observational findings further indicated that several adolescents communicated with their parents while simultaneously looking at their smartphone screens. When parents offered advice or asked questions, adolescents occasionally responded without maintaining eye contact, resulting in less effective communication. In certain situations, parents were required to repeat their statements because their children were not fully attentive.

Parents participating in the study reported that contemporary adolescents tend to provide shorter responses than they did previously. According to the participants, these changes became noticeable after their children became active users of social media. Parents also observed that adolescents were more likely to postpone conversations when engaged with their smartphones. Although these behaviors did not necessarily involve harsh or disrespectful language, they reflected subtle declines in communication ethics within the family context.

These findings suggest that social media gradually influences adolescents' communication patterns in real-life settings. The fast-paced, concise, and informal language commonly used in digital communication is increasingly transferred into family interactions. If left unaddressed, such developments may contribute to a gradual decline in the values of respect and politeness toward parents that have traditionally been upheld in both local culture and Islamic teachings.

The Influence of Social Media on Family Relationships

The findings indicate that social media exerts both positive and negative influences on family relationships. On the positive side, social media facilitates communication between parents and children when they are physically separated. Parents can easily contact their children through phone calls or messaging applications, enabling faster communication during urgent situations or when important information must be conveyed.

Conversely, excessive social media use contributes to a reduction in face-to-face communication within the family. One parent participant explained that adolescents often prioritize smartphone activities over direct interactions with family members. At home, they spend more time browsing social media than engaging in family-oriented activities such as shared meals or casual conversations.

The study also found that social media affects emotional closeness within the family. Adolescents appeared more willing to share personal experiences with friends through online communication than with their parents. One participant acknowledged feeling more comfortable discussing personal matters with peers through chat applications because they seemed more understanding than parents. This finding suggests that digital technology has altered traditional patterns of family relationships.

Reduced direct communication between parents and children may negatively affect family cohesion if not balanced by effective communication and parental supervision. From the perspective of Islamic Religious Education, the family serves as the primary institution for moral development. Therefore, maintaining effective communication within the family is essential to ensure that technological advancement does not weaken emotional bonds between parents and children.

Parents' Efforts to Maintain Children's Communication Ethics

The interview findings revealed that parents are aware of the significant influence of digital technology on their children's communication behavior. Consequently, they have adopted various strategies to preserve appropriate communication ethics. One common approach involves continuously reminding children of the importance of speaking respectfully to parents and elders.

Parents reported frequently advising their children not to become excessively absorbed in smartphone activities during family interactions. They also attempted to establish restrictions on smartphone use during specific periods, such as mealtimes and family gatherings, to encourage direct interpersonal communication. According to the participants, such restrictions are intended to ensure that children continue to engage meaningfully with family members.

In addition to providing advice, parents sought to model appropriate communication behavior in daily life. They intentionally used polite language when speaking with family members so that children could learn through observation. Within the framework of Islamic Religious Education, role modeling constitutes an important method of moral education because children tend to imitate behaviors observed in their immediate environment.

Nevertheless, parents acknowledged that monitoring children's social media activities remains challenging. Rapid technological development exposes adolescents to diverse communication cultures originating from the internet and peer groups. Therefore, cooperation among families, schools, and the broader community is necessary to maintain adolescents' communication ethics in the digital era.

DISCUSSION

The results of the study indicate that the development of digital technology has had a considerable influence on adolescents' communication ethics toward their parents in the Sidoarjo Hilir community, Medan Tembung District. The extensive use of gadgets and social media has led to changes in family communication patterns, both in terms of the intensity of interactions and the manner in which adolescents communicate with their parents. Adolescents who are accustomed to using social media tend to employ informal language and brief communication more frequently in their daily lives.

These findings are consistent with the view of Rulli Nasrullah, who argues that social media has transformed societal communication patterns, making them faster, more open, and more informal (Nasrullah, 2017, p. 52). The rapid nature of digital communication has accustomed adolescents to using abbreviated language in various situations, including when speaking to their parents. This condition gradually influences the values of politeness within family communication.

Furthermore, the findings also reveal that excessive gadget use contributes to a decline in the quality of face-to-face communication within families. Adolescents tend to focus more on their mobile phones than on direct conversations with family members. This finding is in line with the study conducted by Mulawarman and Nurfitri, who stated that social media can reduce the quality of direct social interactions and influence adolescents' social behavior (Mulawarman & Nurfitri, 2017, p. 41).

From the perspective of Islamic Religious Education, this condition requires serious attention because communication ethics toward parents constitute an essential component of moral education. Islam teaches that children should speak gently, politely, and respectfully to their parents. Allah the Exalted states in Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra', verse 23:

وَقَضَىٰ رَبُّكَ أَلَّا تَعْبُدُوا إِلَّا إِيَّاهُ وَبِالْوَالِدَيْنِ إِحْسَانًا ۖ إِمَّا يَبُلُغَنَّ عِنْدَكَ الْكِبَرَ أَحَدُهُمَا أَوْ كِلَيْهِمَا فَلَا تَقُلْ لَهُمَا
أَفًّا وَلَا تَنْهَرْهُمَا وَقُلْ لَهُمَا قَوْلًا
كَرِيمًا ﴿٢٣﴾

"And your Lord has decreed that you worship none but Him, and that you show kindness to your parents. If one or both of them reach old age while under your care, do not say to them even a word of contempt, nor rebuke them, but speak to them with gracious words." (Qur'an, Surah Al-Isra' 17:23)

This verse emphasizes that a child is not permitted to speak harshly to or scold their parents. In the context of the digital era, this teaching applies not only to direct communication but also to communication conducted through digital media and social networking platforms. Therefore, the use of technology must be accompanied by the strengthening of moral education so that the values of respect and reverence toward parents are not diminished.

The formation of adolescents' communication ethics is fundamentally influenced not only by technological developments but also by educational patterns within the family. The findings of this study indicate that parents play a significant role in maintaining their children's communication behavior through advice, limitations on gadget use, and by serving as role models in communication. These findings are consistent with the views of Abdullah Nashih Ulwan, who argues that children's moral education should be developed through habituation and exemplary conduct in daily life (Ulwan, 2015, p. 214). Children who grow up in family environments characterized by positive communication tend to demonstrate greater politeness and respect toward their parents.

Furthermore, this study reveals that adolescents generally still understand the importance of respecting their parents; however, the influence of social media often causes them to be unaware of subtle changes in their daily communication behavior. The use of abbreviated language, responding while using a mobile phone, and showing a lack of focus when conversing with parents have become common behaviors among adolescents, even though such practices may gradually affect the quality of family relationships if they continue over time. In this regard, religious education plays a crucial role as a moral regulator, enabling adolescents to use technology wisely without neglecting moral values.

Islamic Religious Education teaches that respecting parents is not only demonstrated through major actions but also through simple attitudes and behaviors in everyday life, including the way one speaks to and listens to parents. The principle of *qaulan karima* speaking with noble and honorable words serves as an important guideline in maintaining healthy family communication. When children speak gently, listen attentively, and respect their parents' words, family relationships become more harmonious. Conversely, when communication is characterized by indifference, impolite tones of speech, and a lack of attention toward parents, emotional bonds within the family may become increasingly distant.

The findings of this study also indicate that technological development does not always produce negative consequences when utilized wisely. Social media and gadgets can still serve as effective means of communication that facilitate family relationships, particularly when family members are located in different places. However, the use of technology must be balanced with self-control, moral education, and parental supervision to ensure that digital communication does not replace the importance of direct interpersonal interaction within the family.

Therefore, it can be understood that adolescents' communication ethics toward their parents in the digital era have undergone various changes as a result of technological advancement and the widespread use of social media. These changes are reflected in the manner of speaking, the intensity of communication, and patterns of interaction within the family. Consequently, collaboration among families, schools, and the broader community is necessary to strengthen moral education and communication ethics among adolescents so that the values of respect and reverence toward parents can be preserved amidst the ongoing development of the digital era.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of this study concerning adolescents' communication ethics toward their parents in the digital era within the community of Sidoarjo Hilir, Medan Tembung District, it can be concluded that the rapid development of digital technology has significantly influenced communication patterns within families. The extensive use of smartphones and social media among adolescents has contributed to changes in both the intensity of communication and the ways in which adolescents interact with their parents. Adolescents have become increasingly accustomed to using brief and informal language styles, reflecting the fast-paced and practical nature of digital communication.

The findings indicate that changes in communication ethics are evident in adolescents' habits of interacting with their parents while simultaneously using smartphones, displaying limited attention during conversations, and adopting more casual forms of speech than in previous generations. Although these behavioral changes do not necessarily constitute overt disrespect, they may gradually affect the quality of emotional relationships within the family if not addressed through proper guidance and supervision.

From the perspective of Islamic Religious Education, communication ethics toward parents constitute a fundamental aspect of moral education that must be preserved under all circumstances, including in the digital era. Islam emphasizes that children should communicate with their parents respectfully, gently, and honorably, as reflected in Surah Al-Isra' (17:23), which explicitly prohibits harsh speech and disrespectful behavior toward parents. Therefore, religious education and moral cultivation within the family remain essential in shaping adolescents' communication behavior.

Parents play a crucial role in fostering appropriate communication ethics through guidance, supervision of gadget usage, the establishment of positive communication habits, and the provision of exemplary behavior in everyday life. In addition to the family, schools and the broader community also share responsibility for providing moral education to adolescents, ensuring that technological advancement does not diminish the values of politeness, respect, and filial responsibility toward parents.

In conclusion, digital technological development should not be viewed as a justification for the decline of family communication quality. Instead, technology should be utilized as a supportive tool that enhances communication while remaining accompanied by the cultivation of moral values, ethical conduct, and respect for parents in everyday life.

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