

Parental Communication in Supervising and Preventing the Negative Impact of Gadgets on Children during Covid-19 in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency

Annisa Nur Rahmah¹, Lusiana Andriani Lubis², Rahmanita Ginting³

^{1,2}Faculty of Social Science and Political Science, Universitas Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

³Universitas Muhammadiyah Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the communication between parents and children in monitoring children against the negative effects of gadgets during the covid-19 pandemic in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency. The total populations are 6,818 people, with a sample of 99 people taken by rational sampling from 12 sub-districts Kisaran Timur District. This study employs correlational research with data collection techniques using questionnaires and spearman's data analysis. This study finds that communication between parents and children in monitoring the use of gadgets has a significant effect. Supervision is carried out by providing a good understanding of using gadgets, monitoring, and also implementing rules for using gadgets. Furthermore, communication between parents and children in preventing the negative effect of gadgets during covid-19 pandemic has a high affecting value. Prevention is carried out by reducing the opportunities to use gadgets for children, limiting the use of gadgets, setting duration, and also discussing to build parental trust in children. Communication between parents and children affects the monitoring and preventing the negative effects of gadgets.

Keywords

Commnicution;
parents and children;
negative impacts;
gadgets; the covid-
19; Kisaran Timur;
Asahan



I. Introduction

Indonesia is a country with quite a lot of gadget users, especially smartphones, laptops or computers. In early 2021 in Indonesia, as many as 202.6 million people became internet users. This percentage increased by 15.5, compared to last year. Meanwhile, the total population of Indonesia is 274.9 million, which means that the total number of gadget users is 73.7%. This data report is by HootSuite content management (Kompas.com, 2021). In children's development, decreased concentration is one of the negative impacts that arise from gadgets. If a child often uses a gadget to do one thing, then what happens is that the child will often use the gadget to do other things, or the child will like to imagine being a character in his favorite game, or a film that he has watched on the gadget. Things like this will of course result in the child's concentration decreasing which will lead to indifference to the environment around him, the impact that arises can also be a decrease in academic achievement. There are many factors why children prefer to play with gadgets, one of which is because they have a bad relationship with their parents. Parents often ignore their children because they are busy working, resulting in less time with their children. The presence of parents who are often not at home can cause misunderstandings between parents and children. Parents certainly play a role in children's development, one of which is in the use of gadgets. We often encounter the role of parents in providing gadgets, not supervising them, and providing excessive duration, including in the

environment where researchers live. During the Covid-19 period, internet dependency behavior increased, due to conflicts with parents. According to Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital (RSCM) doctor Dr. Dr. Kristinana Siste, SP.Kj(K) research in April-June 2020, found that 67% of parents admitted that they had difficulty caring for their children during Covid-19, as a result of the many conflicts between children and parents. Internet dependence increased to 19.3% of around 2,933 teenagers studied, and 59% of them acknowledged the increase in the duration of using gadgets (Suara.com, 2020). The Indonesian Child Protection Commission also carried out supervision in 2020 in 34 provinces. The results of this survey were that 79% of parents did not apply rules regarding gadget use, 34.8% of children played with gadgets 2-3 hours per day.

This situation also occurred at the researcher's residence, namely Asahan. This Regency is one of the regencies or cities with the largest number of schools in North Sumatra. Moreover, during the Covid19 pandemic, Asahan Regency was a red zone which required students to study from home (online). The initial data that researchers found was the number of schools by Districts in Asahan Regency:

Table 1. Number of Schools by District

No	Wilayah	Total		
		Total	Public	Private
1	Kisaran Timur District	113	32	81
2	Kisaran Barat District	95	28	67
3	Air Batu District	70	27	43
4	Air Joman District	55	25	30
5	Bandar Pasir Mandoge District	55	31	24
6	Pulau Rakyat District	55	33	22
7	Simpang Empat District	54	25	29
8	Sei dadap District	50	19	31
9	Meranti District	45	17	28
10	Pulo Bandring District	42	20	22
11	Aek Songsongan District	41	15	26
12	Tanjung Balai District	38	19	19
13	Buntu Pane District	37	18	19
14	Aek Kuasan District	37	20	17
15	Tinggi Raja District	36	14	22
16	Silau Laut District	36	16	20
17	Aek Ledong District	32	15	17
18	Bandar Pulau District	31	18	13
19	Sei Kepayang District	31	20	11
20	Rawang Panca Arga District	30	13	17
21	Setia Janji District	29	14	15
22	Teluk Dalam District	26	15	11
23	Rahuning District	23	11	12
24	Sei Kepayang Barat District	18	13	5
25	Sei Kepayang Timur District	14	6	8
Total		1,093	484	609

Source: asahankab.bps.go.id, 2022

The data that researchers found is data for 2022, this data is the latest data. The table above shows that the District with the most schools is in Kisaran Timur District with 113 public and private schools. In accordance with the circular issued by the Head of the Asahan Regency Service Number: 421.2/2957-SMP/2020 which still needs to allow school children to learn face-to-face (Disdik.asahankab.go.id, 2020).

In 2022 the circular letter has been updated, namely, Based on the Joint Decree of the Minister of Education regarding the status of online learning Number 2 of 2022 concerning Guidelines for Organizing Learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Covid19.go.id), that limited face-to-face learning can be carried out in large numbers. If students are at 50% of the classroom capacity, parents can choose whether their children will participate in face-to-face or distance learning. So currently school children are still doing distance learning, but only 50%, this indicates that school children are still continuing to use gadgets. Based on the table above, the District with the most schools is Kisaran Timur, indicating that more school children are using gadgets to study from home in this District. Kisaran Timur District is the center of schools in Kisaran City, where the schools here are close to each other and are in the same environment including elementary, middle and high schools, so they are interested in conducting research in Kisaran Timur. Researchers are interested in analyzing "Parental Communication in Supervising and Preventing the Negative Impact of Gadgets on Children during Covid-19 in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency"

II. Review of Literature

2.1 Interpersonal Communication

According to Elihu Katz and Paul Lazrsfeld (in Nurbani, 2019: 1.4) Interpersonal Communication is communication that occurs between two or three people which is carried out face to face, using the senses that humans have, and in this interaction does not use accessories such as letters, telephones, televisions, cameras that can link people to communicate in separate ways. So, the presence of humans who communicate face to face and in close proximity is the most important requirement for interpersonal communication to occur.

2.2 New Media

When viewed from the realm of communication, the information that is interpreted is in the form of images, sounds, and representations of information in the form of values which are processed into output in online form and then displayed on screens and disseminated via telecommunications networks. For McQuail (Gumelar, 2013: 9-10) new media is a place where all communication records are decentralized and the sharing of records via satellite which increases the use of networks and computers and audience participation in communication methods continues to increase.

2.3 Parents' Efforts to Prevent the Negative Impact of Gadgets

Looking at the advantages and disadvantages of introducing gadgets to children, in the end it is very related to the readiness of parents to introduce and monitor children when playing with gadgets, because of that. All parents need to be reminded of their important role in their children's use of gadgets. Parents need to apply several rules to their children when using gadgets. In order to be able to use gadgets efficiently, older people should be able to understand and explain the content contained in gadgets. Without older people's assistance, gadgets will not depend on what parents teach. Generally, they want to deviate

from what their parents taught them (Chusna, 2017:325).

2.4 Covid-19 Pandemic

During the Covid-19 pandemic era, it is mandatory to be constantly at home, of course this will give rise to a feeling of boredom, lack of socialization, which can cause fatigue in parents and children. This feeling of boredom makes children switch to gadgets or cell phones to get rid of their boredom. The impact of this lockdown can be seen in the number of parents who complain that their children are addicted to gadgets. Meanwhile, this can harm the child, disrupting the child's health, both physical and psychological. Based on the joint decision of the Minister of Education regarding the status of online learning Number 2 of 2022 regarding Guidelines for Organizing Learning during the Covid-19 Pandemic (Covid19.go.id), if face-to-face teaching and learning activities are limited, they can be carried out with the number of teaching participants being 50 percent of the category room capacity. After that, parents can choose whether their children will explore face-to-face teaching and learning activities or long-distance teaching and learning activities.

III. Research Method

The researcher chose the correlational method for this research, the aim of which is to see whether two or more variables have a relationship or not. This method is used to determine the degree of relationship between variables in the population, estimate the dependent variable, and simplify the research design (Rakhmat, 2012: 43). Measurements using scales are used in quantitative research. The scale in question is to determine and provide quantitative data. The researcher chose a Likert scale for this research, where the scale provides data, strongly agree, disagree, agree, and also disagree.

Table 2. Population of Public Elementary Schools and Private Elementary Schools Based on Village, Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency

No	Village Name	Number of Schools	The number of students
1	Sentang	5	963
2	Kedai Ledang	1	236
3	Kisaran Naga	2	372
4	Teladan	4	945
5	Kisaran Timur	1	87
6	Selawan	10	1780
7	Mutiara	3	533
8	Siumbut Baru	1	283
9	Siumbut-Umbut	3	996
10	Karang Anyer	2	563
11	Gambir Baru	-	-
12	Lestari	1	60
	Amount	33	6818

(Source: *asahankab.bps.go.id*)

Based on the data obtained, the number of public and private elementary school (SD) students in Kisaran Timur is 6818 people, the required sample is 99 respondents. Accumulating data in the field was carried out for this research, providing questionnaires.

IV. Results and Discussion

4.1 Hypothesis Test Results

			Parent and Child Communication	Monitoring Gadget Use	Preventing the Negative Impact of Gadgets during the Covid-19 Pandemic
Spearman's rho	Parent and Child Communication	Correlation Coefficient	1000	,583**	,829**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.	.000	.000
		N	375	375	375
	Monitoring Gadget Use	Correlation Coefficient	,583**	1,000	,468**
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.	.000
		N	375	375	375
	Preventing the Negative Impact of Gadgets during the Covid-19 Pandemic	Correlation Coefficient	,829**	,468**	1000
		Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.
		N	99	99	99

Based on the results above, parent-child communication and monitoring gadget use has a correlation value of 0.583, parent-child communication with preventing the negative impact of gadgets during the Covid-19 pandemic has a correlation value of 0.829 and monitoring gadget use with preventing the negative impact of gadgets during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Covid 19 pandemic has a correlation value of 0.468.

4.2 Discussion

The Influence of Parental Communication in Supervising Children's Gadget Use during the Covid-19 Period in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency.

In this study, there were 60 respondents or parents who needed to provide support to children, because not all parents were able to provide the support that children wanted, due to limited funds or limited time, so providing support to children was something that was necessary. There were 43 respondents who stated that their children often secretly used gadgets during Covid-19. Then 56 respondents stated that they needed to accompany their children when playing with gadgets, 53 respondents stated that they often pay attention to their children when playing with gadgets and also 47 respondents stated that they needed to monitor their children when playing with gadgets.

The Influence of Parent-Child Communication and Preventing the Negative Impact of Gadgets during the Covid-19 Pandemic in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency

Communication between parents and children and preventing the negative impacts of gadgets has a strong influence, and parental communication has an influence on preventing the negative impacts of gadgets. Besides that, there is a significant relationship between the parent-child communication variable and the variable preventing the negative impact of gadgets. Currently, school children in general are familiar with gadgets, especially when the Covid-19 pandemic requires children to have gadgets for online learning. This research began when Covid-19 cases were at an all-time high, and we also had to run schools from

home, so teaching and learning activities could only be done via gadgets via the Zoom Meeting application, or sending assignments via the WhatsApp application. Seeing this phenomenon, researchers were interested in seeing whether there was an influence between parent and child communication in preventing the negative impact of gadgets during the Covid-19 pandemic in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency. However, the questionnaire distribution was carried out after Covid-19 cases decreased. However, until this research was carried out there had been no official statement from the President of Indonesia regarding the revocation of Pandemic status, based on data taken from the Covid-19 Handling Update for October 5 2022 (Covid19.go.id) that as many as 16,943 people were exposed to Covid-19 with cases active, and currently Indonesia is at level 1. Based on the Joint Decree of the Minister of Education regarding the status of online learning Number 2 of 2022 concerning Guidelines for Organizing Learning in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era (Covid19.go.id), if face-to-face teaching and learning activities are limited you can carried out with the number of participants being 50 percent of the classroom capacity, after which parents can choose their children for face-to-face teaching and learning activities or distance teaching and learning activities. As a result, Indonesia's current status is still a pandemic, because there has been no official explanation from the President regarding the end of the pandemic.

Covid-19 started in late 2019 until now in 2022 it has been 3 years, children are used to going to school using gadgets, now they are doing face-to-face meetings but it is still 50%, so 50% still takes place online (via gadgets). Parents should be worried about children who constantly use gadgets, because apart from the positive side, gadgets actually have negative sides too. Communication carried out by parents is open, which includes asking about their daily lives, being good listeners, listening to their children's feelings, giving praise and also supporting their children. To prevent the negative impact of gadgets, parents need to supervise, give children special time to use gadgets, provide duration, provide knowledge about using gadgets, and also invite children to discuss the good and bad things that can be opened on gadgets.

The Influence of Parental Communication in Supervising and Preventing the Negative Impact of Gadgets on Children during the Covid-19 Period in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency

The Influence of Parental Communication in Supervising and Preventing the Negative Impact of Gadgets on Children during the Covid-19 Period in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency has quite a significant influence and has a high influence. Apart from that, the results of the positive correlation value indicate a unidirectional relationship, which means that parents have great control to monitor and avoid the negative effects of gadgets in the Covid-19 pandemic era. There are several efforts that parents can take to monitor and avoid the negative impact of gadgets amid the Covid-19 pandemic, namely the first is to give children the opportunity to practice using gadgets from an early age, because the use of gadgets is something that cannot be avoided in the digital era now and in the future. After that, it explains certain effects to the user. Next, we explain the benefits and objectives of using gadgets positively and appropriately, such as adjusting the sitting position, paying attention to the position of the light and the distance of the eyes, because a very close distance will interfere with the child's vision.

Second, start by choosing an application that suits your child's wishes, matching their age and abilities. All games, applications, and social media must be supervised by parents because violence and pornography are susceptible to being found in these shows, then carefully explain each function of the shows on children's gadgets. Parents are required to provide detailed and concrete information regarding the use of each

application. Parents must also understand more about all the content contained in their children's gadgets. Third, place gadgets in a public room, so that parents can always monitor their child's activities when using gadgets, also choose a chair or table that is safe for using gadgets, because an uncomfortable position when using gadgets can affect the child's health. Fourth, do not let your children be engrossed in their gadgets, start managing their time. Parents must be able to explain the duration of gadget usage to their children. Parents are also obliged to share positive examples of using gadgets so that children can follow them. Fifth, help children be able to make their own decisions, sometimes children want to create something new but do not dare with their parents, here parents must be able to invite dialogue so that children can show or create ideas that are in their minds.

Most respondents are women aged 31-35 years who work as housewives, where this age is the age when parents generally have elementary school (primary school) aged children 6-12 years. The mother is the person who is very close to the child to always carry out communication. Most parents' education levels are high school graduates with married status, and an income of IDR 3,000,000 – IDR 5,000,000, generally this income shows that most parents can afford to own a gadget.

V. Conclusion

The following are conclusions from the research that has been carried out, namely:

1. Communication between parents and children has a significant influence on monitoring gadget use. Supervision carried out by parents is by accompanying children to use gadgets, providing an understanding of the proper use of gadgets, monitoring, and also implementing rules such as not using gadgets when eating and when going to sleep and also making rules about using gadgets only on holidays.
2. Communication between parents and children has a high influence on preventing the negative impact of gadgets during Covid-19 in Kisaran Timur Asahan Regency. Parents must set a good example so that their children do not become addicted to gadgets and avoid the negative impacts of gadgets. Parents can prevent the negative impacts of gadgets by providing opportunities for children to use gadgets, setting boundaries such as only being able to use gadgets in places where parents can see them, regulating the duration of gadget use and discussing the negative impacts of gadgets.
3. Communication between parents and children has an influence in monitoring and preventing the negative impact of gadgets on children during the Covid-19 period in Kisaran Timur District, Asahan Regency with quite significant value and high influence. Communication carried out by parents, including asking about their daily activities, is very helpful in building parents' trust in their children.

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