

## Communication in the family and children's deviant behavior in single parent families

### *Komunikasi dalam keluarga dan perilaku menyimpang anak pada keluarga single parent*

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#### Abstract

Single parent families are form of incomplete family, where one parent is fully responsible for the education and character building of the child. This role vacancy often triggers deviant behavior in children. This study aims to explain communication and children's deviant behavior in single parent families. This research uses literature study research method with social deviation theory by Edwin H. Sutherland. There are several research results obtained from this study. First, the communication established in single parent families has not been effective. Second, the factors that cause children's deviant behavior in single parent families are caused by two things, namely disappointment with the situation in the family and the environment of peers who tend to behave deviantly. Third, the role of communication in preventing children's deviant behavior in single parent families is a major foundation in preventing children's deviant behavior. This study concludes that authoritative communication is the most appropriate application in single parent families to overcome communication problems in the family. Apart from that, good communication can have a significant impact on parents' relationships to be able to control and supervise children to prevent deviant behavior.

**Keywords:** communication in the family; deviant behavior; family and children; single parent

#### Abstrak

*Keluarga single parent merupakan bentuk keluarga tidak lengkap, di mana satu orang tua bertanggung jawab sepenuhnya terhadap pendidikan dan pembentukan karakter anak. Kekosongan peran ini seringkali memicu perilaku menyimpang pada anak. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan komunikasi dan perilaku menyimpang anak pada keluarga single parent. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode penelitian studi literatur dengan teori penyimpangan sosial oleh Edwin H. Sutherland. Terdapat beberapa hasil penelitian yang diperoleh dari studi ini. Pertama, komunikasi yang terjalin dalam keluarga single parent belum berjalan secara efektif. Kedua, faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan perilaku menyimpang anak pada keluarga single parent disebabkan oleh dua hal, yaitu kekecewaan terhadap situasi di dalam keluarga dan lingkungan teman sebaya yang cenderung berperilaku menyimpang. Ketiga, peran komunikasi dalam mencegah perilaku menyimpang anak pada keluarga single parent merupakan sebuah landasan utama dalam mencegah perilaku menyimpang anak. Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa komunikasi authoritative menjadi penerapan yang paling tepat dilakukan dalam keluarga single parent untuk mengatasi masalah komunikasi dalam keluarga. Selain itu, komunikasi yang berjalan baik dapat memberikan dampak yang signifikan terhadap hubungan orang tua untuk bisa melakukan kontrol dan pengawasan pada anak dalam mencegah perilaku menyimpang.*

**Kata kunci:** komunikasi dalam keluarga; perilaku menyimpang; keluarga dan anak; orang tua tunggal

## Introduction

In recent years, the phenomenon of single parents has been rampant in Indonesia. The number of single parents in Indonesia is dominated by single mothers rather than single fathers. Based on the results of data from the Central Statistics Agency (BPS), there are 11,168,460 (5.8%) Indonesians who are widows and 2,786,460 (1.4%) Indonesians who are widowers from the total population of Indonesia of 191,709,144 people (Pagarwati & Fauziah 2020). Single parent is someone who takes care of their

own children and their own home without the help of a life partner, either husband or wife. A single parent has a very heavy life dependency, where they have to work to meet family needs while taking care of their children (Noviandari & Rini 2023). Single parents assume a dual role where if a person is a woman, then she will have the obligations and role of being a mother at the same time coupled with having to bear her role as a father and vice versa. On the one hand, a mother or father must fulfill the psychological needs of children, such as providing love, attention and security. However, on the other hand, it must also fulfill all the physical needs of children, such as food, clothing, shelter, education, health and various other material needs. These conditions will place single parents in positions and situations that interfere with their self-concept so that it is often found that they experience difficulties in educating and raising children.

One of the causes of the single parent phenomenon is divorce. Indonesia is one of the countries with a high divorce rate. Based on data reported by the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) in 2022, it is known that the number of divorce cases in Indonesia was 516,334 cases. This number increased by 15.31% compared to the previous year, which was 447,743 cases. In DKI Jakarta, the number of divorce cases reached 15,947 cases, followed by the number of divorce cases in East Jakarta City of 3,286 cases. East Jakarta City as one of the cities with a high divorce rate will certainly have an influence on children as victims of divorce. Divorce can have a significant impact on children and single parents themselves (Noviandari & Rini 2023).

Ideally, a child grows up in a complete family consisting of a father and mother. However, not all families consist of an intact family form. A broken home can be defined as a condition where a family does not have a complete family structure, in which there is no father or mother or even both. Single parents are included in this form of family (Lestari & Widyastuti 2023). Family integrity is one of the factors that influence children's social development. Families that experience division have a tendency to produce children who experience a personality crisis. Children who have a single parent will tend to experience a tension in the family, this gives a psychological and social blow to the child, allowing the child to behave deviantly and experience emotional and even neurotic disorders (Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020, Mahnunin & Ridjal 2021). The phenomenon of single parent families has a negative impact on children's development, especially because children become victims of the damage to the relationship between their parents. Especially when children are in the adolescent phase, where the attention of both parents plays an important role in ensuring children develop well in their search for identity (Br Hutasoit & Brahmana 2021). A child who is raised by a single parent is likely to have unusual or deviant behavior, such as daydreaming, solitude, sentimentality and so on (Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020).

Deviant behavior is a behavior that is not in accordance with the norms prevailing in the surrounding community expressed by one or more members of society, either consciously or unconsciously (Kartono 2017). According to Edwin H. Sutherland, deviant behavior is a behavior that can be learned or the result of the learning process of the individual. That is, deviant behavior can occur from the learning process due to individual contact with someone who commits deviant behavior. Deviant behavior that is carried out continuously can result in criminality. In fact, based on data obtained from the Indonesian Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection in 2022, it states that there were 27,589 crimes with cases of violence, of which 17.4% (4,801 cases) percent were committed by minors. Sutherland explains in his theory, namely Differential Association Theory that deviant behavior carried out by individuals can be learned through the process of interaction with other individuals and the communication process that takes place can be verbal or non-verbal. In addition, Sutherland also said that the source of deviation comes from family, peers, and the environment (Sulaiman 2020).

Single parent families are one of the triggers for social problems in children, one of which is children's deviant behavior. Riestyantomo & Pratiwi (2020) in their analysis of single parent families and their children who behave deviantly say that one of the reasons for children's deviant behavior in single parent families is the child's disappointment with the imperfect family situation. This results in a lack of parental supervision of children's behavior. Fransiska et al. (2022) in their analysis of adolescents with broken home families who behave deviantly also said that the reasons for adolescents to behave

deviantly, namely, because of habits, encouragement from themselves, influence from the surrounding environment, and peers who experience disharmony. In addition, (Hasanah 2020) in her analysis of disorganized families and children who experience broken homes states that family disorganization has an influence on children's social behavior, namely children who experience family disorganization tend to be angry, have an emotional soul, close themselves, and tend to engage in deviant behavior such as stealing and drinking.

The lack of special attention by single parents in educating children results in the absence of dynamic communication and interaction within the family, triggering children to behave deviantly (Sakti & Sulung 2020). Aisy & Purba (2020) in their study on single parent families revealed that the communication patterns that occur between single parents and children are very important in shaping children's character. The communication patterns applied by parents have a significant impact on the development of children's character and mindset. In addition, Sukarno (2021) through his study on parents or heads of households also highlighted how important the role of parents is to children's behavior. Most children tend to engage in deviant behavior because they lack the full attention and affection of their parents, so they are more susceptible to negative influences around them. One of the efforts that parents need to make in overcoming children's deviant behavior is to build good communication patterns in the family, not only verbally, but also by providing supervision and control of children.

Observing these conditions, researchers want to go deeper to understand how communication and deviant behavior of children in single parent families, especially in East Jakarta. Given the high divorce rate in East Jakarta City, it has the potential to increase children's vulnerability to deviant behavior. Divorce can disrupt stable communication patterns and cause uncertainty in the family environment, which in turn can increase the risk of deviant behavior in children. Therefore, this issue should be a serious concern given that parents have full responsibility for children's education and character building and family communication dynamics are a determining factor in children's well-being. Thus, this article will discuss how communication in the family and children's deviant behavior in single parent families in East Jakarta using Edwin H. Sutherland's Theory of Deviant Behavior.

## **Research Method**

The method used in this research is a literature study method. The literature study in this research was conducted by collecting references consisting of several books, journals, proceedings, scientific publications, and relevant research reports and complemented by empirical data, such as the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) to support the research. The literature search used the keywords "communication and deviant behavior of children in single parent families", "communication in single parent families", "deviant behavior of children in single parent families", and "factors of deviant behavior of children in single parent families".

The procedure in this research was carried out by selecting themes, exploring information, determining the direction of research, determining keywords, collecting data, sorting data, presenting data, and compiling reports. The literature study method in this research is used to explain: (1) Communication in single parent families. (2) Factors that cause children's deviant behavior in single parent families. (3) The role of communication in preventing children's deviant behavior in single parent families. The data analysis carried out is to analyze the results of the most relevant, relevant and quite relevant research. Then, reading the abstract of each study first to provide an assessment of whether the issues discussed are in accordance with the research problem. Furthermore, noting the important parts and relevant to the research problem.

## **Results and Discussion**

The following Table 1 are the results of a collection of research from journals, theses, proceedings, and scientific publications that discuss communication and deviant behavior of children in single parent families. A total of 14 articles were obtained with a time span of the last five years.

**Table 1.**

Results of research on communication and children's deviant behavior in single parent families

<b>Researcher and Year</b>	<b>Journal</b>	<b>Research Results</b>
(Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020)	Jurnal Pendidikan Sosiologi	The forms of deviant behavior of children from single parent families are skipping school, smoking, gambling, drinking alcohol, consuming drugs, and having sex outside of marriage. Their deviant behavior is caused by two things, namely disappointment with their family conditions and because of their playing environment which tends to behave deviantly.
(Aisy & Purba 2020)	Jurnal Common	Different parental communication patterns can shape children's character in different ways. If children are educated by Permissive, Authoritative, Authoritaria communication patterns, parents will get different responses from each child. The right communication pattern for single parents is the authoritative communication pattern. Obstacles experienced by single parent parents, namely lack of communication with children, distance and time that make them far away, lack of openness between parents and children become misunderstandings in conveying messages.
(Yanuarsari et al. 2021)	KnE Social Sciences	The results showed that single parent parenting affected the formation of early childhood independence. According to the results, children who were cared for in democratic parenting tended to have an independent attitude, be responsible, have the courage to take risks, and could develop self-confidence, demonstrate learning achievement and develop their potential. Meanwhile, children who were cared for with permissive parenting tended to be less independent, slower, have low motivation, and lack self-control and confidence.
(Fransiska et al. 2022)	Jurnal Ilmiah Mahasiswa Bimbingan Konseling (JIMBK)	The results of this study indicate that deviant social behavior of adolescents due to broken homes from promiscuity, taking drugs, stealing, quitting school. The reasons for adolescents to commit deviant behavior, namely, from habits, encouragement from oneself, influence from the surrounding environment, peers who experience disharmonization. With family conditions not harmonious, causing the teenager to vent through deviant behavior.
(Jannah 2019)	Thesis	The results of this study indicate that (1) The forms of deviant behavior of broken home family adolescents are: (a) individual deviations: lying, skipping class, excessive dating, borrowing money without parents' knowledge. (2) The role of mothers in overcoming deviant behavior in adolescents of broken home families by: communicating well, advising, repressive (inhibiting), supervising well.
(Hasanah 2020)	Thesis	Family disorganization has an influence on children's social behavior, namely children who experience family disorganization tend to be angry and emotional, close themselves more than others, and engage in deviant behavior such as stealing, getting drunk and smoking aibon.

Researcher and Year	Journal	Research Results
(Adhani 2023)	IJRS: Internasional Journal of the Reglement Society	Communication patterns used by single parents can be categorized into linear, interaction and transaction. Several situations encountered in everyday life encourage the use of different communication patterns. Thus, a single parent can use more than one communication pattern. The three types of communication patterns used by single parents can actually shape children's independence although at different levels.
(Sitorus 2022)	Thesis	The results showed that the first single mother communication pattern is authoritarian communication pattern (tends to be hostile). The second is permissive communication patterns (tends to behave freely) where parents have a high acceptance attitude, giving freedom of opinion and expressing desires and encouragement to their children. Third is the authoritative communication pattern (tends to avoid anxiety and chaos), where parents have a high attitude of acceptance and control, are more responsive to the needs of the child, support children to express opinions in everyday life in the family. The communication barrier is where there is a change in attitude towards children, such as tending to become silent and closed.
(Chavda & Nisarga 2023)	Journal of Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health	The studies showed that family instability can negatively affect children's development. The absence or loss of one parent and conflicts between separated and divorced parents affect not only the child's mental health but also the child's physical health, overall growth, and future relationships. Single parents are often overburdened with the responsibilities of two parents, face social stigma, and lack social support, as a result they have difficulty spending time with their children. Hence children of single parents have poor academic performance, decreased social interactions, emotional and behavioral problems.
(Sillekens & Notten 2020)	Deviant Behavior	The studies indicate that growing up in a broken home has enduring consequences for EPB (Externalizing Problem Behaviour). However, factors influencing EPB in adulthood did not differ according to family structure. Regarding changes in EPB in adulthood, having more deviant friends was more hazardous for those growing up in a broken home.
(Mahnunin & Ridjal 2021)	Jurnal Thalaba Pendidikan Indonesia	The behavior of students at school caused by broken homes also varies, there is positive behavior and there is negative or deviant behavior. Of course, this positive behavior does not appear by itself but is accompanied by good control and maximum attention from parents. Conversely, if parents lose control and do not pay more attention to children and do not instill good religious values, behavioral values and values in speech, then children will have negative or deviant behavior.
(Widya 2021)	Thesis	The results of this study indicate that there is a lack of openness between single parents and children, where communication only occurs at night and communication is only in the form of ordinary communication.



Researcher and Year	Journal	Research Results
(Wicaksono 2021)	Scientific Publications	The results of this study indicate that the communication that occurs between single parents and their children is not all good, such as never meeting children and fathers which results in the absence of communication between parents (fathers) and children.
(Chaidirullah & Abdullah 2019)	SAHAFA: Journal of Islamic Communication	The results showed that interpersonal communication between single parent mothers and their teenage children has not been fully effective so that togetherness is difficult to establish. Togetherness includes openness, empathy, support, positivity, equality. This study also found several factors that hinder communication between single parent parents and children, namely busy daily activities, feelings of discomfort, fear and awkwardness felt by children, and parents' emotions are less guided so that there is no togetherness in the family.

Source: Literature study data that has been modified by the author

Through a study of the literature that has been collected, this study focuses on several key words, such as: (1) communication and deviant behavior of children in single parent families; (2) communication in single parent families; (3) deviant behavior of children in single parent families; and (4) factors of deviant behavior of children in single parent families. The keywords in question are used to explain in more detail the issues discussed, including: (1) communication in a single parent family; (2) factors that lead to children's deviant behavior in single parent families; (3) the role of communication in preventing children's deviant behavior in single parent families.

### Communication in a single parent family

A family has different ways of communicating with its family members. Communication in the family is used as an important basic need to interact, convey information, and feelings. However, communication in single parent families is often ineffective due to the dual role imposed on one of the parents, which makes parental time and affection for children not optimal (Ponisih et al. 2021, Surbakti et al. 2022). Communication in single parent families tends to have a stagnant or stable nature. Based on the results of the study, it is explained that the communication that exists between single parents and children has not been fully effective, where communication is only in the form of ordinary communication and only occurs at night. In addition, the communication that exists is also not all good, such as not meeting children with other single parents due to family conditions and ultimately causing the absence of communication between children and single parents (Chaidirullah & Abdullah 2019, Wicaksono 2021, Widya 2021).

Effective communication that is difficult to establish between single parents and children can also occur due to the child's sense of disappointment with the family situation. Often, children in single parent families experience tension within themselves. The factor of family intactness is often the reason for emotional changes in children. This can cause a problem of understanding and self-direction that can trigger deviant behavior and criminality in children (Ilmy & Azhar 2023). Therefore, it is important for parents to know how to communicate well with children so that they can form harmonious relationships within the family and children have a good personality and are far from deviant behavior.

Based on the results of research on communication in single parent families, it is found that communication in single parent families is divided into three, namely authoritarian, permissive, and authoritative communication (Aisy & Purba 2020, Sitorus 2022, Adhani 2023). These different communication practices will result in different character building in children. In the application of authoritarian communication, parents tend to be rigid when communicating with children. Parents have a high control attitude and are harsher in educating children. In this communication, children must follow what parents

want and children are not given the freedom to have opinions and also choose choices (Aisy & Purba 2020, Sitorus 2022). This communication can have bad consequences for children. In accordance with research (Putri & Sugandi 2021) that the more parents apply harsh communication to children, the more children's self-confidence will decrease. Parents set various rules solely for the good of their children. However, without realizing it, communication in a coercive manner will make the relationship between parents and children more distant and can have bad consequences on the way of thinking and the development of children's character in the future. In this communication, parents do not think that the rigid rules they give will have an impact on their children. Parents only think that what they do is important for the good of the child. However, the harsh attitude taken by parents in communication is a big mistake because it will lead to poor development for children (Aisy & Purba 2020).

Next is the application of permissive communication. In the application of permissive communication, parents have a low control attitude towards children. This means that parents give their children freedom of choice, such as giving their children freedom to associate and express their opinions. However, parents who apply this communication have a tendency to give in and follow all their children's wishes excessively. In fact, there are parents who do not respond firmly and seriously when their children make mistakes. So that the child cannot know where the mistake is and does not know what things should not be done again. With the application of this communication, not a few children feel that they are no longer cared for by their parents. As a result, children will grow up with a lack of self-confidence, have low motivation, and lack independence (Aisy & Purba 2020, Yanuarsari et al. 2021, Sitorus 2022).

The third application of communication is authoritative communication. In this application, parents have a high control attitude to be fair with whatever their children need. Authoritative communication can create a harmonious family atmosphere. The application of this communication provides a place for parents to have a closer relationship with their children. This closeness provides freedom for children to be able to choose according to their choice or will, but also still reminded of every consequence of each choice. This is because parents are not concerned with their own interests and care about the development of children's personality and behavior for their disappointment with the situation they face (Aisy & Purba 2020, Sitorus 2022). With the application of good communication, parents can provide understanding of the situation in the family to children.

Based on the previous explanation, it is known that communication in single parent families has not been well established and effective. This can happen due to several things, such as busy parents, children who have disappointment with their family situation, and even parents who do not have a good emotional sense or sensitivity to explain to their children. Therefore, it is necessary to apply the right communication between single parents and children so that harmonious family relationships can be formed and children have good behavior and personality. The most appropriate communication applied in single parent families is authoritative communication. In this way of communication, single parents focus on the development and needs of children. With the prioritization of children in the family, children can freely express their opinions and can develop their creativity. In accordance with research (Yanuarsari et al. 2021) that parents who apply authoritative communication to children will create children who are independent, responsible, brave, confident, and can develop optimally. The purpose of this communication method is to convince children that a child will remain the focus of the family, even though the parents they have are incomplete. In this case, the main role of a single parent is to be a good father and mother figure for the child. As the only role model in the family, single parents have an important role to apply good communication to children.

It can be concluded that communication in single parent families tends to be only a form of ordinary communication and communication is also rarely done, even for some families only at night. Therefore, authoritative communication is the right communication to be applied in single parents' families in order to form openness between parents and children so as to create a common goal. The application of good communication in single parents' families is needed to help children understand and process the situation in the family, and to help reduce children's fear or anxiety. With good communication, children tend to feel more valued, accepted, and have more emotional control over situations or circumstances (Fitria & Aditia 2020).

### Factors that lead to children's deviant behavior in single parent families

Family is certainly a major point in shaping children's behavior. In single parent families, children will experience gaps in the imperfection of roles and functions in the family. For example, if the child is only cared for by a mother, there will be a void in the father's role in educating and raising the child, as well as if the child is only cared for by a father, there will be a void in the mother's role (Rasmini 2023). In this case, there is an imperfection in the role and function of the family where the cultivation of values in the family is not embedded and does not run optimally (Mahnunin & Ridjal 2021). There is a failure in the socialization process in the family towards instilling values and norms in children (Anggita et al. 2021). The imperfection of family roles and functions results in a lack of control and affection from parents, which causes children to engage in deviant behavior. This disappointment with the family situation is channeled by children through deviant behavior as a place to find release and pleasure (Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020, Fransiska et al. 2022, Astriani 2023). Based on the results of research on children's deviant behavior in single parents, it can be concluded that the factors that cause children to commit deviant behavior are caused by two things, namely disappointment with the situation in the family and the environment of peers who tend to behave deviantly (Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020, Sillekens & Notten 2020, Fransiska et al. 2022, Chavda & Nisarga 2023).

Family disintegration has a major influence on children's behavior (Hasanah 2020, Mahnunin & Ridjal 2021). Research conducted two to three decades ago shows that family instability can have a negative impact on child development, one of which is deviant behavior by children (Mulidah & Saleh 2022, Chavda & Nisarga 2023). Most children in single parent families experience deviant behavior on indicators of low regulation and discipline, tolerance, and the use of critical thinking to solve problems (Rasmini 2023). Forms of deviant behavior can also be in the form of individual deviant behavior, such as lying, excessive dating, saying harsh words, borrowing money without parents' knowledge, smoking, gambling, drinking alcohol, stealing, consuming drugs, and often doing actions that violate behavioral norms when interacting (Jannah 2019, Hasanah 2020, Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020, Mahnunin & Ridjal 2021, Fransiska et al. 2022, Rachel et al. 2022). In addition, children who come from imperfect families will also be very vulnerable to deviant behavior at school, such as lazy learning, like being alone, behaving aggressively, skipping school and like to defy teachers (Mulidah & Saleh 2022). Based on the results of research by (Chavda & Nisarga 2023) also shows that family disintegration not only has an impact on children's mental health, but also on children's physical health, overall growth, and future relationships. In this case, the position and function of the family plays a very important and fundamental role in the formation of children's behavior because the family is the first place in the formation of children's personality (Anggita et al. 2021).

Apart from disappointment with the family situation, children's deviant behavior in single parent families is also caused by environmental factors of their peers (Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020, Sillekens & Notten 2020, Chavda & Nisarga 2023). Peer factors are very easy to influence a child's life, especially if the child is experiencing disappointment or emotions from the reality of the life he is experiencing. In single parent families, children will have a sense of disappointment with their imperfect family situation. This condition will cause children to be very vulnerable to falling into inappropriate relationships (Riestyantomo & Pratiwi 2020). Based on the results of research (Chavda & Nisarga 2023) it shows that having deviant friends will be more dangerous for children who grow up in disappointing family situations. With this, peers can easily influence children with just an invitation (Anggita et al. 2021). This can be easily done by peers because a child tends to feel more comfortable and closer to their peers than to their parents. In addition, the influence of deviant behavior by peers can also be disguised as solidarity reasons. For example, in the case of a brawl, which was originally only carried out by two individuals, it turned into two groups because of the assumption of strengthening group friendship (Anggita et al. 2021, Astriani 2023). Therefore, it is important for children not to be wrong in choosing their peers because if children are wrong in choosing their peers, children will easily fall into negative things. Jati (2019) in his research also confirmed that the higher the level of interaction with peers, the higher the level of social deviance behavior, and vice versa. The lower the interaction with peers, the lower the social deviance behavior. However, this does not mean that the intensity of social interaction should be eliminated, but only control or supervision is needed.



This is evidenced by Sutherland's Differential Association Theory which states that deviant behavior is a learned behavior. In accordance with this theory, deviant behavior committed by children in single parent families is influenced by the family and peer environment caused by promiscuity which is affected by the lack of parental attention and upbringing in children, thus triggering deviant behavior. Deviant behavior is learned through communication that can occur directly or indirectly. With various levels of similarity with peers, a child will be very easy to be influenced by negative things. Especially the way of thinking of children who are still unstable so that they can be easily influenced by negative behaviors by their peers (Sulaiman 2020). Various examples of deviant behavior can be learned by children, the difference is the motive or impetus and the reason why children do this behavior. With the condition of children who are experiencing disappointment with the situation in their family, children will tend to seek release with their peers as a way to channel their emotions towards their disappointment. In addition, the factor of family disintegration also strengthens children's relationships with peers who behave deviantly. This is due to the lack of supervision and control from parents over the environment around the child. So that children become more easily associated with deviant peers or the surrounding environment.

It can be concluded that the factors that cause children's deviant behavior in single parent families consist of two things, namely family and peer factors. In accordance with Sutherland's Differential Association Theory that deviant behavior committed by children in single parent families is influenced by the family environment and peers caused by promiscuity affected by the lack of parental attention and upbringing in children, triggering deviant behavior. Deviant behavior committed by children is easy to learn because of the influence of family conditions.

#### **The role of communication in preventing children's deviant behavior in single parent families**

In the current phenomenon, many children have habits that deviate from social norms. One of the causes of child deviation is that there is poor communication between parents and children (Awanis & Adiyanti 2018). Parents have an obligation to educate and protect their children so that children do not fall into bad associations and commit deviant behavior. In an effort to prevent deviant behavior in children, good communication is needed in the family. Communication here acts as an important key for parents and children in preventing children from committing behavior that is not commendable or deviant. This is because if parents and children have good communication, then children will have the courage to express what they are feeling and thinking, and have an attitude of openness in the family, so that it will reduce the possibility of children committing deviant behavior. Meanwhile, a child who is less close or good at communicating with his parents will have fear and not talk much when he is experiencing a difficulty (Ilmy & Azhar 2023).

East Jakarta City has a high number of divorce cases in DKI Jakarta. This can certainly have a significant impact on the behavior of children who are victims of divorce. Amalia (2023) in her research stated that there are several obstacles in children's behavioral values that are possible due to the absence of good communication in two directions (interpersonal) between single parents and children intensively at home. Therefore, having good communication between single parents and children is important in preventing children from behaving deviantly. Good communication between parents and children means that parents must be able to prioritize the interests of children and ensure that the interaction is two-way. Communication not only involves parents to convey their opinions to children, but also involves children to convey their opinions to parents (Surbakti et al. 2022). Good communication will help single parents to provide understanding of the events that occur to children, thus helping children to accept and understand the situation and adapt to changes in the family. The establishment of good communication between parents and children will create a harmonious relationship that can provide opportunities for parents to be able to provide their understanding of various negative behaviors or possibilities that occur in children, or prohibitions for children not to engage in behavior that disturbs or hurts others (Sukarno 2021). Therefore, communication has an important role as an effort by parents to control, supervise, and support children in preventing deviant behavior (Syarafina & Firdaus 2022).

In addition, in single parent families, parents bear a dual role in educating children. Therefore, it is important for single parents to be able to play both roles well, such as modeling good and non-deviant behavior. This can be achieved by implementing effective communication by parents to children, which will have a significant impact on their relationship. The relationship between parents and children is one of the factors that can influence children's behavior. The harmony of this relationship can be achieved by providing good interpersonal communication to children, prioritizing children's interests, and allowing children to open up to parents so that children feel comfortable and safe under parental care. Children who are given the opportunity to express themselves and see their parents as friends will form a harmonious family that encourages self-confidence, comfort, and security, as well as an atmosphere of openness in the family (Damayanti & Sumanti 2023).

It can be concluded that communication is a major foundation in preventing children's deviant behavior, especially in single parent families. Through good communication, it will build a harmonious relationship between single parents and children. This harmonious relationship provides openness to communication between parents and children which can provide space for children to have opinions and expressions as well as space for parents to foster, educate, and provide learning to children about various behaviors that are good to apply and those that are not good to apply.

## Conclusion

Communication in the family has an important role in shaping children's behavior, especially in single parent families. East Jakarta, which is one of the cities with high divorce cases, certainly has a significant impact on children as victims of divorce. There are several results obtained in this study. First, the communication that exists in single parent families has not been effective, only in the form of ordinary communication and rarely done so that authoritative communication is the most appropriate application in single parent families. Second, the factors that cause children's deviant behavior in single parent families are caused by two things, namely disappointment with the situation in the family and the environment of peers who tend to behave deviantly. The deviant behavior is learned by children due to the influence of the family and peer environment in accordance with the Differential Association Theory explanation. Third, the role of communication in preventing children's deviant behavior in single parent families is a major foundation in preventing children's deviant behavior because communication has a significant impact on parental relationships to be able to control and supervise children in preventing deviant behavior.

This research is expected to provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics of communication and child behavior in the context of single parent families and help enrich the literature on family structure and its influence on child development. Recommendations for further stages need to be carried out on the same subject with more time to understand the phenomenon more deeply and get diverse results. In addition, it is hoped that this study can provide useful knowledge for the government, mental health practitioners, and educators to take this issue more seriously and design effective interventions to support the well-being of parents and children from single parent families.

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