

**RELATIONSHIP CHANGES BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN OF  
MODERN FAMILY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC IN HUKURILA,  
SOUTH LEITIMUR DISTRICT, AMBON CITY**

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**Abstract**

The nuclear family has an important meaning in modern society. In Hukurila, South Leitimur District, Ambon City, generally families live a modern lifestyle, in which the relationships between parents and children are no longer carried out properly. This can be seen from the reduced parental supervision of their children at home. Parents are busy with various activities and conversely the children are also busy with their own activities. The aim of this research is to find out and explain the forms of changes in the relationship between parents and children in modern families during the COVID-19 pandemic. The method used is a qualitative research method by means of in-depth interviews and observations and uses secondary and primary data sources. This study found changes in the relationship between parents and children, namely the reduced parental supervision of children, the more distant the relationship between parents and children due to the social environment and millennial subculture and parents are seen as passing on only a few values of life to their children.

**Keywords:** modern family; parents and children relationship; COVID-19

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**INTRODUCTION**

Modern society, with various comprehensive definitions and supported by a combination of evolutionary theory and functional structure, assumes that society is like a body of organisms that seeks to maintain a balance of functions by making differentiation of functions for structural stability (Basrowi, 2005). Thus, the differentiation of the function of family members, technological developments and economic activities into a single meaning that produces the definition of the family. Family, like a human being, changes from time to time or is not fixed. The types, forms, structures and institutions of the family that we see today

are the result of a long process of development of human civilization, and do not appear automatically. During the hunting and gathering period, the family structure differed from that of sedentary or nomadic, pre-modern and modern agriculture.

The process of family modernization is marked by the emergence of a smaller family (nuclear family) that replaces the extended family. A small family that is characterized by the behavior of being free to choose a life partner, more concerned with individual welfare, rather than thinking about the family (extended family) and more mutual respect and the existence of equality between husband

and wife is a situation formed from this industrial and economic growth (Malau, 2012).

In this context, the family becomes a market arena for industry in the name of economic growth. Various kinds of needs for wives as housewives, every day adorn advertisements on TV ranging from kitchen necessities to the need to take care from toe to hair (Khairuddin, 2002). Even children in the family become the market for various kinds of food products to automobiles so that there are many cases of accidents that happen to them.

Berger sees modernization as an alienation in human thought and life that causes modern humans to be powerless. In this very complex world they become "homeless" or "homeless of mind" (Boyd, 2014). Families based on various backgrounds and the inability to unite various kinds of plurality that exist in the family and outside influences, industrialization that co-opts, makes family members look for new spaces that are defined as family, the new space can be in the form of public spaces that use certain symbols as a form of family ties. The "home of the world" in Berger's language is a very intimate space that unites all family members in it.

The fact revealed by Berger shows that the nuclear family has an important meaning in modern society. The family with its various functions becomes a means of transferring values and norms, which in the end there is no separation between the family and the social community. Relationships and emotional bonds that are built in the family become part of forming values and norms in the community, society and country. A good individual will form a good family, a good family will build a good society and country.

The success or failure of the family in carrying out its functions from the reality or social reality that occurs. That fact is a manifestation and result of the social actions of individuals (elements) of the family. Further understanding of the social action can also be

traced to the meaning of the things or everything behind the action. These things are in the form of social values, beliefs, attitudes, and goals, all of which guide the actions of an individual on behalf of himself and his family in realizing ideals or otherwise failing to achieve what is desired. For example, the breakdown of the nuclear family unit due to divorce, among others, can be explained by the weak joints of social relations between family members (husband and wife) due to mutual suspicion (vulnerability of trust) that cannot be controlled, and so on (Ritzer, 2011).

The nuclear family as we know it, has an elemental composition consisting of father, mother, and children. Family social relationships take place intimately based on strong emotional and emotional bonds, where parents play a supervising and motivating role in developing social responsibility in the family and community.

UNESCO defines the family as a biosocial institution formed by at least two male and female adults who are not related by blood, but are bound by marriage, with or without/not having children. At least the family functions to fulfill and satisfy physical and spiritual needs, including sexual needs. Burgess (in Eshleman) argues about the general characteristics of the family are: (1) the family consists of people who are bound by marriage, blood relationship or adoption, (2) family members living together under one roof (house) are household units or they consider it their own home, (3) the family consists of people who interact and communicate with each other according to their respective roles, such as husband, wife, father, mother, son, daughter, brother or sister, and (4) families live up certain customs and cultures that are derived from the general culture (society) and families often practice it themselves in certain forms.

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relationships take place intimately based on strong emotional and emotional bonds, where parents play a supervising and motivating role in developing social responsibility in the family and community (Yuberti, 2015). In a modern family, the relationships between family members are constantly changing. This can be seen from the relationship between parents and their children in the family which seems to be no longer smooth as a result of the rapid development of technology, especially mobile phones. The existence of mobile phones today causes a huge influence in modern family life, where every family member, whether father, mother, or children always has their own busy life with their cellphones when at home, especially in the current COVID-19 pandemic atmosphere.

It appears that in modern family life today the togetherness of parents and children at home no longer displays intense conversational relationships, there is no longer a family atmosphere that displays laughter, sharing stories between parents and children, and the atmosphere of eating together in the dining room while telling stories to each other. Supposedly, an atmosphere like this can be done because during the current COVID-19 pandemic, all family members are required to stay at home and carry out all activities, both office activities, school activities, and other activities all done from home (Suyanto, 2010). The current reality shows that although parents and children are always at home because of the COVID-19 pandemic, they spend a lot of time just playing with their cellphones. Each of them is busy holding their cell phone so that sometimes they forget their responsibilities at home, both as father, mother and children. What appears in modern family life today shows several important points about changing parent-child relationships, namely the less parental supervision of children, the more separated parents from their children into two different worlds (children are trapped in a subculture).

Millennial teenagers form basic values that are very heavy with the role of parents, and parents seem increasingly irrelevant as educators and many teenagers view their parents as passing down values to them.

The explanation above is as seen in modern families in Hukurila Country, South Leitimur District, Ambon City. In Hukurila Country, generally families lead a modern lifestyle, where the relationships between parents and children are no longer well established. This can be seen from the reduced parental supervision of their children at home. Parents are busy with various activities and conversely the children are also busy with their own activities. With these conditions, the relationship between parents and children in a modern family is not as well established as a harmonious family should be.

The study aims to examine and explain the forms of changes in the relationship between parents and children in modern families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **METHOD**

### **A. Research Type**

In this study, the method used is a qualitative research method. According to Bogdan and Taylor in (Moleong, 2021) qualitative methodology is a research procedure that produces descriptive in the form of written or spoken words from people and observable behavior. By using this qualitative research method, researchers can describe and explain the changing relationship between parents and children in a modern family during the COVID-19 pandemic in Hukurila, South Leitimur District, Ambon City.

### **B. Research Location**

The research on Changes in Parent-Child Relationships in Modern Families During the COVID-19 Pandemic is Hukurila, South Leitimur District, Ambon City. This is done with the consideration that in the country there has been a change in the

relationship between parents and children in modern families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### C. Data Sources

Data sources in qualitative research are by means of interviews, observations, photos or documentation and others (Herdiansyah, 2013). Thus, the informants obtained can be maximized, this study uses secondary data sources and primary data sources:

- 1) Secondary data is data obtained through various sources such as references from libraries or the internet, data from state/village offices, and data from other agencies related to the research title.
- 2) Primary data is data obtained directly through observations and direct interviews of researchers with pre-determined informants.

### D. Research Informants

In qualitative research, informants according to Moleong (2021), are people who are used to provide information about the situation and are carried out in a way, (1) through information from authorized people, both formally (government) and informally (community leaders, such as community leaders, traditional leaders and others), (2) through preliminary interviews conducted.

Based on the description above, the determination of informants uses purposive sampling with the following informant criteria:

- a) Families whose husband/wife work as breadwinners selling fruits and vegetables at the mardika market and their children aged 7-10 years and 2 children.
- b) A family whose husband works as a tuna fisherman and a wife as a breadwinner selling fresh fish/ papalele and smoked/ asar fish, their children are 10-15 years old and 2 children.

c) A family whose father works in a company and his wife works as a teacher/ Civil Servant, family members, namely boys aged 15-17 years, work as motorcycle taxi drivers.

d) Families whose fathers work as farmers and wives work selling at tourist attractions, family members, namely sons and daughters aged 15-17 years, who work as tour guides. Thus, the number of informants in this study amounted to 16 people consisting of parents' husband / wife 8 people and their children 8 people.

### E. Data Collection Techniques

Data collection techniques in qualitative research are carried out through observation and in-depth interviews. Observation is an activity of observing, systematically recording events, behaviors, objects seen and other things needed to support the research being carried out. According to Subagio (2004), Observation is a data collection technique in the form of direct observation to the research location and using sensitivity to uncover and read problems in the moments that occur.

According to Mc Milan and Schumacher (Iskandar, 2009) in-depth interviews are open questions and answers to obtain data about the intentions of the participants' hearts how to describe events or phenomena related to setting through dialogue between researchers. as an interviewer with the informant. In order to obtain the data needs, the researchers conducted in-depth interviews with pre-determined informants. Researchers hope that by conducting in-depth interviews, important and correct data can be obtained to answer the needs of researchers at the time of writing the report. Secondary data obtained through previous studies, journals and supporting literature.

## F. Data Analysis

Data analysis technique in this study was carried out qualitatively. The data obtained in the preliminary, development, and validation stages were analyzed using qualitative techniques. The qualitative technique referred to in this case is the data triangulation technique, with the method of comparing data sources. In the preliminary stage, secondary data are compared to other secondary data, and data from the results of initial observations.

In the development stage, the data sourced from the research results are analyzed with data sourced from verification limited to certain informant criteria and data from expert tests. The data at the validation stage were also analyzed using the triangulation technique by comparing the evaluation data and model refinement with data from the test results on the criteria of the informants. The interaction between these two data is then analyzed qualitatively, which then becomes the final data on changes in the relationship between parents and children in modern families during the COVID 19 pandemic in Hukurila.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### A. Parents Less Parental Supervision for Children

The evolution of family that has taken place includes not only changes in marital relations, but equally important changes in the nature of the relationship between parents and their children, especially their adolescent children. Those relationships have changed a long time ago, but in the past two or three decades in modern families especially during this COVID-19 pandemic, those changes have happened very quickly. These changes are in the direction of decreasing parental supervision of their children, especially families whose husbands work as tuna fishermen and their wives work as breadwinners selling fish/

papalele and smoked fish/ asar whose children are aged Teenagers are 10-15 years old.

Furthermore, based on the findings in the field by researchers, it can be seen that for children aged 7-10 years old, parents always remind their children if they play more than their time in everyday life, actually it's only natural, if children play more than their time. from those determined by their parents, because the period in which children grow and develop, and curiosity is very large, therefore they often take actions that they think they are new to, therefore many children forget the time when are busy playing with their peers. For families whose parents work in companies and their wives work as civil servants/teachers whose family members are boys aged 15-17 years old working as motorcycle taxi drivers. Parents provide opportunities for their children to do something without sufficient supervision from them, they tend not to reprimand or warn their children if they act in a dangerous manner, so that the child cannot be controlled anymore, unlimited freedom for their children to behave accordingly. own desire. Parents never reprimand or give advice or direction to children. All decisions are left to the child without parental consideration, the child does not know his behavior is right or wrong because parents never justify or blame the child. As a result, children will behave according to their own wishes, regardless of the values and norms that apply in the family or in society.

Likewise, for children aged 15-17 years old, both boys and girls who work as tour guides and work selling at tourist attractions, they experience difficulties during the Covid 19 pandemic because the government implements health protocol regulations in public places / public spaces and also in public places. tour. This

phenomenon causes the loss of work/income for teenagers who work in tourist attractions, during the COVID 19 pandemic and even the loss of relationships that have been going on so far, especially local guests/ tourists or tourists from other regions who often visit tourist attractions in the country. Hukurila who became an icon of beach tourism and diving tours to see its underwater.

### **B. Increasingly Distant Relationships between Parents and Children Due to Millennial Association and Subculture Environment**

The crisis in the parent-child relationship centered around us is the problem of child behavior, emotional disturbances that are fundamental in adolescence. In the parent-child relationship there are deviations from parental expectations which may, in broad terms, include behavioral problems. The following include deviations found at the research location for children from families whose husbands work as fishermen catching tuna fish and wives work as breadwinners, namely selling fresh fish/papalele, in everyday life the values taught by parents to children. Childhood children are increasingly fading from their memories after they are teenagers and adults, because they are influenced by the environment in which they play and the environment in which they work. These children have formed independence and are accustomed to taking care of their own needs, both clothing and food and other needs. The nature of children who tend to be negative cannot simply be concluded because of the tendency of two parenting patterns adopted by parents, namely authoritarian parenting and parenting. Premise. It causes the children tend to feel disappointed because of the loss of the role of parents.

A role is defined as a normative expectation attached to a certain position in the social structure. In the family structure, the normative role of parents is as caregivers of children who can fulfill family functions in the form of socialization, affection, definition of status, protection and economy. With the condition of children who are fully cared for by extended families or nuclear families, the full role of parents is needed, so that the normative expectations of children on the role of their parents do not cause disappointment for children who feel that the role of their parents is missing. This disappointment is one of the causes of such a child's nature.

### **C. Parents are seen as passing on only a few values of life to their children**

In [White et al. \(2005\)](#), the family is categorized as a system where the subsystem is an individual as a family member who has been socialized to act according to a set of existing values and norms. According to Parsons (in [Clients and White, 2002](#)), there are two basic functions of a family, both of which are closely related. The main function of the family is as a place of primary socialization to produce individuals who carry cultural values and norms that allow them to be integrated into the social system as actors. The next function is that the family is needed by adult individuals as personality stabilization. Parsons in ([White et al., 2005](#)) also said that the relationship between mother and child is very important for the socialization of children into the social system. The socialization referred to in this study is related to the parenting given to children.

Parenting is a series of actions and interactions carried out by parents to help children develop in physical, psychological, and social aspects ([Brooks, 1981](#)). [Boyd et al., \(2015\)](#) divide parenting into 3, including authoritative parenting, which is defined as

parenting that maintains and is responsive, namely a situation where parents use a rational and democratic approach. Then, permissive parenting is characterized by responsive but not demanding parenting. In this case there is an inconsistency in applying the value of discipline. Where children's behavior tends to be left unpunished even though it is considered bad. Authoritarian parenting is characterized by parenting that is defensive in nature but tends to be less responsive to the rights and desires of the child because it emphasizes the obedience of the child without giving the child the opportunity to ask questions and comment. In addition to the three parenting styles, Maccoby and Martin in (Boyd, 2014) added one category of uninvolved parenting. Uninvolved parenting is a parenting pattern that is unsustainable and unresponsive. In every different situation in a family, it will produce a different pattern of relationships (White et al., 2005), as well as in a family consisting only of parents and children or in other words a family whose child care is given to parents. This study found that there are two trends in parenting, namely: permissive parenting and parenting in the middle of the permissive and authoritarian categories.

Based on the results of this study, it is illustrated that a serious crisis arises when the choices desired by adolescents are different from those desired by parents. This is particularly difficult when the employment status of the parents of the teenagers is considered lower than expected by the family and especially if this is a consideration in society such as odd jobs, farm labor and others. However, if the parent's occupational class position remains, then juvenile delinquency is higher for broken families than for intact families.

## CONCLUSION

The conclusions from the discussion are: 1) the less parental supervision of children so that the socialization function carried out by parents in the family is aimed at preventing children's disappointment in the loss of parental roles and also bridging children to get the transformation of values. good and bad values in the family and society, 2) family conditions that have different structures have an impact on the separation of parents from their children into two different worlds (children are trapped in a millennial youth sub-culture), where children live in the same house with their parents, grandparents and grandmothers who fully produce different patterns of relationships and problems. The trend of parenting found in this study is permissive with authoritarian parenting, while democratic parenting is more commonly found in families whose parenting is done by parents, 3) in the socialization carried out by families for children when intervened by grandparents, then the problem arises that there is indulgence and freedom that is often done by children, especially teenagers, so that they pretend to forget, or do not remember the what their parents have taught them, as well as their indifference to the values taught by their parents, and 4) adolescents' attitudes in family life view their parents as increasingly irrelevant as educators, because their parents have only passed down good and true values to their teenage children so that these children often choose what they want without realizing it. heed the advice of parents.

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