

INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND CHILDREN TO FORM CHARACTER FROM AN ISLAMIC PERSPECTIVE

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ABSTRACT

Interpersonal communication between parents and children is essential for character development. This study investigates the role of Islamic interpersonal communication in the process of character formation in children. A qualitative approach utilizing a literature review method was employed. Data were obtained from journals and previous research and subsequently analyzed. The findings demonstrate that Islamic communication patterns, including qoulân balighan (religious dialogue) and qoulân sadidan (religious dialogue), as well as methods such as two-way discussions and the use of role models, contribute positively to character development in children.

Keywords: *interpersonal communication, family, islamic perspective*

A. Introduction

Character formation is one of the most important concerns for families and educators today. As technology evolves rapidly, social values shift, and children are exposed to a wider range of cultures and ideas, they encounter new and complex challenges in developing strong moral character. In the midst of these changes, the family especially the bond between parents and children remains the most crucial foundation for character education. The way parents and children communicate is

the main channel for passing on, internalizing, and strengthening values. Open, empathetic, and trusting communication, supported by consistent guidance, helps children build good character. On the other hand, a lack of meaningful communication often leads to behavioral issues and weaker moral reasoning in children.

From an Islamic perspective, this issue is even more significant. Islam places great importance on the family, which is seen as a sacred institution established by Allah SWT to nurture

good character (akhlaq al-karimah). The Qur'an and Hadith offer clear advice on how parents should communicate with and raise their children emphasizing patience, wisdom, gentle guidance, and leading by example. The story of Luqman al-Hakim advising his son in Surah Luqman shows the Islamic ideal of parent-child communication rooted in faith, moral teaching, and caring guidance. The Prophet Muhammad SAW also modeled a parenting approach built on compassion, listening attentively, and consistently showing good character.

Despite the ideal, many contemporary Muslim families encounter challenges in maintaining strong familial bonds. Factors such as demanding work schedules, pervasive digital media, generational communication differences, and reduced quality time have contributed to weakened relationships between parents and children. Consequently, transmitting Islamic values and fostering strong character in youth has become increasingly difficult. Given these challenges, it is important to explore how parents and children can communicate better to support character formation, drawing on

Islamic teachings for both practical advice and deeper understanding. This can help Muslim families raise children with strong morals and integrity.

B. Research Methods

This research employed a library research methodology. Data were obtained from academic journals and prior studies. Subsequently, content analysis was conducted to investigate the process of character formation through Islamic interpersonal communication patterns between parents and children.

C. Research Results and Discussion

1. The Concept of Interpersonal Communication in the Family from an Islamic Perspective

Interpersonal communication within the family refers to the exchange of verbal and nonverbal messages that occurs directly between family members to foster shared understanding, express emotions, and strengthen affectionate relationships. The significance of family communication lies in its role as a primary means of interaction that

shapes relationship quality and facilitates the achievement of collective goals within the household (Sobandi & Dewi, 2017). Western communication scholars, including Bernard J. Brommel, have emphasized the importance of studying family communication in depth, as effective communication has been shown to enhance the quality of internal family relationships and expedite the attainment of shared objectives (Muwafiqi & Sa'diyah, 2023). The Islamic perspective further enriches this view by considering family communication not only as a social skill, but also as an act of worship that is rewarded when conducted in accordance with Islamic law and sincere intentions.

Interpersonal communication within the family possesses several distinctive characteristics compared to general interpersonal communication. First, it occurs with high frequency and over extended periods, often throughout an individual's life, resulting in communication patterns that become habitual. Second, the relationships involved are both hierarchical and emotional,

intertwining elements of affection, authority, and moral responsibility in each exchange. Third, the effectiveness of family communication is assessed not only by the transmission of information, but also by the preservation of harmony and the cultivation of virtuous character in each member.

In Islam, the family is regarded as the first madrasah (al-usrah madrasah al-ula), serving as the foundation for a child's faith and moral development prior to engagement with the broader environment.

Consequently, the communication patterns established by parents from an early age function as a blueprint for how children will later interact with their partners, offspring, and society.

2. The Role of Parental Communication in the Formation of Children's Character

Interpersonal communication between parents and children is fundamental in shaping a child's character. In the Islamic context, communication serves not only to

convey information but also as a vehicle for education (tarbiyah), moral development, the instillation of religious values, and the formation of personality in alignment with the teachings of the Quran and Sunnah. Through effective communication, parents can guide their children in cultivating noble morals, responsibility, discipline, honesty, and respect for others. Islam regards the family as the primary educational institution for children. Parents are responsible for educating their children through kind words, wise counsel, and exemplary behavior in daily life. Open, affectionate, and respectful communication strengthens the emotional bond between parents and children, thereby facilitating the internalization of character values.

The Qur'an illustrates effective communication between parents and children through the narrative of Luqman advising his son. Allah SWT states: "And (remember) when Luqman said to his son, when he taught him a lesson, 'O my son! Do not associate partners with Allah. Indeed, associating partners with (Allah) is truly great injustice.'"

(QS. Luqman [31]: 13) This verse demonstrates that communication characterized by tenderness, affection, and wisdom serves as a primary method for instilling the values of monotheism and morality in children. The phrase "Yā Bunayya" (O my beloved child) exemplifies warm and affectionate communication, thereby facilitating the acceptance of advice by children. Additionally, Allah SWT instructs individuals to use appropriate and respectful language in communication, as stated:

"And say to My servants that they may speak better words." (QS. Al-Isra' [17]: 53) This verse provides a foundation for family communication to be conducted with politeness and respect, avoiding language that may harm children's feelings. Employing gentle language fosters a sense of security and enhances self-confidence. Children, and strengthen the emotional bond between parents and children.

From a communication psychology perspective, effective interpersonal communication is characterized by openness,

empathy, supportiveness, positivity, and equality. Parents who listen to their children's opinions, provide opportunities for them to express their feelings, and respect their opinions will foster positive character development. Conversely, communication filled with anger, threats, or neglect can hinder a child's emotional and moral development.

The role of parental communication on character formation is evident in several key aspects.

1. Instilling the values of faith and piety.

Through sustained communication, parents impart faith, worship practices, and devotion to Allah SWT and the Messenger of Allah.

2. Forming Noble Morals.

Parents foster honesty, trustworthiness, humility, patience, discipline, and respect for others in their children by providing guidance and serving as role models.

3. Develop Emotional Intelligence.

Warm communication supports children's development of emotional regulation, empathy,

and effective conflict resolution skills.

4. Build self-confidence.

Parental support, appreciation, and motivation contribute to increased self-confidence in children's abilities.

5. Instill responsibility and independence.

Parents foster children's responsibility for their tasks, decisions, and behavior by maintaining consistent communication.

6. Become a means of solving problems.

Effective communication fosters an environment in which children feel comfortable sharing their challenges, enabling parents to offer solutions that align with Islamic values.

Interpersonal communication between parents and children is fundamental in shaping a child's character. Within the Islamic framework, communication grounded in compassion (rahmah), wisdom, patience, and exemplary behavior fosters individuals who are faithful, possess noble morals, demonstrate responsibility, and

interact positively with their environment. Consequently, the quality of family communication serves as a key indicator of the effectiveness of a child's character education.

3. Critical Analysis of Children's Character Formation through Islamic Communication

The process of character formation typically progresses through several stages (Keikazaria & Ngare, 2020). The initial stage involves moral knowing, which refers to imparting moral knowledge to children. At this stage, parents clarify the distinction between good and bad. Within the Islamic tradition, the concept of qoulan sadidan, or speaking the truth, is emphasized. Allah, the Most High, states in Surah Al-Ahzab, verse 70:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا اتَّقُوا اللَّهَ وَقُولُوا قَوْلًا

سَدِيدًا

Meaning: "O you who believe, fear Allah and speak the right words."

The command from Allah, the Most High, instructs believers to speak the truth, maintain honesty, and avoid deviation or falsehood. This directive can be applied to internal communication patterns between parents and children. The

core principle of this communication method is the clear conveyance of messages or statements. This approach should align with the Quran and Sunnah. Parents are expected to be consistent in conveying the truth and to avoid dishonesty. The language and behaviors modeled by parents are internalized by children, ultimately forming habits that shape their character. Therefore, the home is regarded as the primary environment for a child's education.

The second stage is moral feeling or loving. After a child comprehends moral principles, the subsequent step involves internalizing these values. This process is challenging because it requires not only cognitive understanding but also emotional engagement and appreciation of these values, which fosters both a sense of joy and a motivation to apply them in daily life.

In Islamic teachings, the term qoulan balighan refers to words that leave a profound impression on the soul. This concept appears in Q.S. An-Nisa verse 63, which addresses the claims of hypocrites and provides guidance for Muslims on

responding to their falsehoods. The verse emphasizes that Allah is fully aware of what resides in the hearts of such individuals. Consequently, believers are instructed to disregard the hypocrites' statements and oaths, while offering advice that resonates deeply and encourages self-reflection. According to the tahlili interpretation as reported by NU Online, qoulan balighan signifies a warning and lesson delivered through impactful words, intended to restore awareness and sincerity, ultimately guiding individuals away from hypocrisy toward genuine faith.

In the context of family communication, parents are encouraged to base their messages and advice on this principle to facilitate the internalization of character values in their children. Such a targeted communication pattern promotes clear understanding. Through this approach, children learn effective communication, politeness, and appropriate socialization with peers and younger individuals or parents (Sarnoto, 2021). To effectively convey the message, parents may employ various methods, including

two-way discussions, recounting exemplary stories and historical events, and engaging in dialogue with their children (Sarnoto, 2021).

The final stage of character development is moral action, which entails the application of moral values in daily life. Role modeling represents an Islamic communication method that facilitates this process. When parents demonstrate exemplary behavior, children are likely to emulate these actions in their own lives. Observing appropriate communication patterns, as previously discussed, is expected to foster the development of moral and religious character in children.

D. Conclusion

This study shows that interpersonal communication between parents and children is the central mechanism through which Islamic character is formed in the family, unfolding through moral knowing, moral feeling and moral action with openness, empathy, and gentleness proving essential to this process while contemporary pressures like digital media and busy schedules pose real challenges, suggesting that Muslim

families today need to actively adapt these communication principles to sustain effective character formation.

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