

## **CHAPTER II**

### **FAMILY COMMUNICATION AND LONG-DISTANCE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PARENTS AND INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

#### **BAB 1**

#### **Family Communication**

A family is a group of individuals who work hard, do things together, and prioritize family interests over personal ones. Families are formed due to relationships such as marriage, blood relations, and adoption. Communication occurs in a family as a result of those relationships. In a family, communication connects individuals.

The importance of communication in this life, including in the family environment, cannot be overstated. The dream of every family member is to be part of a family that communicates intensively, dynamically, and harmoniously. In this study, the term "family" refers to the natural family, which includes two parents and their children. Consequently, this relationship is typically characterized by blood and original marriage ties.

This definition of communication is derived from a number of figures:

First, according to Wexley and Yuki, "communication can be the exchange of information between two or more people."

Calvin and Brommel state that communication (communication family) is a symbolic, transactional process that facilitates an understanding within the family. Families communicate primarily through interpersonal relationships, which are characterized by complex traits. Communication between two or more individuals or groups of individuals, with a variety of effects and feedback, is called interpersonal communication. Therefore, it is essential to view and describe every component of interpersonal communication as an integral part of the process.

Parents communicate with their children to provide them with information, advice, education, and happiness. Children communicate with their parents to ask for advice and input or to answer parent questions. Communication between family members is essential to achieving family harmony.

In Tuti Bahfiarti (2016:70), Hurlock describes family communication as a pattern of life in which education, attitudes, and behaviors affect the development of children. Several aspects of a family's life can be affected by changes in modern society. The changes that occur will later have an impact on the whole family. It can affect the entire family, including the father, mother, children, grandparents, or other siblings in a large family. Therefore, children also bear the impact of changes that occur in the family.

A parent's role always carries a great deal of influence and responsibility for their children's survival. Therefore, parents are generally willing to sacrifice their interests to ensure their children's educational success.

In order for children to develop properly, families play an essential role. It is essential for a child's education that parents love their children and demonstrate a positive attitude toward them. Additionally, for a child to develop a good personality and fit into society, parents must instill values based on religion, the environment, and cultural diversity.

A lack of harmony in the family may be caused by several factors, including incorrect parenting choices, a lack of intensity and openness in communication, different opinions, and conflict within the family because they disagree on specific issues. All of that can result in an unhealthy relationship in the family, which can lead to awkwardness, tension, and discomfort.

Harmonious communication between parents and children is essential for establishing good family relationships (Djamarah, 2014).

Furthermore, a well-functioning communication process within a family may facilitate interpersonal relationships (Suciati, 2015).

Communication within a family is enhanced when other family members respond or provide feedback. For children and their parents to maintain a good relationship, they must communicate effectively to understand one another. Furthermore, children should be honest and discuss their experiences when they are happy and experiencing problems. A harmonious family relationship will facilitate each family member's social life. Families communicate to form affection, cooperation, and trust through openness in opinion, desire, and behavior to develop mutual understanding.

The condition of the maintained relationship strongly influences communication within a family, as Berger suggested that a typical family or a harmonious family can affect family communication (Rahmat, 2007). As a result, family members rarely conflict, and they do not corner one another to solve their issues. As Balswick explains: "Communication within the family environment is at the core of human existence, supporting interaction, communication, and exploration of emotions among family members. Thus, all individuals are allowed to express their opinions, desires, and hopes (Rahmat, 2007).

Family members can improve effective communication within their families by improving the quality of their relationships. Several methods (Peterson & Green, 2009) can help families establish effective communication, including (a) communicating frequently, (b) communicating clearly and directly, (c) actively listening, (d) communicating openly and honestly, (e) thinking about the person with whom to communicate, (f) paying attention to non-verbal messages, (g) communicating positively. The following describes how to establish effective communication within the family. (a) communicating frequently. A family's greatest challenge is communicating with each

other. When members interact with one another, conscious communication becomes a challenge.

### **Long Distance Relationship Between Parents and International Students**

Nowadays, many parents and children experience long-distance relationships, which society no longer sees as a novelty. A long-distance relationship is one in which partners or a group are separated by a physical distance that prevents physical closeness for an extended time (Hampton, 2004). Education is one of the factors that cause long-distance relationships; a developing era will affect every family's want to create intelligent members. Therefore, many parents want to provide the best education for their children. However, the parents of these children are also willing to be far away from their children to ensure they will achieve the goals they have set for them in the future. Parents may perceive that some schools and universities abroad are of higher quality than the universities in their home country. Even when their children live separately from their parents, parents should continue to motivate them to receive the best education.

As a result, the relationship with parents must be separated for a period of time. For example, a child may be separated from their parents when they enter college to continue studying abroad, causing them to live independently away from their parents. The term "child" generally refers to a person born due to marriage.

It is important for both parents to live together and to be cooperative in providing education, care, and stimulation for their children at all stages of their development. However, many factors, including economics, career, education, and prestige, may force parents and children to live apart or to engage in a long-distance relationship. As a result, parents usually face several problems in this situation, such as distance, difficulty guiding and stimulating their children's

development, and a lack of communication when they require optimal attention and affection from their parents.

In addition, as a parent, one must set a good example for children since children are highly dependent on their parents. Individuals who enter college are generally in their late adolescence stage, which is between 18 and 24 years old. According to the Indonesian dictionary, college students are people who study in universities.

A long-distance relationship is one where the two partners cannot meet in person almost daily (Canary, 2003, p. 128). A family is a group of people with close relationships that develop a sense of belonging and group identity, complete with strong bonds of loyalty and belonging. Finally, emotions, experiencing history, and looking to the future (Galvin & Brommel, 1996, in Budyatna p.169).

When children go abroad to continue their studies, parents still want to communicate with them, even if it is just asking about how they are doing or listening to their children's problems or stories abroad. When children and parents are emotionally close, their communication will become stronger and more intimate. Mobile (HP) has become an indispensable communication medium for efficiently receiving and delivering information. HP is one of the media commonly used by humans to communicate interpersonally or interpersonally between two people over long distances, as experienced by parents and children studying abroad.

Although many communication mediums can be used to establish communication between parents and children studying abroad, their relationship can be challenging to set. Moreover, very minimal communication time and the lack of direct supervision from parents to children creates problems such as children freely doing whatever they want and being less open to parents.

Long-distance communication between parents and children can be well established if both parents and children use the media

appropriately. There is openness, trust, support, and emphasis from both of them so that the relationship remains close. In communication terms, this kind of relationship remains close. In communication terms, this kind of relationship is known as an interpersonal relationship.

According to Pistole, Roberts, and Mosko (2010), long-distance relationships may be correlated to commitment because of the amount of time invested in the relationship to make it successful. Further, they state that because geographically close relationships require less time and effort to maintain, they tend to invest less in each other and their relationship, resulting in lower levels of commitment.

A long-distance relationship always has a positive and negative impact on the relationship. The long distance between parents and children who study abroad will have these impacts (Issar,2022), namely:

#### 1) Positive Impact

First, children can learn a new language through interactions in the classroom and with others around them. In the future, this will be very useful if the child wishes to pursue regional or international careers. Second, it can help children adjust better to different management styles in the workplace. Third, having exposure abroad will empower the child to build an international network that can be valuable in the future. Fourth, increase self-confidence and independence. Besides, that child will also grow into a more mature person. Fifth, being exposed to new perspectives and meeting new people and people from different backgrounds will develop cross-cultural awareness; with all of these benefits, parents will be proud of their children.

#### 2) Negative Impact

The benefit for the children is, first, the cost is quite expensive. Second, it is difficult to find Halal food or be able to pray on time. Third, being separated from family. Fourth, there are difficulties in

communicating because of the language barrier. Fifth, parents have anxiety and worry about their children's condition.