



Parents' Communication Strategies In Preventing Teenage Promiscuity In Rantau Prapat

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Article Info

Article history:

Received 18 November 2023

Received in revised form 9

December 2023

Accepted 30 December 2023

Keywords:

Communication Strategy

Role of Parents

Promiscuity

Abstract

Effective parental communication tactics play a crucial role in mitigating teenage promiscuity, particularly in the context of Rantau Prapat. This study focuses on the communication tactics employed by parents to address promiscuity and foster positive relationships with their adolescent children, while also being mindful of their social surroundings. The objective of this research is to investigate the communication tactics employed by parents with adolescents, and how parents might guide them to avoid engaging in promiscuous behavior. This research methodology employs qualitative research, specifically field research incorporating direct observation techniques, interviews with a sample of 10 parents (comprising 5 fathers and 5 mothers) who have adolescent children residing in the Torpisang Mata neighborhood. Additionally, the study incorporates documentation studies, drawing upon relevant references and literature. The employed data analysis techniques include data reduction, data presentation, and data retrieval. The findings of this study indicate that there is a presence of transparent and constructive communication between parents and teenagers, which leads to reciprocal support between them. Implementing effective communication skills can foster unity and facilitate meaningful talks within the family. Furthermore, it can mitigate the likelihood of promiscuity by instilling a robust comprehension of morals and Islamic religious principles, so serving as a preventive measure against promiscuity.

Introduction

Teenage promiscuity has emerged as a significant societal issue. Juvenile delinquency encompasses a range of deviant behaviors, including dating, drinking, narcotics use, brawls, and other similar actions. Teenagers engaging in promiscuity may encounter negative consequences, including alterations in conduct, disregard for religious principles, and social difficulties. This can be attributed to a deficiency in self-regulation, as well as the impact of a negative social milieu. Parents have a crucial role in reducing teenage promiscuity by establishing religious knowledge, morals, and ethics within the family (Mbachu et al., 2020).

Adolescent promiscuity is presently a really worrisome occurrence. Several reports on juvenile delinquency have surfaced. This demonstrates that adolescent relationships are no longer characterized by good physical or mental condition. Factors contributing to promiscuity include a lack of formal education within the family, adoption of a modernized lifestyle, and a dearth of religious understanding. This promiscuity is also linked to a moral dilemma among teens, which can lead to extramarital pregnancy, school dropout, and increased criminal activity (Kasingku & Sanger, 2023). In order to address promiscuity, it is crucial for parents, society, and the media to provide focused attention and present good and beneficial content to adolescents. These findings closely align with the observations made by researchers in the

Torπισang Mata neighborhood of the Rantau Prapat area. In this region, a significant number of adolescents engage in promiscuous behavior, including engaging in relationships that result in pregnancies outside of wedlock, substance abuse, physical altercations, and other similar activities (Dankoski et al., 1996).

According to the statistics acquired by researchers from the Rantau Prapat District Court, there were a total of 4992 cases related to narcotics and psychotropic substances in 2024. Based on this data, it is evident that a significant number of these cases include youngsters who are progressively getting involved in deteriorating relationships. This study also examines the implementation of communication methods by parents towards adolescents (Misbah et al., 2022). Utilizing effective parental communication tactics can effectively deter teenage promiscuity by serving as positive role models, imparting religious principles, and fostering children's capacity for sound judgment. This study aims to investigate the efficacious communication techniques employed by parents to deter teenage promiscuity, and to explore the practical application of these strategies in the daily lives of residents in the Torπισang Mata Neighborhood (Yuniza et al., 2022).

Efficient communication tactics between parents and teenagers serve as the primary basis for guiding teenagers in navigating the complex realm of relationships, which can provide formidable difficulties and influences. Parents play a significant impact in influencing the standards and moral principles that serve as the foundation for the behavior of adolescents (Isnaini & Ramadhana, 2021). Effective communication between parents and teenagers has a significant impact on psychology, fostering the development of a positive character and perspective. Communication between parents and teenagers serves not just to provide information or knowledge to adolescents, but also as a medium for expressing adolescent feelings. Hence, it is imperative to employ effective communication tactics and emphasize the significance of parental contact with teenagers (Utami et al., 2023).

This research aims to decrease the prevalence of promiscuity by emphasizing the influential role of parents, as more parental involvement is associated with a lower likelihood of engaging in promiscuous behavior. In order for today's adolescents and young individuals to become more virtuous and contribute to a more promising future, it is crucial that they embrace and uphold robust religious and moral principles. Family communication is the most basic level of social interaction. Communication is a fundamental aspect of the family system, which consists of four aspects. The family is a comprehensive social institution that maintains ongoing interactions both within and outside its boundaries. According to Ilmy & Azhar (2023), humans initially acquire social skills and communicate within the context of their family.

Parents exert significant influence in instructing, directing, influencing conduct, and molding adolescents' viewpoints on societal ideals. Families have a crucial role in instilling values in teenagers by employing effective communication tactics to ensure successful communication (Wardani et al., 2023).

Hence, it is crucial to comprehend the determinants that impact parents' communication tactics in deterring promiscuity in teenagers, in order to establish efficient communication techniques between parents and adolescents. The researchers are interested in studying the phenomenon of passive communication among teenagers and its association with promiscuity. They aim to investigate whether passive communication alone is responsible for teenagers engaging in promiscuous behavior, or if active communication also plays a role in influencing adolescents towards promiscuity. The researchers are motivated by the desire to understand the impact of passive communication on teenagers' exposure to an unhealthy environment and their familiarity with promiscuity (Marpaung & Madya, 2023).

The study focuses on adolescents between the ages of 12 and 15. Adolescence is frequently confronted with intricate challenges that might impede the personal growth of teenagers, making it arduous for them to establish their identity. Adolescence is the phase when children undergo the transition into adulthood, sometimes known as the period of ego identity or self-discovery. Furthermore, adolescence is sometimes referred to as a phase characterized by turmoil and anxiety, resulting from the physiological transformations experienced by adolescents. Adolescents experience intense emotions due to societal demands and the challenges associated with their physical and psychological growth (Widyanti & Jatiningsih, 2022). This has resulted in the rise of numerous issues, including promiscuity among teens.

Adolescents, who are crucial to the future of the nation, should be seen as carriers of optimistic anticipation. However, the truth is that currently, a significant number of adolescents are deeply immersed in the quagmire of misguided behavior, conflicts, theft, substance abuse, and other issues that are commonly associated with today's youth. Additionally, they face unfavorable circumstances and surroundings that neglect their needs and well-being. Promiscuity is a deviant conduct that has surpassed acceptable boundaries, although adolescents perceive it as a normal and inherent phenomenon. Furthermore, adolescents possess a profound sense of inquisitiveness, have a penchant for novelty, and are inclined to engage in daring behaviors. Promiscuity is commonly associated with aberrant adolescent interactions and typically results in sexual activities (Ryan et al., 2015).

Several prior studies have investigated parents' communication tactics aimed at reducing promiscuity. The preceding study was named "Communication Patterns of Parents in Directing Children's Associations in the Village of Bandungan, Semarang Regency." The research was conducted by Utami et al. (2023). This study examines the usage of a permissive communication pattern, where the communication process takes a secondary role. This is attributed to a lack of parental guidance, resulting in a preference for using WhatsApp as a medium of communication rather than engaging in direct conversation with parents. Thus, it exerts a profound influence on uncontrollable aberrant behavior in youngsters. The second study, titled "The Role of Communication between Parents and Children in Preventing Promiscuity: Case Study in Link. Cimerak Cilegon City", examines the importance of parent-child communication in preventing promiscuity. The research was conducted by Fajriah & Yuliana (2023). The study asserts that the absence of contact between parents and children has a detrimental effect on the adolescent's undesirable behavior. Communication gaps and broken households are contributing reasons to poor conduct in teenagers during parent-child interactions. Conversely, parents play a crucial role in fostering the positive growth and development of their children. The third research, titled "Parents' Interpersonal Communication Strategies Towards Adolescent Children in Dealing with Promiscuity." The research was conducted by Putra, Muhammad, and Degei in 2024. This study examined the interpersonal communication strategies employed by parents to address promiscuity in adolescents, as well as how parents establish interpersonal relationships with their children by considering the prevailing social environment of adolescents.

The distinction between the three aforementioned studies and the forthcoming research conducted by researchers lies in the emphasis of my study on parental communication strategies in deterring promiscuity among adolescents. Specifically, my research investigates the role of parents in preventing their children from engaging in promiscuous behavior by fostering open communication between parents and adolescents (Nuthayati et al., 2022). This approach aims to cultivate positive relationships and effective communication as preventive measures against promiscuity. This study seeks to investigate the communication tactics employed by parents while interacting with teens. Additionally, parents serve as role models

for their children by imparting religious and moral principles to teenagers. In addition, parents also foster contact among themselves, even if they are occupied with work, to ensure that teenagers receive both care and attention. This helps cultivate an open-minded attitude towards their own parents (Putri & Pujasari Supratman, 2023).

The objective of this research is to mitigate the prevalence of promiscuity, which is highly prevalent in Indonesia. It aims to decrease the likelihood of promiscuity among teenagers, enhance family connections, and foster the growth of healthier and more positive adolescents. Additionally, these benefits are anticipated to furnish valuable information for the Islamic communication and broadcasting research program in advancing the field of communication methods within both familial and social contexts. The findings of this study are anticipated to serve as a valuable resource for future research on parental communication tactics, particularly in the context of guiding teenage relationships to deter promiscuity.

Methods

This research is classified as field research. Field study is a form of investigation that examines phenomena in their natural habitat. Researchers employ this form of field research to gather comprehensive and detailed data by closely observing phenomena ranging from the smallest reference points of the problem to the largest ones. The ultimate goal is to identify solutions for the betterment of society (Romlah, 2021).

This research use qualitative descriptive methodologies as its strategy. Qualitative research focuses on comprehending societal issues by examining the intricate and comprehensive aspects of real-life situations or natural environments (Sabrina et al., 2023). This study examines the tactics employed by parents to avoid promiscuity among adolescents, particularly in the context of dating issues and drug misuse. It also explores the application of communication strategies in relation to this topic.

The investigation was conducted over a duration of roughly 1 month in the Torpising Mata neighborhood of Rantau Prapat city. The focus of this study is on parents with adolescent children residing in Binaraga village, specifically in the Torpising Mata neighborhood. The sample consists of 10 parents, comprising 5 dads and 5 mothers. Furthermore, the researchers conducted comprehensive interviews with these parents in order to gain insight into their communication practices. Furthermore, the researchers also carried out direct observations, as well as documentation studies, which involved references and literature pertaining to the specific research emphasis, namely the communication strategies employed by parents with adolescent children to prevent promiscuity.

The research employs the data collection methodologies of observation, interview, and documentation. Subsequently, the researcher methodically examines the data, meticulously gathering and consolidating information acquired from observations, interviews, and documentation. This is accomplished by organizing the data into a descriptive format through the implementation of three key components: data reduction, data presentation, and data retrieval.

Results and Discussion

The issue of teenage promiscuity is currently receiving significant attention due to its alarming impact on national development. This phenomenon is particularly prevalent in the Binaraga Neighborhood, where promiscuity, primarily in the form of dating and drug use, is observed.

Promiscuity

Adultery during courtship

Dating is often regarded as a behavior that closely resembles infidelity. In the Binaraga Environment, the prevalence of dating among teenagers is high due to the normalization of relationships in the community. However, this trend has negative consequences, such as an increased risk of teenage pregnancy outside of marriage. The prevalence of dating among youths in the Binaraga area has led to an increase in cases of extramarital pregnancy, making it a significant factor contributing to adultery in the community. The respondents expressed growing apprehension due to the influence of the neighborhood's socialization on their children, leading them to adopt stringent surveillance measures to prevent their teenagers from engaging in promiscuous behavior.

Pharmaceuticals

Substance misuse can lead to memory impairment and potentially fatal outcomes. Drugs have mental, bodily, and social impacts. In the Binaraga Neighborhood, drug use is prevalent and is considered a manifestation of promiscuity. The lack of proper socialization among teens in this area makes them very susceptible to external influences. Substance misuse might also result in discontinuing education. This occurs because to the significant impact of environmental influences and peer influence, leading individuals to engage in acts that can have detrimental consequences on their entire life. A significant number of adolescents in the community engage in drug use and substance addiction, resulting in high rates of school dropout, depression, and a lack of clear life orientation (Veronica et al., 2021).

One's attitude and behavior can be observed in their social interactions within the family and community, which contributes to the achievement of a fulfilling existence. The community environment is a significant determinant of an individual's growth. Within the realm of family, an individual's social development commences by acquiring social orientation, engaging in interactions, and adapting to the immediate surroundings (Simo, 2023). Parents are responsible for instilling moral principles in their teenage children, including self-control, courteous language, and decent manners. Juvenile delinquency frequently arises as a consequence of inadequate monitoring and management of teenagers, including insufficient supervision and support in their lives (Rulmuzu, 2021).

Table 1. Informant Data

No	Parent Code	Gender	Age
1.	Y	Male	40
2.	Am	Female	38
3.	Bl	Male	45
4.	R	Female	42
5.	Nm	Male	40
6.	Dt	Female	39
7.	Ds	Male	43
8.	A	Female	41
9.	I	Male	47
10.	N	Female	45

Parental Communication Strategy

As stated by Effendy (1984), communication strategy is the integration of communication planning and communication management in order to accomplish predetermined objectives.

According to Onong Uchjana Effendy's definition of communication strategy, it refers to the planning and management of communication activities. This includes the steps taken to organize and carry out communication, as well as the efforts made to effectively manage communication:

Communication Planning a.

Parents Exemplify Positive Role Models

Parents have a significant role in the family, and it is crucial for them to serve as positive role models for their children. This is because children often mimic the conduct of their parents, even if it is negative.

"As a prominent role model for children, it is crucial to educate them about the negative consequences of imitating harmful behaviors, particularly those exhibited by their parents. Parents serve as a primary source of information and guidance, and it is imperative to provide them with knowledge about the risks associated with promiscuity, while also offering support to their children." (Informant A).

One of the respondents also conveyed the same sentiment, stating that parents play a crucial role as the initial educational institution for their children in preparing them to navigate the external environment. The informant emphasized that the quality of parental education directly impacts the development of their children (Informant R). Based on the information provided, it is crucial for parents to recognize that the actions and teachings they impart to their children will be mirrored by them, encompassing both positive and negative behaviors.

Openness Between Parent and Child

Teenagers might be influenced by the way their family interacts and communicates. In this instance, it refers to a state of preparedness to discuss or initiate conversations about any topic within a family. This mode of communication typically takes place at opportune moments to enhance the effectiveness of communication. Through fostering an atmosphere of openness, a shared comprehension of one another is cultivated. Statements provided by informants are as follows:

"By implementing strategies for fostering strong familial bonds and cultivating healthy relationships with children, parents can effectively guide their children's social interactions. This can be achieved through fostering open communication, engaging in meaningful discussions, and promoting mutual understanding" (The informant is identified as "B1").

"By engaging in directed communication, such as sharing shared tales and confiding in each other, and by promoting mutual honesty between parents and children, it is important to ensure that children do not overly rely on others, particularly individuals of the opposite sex. Instead, they should develop a strong dependence on their parents. These practices will cultivate an open and positive attitude between family members" (Informant Dt).

"Undoubtedly, there is a reciprocal openness between children and parents in all circumstances. Promoting children's confidence in their parents through an effective approach to parenting. Then engage in active listening to facilitate two-way communication and feedback" (The informant is referred to as N).

The informants acknowledge the importance of family involvement, particularly in terms of communication. Effective communication within a family fosters openness and creates opportunities for discussing important matters at the appropriate time. This type of communication allows for the expression of impressions, opinions, and a sense of care, which in turn influences children in addressing and resolving issues (Fitriani et al., 2021).

Providing Direction in Choosing Friendships

Providing guidance to youngsters in selecting friendships is crucial. Many instances of children engaging in promiscuous behavior can be attributed to making poor choices in friends and interacting with the wrong individuals. In this scenario, parents are required to provide guidance to their children when *selecting* positive companionships. The statement provided by the informant is as follows:

“Parents frequently encourage youngsters to engage in conversations and offer constructive guidance in selecting companions who have a positive influence, in order to minimize susceptibility to negative influences” (Informant Am).

“Provide education about friendship from a young age, how to make good friends, monitor their friendship environment, how to talk, how to behave to people who are younger or older than them” (Informant I).

From the exposure of the informants above, it is necessary to provide direction in choosing friendships so that adolescents are not easily influenced into bad behavior and also get a healthy environment for the development of adolescents.

Communication Management

Instilling an Attitude of Honesty

Honesty is a fundamental belief in the benefits one possesses, enabling individuals to attain their life goals. Self-confidence is a personal attribute that is bolstered by one's competence, backed by experience, accomplishments, and optimism. This study identifies key elements that contribute to parents developing a sense of confidence in their children. These factors include the importance of expressing affection, maintaining a harmonious home environment, and granting children a certain degree of freedom within agreed-upon boundaries. The statements provided by the informants are as follows:

“By engaging in shared activities, demonstrating mutual respect and honoring one other's privacy, fostering open communication, entrusting children with responsibility to develop into virtuous individuals, and maintaining honesty in addressing problems, a harmonious and transparent family dynamic can be cultivated (Informant Y).”

Adolescents in the stage of adolescence require attention, supervision, and guidance in order to shape their views and behavior in daily life, hence reducing the occurrence of juvenile delinquency. Cultivating a disposition of honesty can prevent aberrant conduct.

Applying Discipline

Discipline is an attitude that demonstrates the importance of obedience, compliance, and order. Discipline refers to an individual's mindset of acquiring responsibility and adhering to established norms.

“As parents, it is important to establish clear guidelines, both explicit and implicit, regarding permissible and impermissible actions. This includes setting a specific curfew for when children should return home after playing, as well as consistently enforcing discipline in a collaborative manner. By doing so, children will also develop a positive attitude towards maintaining discipline (Informant Ds).”

Therefore, the guidance and control that parents impart to their children will result in favorable conduct. Through the implementation of discipline, children can assume responsibility for managing their time and completing their tasks.

Applying Time to Communicate and Be Together

Allocating quality time for effective communication and fostering togetherness is essential to ensure that children consistently receive unwavering parental devotion. Even if the time spent is limited, children will perceive the value of the shared moments with their parents. The statement provided by the informant is as follows:

“Typically, during conversations, there is a customary practice of having a communal meal, such as dinner, prior to engaging in the discussion. Following the meal, the discussion commences, with a preference for parents initiating the conversation by addressing school-related activities.” (Informant Nm)

“Offer emotional support and allocate quality time to engage in attentive listening and shared activities that align with the child's interests.” (Informant R)

“Family time often include activities such as shared meals, travel, and bonding via storytelling. It is important to establish boundaries between parents and children in order to foster respect for parents and promote a strong bond within the family.” (Informant Dt)

The informants acknowledge that spending quality time together and engaging in open communication fosters strong family cohesion, allowing for transparency and trust between parents and children.

Improving religious education

Parents exert a significant influence on shaping positive attitudes and morals in adolescents through imparting effective teachings and providing religious instruction. Religious education serves as a fundamental and essential pillar in the lives of teenagers, providing guidance for their behavior and attitudes, ensuring they adhere to the principles and rules of both religion and society. The role of moral and religious education is crucial in addressing the issue of promiscuity by educating individuals to abstain from engaging in promiscuous behavior (Sulistyorini, 2023). Islam also emphasizes the importance of maintaining appropriate boundaries with the other sex, discouraging familiarity and courting. Hence, it is imperative for us, as adherents of Islam, to dutifully adhere to its teachings and abstain from engaging in any activities that are forbidden by the faith. The informant's statement is as follows:

“Parents can guide their children's socialization by involving them in religious communities, such as mosque youth groups or madrasas (religious schools).” (Informant Bl)

“Establishing a robust ethical basis and imparting moral and religious principles can foster the cultivation of a resilient and virtuous character. Teaching children values such as honesty, integrity, respect, and responsibility can assist them in making appropriate social decisions.” (Informant I)

Informants acknowledge that as parents, they actively implement and enhance religious instruction for their children from a young age. This includes enrolling them in Islamic schools (madrasah), encouraging their participation in religious activities such as mosque youth groups, and facilitating their studies in the local community.

The research findings indicate that parents' communication tactics within the family context can effectively educate parents on how to prevent their children from engaging in promiscuous behavior. Parents may effectively communicate by adopting the role of an attentive and receptive listener. This enables them to identify and implement strategies to address any issues their adolescent children may be facing. Effective communication between parents and children is crucial as it directly impacts their relationship. In this scenario, the family plays a crucial role in shaping the character and personality of children in their daily lives. It is

important for parents to provide attention and supervision to ensure that children do not end up in unfavorable environments (Salainti et al., 2023).

Conclusion

Derived from interviews regarding parental communication tactics to deter promiscuity in the Binaraga Neighborhood. Based on interviews with multiple informants, it has been found that parents and teenagers mutually assist each other in preventing promiscuity. Parents strive to prevent their children from engaging in promiscuous behavior by maintaining effective communication. This includes consistently encouraging and monitoring their children's actions, fostering openness between family members, offering mutual support, teaching the importance of selecting healthy friendships, and dedicating quality time together, such as sharing meals, to cultivate strong relationships and a harmonious family dynamic. Implementing effective communication skills can foster unity and facilitate meaningful talks within the family. Furthermore, it can mitigate the likelihood of engaging in promiscuous behavior by instilling a deep comprehension of Islamic ethics and principles, thereby serving as a preventive measure against promiscuity. Adolescence is a phase of transition that presents numerous problems. Consequently, it necessitates the active involvement of parents and the implementation of effective communication techniques to prevent teenagers from engaging in promiscuous behavior and encourage them to engage in frequent conversations with their parents. This research can also assist families or parents in effectively guiding and supporting their adolescent children by fostering open communication, providing advice without condescension, and creating a safe and non-threatening environment for them to interact with their parents.

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