

Navigating social reintegration of children in conflict with law: Postmodern family communication perspective

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Abstract

Children in conflict with the law face significant challenges in reintegrating into society, often struggling with stigmatization and a lack of supportive environments. From a postmodern family communication perspective, understanding the dynamics of family relationships and their role in fostering acceptance and growth is crucial for successful social reintegration. This study employed a qualitative approach to understand family communication strategies in supporting the social reintegration of children facing legal issues in Nunukan Regency. The research was conducted in February 2024 at the Department of Social Empowerment for Women and Child Protection. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with parents and Social Department staff, complemented by observation and documentation. The data analysis process involved data reduction, presentation, and conclusion drawing, with validity testing through triangulation. The findings revealed that family communication strategies are crucial in the social reintegration process of children. Open, supportive, and responsive communication from the family helps create a supportive environment during legal proceedings. Key elements in these strategies include awareness of the child's emotional needs, active participation of all family members, clear role and responsibility assignments, and consistent moral and practical support. The synergy between family communication and relevant stakeholders plays a vital role in shaping a better future for these children. Despite challenges, supportive factors strengthen the family's role as the primary agent in the social reintegration of children facing legal issues. Families play a significant role through supportive communication, providing the emotional and practical support needed for successful reintegration.

Keywords: Communication Strategy; Family; Social Reintegration

Introduction

The social issues in Indonesia today have become increasingly widespread and complex. Some social problems arise due to systems that are not well-targeted, while others are deliberately caused by certain individuals (Lestari, 2015). The social problems that are the focus of the Ministry of Social Affairs' work, referred to as Social Welfare Problems (PMKS), in Indonesia include: neglected toddlers, neglected children, children who are victims of violence or mistreatment, delinquent children, street children, children with disabilities, women at risk of socioeconomic problems, women who are victims of violence or mistreatment, neglected elderly, elderly victims of violence or mistreatment, people with disabilities, people with disabilities from chronic diseases, prostitutes, beggars, homeless people, former prisoners, victims of drug abuse, impoverished families, uninhabitable housing, families with social-psychological problems, isolated indigenous communities, people living in disaster-prone areas, victims of natural disasters, victims of social disasters, neglected migrant workers, families vulnerable to poverty, people living with AIDS/HIV, and children in conflict with the law (Hari, Harjanto Setiawan, 2015).

According to 2023 data, the percentage of children in conflict with the law is shown in cases of Domestic Violence (KDRT), the data shows that 53 women and 50 children were affected across various forms of abuse. Among female victims, the most common form of abuse was physical violence, with 39 reported incidents, followed by economic neglect with 9 cases. Sexual violence affected only a small number, with 4 cases, with sexual violence being the most prevalent (23 cases), followed by physical violence and neglect.

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Table 1. Cases and typology of violence

Category	Details
Non-Domestic Violence (non-KDRT) Victims	7 women and 94 children
Sexual Violence Cases Involving Children	53 cases
Human Trafficking (TPPO) Victims	27 victims (sexual exploitation)
Neglect Cases	33 cases (mostly children)
Marriage Dispensation Cases	9 cases
Cases of Children in Conflict with the Law (2015)	1 case
Cases of Children in Conflict with the Law (2016)	3 cases
Cases of Children in Conflict with the Law (2018)	1 case
Cases of Children in Conflict with the Law (2019)	14 cases
Cases of Children in Conflict with the Law (2022)	32 cases
Cases of Children in Conflict with the Law (June 2023)	23 cases
Sexual Abuse Cases (2022)	11 cases handled; 10 adult suspects, 1 child suspect; 9 girls and 2 boys as victims
Sexual Abuse Cases (First Half of 2023)	23 cases handled by June 2023

Source: Social Services 2024

The majority of victims in these cases were underage girls. Of the 23 cases, 22 victims were girls, with one case involving rape by two perpetrators. Among the suspects, 20 were adults, while three were children. Although 15 cases have been processed by the Prosecutor's Office, and two cases were resolved through restorative justice, six other cases remain under investigation. The importance of the family's role in this context is clearly evident. AKBP Taufik Nurmandia emphasized that the rise in reports of sexual crimes against children was largely driven by the victims or their families' urge to report these incidents to the authorities. He urged parents to intensify their supervision of children and stated that the involvement of parents and teachers in schools is critical to ensure that children are more cautious in their social interactions (<https://kaltara.tribunnews.com/2023/07/29/polres-nunukan-ungkap-hingga-juni-2023-kasus-anak-meningkat-23-kasus-pelecehan-seksual-ditangani>).

Despite extensive data and efforts to address Social Welfare Problems (PMKS), a significant research gap exists in understanding the reintegration challenges faced by children in conflict with the law in Nunukan Regency, particularly from a family communication perspective. Data from the Social Services Office and Women's Empowerment and Child Protection Agency reveal a worrying trend, with cases rising from 1 in 2015 to 32 in 2022, and 23 reported by mid-2023. Interviews with affected children revealed that socio-economic pressures, lack of parental guidance, and negative peer influences contributed to their legal conflicts. Emotional neglect and inadequate family communication further exacerbated their sense of isolation and confusion during legal proceedings, highlighting the urgent need for family communication strategies that promote emotional security and psychological resilience.

Additionally, the children's experiences were often compounded by broader social issues, including sexual violence, human trafficking, and neglect, which intensified their emotional burden and complicated reintegration. Social stigma and cultural norms further hindered their reintegration, contributing to feelings of shame and low self-esteem. These findings underscore the need for empathetic, open, and consistent communication within families, complemented by community awareness and support systems. Future research should investigate the long-term impact of these communication strategies on the psychological development of children in conflict with the law, as well as explore cultural factors influencing reintegration outcomes to inform more effective and culturally sensitive interventions.

While various studies have explored systemic and individual factors contributing to these social issues, little attention has been given to the role of family dynamics, communication patterns, and postmodern approaches in facilitating social reintegration. This gap highlights the need for research that delves into how families can be supported to become more inclusive and adaptive in addressing the complex needs of children reintegrating into society after legal conflicts. In the social

order, children in conflict with the law often face complex challenges and require special attention to support their social reintegration (Bunadi, 2017). The social reintegration of children who have had experiences with the legal system requires coordinated efforts from various parties, including the family as the smallest unit in society. Family communication strategies are crucial in establishing a strong foundation to support the social reintegration of these children (Eng, N., & Neill, M. S, 2021).

The family's role in supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law is crucial in determining the success of the process. However, parents in Nunukan Regency who are dealing with children involved in legal cases face significant challenges, particularly in maintaining effective family communication. Interviews with parents, who serve as key informants in this research, revealed that they often struggle with feelings of shame, guilt, and social stigma, which hinder open and honest communication with their children. These emotional burdens not only affect their ability to provide emotional support but also lead to communication breakdowns, creating emotional distance within the family.

Additionally, parents reported difficulties in balancing disciplinary actions with emotional support, leading to inconsistent communication patterns that contribute to confusion and insecurity in their children. The lack of communication skills and emotional regulation also affects parents' ability to address their children's needs effectively, causing misunderstandings and escalating conflicts. Some parents expressed fear of discussing legal issues openly due to cultural norms and societal judgment, which further prevents transparent communication and emotional healing. These communication challenges significantly impact the child's psychological well-being and hinder their social reintegration process.

This research highlights the urgent need to explore family communication strategies that can help parents overcome these challenges while fostering emotional security and resilience in children. Understanding these issues from the parents' perspective provides a comprehensive view of the family dynamics influencing the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law, making it a critical area of study. Several roles of the family in helping children in conflict with the law, such as: Firstly, the family functions as a safe and emotionally supportive space for the child (Lestari, 2015). The psychological support provided by the family helps the child feel accepted and minimizes the impact of social stigma they may experience. The family also plays a role in building the child's self-confidence and motivation to improve by offering positive encouragement and focusing on the child's potential and strengths. Furthermore, the family is responsible for providing a deep understanding of the consequences of the child's actions (Rachmawaty, 2018). The education provided by the family may involve open discussions about moral values, social norms, and the legal consequences of the child's actions. By understanding the impact of their behavior, children can be more responsive to rehabilitation programs and more motivated to change their negative behavior (Agnihotri., & Tripathi, V, 2020). The family can also serve as a mediator between the child and rehabilitation institutions, facilitating communication and ensuring that the child's needs are met. Additionally, family groups play a central role in shaping a child's values, norms, and attitudes. Therefore, family communication strategies in the context of social reintegration of children in conflict with the law can be key to ensuring that the process runs effectively (N. Effendy, 2018). In developing family communication strategies, various aspects should be considered, such as open communication, understanding the child's needs, and active participation in the reintegration process.

Open communication within the family serves as the primary foundation for creating a supportive environment. Effective communication allows family members to understand each other's feelings, needs, and expectations, including those of the child experiencing legal issues (Tam, L., & Kim, J.-N, 2020). Open communication can also help address the stigma and discrimination the child may face during their social reintegration process. Understanding the special needs of children in conflict with the law must be integrated into family communication strategies (Ertem., & Ki, E.-J, 2022). This involves an empathetic and responsive approach to the child's psychological condition, ensuring that family support is not only formal but also involves the daily aspects of the child's life (Thomas, K, 2021). This understanding ensures that family

communication is not merely a formality but also provides the necessary emotional support for the child.

Active family participation in the child's social reintegration process involves engagement in rehabilitation programs, education, and child development. Family communication strategies may include coordination with relevant institutions and the establishment of positive social networks to support the child's social reintegration (Tannen, D, 2016). Thus, the family not only receives information but also acts as an active agent in facilitating the child's reintegration into society. The importance of family communication strategies in supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law involves understanding the local context and the urgency of gaining a deep understanding of the issue. Nunukan Regency has experienced an increase in the number of children in conflict with the law in recent years, as reflected in statistical data showing a rising trend of cases. This phenomenon highlights the need for research to identify the factors that may influence the growth of cases and to design family communication strategies that can help address the problem. Communication serves as a conceptual foundation in understanding and designing family communication strategies to support the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law in Nunukan Regency. This theory provides a basis for understanding how messages are conveyed, received, and understood by family members involved in the child's social reintegration process (Saleh, Arifin Sihite, 2020).

One relevant theory in this context is family communication theory, which emphasizes the importance of open, understanding, and supportive communication patterns among family members (Nurjaman, 2016). In the context of family communication strategies, Family Communication Systems Theory suggests that the family is a system consisting of various subsystems, and communication plays a central role in maintaining balance and harmony within the family (Sari, 2020). In supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law, family communication strategies should focus on components such as honesty, empathy, and positive support (Galvin., & Bylund, 2015). This theory highlights that families that practice open and empathetic communication can create a conducive environment for the child's recovery and facilitate their social adaptation.

Additionally, Symbolic Interaction Theory can provide a deeper insight into how meanings and symbols are generated through communicative interactions between family members (Siregar et al., 2021). In the context of the social reintegration of children, it is important to understand how certain symbols, including social stigmatization, can affect the child's self-perception and family interactions. Family communication strategies should take this construction of meaning into account and create positive narratives that support the identity transformation of children in conflict with the law (O. U. Effendy, 2014).

The application of family communication theory, Family Communication Systems, and Symbolic Interaction can guide the design of a holistic and effective communication strategy to support the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law in Nunukan Regency. The role of the family is recognized as a key element in the social reintegration process of children. The family is not only the closest environment to the child but also has a significant impact on their social and psychological development (Rosenberg, 2015). Therefore, this research aims to explore and understand how family communication can be formulated to become an effective means of facilitating the reintegration of children in conflict with the law. In the context of Nunukan Regency, by understanding local culture and values, this research can provide deeper and more applicable insights into appropriate family communication strategies.

Additionally, this research can further contribute to the formation of local policies. By identifying factors that can strengthen family communication in supporting social reintegration, the findings of this study can serve as a foundation for designing better intervention programs and developing more effective policies in Nunukan Regency. Thus, this research is expected to provide concrete solutions to address the challenges faced by children involved in legal issues in the region. In this context, further research and the implementation of effective family communication strategies are crucial to understanding the dynamics involved in supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law. Consequently, joint efforts from families, communities, and

other relevant stakeholders can create a supportive environment that guides these children toward successful social reintegration.

Similar studies have been conducted, such as [Andari \(2020\)](#), whose findings emphasize the importance of social workers as the frontline providing assistance, contact, and direct engagement with children in conflict with the law (ABH) throughout various stages, from the police judicial process, prosecution in court, post-judgment, and after serving detention. Further, [Saimima \(2020\)](#) found that this research offers a persuasive educational model by empowering the community in the child's residential area. The community is involved in the assimilation and integration programs through a persuasive educational model that includes the participation of the Community Guidance Agency (BAPAS), family, religious leaders, and community figures such as neighborhood heads and village leaders. Previous research, such as that conducted by [Andari \(2020\)](#), highlighted the crucial role of social workers as the frontline in providing support, touch, and direct interaction with children in conflict with the law (ABH). The findings demonstrated the importance of social workers at various stages, from the judicial process at the police to post-detention. Furthermore, [Saimima's \(2020\)](#) research offered a persuasive educational model that involves the surrounding community in integration efforts. Stakeholders such as BAPAS, family, religious leaders, and community figures, including neighborhood or community leaders, were involved in persuasive educational efforts to achieve more successful social reintegration for ABH. These findings provide a more comprehensive understanding of family communication strategies and the roles of various parties in supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law.

The Family Communication Theory emphasizes that communication patterns within families play a crucial role in shaping relationships, decision-making, and social adaptation, including supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law. According to Koerner and [Fitzpatrick \(2002\)](#), family communication patterns are divided into two main dimensions: conversation orientation and conformity orientation. Conversation orientation refers to openness in discussing and exchanging opinions among family members, while conformity orientation emphasizes adherence to family norms and values.

In the context of the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law, open and supportive communication can help the child feel accepted and understood by their family, which in turn can boost their self-confidence and reduce the risk of social stigma ([Koerner & Schrodt, 2014](#)). This aspect of communication is crucial in the reintegration process, as families with supportive communication patterns are better able to provide the moral and emotional encouragement that children need to reintegrate successfully into society ([Luescher & Pillemer, 1998](#)).

Additionally, effective communication strategies within the family can also function as a form of social control, where the family helps the child in conflict with the law develop behaviors that align with social and legal norms ([Grotevant & Cooper, 1985](#)). In other words, good family communication patterns can play an essential role in helping the child navigate difficult times and readjust to their social environment, which is one of the key goals of social reintegration. Overall, family communication theory highlights that the communication strategies used within families can serve as an effective tool in supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law by creating an environment of support, openness, and constructive supervision.

Method

This research employs a phenomenological qualitative approach to understand family communication strategies in supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law in Nunukan Regency. This approach is chosen to explore the lived experiences and personal perceptions of families dealing with children involved in legal cases, providing an in-depth understanding of their emotional struggles, communication challenges, and social dynamics. By capturing the essence of these experiences, the study aims to reveal the underlying meanings and patterns in family communication that influence the reintegration process. The study was conducted at the Department of Social Affairs, Women's Empowerment, and Child Protection in February 2024. Data collection involved structured interviews, observations, and documentation using instruments such as interview guidelines and observation sheets. The key informants in this research

are four professionals who are directly involved in handling cases of children in conflict with the law and who have expertise in psychological and social aspects. These informants include:

Table 2. Research informant

Name/Role	Description
Sutriani, S.Sos (Peksos)	A social worker with direct experience in managing children's cases.
Philia Hamesya Nuting, S.Psi, Psychologist	A psychologist providing psychological support and assessments.
Damaris Pare, S.ST	A specialist working in child protection.
Endah Kurniawatie, S.Psi	Another psychologist contributing to the evaluation of psychological aspects of reintegration.
Parents of children in conflict with the law	They play a crucial role in supporting their children's reintegration by providing insights into family communication, emotional support, and involvement during the legal process.

Source: Social Services 2024

The criteria for selecting these informants were based on their professional roles in handling the cases and their qualifications as either a social worker or psychologist, both of whom play crucial roles in facilitating the reintegration process. Data processing and analysis were conducted using structured interview techniques. The collected data consisted of primary data obtained through direct interviews with informants and secondary data derived from literature, books, and relevant documentation. The analysis involved three stages: data reduction, data presentation in narrative form, and drawing conclusions. Triangulation methods were employed to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. This study was carried out in four stages: pre-fieldwork, fieldwork, data analysis, and finalization, with each stage emphasizing data validity checks through triangulation and peer reviews. The data were presented in narrative texts, supported by tables or diagrams to clarify the emerging themes and patterns from the interviews.

Results and Discussion

The family communication strategies used to support the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law at the Social Services Office of Nunukan Regency encompass various communication measures implemented by families to help these children reintegrate into society after facing legal issues. These communication strategies are designed to help children understand their situation, strengthen family relationships, promote emotional and practical support from family members, and assist them in readjusting to their social environment. The goal of these strategies is to provide holistic and integrated support for the children to successfully navigate the social reintegration process after encountering legal difficulties. The results of the interviews with the informants are presented as follows.

Table 3. Reflection of interview results

Indicator	Question	Parent 1	Parent 2	Social Services Staff 1	Social Services Staff 2
Communication Frequency	How does the frequency of family communication impact the child's understanding of their legal process?	"We talk to our child daily about their case, helping them understand each step clearly and feel supported."	"We don't communicate much, and our child may not fully understand the situation due to lack of discussion."	"Children with regular family communication tend to have better understanding and feel more in control."	"Frequent communication helps children feel more supported and prepared to face challenges."
	How does family openness affect the child's trust and understanding of their legal process?	"We are honest with our child, which builds trust and makes them feel secure and more prepared."	"We were not always open, which caused our child to feel disappointed. We are now	"Openness builds trust and helps children better understand their situation, making them feel stable."	"Children surrounded by open communication feel more comfortable

	situation?		committed to being more transparent."		asking questions and discussing worries."
Communication Quality	How does the quality of family communication influence the child's perception of support and understanding?	"Our open communication helps our child feel supported and understand the situation better."	"Hiding details made our child feel unsupported. We are working to improve our communication."	"Good communication helps children feel supported and calm, improving their understanding."	"Quality communication makes children feel emotionally supported and more capable of understanding."
Respect and Empathy	How does family respect and empathy affect the child's confidence and emotional well-being?	"We listen to our child and never blame them, which strengthens their confidence."	"We give our child space to speak, which makes them feel respected and supported."	"Families that show respect and listen to the child help increase the child's confidence and emotional strength."	"Empathy and respect from the family make the child feel supported and improve their confidence."
Conflict Resolution	How does the family manage conflicts, and how does this impact the child's emotional well-being?	"We handle conflicts by openly discussing and reaching an agreement, reducing tension and strengthening family bonds."	"We manage conflicts calmly, which reduces stress and strengthens our family relationship."	"Families that handle conflicts openly reduce the child's stress and strengthen family ties."	"Open conflict resolution helps reduce tension and supports the child's emotional well-being."
Involvement of Family Members	How does the involvement of all family members in supporting the child affect their well-being?	"We involve all family members in supporting our child, which strengthens family bonds and makes our child feel loved."	"We make sure all family members are involved, which makes our child feel supported and valued."	"When all family members are involved, the child feels supported, which helps reduce stress and anxiety."	"Family involvement makes children feel emotionally supported, improving their well-being and family relations."
Emotional Support	How do family members respond to the emotional needs of the child during the legal process?	"We create a safe space for our child to express themselves and provide emotional support during this difficult time."	"We allocate special time to interact with our child and provide the necessary emotional support."	"Families that create a supportive and safe environment help reduce emotional stress for the child."	"Providing a safe space for the child helps improve their emotional well-being and ability to cope."

Source: Interview Results

The findings from the interviews with parents and social services staff highlight the importance of several key aspects of family communication, particularly frequency, openness, quality, respect, empathy, conflict resolution, and emotional support. These aspects are all deeply interrelated and play a significant role in shaping the child's ability to understand and cope with the legal process they face, as explained through Family Communication Theory.

Communication Frequency, the frequency of communication between parents and children is crucial for building a clear understanding of the legal process. According to Parent 1, daily discussions about the case helped their child understand each step clearly and feel supported, while Parent 2 noted that limited communication left their child confused about the situation. Social Services Staff 1 and 2 echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that regular family communication improves the child's understanding and emotional control. In line with Koerner and [Fitzpatrick's \(2002\)](#) Family Communication Patterns Theory, frequent and open communication fosters a

stronger sense of emotional security and trust, which is crucial for children navigating complex legal issues.

Openness and Honesty, openness in family communication is equally vital. Parent 1 highlighted the importance of being honest with their child, which built trust and helped their child feel secure. Conversely, Parent 2 shared that a lack of openness initially led to disappointment, but increased transparency has since improved the child's understanding. Social Services Staff 1 and 2 also underscored that openness allows children to better grasp their situation, making them feel more stable. This resonates with [Koerner and Fitzpatrick's \(2004\)](#) model of family communication, which posits that families with high conversation orientation tend to foster environments of trust and openness, critical for a child's emotional resilience.

Communication Quality, the quality of communication directly influences how children perceive support and understand their circumstances. Parent 1 emphasized that open communication helped their child feel supported and clear about their situation, whereas Parent 2 admitted that hiding details made their child feel unsupported. Both social service professionals observed that high-quality communication not only improves a child's emotional support but also enhances their understanding. This aligns with [Fitzpatrick and Ritchie's \(1994\)](#) theory that effective communication within the family builds emotional connections and strengthens the child's confidence in dealing with external pressures.

Respect and Empathy, showing respect and empathy during communication significantly impacts the child's confidence and emotional well-being. Parent 1 shared that listening to their child and refraining from blame helped boost their confidence, while Parent 2 stressed the importance of giving their child space to express themselves. Social Services Staff 1 and 2 noted that respect and empathy from family members foster emotional strength in children. [Koerner and Fitzpatrick \(2002\)](#) argue that empathy and respect within family communication enhance the child's emotional intelligence and ability to cope with stress, especially during difficult experiences like legal challenges.

Conflict Resolution, managing conflicts effectively within the family is essential for the child's emotional well-being. Both parents and social services professionals agreed that open discussions and calm approaches to resolving conflicts reduce tension and strengthen family bonds, which in turn benefit the child's emotional health. Family Communication Theory supports this by suggesting that families who engage in constructive conflict resolution foster better emotional outcomes and higher levels of cooperation and understanding among members ([Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2002](#)).

Involvement of Family Members, the involvement of all family members in supporting the child is crucial for their overall well-being. Parents and social services professionals agreed that when family members are actively involved, the child feels more supported, which helps reduce stress and anxiety. This is supported by Family Systems Theory ([Bowen, 1978](#)), which emphasizes that the involvement of each family member contributes to the emotional balance and psychological well-being of the child, especially in stressful situations like legal disputes.

Emotional Support, finally, emotional support plays a pivotal role in helping the child manage their legal challenges. Both parents and social service professionals highlighted the importance of creating a safe and supportive space for children to express their emotions. This, in turn, improves the child's emotional well-being and ability to cope with the stresses of the legal process. Family Communication Patterns Theory ([Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2002](#)) suggests that families that prioritize emotional openness and support enable children to feel more secure and resilient in the face of external challenges.

Overall, these interconnected elements of family communication—frequency, openness, quality, respect, empathy, conflict resolution, and emotional support—are critical to helping children navigate the complexities of the legal process. The application of Family Communication Theory, particularly the Family Communication Patterns Model ([Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2004](#)),

illustrates how open, supportive, and empathetic communication fosters a stronger family dynamic, which in turn enhances the child's ability to cope with and understand their legal situation.

The family communication strategies employed by parents of children in conflict with the law are rooted in three key indicators of effective communication, frequency, openness, and quality. Frequency of intensive and regular communication within the family plays a crucial role in fostering the child's social reintegration. Engaging actively with the child, such as discussing their daily activities, addressing their needs, and asking open-ended questions, creates a supportive atmosphere that encourages children to express their thoughts and emotions freely. In this research, opportunities for children to express their feelings are facilitated through empathetic listening and validating their emotions, which helps them feel valued and understood. This approach empowers children to communicate openly without fear of judgment or reprimand, enhancing emotional security and trust within the family.

The research findings reveal that confusion faced by children primarily revolves around their lack of understanding of the legal processes, the consequences of their actions, and their social identity within the community. Many children struggle to comprehend legal terminology, procedures, and the implications of legal judgments, leading to feelings of anxiety and helplessness. To address this, parents are encouraged to provide age-appropriate explanations about legal proceedings and offer continuous emotional support throughout the process. By maintaining open and transparent communication, parents help reduce the child's confusion and uncertainty, making them feel more secure and informed.

Building resilience is achieved by consistently reassuring the child of their worth and potential for positive change. The research findings suggest that resilience is fostered by involving children in family discussions, encouraging problem-solving, and reinforcing positive behaviors. Families are guided to focus on the child's strengths and achievements, rather than solely on their legal issues, to help rebuild their self-esteem and self-efficacy. Furthermore, teaching adaptive coping strategies and maintaining a stable and supportive home environment contribute to enhancing the child's emotional resilience and ability to navigate social reintegration challenges.

The children in this research confront several legal processes, including police investigations, court hearings, probation supervision, and post-judgment reintegration programs. These legal encounters often evoke fear, confusion, and anxiety due to the formal and intimidating nature of judicial procedures. The findings highlight the importance of preparing children emotionally and mentally for these legal experiences by explaining each step in a supportive and comprehensible manner. Families are encouraged to accompany their children during legal proceedings, ensuring moral and emotional support. By maintaining consistent, open, and high-quality communication, families play a pivotal role in helping children navigate these legal challenges and successfully reintegrate into society.

Openness and honesty in family communication are crucial for the child's emotional well-being, particularly for those in conflict with the law. In this research, trust is built through transparent communication, where parents openly discuss the child's legal situation, explaining the consequences and future implications in an age-appropriate manner. This openness helps the child feel included in the decision-making process, reinforcing a sense of belonging and trust in the family. Additionally, parents consistently offering emotional reassurance and maintaining non-judgmental attitudes further strengthen trust, as children feel understood and supported without fear of blame or rejection.

Security is provided through emotional and psychological support from both parents and other related parties, including social workers, counselors, and community leaders. Emotional security is fostered by creating a safe space where children can express their fears, concerns, and emotions without fear of punishment or criticism. Psychological security is ensured by providing clear and consistent information about legal processes, reducing uncertainty and anxiety. Social

workers and legal counselors also play a role in offering accurate explanations of legal procedures, helping children understand their circumstances and feel more secure during judicial proceedings.

Self-confidence is demonstrated when children feel heard, valued, and encouraged to express their opinions during family discussions. This research found that parents who involve their children in conversations about legal challenges and actively seek their input help build their self-worth and decision-making skills. By acknowledging their feelings and validating their experiences, parents empower their children to regain confidence and overcome feelings of shame or guilt associated with legal conflicts. Positive reinforcement and celebrating small achievements also contribute to enhancing their self-esteem and confidence.

Anxiety and confusion experienced by children in this research are primarily linked to their uncertainty about legal outcomes, fear of social stigma, and misunderstanding of legal processes. Many children expressed confusion about the legal terminologies used and the consequences of legal judgments, leading to emotional distress and fear of the unknown. This confusion is compounded by a lack of trust in their parents when communication is inconsistent or when parents withhold information to protect them. This protective behavior, although well-intentioned, often results in feelings of isolation and distrust as children sense the lack of transparency.

To reduce stress, strengthen emotional stability, and enhance children's ability to manage difficult situations, parents and related parties employ several strategies. These include maintaining consistent communication routines, using simple and clear language to explain complex legal situations, and providing continuous emotional reassurance. Social workers and community support systems also contribute by offering counseling services, peer support groups, and educational programs that equip children with coping strategies and emotional regulation techniques. Additionally, involving children in community activities and encouraging positive social interactions help them rebuild their self-identity and resilience, supporting their overall emotional well-being and social reintegration.

The quality of family communication is paramount in addressing the needs of children dealing with legal issues. Open, honest, and supportive communication helps the child feel emotionally secure and provides clarity regarding their circumstances, empowering them to address challenges effectively. On the other hand, inadequate communication can lead to feelings of isolation and confusion, undermining the child's coping mechanisms. Therefore, prioritizing improvements in communication quality is essential for families to create a stable, nurturing, and supportive environment, ensuring the child feels guided and strengthened throughout challenging periods.

Respect and empathy in family communication are essential for supporting children facing legal challenges. Findings from the informants reveal that parents who actively listen to their children's perspectives and validate their feelings significantly enhance the child's sense of being valued and understood. One parent shared that by acknowledging their child's emotional pain without judgment, they noticed a positive change in the child's willingness to open up and share their fears. This empathetic approach also helped reduce the child's feelings of isolation, which was commonly reported among children involved in legal conflicts. Another informant emphasized that respecting the child's opinions during family discussions empowered them to regain confidence, helping them to feel a sense of control over their situation, thus enhancing their emotional well-being.

Consistency in family communication rules contributes to creating stability and security for children dealing with legal issues. Informants consistently highlighted clear expectations and boundaries provided a structured environment that reduced their child's anxiety and stress. For instance, a parent explained that setting consistent rules about curfews and daily routines reassured their child of a stable and supportive environment, helping them adapt more easily to life after legal proceedings. Additionally, by maintaining consistent communication patterns, parents strengthened their relationships with their children, enabling them to work through challenges collectively. One

mother noted that her child began to trust her more after she consistently discussed their situation openly and honestly, creating a predictable and secure atmosphere.

Effective conflict management within the family is achieved through open, honest, and dialogical communication. This research found that informants who practiced open dialogue, where every family member's viewpoint was considered, were more successful in resolving conflicts. For example, a father described how regular family meetings allowed his child to express frustrations without fear of reprimand, leading to collaborative problem-solving. Informants also reported that these open forums alleviated tensions and reinforced family bonds, as children felt their voices were heard and respected. This environment of mutual respect and emotional support improved the child's emotional well-being and strengthened family cohesion.

Involvement of all family members plays a pivotal role in supporting children during legal challenges. The findings revealed that families who included all members in providing moral, emotional, and practical support created a nurturing and unified environment. One informant described how involving grandparents and siblings in discussions about the child's legal issues helped reduce the child's feelings of alienation. Another family reported assigning roles to each member, such as having older siblings help with schoolwork or accompany the child to community activities, which eased the child's anxiety and reinforced family relationships. This collective effort not only boosted the child's resilience but also solidified the family's ability to overcome challenges together.

Adaptability in family communication is another critical factor in supporting children in legal cases. Informants shared that they adapted their communication styles to better suit their child's emotional state and developmental level. One mother explained that by using simpler language and breaking down complex legal terms, she was able to reduce her child's confusion and anxiety about court proceedings. Other informants noted that creating an open space for children to express themselves without interruption fostered emotional security. Families that modified their communication approach as situations evolved were more successful in helping their children navigate the pressures of the legal process. This adaptability ensured that the children felt emotionally supported and understood throughout their legal challenges.

Finally, providing emotional support within the family is fundamental for helping children navigate the challenges of the legal process. Informants emphasized the importance of maintaining open communication and attentiveness to the child's emotional needs. One parent highlighted that by engaging in regular one-on-one conversations, she was able to recognize signs of stress early and provide moral encouragement. Another informant reported that by offering consistent emotional reassurance, the child felt safe to share their fears and anxieties, which significantly strengthened their emotional resilience. Additionally, parents mentioned seeking professional help, such as counseling, when necessary to address more complex emotional issues. This proactive approach not only enhanced the child's emotional stability but also fortified family relationships, enabling the child to face difficult situations with greater confidence and security.

These detailed findings from the informants' experiences illustrate the critical role of respect, empathy, consistency, adaptability, and emotional support in family communication strategies. They underscore how these communication practices directly influence the emotional well-being, resilience, and social reintegration of children in conflict with the law in Nunukan Regency.

The family communication strategies employed to support the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law at the Social Services Office of Nunukan Regency encompass various communication steps designed to help children understand their situation, strengthen family relationships, promote emotional support, and assist them in readjusting to their social environment. Based on family communication indicators, this strategy begins with frequent and intensive communication. Social Exchange Theory (McGrath) suggests that frequent communication strengthens social relationships and understanding between individuals. In this context, families engage in regular and intensive communication to monitor the development of the child facing legal

issues. This frequent communication helps the child feel heard and supported, aligning with Social Support Theory (Cobb & Weiss), which emphasizes the importance of emotional support in coping with stress.

Openness and honesty in communication are also key elements. Families need to provide honest and transparent information about the legal situation the child is facing, as explained in Supportive Communication Theory (Cobb & Weiss). This creates a supportive environment for the child, where they do not feel abandoned or neglected. Furthermore, an empathetic approach, in line with Empathy Theory (Carl Rogers), helps the child feel calmer in facing the process of social reintegration. This openness allows families to discuss the challenges the child is facing, seek solutions together, and create emotional stability.

Respect and empathy are other important components. Social Support Theory emphasizes that respectful and empathetic attitudes from the family create deep emotional support, providing the child with a sense of security in facing legal challenges. By adopting a consistent and empathetic approach, as explained by McGrath in Social Exchange Theory, families that treat the child with respect and offer emotional support enable the child to communicate openly, strengthening emotional bonds between the child and other family members. Consistency in this approach, according to Communication Accommodation Theory (McCroskey & Richmond), ensures that the child feels guided in navigating the social reintegration process.

Adaptability in communication also plays a vital role. Communication Adaptability Theory (Borisoff) explains that flexibility in adjusting communication styles and methods to the individual's needs is essential in helping the child cope with challenging situations, such as legal proceedings. Families that adapt to the child's emotional needs and situation, using gentler language and accommodating changes in the child's legal circumstances, help create a supportive environment for social reintegration. This approach is further supported by family communication theory by Kathleen Galvin, which emphasizes the importance of creating a supportive environment for the child.

Finally, emotional support is a crucial element. Families that actively provide emotional support, in line with family communication theory by Galvin and Bylund, create strong emotional bonds with the child. They offer space for the child to talk about their feelings and provide continuous moral support. The commitment to maintaining open and responsive communication, along with the willingness to seek professional help if necessary, ensures that the family becomes a key pillar in supporting the child's social reintegration process.

The findings of this research reveal several key themes related to the application of social reintegration for children in conflict with the law, particularly through the lens of family communication strategies. The study identifies that frequent, open, and high-quality communication within families plays a crucial role in fostering emotional security and social reintegration. Parents and family members who maintained consistent communication routines helped children feel heard, valued, and emotionally supported, which alleviated anxiety and promoted psychological resilience. The findings indicate that by facilitating honest discussions about legal issues, families were able to reduce confusion and build trust, supporting the child's reintegration process.

Another significant theme that emerged is the balance between openness and privacy in managing sensitive information. Families that practiced transparent communication while respecting the child's need for privacy were more successful in maintaining emotional security and trust. This approach enabled children to express their feelings and concerns without fear of judgment, enhancing their self-confidence and emotional well-being. Additionally, the study found that emotional support and conflict resolution mechanisms were vital in creating a nurturing and stable family environment. Families who engaged in empathetic listening, provided consistent moral encouragement, and involved children in problem-solving discussions were able to strengthen emotional bonds and reduce stress, thereby supporting the child's social reintegration.

These findings emphasize the practical application of social reintegration strategies, illustrating how effective family communication contributes to emotional resilience and successful reintegration. The results also highlight the importance of developing family-based support programs that focus on enhancing communication skills, emotional regulation, and conflict resolution techniques tailored to the needs of children in conflict with the law. Future studies can build on these themes by exploring the long-term impact of these communication strategies on social reintegration outcomes.

Conclusion

Family communication strategies play a crucial role in supporting the social reintegration of children in conflict with the law at the Social Services Office of Nunukan Regency. The frequency of intensive communication, openness, and honesty form the foundation for creating a supportive relationship between the child and their family. Regular and consistent communication allows the child to feel heard, understood, and provided with the emotional support they need during the legal process and reintegration. The involvement of all family members in offering moral, emotional, and practical support is also identified as a key factor that strengthens family bonds and facilitates the child's social reintegration. An open, empathetic, and consistent approach to communication helps the child understand their legal situation, enhances emotional well-being, and promotes stability within the family. Moreover, adaptability in communication styles and methods, tailored to the child's needs and situation, has proven effective in helping the child overcome challenges that arise during the reintegration process. This flexibility creates a safe environment for the child to express themselves and receive appropriate support.

The findings also highlight the importance of constructive conflict resolution within the family, encouraging the child to actively participate in problem-solving. With sustained family support, children are better able to navigate conflicts and difficulties that may arise during the legal process and reintegration. Family communication strategies that incorporate frequency, openness, empathy, adaptability, and effective conflict resolution play a pivotal role in ensuring the successful social reintegration of children facing legal issues.

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