

The Role of Interpersonal Communication in Handling Tantrum Children in Winduaji Village, Brebes

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<p>Article History: Received February 11th 2024 Revised February 23th 2024 Accepted March 4th 2024</p>	<p>ABSTRACT</p> <p>The presence of smartphone technology has positive and negative impacts on its users, both adults and children. Positive benefits for children: they can gain knowledge and entertainment through smartphones. However, this positive impact can create comfort and addiction, which, if uncontrolled, can have a negative effect. One example is that children have tantrums when their parents stop using smartphones. This is what happened to children in Winduaji village, Brebes. Interpersonal communication between children and parents plays an important role in handling tantrums in children due to smartphone use. This study aims to determine the strategies or efforts of parents in dealing with tantrum children due to the use of smartphones. This study uses a qualitative descriptive method with observation techniques, in-depth interviews, and document studies, as well as a review of previous research relevant to the research. The results showed that parents' handling of tantrum children has not been effective based on interpersonal needs theory. It happened because parents lack or even do not involve children in handling tantrums (inclusion), lack of mastery in communication (control), and affection carried out by parents in dealing with child tantrums. Based on operant conditioning theory, parents need to provide positive reinforcement to their children. In addition, parents need to be role models for their children in the use of smartphones that are not excessive.</p> <p>Keywords: <i>interpersonal communication; parents; children; interpersonal needs theory</i></p> <p>ABSTRAK</p> <p>Kehadiran teknologi smartphone memiliki dampak positif dengan negatif baai penggunaannya, baik orang dewasa maupun anak-anak. Manfaat positif bagi anak-anak dapat memperoleh pengetahuan dan hiburan melalui smartphone. Namun, dampak positif tersebut dapat membuat kenyamanan dan ketagihan yang jika tidak terkontrol dapat berdampak negatif. Salah satunya contohnya adalah anak menjadi tantrum ketika penggunaan smartphone-nya dihentikan oleh orangtua. Hal tersebut seperti yang terjadi pada anak-anak di kelurahan Winduaji, Brebes. Komunikasi antarpribadi antara anak dan orangtua berperan penting dalam menangani anak tantrum karena penggunaan smartphone. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan teknik observasi, wawancara mendalam dan studi dokumen serta kajian terhadap penelitian terdahulu yang relevan dengan penelitian. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan orangtua dalam menangani anak tantrum belum efektif berdasarkan teori kebutuhan antarpribadi. Hal tersebut dikarenakan orangtua kurang atau bahkan tidak melibatkan anak dalam upaya menangani tantrum (inklusi), kurangnya penguasaan dalam komunikasi (kontrol), serta kasih sayang (afeksi) yang dilakukan oleh orangtua dalam menangani anak tantrum. Berdasarkan teori operant conditioning, orangtua perlu memberikan pengutan positif terhadap anak. Selain itu, orangtua perlu menjadi role model bagi anaknya dalam penggunaan smartphone yang tidak berlebihan.</p> <p>Kata Kunci: <i>komunikasi antarpribadi; orangtua; anak; teori kebutuhan antarpribadi</i></p>
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INTRODUCTION

Currently, technology, including smartphone technology, is highly sophisticated and easily accessible. Smartphones are tools or inanimate objects known as gadgets that are portable and have advanced technology, allowing them to search for all information and knowledge (Pebriana, 2017). The advantages of using a smartphone include the ability to communicate with others, conduct business, and do many other things. With the rapid advancement of technology, smartphones are now used not only by adults but also by preschool children under parental supervision, and the use of smartphones must occasionally be shared with family members. Smartphone use in preschool children is common not only in large cities, but also in villages with limited network access, and some children have become addicted to smartphones, such as in Winduaji village, Brebes district.

Smartphone addiction is a condition in which children spend the majority of their time playing on their smartphones. They refuse to play outside with their other friends and, if left unchecked, will throw tantrums. Tantrums in children are caused not only by difficult networks and smartphone addiction but also by one-way communication between parents and certain barriers.

Preschoolers use smartphones for self-indulgence, such as watching YouTube videos and playing games. It is not a good thing; rather, this condition is natural because some children are given the opportunity and even their parents encourage them to use smartphones. Children are delighted when their parents allow them to play on smartphones. The goal of parents giving smartphones to their children is to allow them to engage in activities without having to accompany their children to play. However, many parents are unaware of the issue of tantrums, which has an impact on children's communication skills development (Pebriana, 2017). This condition leads to the problem of tantrums in children.

Tantrums are problems that occur in communication and are generally experienced by preschool children (aged 4-6 years) expressing anger, for example, crying very loudly, thrashing, and screaming (Falaah & Nurfadilah, 2021). Tantrums occur when a child is unable to convey the desired message effectively or clearly. A child will become frustrated if his request is not followed. Tantrums typically begin in babies aged 12-18 months and last until they reach the age of 2-3 years, because the ability to communicate or convey messages is still developing. Tantrum problems in children can be caused by a variety of factors, including discomfort with their surroundings, children's inability to understand and express their emotions, mood disorders, anxiety, not getting what they want, and many other factors. When children's wishes are not granted or fulfilled, they will have a temper tantrum.

Children in preschool begin to understand, feel, and express their emotions. Known emotions include anger, joy, sadness, disappointment, and so on. When a child expresses such emotions, parents may not understand what type of communication or approach to accept the child's feelings so that the child can express them positively. Instead, parents dampen their child's emotions, which prevents them from being channeled. If tantrums continue to occur, it will create a pile of negative

emotions in children that will later explode uncontrollably (Falaah & Nurfadilah, 2021). As with children, smartphone-induced tantrums must be handled through parental interpersonal communication.

Tantrums are a common problem in preschool children who use smartphones, for example, when children do not want to be limited in their use of smartphones, when children must share smartphones with parents or other family members, when smartphone networks fail, or when smartphones take a long time to load. The cause of child tantrums caused by smartphone use is a lack of communication with parents. Tantrums caused by preschool children's use of smartphones are common in villages, including Winduaji.

There are eleven kindergartens in Winduaji village. The researchers sampled two kindergartens: Al-Hikmah Kindergarten and Al-Islamiyah Kindergarten. The reason for collecting samples only from these two kindergartens is that they, along with other kindergartens in Winduaji village, have a high number of tantrum-prone children due to the use of smartphones. They still have to share smartphones with their parents. Furthermore, many parents complain about their children having tantrums as a result of using smartphones.

According to interviews with teachers at Al-Hikmah Kindergarten, 21 preschoolers are capable of using smartphones. Ten of the 21 kindergarten children had tantrums as a result of their use of smartphones. Meanwhile, the teacher at Al-Islamiyah Kindergarten reported that 7 children were already able to use smartphones, and 5 of the 7 children had tantrums as a result of their use. According to a comparison of the two kindergartens, many preschool children in Winduaji village are still having tantrums as a result of smartphone use. Some parents in Winduaji village have allowed their children to use smartphones, but only under supervision and with family members.

Parents must be able to advise their children to avoid tantrums based on the problems listed above. Because of the prevalence of smartphones, parents must be able to communicate effectively when dealing with tantrum-prone children. Parental communication is the most important factor in developing a positive relationship with children, resulting in a more comfortable environment and fewer tantrums.

Good communication is essential for fostering harmony between parents and children. Smartphones have a significant impact on everyday life, from adults to preschool children, so parents must communicate effectively to better understand their children's emotional states. Furthermore, parents must have a solution to reduce tantrums in children, so that tantrums do not attach to the child's soul, one of which is openness to communicate well and effectively.

Interpersonal communication is one of several terms used in communication. Interpersonal communication refers to the process of two or more people delivering messages directly to each other. Thus, parental communication with tantrum-prone children as a result of smartphone use is referred to as interpersonal communication. According to Joseph A. Devito, interpersonal communication is the communication

process carried out by two people who have established a relationship or people with the term "connected" (Anggraini et al., 2022).

According to DeVito, interpersonal communication is communication that occurs frequently, such as communication between parents and children, brothers and sisters, and so on. Relationships with other people, whether they are family, neighbors, or friends, must be involved in the process of delivering messages or conversations that are satisfying or unsatisfying in order to develop effective communication skills. Learning effective interpersonal communication skills can help you avoid conflicts in your family or community. Good interpersonal communication is communication that can lead to the resolution of a conflict, problem, or misunderstanding. According to DeVito, interpersonal communication entails a more intimate delivery of messages, allowing each other to openly respond to the issues being discussed. To be able to see people's reactions directly or face-to-face, then someone is encouraged to do interpersonal communication (Fitriyani, 2020).

Interpersonal communication in a family is intended to foster understanding and harmony. Parents must set a good example by encouraging their children to communicate effectively in order to better understand their children's development and changes. With interpersonal communication, a person can establish relationships with other people more closely or intimately, and the family will become more harmonious and warm (Haryati, 2019).

Interpersonal communication quality has a significant impact on communication effectiveness. Interpersonal communication between parents and children can be effective if three conditions are met: 1) Parents send clear and appropriate messages that children can understand (and vice versa), 2) Advising children is done voluntarily and in a kind tone of voice, and 3) interparental relationships can be harmoniously strengthened.

Effective interpersonal communication necessitates feedback or communicator feedback from communicants who comprehend each other's message content. One of the barriers to effective interpersonal communication is the difficulty in dealing with child tantrums caused by the use of smartphones. Interpersonal communication between parents is extremely important for children who are having tantrums. The goal is to reduce tantrums in children. Researchers are particularly interested in learning about parents' efforts or strategies for dealing with tantrum-prone children as a result of smartphone use through interpersonal communication using William Schutz's interpersonal relationship theory. This theory of interpersonal relationship needs has basic assumptions, which are inclusion (maintaining communication), control (mastery in communication), and affection (Safitri, 2021).

According to the background explanation above, the purpose of this research is as follows: 1) analyze and understand how parents and children communicate and maintain communication (inclusion) when dealing with tantrums caused by smartphones, 2) analyze parents' communication strategies to prevent tantrums related to smartphone use, 3) analyze parent-child affection to prevent separation due to smartphone use.

Several relevant researches on interpersonal communication have been conducted. In maintaining intimacy in the interpersonal communication process, there are three factors, namely geographical distance, strengthened by the need for affection, and mutual trust (Petra et al., 2016). Another study showed that interpersonal communication between parents and children with special needs must be through a personal approach and teachers also play a role in more supervising. (Safitri, 2021). Lufipah stated that children's character is formed through interpersonal communication from both parents (father and mother), so when delivering messages that contain positive values it will form children with positive characters, and vice versa when negative communication will form negative characters in children (Lufipah et al., 2022).

In this study there are similarities when parents convey messages to children well or positively, then the child will receive the message well. Interpersonal communication between parents and children occurs because of the interests of both and the attraction between them, both physically and behaviorally. The high intensity of daily meetings and giving rewards also encourages communication to continue (Triwardhani & Chaerowati, 2019). The role of interpersonal communication is a reflection of how parents care for their children, as well as other family members, such as partners and siblings (Estlein, 2021).

This research is new since it is the first of its kind to be undertaken in Winduaju village, Brebes, examining children's tantrums caused by the cessation of smartphone use. The theory of interpersonal needs is used to examine the issues that emerge. It is crucial to conduct this research to advance knowledge in a way that has never been done before. This research is urgent because it highlights an issue that affects school-age children. This will be investigated further about this issue later. Based on a survey and the researcher's assessment of this location's distinctiveness, the research object was selected.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative descriptive method and aims to collect information about the problems being studied and describe a problem in the form of analysis. Research conducted objectively on subjective reality (Adlini et al., 2022). This research was conducted in Winduaji village, Paguyangan sub-district, Brebes district, Central Java. The subjects of the research at this location are children who have tantrums due to the use of smartphones.

This study uses purpose sampling to determine the interpersonal communication of parents with tantrum children due to the use of smartphones in Winduaji village. The sample was selected with consideration of the variation of information with a variety of different points of view, namely techniques or ways of sampling data or information sources with certain considerations through purpose sampling (Adlini et al., 2022). The following are key informants of the research.

Table 1. Research Informant Data

No	Name (Husband Wife)	Age	Number of Children	Jobs	Latest Education
1	Suryanto-Kusmiati	43-35 years old	3 children	Contractor-IRT (Housewife)	SD (elementary school)
2	Sudianto-Yuliana	35-44 years old	1 child	Laborers (Housewives)	SD (elementary school)-SMP (junior high school)
3	Jerry-Susi	28-28 years old	1 child	Laborer-Merchant	Junior High School
4	Susanti-Arif	29-28 years old	1 child	Factory Employees - Housewives	SMK (Vocational High School)
5	Rasman-Afri	43-35 years old	2 children	Laborers (Housewives)	SD (elementary school)
6	Suryanto-Kusmiati	43-35 years old	3 children	Contractor-IRT (Housewife)	SD (elementary school)

Source: Researcher, 2023.

The research procedures that have been determined and implemented must demonstrate the credibility of the research itself and follow a predetermined sequence; the goal is to serve as a guide for producing systematic research. In this study, the researcher attempts to construct a framework based on the problems described in the problem's background.

This study employs data credibility testing to determine the validity of previously collected data from the field or research site, as well as triangulation to assess data credibility. This study utilizes source triangulation (Mekarisce, 2020). This triangulation is carried out through observations and interviews by verifying or reconfirming the data with the source or informant. The goal is to avoid miscommunication, and the data obtained is accurate based on the facts. When the problem is expressed in incorrect words, the credibility of the informant can be influenced because there is a mismatch between what is said and what is actually happening.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Parents are the primary educators in imparting various types of knowledge to their children. However, in the digital age, parents face new challenges in educating their children, one of which is the proliferation of increasingly sophisticated smartphone technology. Parents today have the potential to be distracted, but not as easily as they were prior to the birth or emergence of smartphones. Smartphone use has both positive and negative effects, depending on who and how uses it. The use of smartphones in children has the potential to negatively impact their lives and cause tantrums if their emotions are not properly channeled. One case of child tantrums

caused by smartphone use occurred in Winduaji village, Paguyangan sub-district, Brebes district.

Parents play an important role in the child's life. In addition to fulfilling their children's needs fully, parents must be able to be friends when learning, playing and communicating personally. Tantrums are normal behaviour that occurs in children if it occurs in approximately twenty seconds, but if children are accustomed to tantrums for a long time it is feared that this can become a child's character until adulthood because they cannot express something in the form of their emotions (Falaah & Nurfadilah, 2021).

The study's findings are based on problems identified by researchers through in-depth interviews and direct observation of informants who meet the problem's criteria. The results of the involvement of parents and children in this interview, which ranged from basic to in-depth questions to obtain more detailed data. Children's questions are simplified to ensure that they understand them. The findings of this study are explained using the theory of interpersonal relationship needs, which includes inclusion, control, and affection.

The results of this study indicate that tantrum behaviour often occurs when playing on smartphones and often cannot control the emotions that exist in him. One of these phenomena occurs in Winduaji village which is a village and there are children who are still preschool age but are addicted to smartphones and become tantrum.

From this problem, parents play an important role in reducing children's tantrums through interpersonal communication. Tantrums in children can be caused by psychological, physical, or semantic barriers. As children face psychological barriers, such as the inability to convey messages through communication but rather through their emotions, they also face physical barriers when communicating with their parents, such as noises in their environment, which can cause hearing pain. Furthermore, semantic barriers exist when children convey messages, namely because they use sentences with different meanings with their parents, causing parents to misunderstand what their children are saying.

In addition to the communication barriers that occur in tantrum-prone children, resulting in less effective message delivery, interpersonal communication fails to perform its function properly, namely: children do not receive feedback from parents, which means the message is not conveyed properly, children cannot evaluate and anticipate messages conveyed through feedback, and children cannot persuade or persuade parents through communication. Because it cannot perform the function, interpersonal communication between parents and children cannot either. For example, it cannot reduce loneliness because children require playmates but parents are only preoccupied with activities that are eventually replaced by smartphones, and it cannot provide stimulation because children's needs are not met through inclusion, control, and affection. Based on the need's theory of interpersonal relationships, effective interpersonal communication requires inclusion, control and affection.

Involving the child in maintaining communication (Inclusion)

Parents play a major role in guiding children to grow and develop properly. In this case, interpersonal communication is a medium for delivering messages in establishing good relationships between parents and children. In the theory of interpersonal relationship needs, parents can involve their children in communicating when using smartphones excessively. In involving children in the use of smartphones, parents are the first to introduce smartphones. Parents have their reasons for doing so, including the use of smartphones as an alternative so that children are quiet or not fussy, smartphones as playmates, and fulfilling children's wishes.

"... I introduced smartphones to my son from the age of one, when he started talking like mama, papa...." (Kusmiati, interviewed November 2023).

Parents introduced smartphones to their children at a very early age (toddler age). Parents unknowingly start habits that will have a negative impact on the child. Based on direct observation, the initial introduction of smartphones in early childhood will familiarize children to become addicted to using smartphones. Children cannot be stopped at any time or suddenly. When children are happy to use smartphones, they will have a nature that tends to be emotional and cannot control emotions that make them tantrums.

"... The reason I introduced smartphones is that sometimes I get confused and stuck when my child cries endlessly, so I usually play my smartphone to entertain him," (Susi, interviewed November 2023).

The reason why parents give their children smartphones is to silence their children when they cry. Parents sometimes feel confused to calm their children's crying, so they have a solution by luring them with a smartphone. Based on observations in everyday life, parents give freedom at the beginning of the introduction of smartphones as an alternative tool for playing. Apart from being an alternative to calm their children when crying so that they calm down quickly and are not noisy, the reasons for parents are very diverse, such as a tool to accompany them to play, because parents are busy with their work and cannot be with their children in full-time basis (Sari et al., 2019).

"...At first, my child only watched when I played with my smartphone because I was often busy playing with my smartphone in front of my child and often did not listen when he spoke and rarely accompanied him to play...." (Susanti, interviewed November 2023).

Parents unconsciously often do not involve children when communicating. Parents are only busy with their activities and work, thus reducing communication with children. In addition to the cause of introducing smartphones too early, not involving children when communicating and busy modelling things that have an impact on their future life. Without realizing it, the habit of parents playing smartphones in front of their children will become an example that diverts their

children's habits. Based on observations, initially, the child only watches and when the parent stops he will stop, but over time the habit will upload curiosity which results in the child asking to play with the smartphone. When children already feel comfortable playing with smartphones, children usually tend to ask continuously to fulfil their desires.

"... When my son plays with his smartphone, he doesn't want to be disturbed or even limited in time. I give him the smartphone when I am busy with work and often do not accompany him to play."
(Yulianti, interviewed November 2023).

Involving children (inclusion) through communication is fairly rare, one which can be seen from parents who start by allowing their children to play smartphones without time limits. Parents feel that if the time is limited, the child will protest by getting angry and crying. This triggers the child to tantrum due to excessive smartphone use.

Based on observations, the causes of parents not involving children who make them addicted to smartphones start with the introduction of smartphones from an early age to calm them down when they cry, then parents are busy with their activities without paying attention to children when playing. Parents play protracted smartphones in front of children which eventually become examples of their children. They do not limit their children's time when playing smartphones and parents rarely invite children to communicate. These causes impacted a bad interpersonal communication between parents and their children.

Parents cannot involve their children by communicating fully in their daily lives, so the child's inclusion needs cannot be fulfilled. So, when the child's wishes are not fulfilled, he will become a tantrum, one of which is in restriction when he is engrossed in playing smartphones. The child already feels comfortable and does not want to be disturbed while playing smartphones. Preschool-age children in Winduaji village generally have to share the use of smartphones with their family members (not having full power).

The initial habit of parents not limiting their children's use of smartphones makes children feel fully free to play on smartphones. As a result of not limiting the time when playing on smartphones, parents are afraid that something bad will happen when their children are addicted and become tantrums. Because of this problem, parents began to implement time restrictions when their children played on smartphones. Restrictions on children when playing smartphones, will be rejected directly by crying to anger which results in tantrums. Then, parents try to negotiate but the results are nil and only surrender to giving the smartphone again. The reason is that they are embarrassed to be heard by neighbours and so that it is not noisy. Meanwhile, this will trigger the child's thinking, if they cry then their desire to play smartphones will be fulfilled. This will make the child often tantrum because he thinks crying is a "weapon".

Based on observations, the role of parents (father and mother) in involvement based on the results is dominated by mothers. Fathers usually involve their children

when communicating during tantrums and at home. When fathers are outside, they communicate via telephone as necessary. This makes children more courageous when communicating with their mothers. Children tend to resist parents when excessive smartphone use is stopped. In addition, parents do not involve children in communicating during tantrums and only calm them when they cry, causing children to not be able to fully express their wishes. Children only cry when they want something, but parents cannot understand their feelings because they have their reasons for not allowing smartphone play. The delivery of messages that cannot be expressed through words, causes ineffective communication between parents and children.

Giving children smartphones at a young age can have positive or negative consequences. The positive impact is that smartphones are used to teach children and entertain them. However, the negative impact is that children become addicted to using smartphones and lose control of their emotions, resulting in tantrums. Without realizing it, parents give smartphones to their children at an early age, when they are still actively learning in their surroundings, such as motor skills, environmental recognition, peer learning, and so on.

Tantrums are one of the emotional problems that children experience in early childhood. When children have tantrums, parents try to calm them down by giving them smartphones to watch videos or others in the hopes that they will be calmer. When the child is 1-3 years old, the child will feel calm but when he is 4-6 years old he already feels when using a smartphone, namely a sense of comfort, a sense of wanting to have or have, and a sense of pleasure when using a smartphone (Zakiyah, 2017). When children's requests to play on smartphones are not met, the child develops a more rebellious attitude, which becomes the source of the tantrum problem. Tantrums are a normal problem for children and have a normal time of 20 seconds; however, if children are accustomed to tantrums for a long time, it is feared that this will become a child's character until adulthood and interfere with communication with their parents (Falaah & Nurfadilah, 2021).

Authoritarian parenting and communication failures that do not involve children result in tantrums and may lead to children becoming addicted to smartphones. Furthermore, not only is the desire to play on smartphones unfulfilled, but it is also hampered by a poor network or even problems with the smartphone itself. When children encounter numerous obstacles while playing with smartphones, they will throw tantrums. Tantrum behavior caused by smartphone use includes crying when parents ask for their smartphones, becoming agitated without explanation, and, in the worst-case scenario, slamming their smartphones; this behavior is a form of protest by children against their parents. Interpersonal communication between parents and children is critical in engaging children during tantrums. The habit of parents who introduce smartphones because their children cry will have an impact in the future. The child will have a weapon or tool to ask for something like crying. Children will always have their wishes granted just by crying. So, parents must be able to learn when they encounter these problems, such as using operant conditioning theory (Arifin, Zaenal, 2021). The following is parental learning through Operant Conditioning Theory:

Table 1. Parental Learning through Operant Conditioning Theory

Positive reinforcement		
Behaviour	Consequences	Forward-looking behaviour
Children want to be limited in their time spent on smartphones because they are involved in communication and accompanied while playing.	Parents spend more time conversing and communicating intensely with their children. Furthermore, children are always included in all activities, such as accompanying them to play and encouraging them to participate in positive activities outside the home.	Children will believe that if they do not play with their smartphones, they will study and follow their parents' instructions.
Negative reinforcement		
Behaviour	Consequences	Forward-looking behaviour
Parents are busy playing with smartphones in front of them, so the child cries and even tantrums when they are limited in time and experience problems when playing on smartphones because they see their parents' habits.	Children will imitate their parents' habits, making them ask for their smartphones again to play.	Children will disobey the advice of their parents, and spend their time playing on smartphones. Children tend to fight against their parents.
Punishment		
The tantrum child is difficult to control and does not obey parental advice.	Parents leave for a moment when the child tantrums, and then the child will return to look for parents and get tired by itself. As for the threat of not being allowed to play on smartphones again, if a tantrum occurs.	The child will stop tantrums if handled correctly and not repeated continuously.

Source: Researcher, 2023.

Children want to use smartphones every day without interference from their surroundings, whereas preschool children do not need smartphones for school or other purposes, so parents must be good teachers when dealing with tantrum children, not only advising but also setting a good example. Children do not want time limits to play on smartphones, and parents are concerned that their children will become addicted to smartphones.

In this inclusion need, children tend to have a more ideally satisfied type, so they do not care about the surrounding environment because initially there is no time limit introduced by their parents when playing smartphones. (Safitri, 2021). Thus, parents must set a good example such as not introducing smartphones at an early age, not spending time playing smartphones in front of their children, being a friend to confide in and always inviting them to do positive activities.

Parents, like children, are constantly taught to learn. Parents are also expected to handle child tantrums caused by smartphone use appropriately. Parents should be able to learn to involve their children rather than just blame them. Children will believe that they are important, making it easier to convey their emotions effectively and reduce the frequency of tantrums. Parents should involve their children as close friends who always invite them to communicate, such as by supporting positive activities or simply listening. Furthermore, parents should not take away their children's smartphones forcibly, but rather negotiate with them in an understandable manner.

Parents set the best example for their children, and children can imitate their habits. As a result, when parents use their smartphones in front of their children, the children will imitate these habits. If parents are only busy forbidding while also using their smartphones, their children will imitate them and refuse to obey their parents' wishes. So, when playing with smartphones, parents should avoid playing in front of their children and encourage them to communicate as much as possible.

Mastery in communication (Control)

Parents are human beings who have anger, disappointment, and patience and are not perfect human beings. They are required to be the most perfect person for their children in taking care of their children's growth and development. Parents often get angry and cannot control their emotions when meeting the needs of their children. This control in communication is done to satisfy one's need for control (Safitri, 2021). Children feel comfortable playing on smartphones, while parents want their children not to be addicted to smartphones without making them tantrums. However, children often tantrum because of the time restrictions set by their parents. Parents' obligations must be able to control when their children tantrums and reduce their habit of playing on smartphones.

"... At first I could not control the habits that made children imitate them such as playing smartphones and not setting time limits..."
(Yulianti, interviewed November 2023).

Based on these interview excerpts, the habits of parents who cannot control their habits have an impact on children becoming addicted to playing smartphones and cannot be limited. The reason parents want to limit their children's playing on smartphones is because they are afraid of the impact on the health of their eyes, so their children can play outside and many more. The child does not want his time to be limited, because he wants to be free without any interference in playing smartphones.

Based on observations, children want to play with smartphones every day. When there is a set amount of time rule, such as two to three hours, it is always violated and not applied. The child only remembers the time but he continues to play on smartphones. In addition, the child always tantrums when playing smartphones because of the time restrictions that have been set. The child will cry and thrash, when the smartphone is forcibly requested by the parents.

"...When I am busy at work and she is home alone, then I will give her a smartphone..." (Susi, interviewed November 2023).

When parents are busy with their work and believe that children can only play by themselves, every time a child cries, parents only give a smartphone so that the child stops crying. If the parents think they have given the smartphone for too long, then they will ask for it back even worse it will be taken or taken by force. As a result of such parental behaviour, the child cries again until emotions peak and it is difficult to calm down.

"..... I often limit his smartphone time, but when he doesn't want to give me his smartphone, then I will take it away." (Susan, interviewed November 2023).

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If parents cannot convey their advice properly, then the child will be easily emotional, so the child will rarely obey his parents' requests. Parents assume that, if they play on smartphones, it will have an impact on their health such as the health of their eyes, fearing that the content they watch will have a negative impact on their speech such as saying dirty words and so on.

Based on observations, apart from time restrictions, other causes of child tantrums are due to interference with smartphones such as the network being difficult or loading too long. In addition, parenting and parental habits and the failure of communication between parents and children become frequent tantrums, so parents are required to control through good communication (Sari et al., 2019).

Based on direct observation, children want to use smartphones every day quietly without interference from the surrounding environment, while children aged 4-6 years do not need smartphones such as for school or other purposes and if they

are already in school, it is likely that the playground or kindergarten. Children do not want time restrictions when playing on smartphones, but parents are worried that children will become addicted to playing on smartphones.

"... I will give them the smartphone after my child comes home from kindergarten and the limit is 2-3 hours, sometimes he only remembers the time but continues to play with the smartphone, such as when eating while playing with the smartphone. The meal is finished, and the smartphone continues." (Susi, interviewed November 2023).

Parents do not limit the time to play on smartphones, which results in children becoming addicted to smartphones, which results in frequent tantrums, disrupting sleep, eating and playing outside the home with other friends. In addition, communication between parents and children will also not run smoothly.

Parents are required to be able to manage their children when tantrums. It is not unusual for children to tantrum, parents will return angry to their children even though such behaviour will become frequent and uncontrollable child tantrums.

"...When my child does not obey my words to stop playing with his smartphone and ends up getting angry and crying loudly. Usually, I will yell at him and sometimes I even snap, pinch or slap his body, because I am already emotional." (Susan, interviewed November 2023).

Parents cannot control when their children are having tantrums, and sometimes even become the child's enemy. This kind of behaviour tends to make children more courageous to fight parents. Parents will dominate, blame and not listen to their children when they express their frustration. Parents tend to blame their children's behaviour when playing on smartphones because they have assumptions that there are many negative impacts if they play on smartphones continuously.

".....My son when playing smartphone depends on his mood. For example, if the mood is good, then when playing smartphone if there are problems such as the network, he will not get angry. But, for example, if he is in a bad mood, just like if he is deprived of sleep, then he will cry. And if it is difficult to control then I will leave him. When he calms down, he will look for me again" (Yuli, interviewed November 2023).

This kind of control makes the child even more uncontrollable emotionally, instead of listening, parents can only blame. Parents cannot be good listeners but only behave as if they are ignorant so that the child can calm down by itself. This triggers tantrums to be carried out continuously. Parents do not have full control because they are busy with their activities such as work. Parents cannot be a friend to talk to, a playmate, and only fulfil financially such as providing it. However, when the child has become addicted to playing with smartphones, parents will get angry and then seize the smartphone by force which eventually makes the child tantrum.

Parents who do not set time limits on children using smartphones will result in children becoming addicted to playing smartphones. This can eventually interfere with activities such as sleeping, and playing with other friends outside the home and

even communication with parents will be disrupted. Starting from the mistake of parents who cannot supervise their children in playing on smartphones, communication between parents and children will not run smoothly. When parents are busy with smartphones, children will also be busy with smartphones. Children who are mentally strong and have good character are children whose control needs are met by parents for character building from an early age. This need for control is carried out through interpersonal communication.

Communication not only occurs to exchange information but also to provide mutual understanding with both parties. The creation of a good relationship between parents and children is one of them with interpersonal communication. Interpersonal communication must run effectively, so the message can be received by the recipient of the message and to improve the quality of interpersonal relationships without any obstacles. Interpersonal communication between parents and children has many benefits when their parents communicate well so that children can learn how to communicate effectively.

Interpersonal communication between parents that is not well established will have a bad impact, because children see what parents do and they see parents as someone who cannot help and be trusted. There is a main skill that must be possessed in interpersonal communication, namely the skill of listening and understanding each other, not only the message or advice of parents that must be understood and understood but children also want to be treated according to expectations so that interpersonal communication can run openly and children can ask questions for understanding a message that has a mutual connection and leads, so that the purpose of sending messages to get a solution is not to blame each other. Interpersonal communication in dealing with child tantrums is one solution so that parents not only blame children for playing on smartphones but must correct and control communication that can be emulated by children.

In interpersonal communication, parents are expected to be role models or good examples for their children, such as in terms of listening when children speak because by being listened to children will feel important in their presence and parents can involve empathy when talking with children. (Annisa et al., 2023). The mistake of not limiting time at the beginning of children when playing smartphones is a fatal mistake because parents initially have free time to play with smartphones and when children feel comfortable when playing new parents make agreements to limit the time so that children feel indifferent to these rules. The schedule or time restrictions change or are inconsistent because parents sometimes forget and are busy with work at home so they make inconsistent rules, so children do not understand when it is appropriate to use technology. When children understand the schedule or rules that have been set for playing smartphones, children will feel involved and when it is running, children will follow these rules without coercion.

Of the five pairs of informants, the parents were only the type to dominate their children's communication. Parents are only busy blaming but do not want to listen and become enemies. Parents must be able to control their children through personal communication with children, besides that parents must be active in

supervising and controlling in the form of viewing or content that can be accessed by children. Thus, parents are expected to be active in providing education through interpersonal communication about the differences in positive and negative impacts when playing smartphones. The control referred to here is the control of both parents (father and mother) so that children will understand more and understand through interpersonal communication so that there is no level between each other (Farhan et al., 2022).

The habit of parents making personal assumptions about what is not good and will have a bad impact on children, should or should be confirmed first and asked back to the child. In addition, parents must supervise closely by providing education related to good and bad shows. Children do not necessarily always watch bad things, because children can be knowledgeable when playing smartphones and there are still many better shows to consume. Children will become tantrums when restrictions on smartphone playing time cannot be controlled by parents, in this case, parents must understand the situation and conditions of the child's mood, to be able to know the right time to talk to children to be more obedient.

In controlling communication with children and maintaining effective communication, DeVito's elements of interpersonal communication through a humanistic approach can be applied (Tjang & Setyanto, 2022) namely: Openes, Empathy, Supportiveness, Positiveness, Equality

a) Openness

Parents are just busy forbidding their children when play on smartphones and think that what parents do is right. Sometimes children are still curious about what they see on smartphones. So that when parents take something right that still makes him curious forever the child will still want to know. Parents do not let their children have opinions or express feelings that make them curious. The openness of communication between parents and children will run unbalanced when parents are only oriented towards their egos and expectations. The openness of communication can be started when parents want to accompany them to play, answer all children's questions about what is found in this world, and always invite them to communicate so that children are always active and set a good example such as not playing smartphones in front of their children protractedly.

Parents' openness to children can be in the form of providing opportunities to convey messages or argue about what they want to convey. In communicating, parents are expected to be good listeners for their children, not just blaming. So, parents and children must understand each other and know each other's wishes (Lanes, 2021).

b) Empathy

The empathy taught by their parents is that they feel sorry when they see their children crying, so they are always lured by smartphones to relieve their emotions, which makes it a habit. However, this habit will have an impact on the

child's habit of smartphone addiction. It often happens, when children still want to play on smartphones even until they are forbidden by their parents, children are still curious about the reason. Instead of being discouraged or not repeating it, he will still feel curious, so that the incident will be repeated every day. The habit of parents scolding children to hit children will also have a bad impact, where they will get angry more often when advised and fight their parents (Tjang & Setyanto, 2022).

Parents have a very important role in controlling communication with children, from the five pairs of five informants, many fathers or parents of children have to be far from their children. So, the child spends a lot of time with the mother at home. A father who migrates only meets occasionally with his child when off work, so the effectiveness of communication between father and child is lacking, this triggers the child to be brave in fighting his mother when given advice. Fathers become the people their children fear, because of their harsh communication while mothers are usually more underestimated because they seem to be fussier and keep repeating the words that have come out.

c) Supportiveness

Based on the results of interviews and observations, the support provided by parents in Winduaji is only limited to words not behaviour, for example, when children play, parents do not make themselves friends, chat with friends or confide in friends. Parents are busy with their activities if they tell them to play outside the house only through orders instead of participating in seeing the child's activities outside the house.

Parents are expected to provide full support and provide motivation to increase learning outside the home even if they just play with their friends. In addition, parents only provide choices so as not to play on smartphones, but the choices are not balanced and have no positive impact such as buying items that have no educational value. Support is a solution to reduce child tantrums, so support must be done in full (Annisa et al., 2023).

d) Positiveness

Positive attitudes such as giving positive advice or encouragement to play outside with their peers, but only an order or force that makes children lazy to play outside and prefer to play on smartphones. Every time they give advice, if the child does not obey, they physically go down or talk but by yelling or in a high tone. This tends to change the child's behavior such as tantrums because they often see their parents scold them. Parents should be able to refrain from using physicality when teaching their children and better understand and adjust the communication carried out with children who are having tantrums (Fitriyani, 2020).

e) Equality

From this problem, there are differences in parents' opinions between fathers and mothers in handling children's tantrums. His father tends to give him more freedom in playing with smartphones, but his mother seems more fussy and more afraid if her child is addicted to smartphones. In addition, the cause of the absence of equality between father and mother in advising their children is the absence of a father in his daily life. A father must earn a living, so he rarely communicates with his children. Mothers are the ones who know more about their children's growth and development, so children tend to be more afraid of their fathers because they only communicate occasionally through smartphone media. From this problem, the two parents (father and mother) do not have equality or there are differences (Afriyadi, 2015).

Affection in interpersonal communication

Affection is also known as love. Parents' affection for their children is timeless and everlasting. Control behaviours to handle child tantrums cannot be resolved if not accompanied by full affection. Children tend to need their parents' love more when they are tantrums, instead of becoming enemies or emotional instigators. Children who get full affection from their parents tend to be more gentle and less prone to tantrums because their needs can be adequately met through communication. Parents are expected to be friends when communicating who can listen and be heard. Parental affection is not only through words but also through behaviour to control children's emotions.

"..... I won't restrict my child from playing with my smartphone, because it's noisy when she cries. I will only get angry at the mother later." (Suryanto, interviewed November 2023).

The father's control is rare and even only occasionally through telephone conversations, so the communication is not effective. Because of the demands of work, a father will constantly be outside the home and very rarely return home. When children are accustomed to being advised gently, they will be less emotional and understand the message better. However, based on observations, parents often yell in a high tone if they want their children to stop playing on smartphones. This habit makes children irritable and do not want to be advised by their parents.

"....If I see a child who tantrums and often fights with his mother, I will get angry with the child and even punish him. But sometimes the mother is afraid if I am angry with the child." (Jerri, interviewed November 2023).

Interpersonal communication between parents and children will be less effective if it is not done directly and the father is often not at home to see the child's growth and development conditions.

Based on observations, parents prefer to give their children a gift or an option so that they do not play smartphones continuously. For example, taking a walk outside the house to entertain their children and reduce smartphone use. However,

children always look for smartphones even in crowded places.

"... I often take him to the playground or just to watch a show, but the child still looks for opportunities to play on the smartphone. sometimes instead of being embarrassed to cry in public, I just give it to him." (Susi, interviewed November 2023).

Parents always invite children to play outside and often tell them to play with other friends. The goal is to prevent their children from playing with smartphones continuously. In addition, children are usually given a choice even though it is not balanced to relieve tantrums when asking for a smartphone. But sometimes the choice given is not balanced and is just a diversion. Then, the child will repeat this so that his wishes are achieved. In addition to crying as a weapon, he also thinks that by not playing with smartphones, a reward will be given.

"... I gave toys such as a bicycle and even a smartphone separately from me so that my child would not tantrum, but instead, the toys got and playing with the smartphone still became even more. There was even a time when he was playing in the bathroom and washed the smartphone, a total of three smartphones." (Afri, interview on November 2023).

This has become a habit of parents, luring their children with something to calm them down. Instead of reducing the child's habit of playing on smartphones, this triggers a condition to ask for something back. When the request is not obeyed, the child will tantrum, so that not a few parents are emotional when dealing with children who tantrums.

Child tantrums are caused by the habits and behaviour of parents. The tantrum that occurred was not only crying, but even worse, he stepped on the smartphone and even slammed it. All that is done is a form of protest because his wishes are not fulfilled. Parents' affection for their children is not based on small behaviours such as accompanying them to play or chat. Parents are only busy with their respective jobs, so when children make mistakes such as playing on smartphones continuously, parents only blame and their children's emotions are not conveyed properly. Giving rewards that aim to reduce their children playing smartphones but instead make the child continue to play smartphones and only become a temporary distraction so as not to tantrum.

Children want flexibility in playing on smartphones, while parents are busy with work or other activities so children lack attention or affection. Affection or what is commonly referred to as affection has a very large role in child development or in communicating with children who support parenting, so a lack of affection will make children mentally weak. (Sari et al., 2019).

Parents are people who play a very important role in the growth and development of children, for that parents are very important in showing affection to their children. (Farhan et al., 2022). People who get full affection from both parents tend to have good mental health, according to research. Not only that, children can also regulate their emotions well without rebellion. Better communication between

parents and children who understand each other will reduce the risk of psychological problems such as tantrums. Showing parental affection to their children both verbally and in actions that will make children feel more comfortable when they are around their parents.

At preschool age, playing together is a solution to show parental affection, but it is different when parents are busy with smartphones and children are left to play on their smartphones or even play alone. This can lead to adult-like jealousy. Affection creates a stronger bond between parents and children, which can make children more courageous and confident in facing a problem. In addition, parental communication must include a child in the discussion, so that the child can listen to the child and voice opinions. When children feel that they can be listened to and cared for by parents, it is also a form of affection. Affection has an important role in the life of every human being so that life is more colourful and beautiful.

One of the factors that influence children's development and psychology is parental affection. The attitude of parents and the family environment towards their children by setting a good example. Parents today are more concerned with work and other activities so children are equipped with smartphones in the hope that they do not interfere with the activities of parents even though these habits will affect children's character (Handayani, 2016).

Due to this very sophisticated technology, the use of smartphones has become very popular among adults' teenagers and even children are also very commonplace. At the age of toddlers, many parents have introduced smartphones for a variety of reasons and one of them is not to be fussy. The purpose of parents giving gifts is good so that they don't spend a lot of time playing smartphones. However, sometimes gifts alone are not enough to reduce the habit of children playing on smartphones.

Many parents in Winduaji village do not realize that a preschool child still needs a parent by his side, but this is not realized by most parents. Smartphones often become an escape as a sedative when children are crying or become an assistant in caring for children, especially when parents are busy with household chores. If a comparison is made with the past, when technology has not been invented, parents in the past were better at doing all the work well. So, it is very easy to distinguish between the way of parenting in the past and today. Parents' affection for their children can be seen from parenting. Parents must be good at managing time well, between children while taking care of the household which will teach and train children's independence without involving smartphones.

Good parents will be more aware of what activities are done when their children play on smartphones. Meanwhile, parents are expected to provide ideal hours to limit children when playing with smartphones, so that children tend to be more satisfied with their needs. In addition, when children tantrums due to time restrictions, time negotiations must be done properly.

If the child tantrums and is difficult to control, parents can advise him or give punishment through persuasive and coercive stages. Persuasive and coercive stages have the same goal, namely for parents to change their child's attitude and behaviour

when tantrum. The persuasive stage of parents can be interpreted as delivering messages to persuade and influence children's behaviour to reduce the habit of playing on smartphones, for example, it will have an impact on the health of their eyes or others.

CONCLUSION

Based on the results and discussion, this research can be concluded from the theory of interpersonal relationship needs. The theory covers inclusion, control, and affection. Involving the child in maintaining communication (Inclusion): Parents rarely or never engage in interpersonal communication with their children. This behaviour is demonstrated by parents' refusal to listen to messages conveyed by children, parents' failure to become their children's friends when they play, and parents' dominance of communication by advising and even blaming children, resulting in frequent tantrums. Parents are preoccupied with their activities and use smartphones as an alternative tool to accompany their children to play.

Mastery of communication (Control): Parental control in dealing with smartphone-induced child tantrums is achieved through DeVito's interpersonal communication using a humanistic approach. Parents are expected to use interpersonal communication to control their tantrum-prone children to establish a more harmonious relationship without becoming emotionally charged. Of the five couples who have become informants, each has their own set of controls for dealing with child tantrums caused by the use of smartphones, such as setting time limits, providing options such as giving something to divert attention, and even purchasing a smartphone. The goal is to keep children from becoming addicted to smartphones, because parents make assumptions when their children play on smartphones. Regardless, this control will have an effect on child behavior, such as tantrum habits. Control through DeVito's interpersonal communication through a humanistic approach will reduce tantrum habits such as parents being listeners when children communicate, advising in language that is easy to understand, supporting their children with positive activities, and providing a positive attitude and a balanced equality.

Affection: Full affection from parents for their children will strengthen the relationship and reduce the frequency of tantrums in children. Parental affection for children is expressed not only through words but also through actions. Children will be happy when they are accompanied while playing, and they will receive a reward if they can go through the day without using their smartphones. Gifts or rewards in this context have educational value rather than serving as a diversion. According to the results of the interviews and observations from the five informant pairs, it is uncommon to give educationally valuable rewards or gifts, preferring to make short-term decisions.

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