Parents' Social Control of Children Using Smartphones at Home During Covid-19

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Abstract

This study aims to describe repressive and persuasive controls by parents on their children using smartphones at home during the Covid-19 pandemic. The study conducted at Bhayangkararia BTN complex, Sungai Garam Hilir Village, and North Singkawang District. The research method used was qualitative in the form of a case study. Data collection techniques used were observation, interviews, and documentation studies, while the data collection tools used were observation guidelines, interview guidelines, and documentation tools. Informants in this study were parents and children. The results of this study indicated that parents have carried out both repressive and persuasive controls on children using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic. The repressive constraint carried out by parents was by giving warnings and punishments to children who violate the rules, such as using smartphones excessively that causes children not to focus on learning. In addition, persuasive control carried out by parents was by giving directions, persuasion, appeals, and guidance to children so as not to overly use the smartphone and instilling an understanding of the positive and negative impacts of using smartphones.

Keywords: Case Study, Covid-19 Pandemic, Parental Social Control, Smartphone

INTRODUCTION

In general, parents are the place where children get to learn and get love in the family. In addition, parents can be said to be the first and foremost place in a child's life, both at home and in a social environment, where the family is the place where he learns, understands identity as a social being, makes behavior, character, morals and children's learning. The role of parents is vital. Lilawati (2020) says that "parents are part of the family who have a big role that is very influential in the education of their children and are responsible for education, parents also care for and guide their children to reach certain stages".

According to Soekanto & Sulistyowati (2017), "social control in all processes, whether planned or not, which are educating, inviting or even forcing the community to comply with applicable values and norms". With parental social control in this child, it is expected to straighten out children who behave defiantly to fit the values and values norms that apply because the main function of social control is community control so that it can be orderly.
As we know, every parent hopes that their child can filter the development of technology well. Children's intelligence in dealing with technological developments is inseparable from the role of parents in providing appropriate social control for their children, one of which is the development of smartphone technology. Fawarch & Jusoh (2017) stated that:

“Nowadays, smartphones have become a part of every person's life. People worldwide have adopted this new and exciting technology as one of the most important required facilities in their everyday lives. A variety of smartphones applications is available to be used in a wider range of usage situations. It is no doubt a smartphone is a new gadget which can change people's lives”.

Smartphones have become a part of human life. People have to adapt to this new technology as one of the essential facilities to fulfill their daily needs. The various types of applications available are used for a wide range of purposes. There is no doubt that smartphones are tools that can change people's lives.

The benefits of smartphones for life namely as a means of communication, getting information, developing scientific abilities, learning media, and entertainment media. However, from the many benefits, of course, there are also negative impacts. The use of smartphones during the COVID-19 pandemic is essential for children to support their education. We need to know that this Covid-19 pandemic has a huge impact on the education sector for children worldwide. As Santoso said, as quoted by Baety & Munandar (2021), "in the circular letter of the Ministry of Education and Culture Number 4 of 2020 concerning the Implementation of Educational Policies in the Covid-19 Period issued by the government as a solution action to continue to be able to realize effective education, namely the teaching and learning process. Conducted from home online or distance learning to prevent the spread of the virus in the educational environment". Therefore, the use of smartphones in children can be easier and more flexible because everything that involves learning at school online requires a smartphone as a tool. With the smartphone, parents hope to support education held in schools.

However, in reality, the use of smartphones in children in Bhayangkararia BTN Complex, Sungai Garam Hilir District, North Singkawang District makes children forget their surroundings. Their preoccupation with smartphones makes children have anti-social attitudes towards those around them. Moreover, with attractive and exciting smartphone features, it impacts school-age children, so that children become lazy to study and make children less concentrated in their studies. Seeing how influential smartphones are on children, social control from parents is very necessary. Based on the facts in the field, the number of children in BTN Bhayangkararia was 41 people, and the children referred to in the researcher are school-age children, which are elementary / equivalent - high school / equivalent education. But not everyone has a smartphone, around 73% of children in BTN Bhayangkararia have a smartphone or only 30 children.

Based on the problems that have been formulated, the purpose of this research is to be able to find out more about: 1) Forms of persuasive parental social control towards children in using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic and 2) A form of repressive parental social control towards children using smartphones at home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

METHOD

This study used qualitative research with a case study approach. Sugiyono (2018) stated that "Qualitative research methods are research methods applied in researching a natural object, (as opposed to experimentation) in which the researcher is the key instrument, the data collection technique is processed through triangulation (combined), the data analysis is inductive and the results are qualitative study emphasizes on the meaning of change". Sugiyono (2018) said that "case study research is where researchers conduct in-depth exploration of events, processes, activities, of one or more people, which are bound by time and activity so that researchers collect detailed data using data collection procedures and in continuous time". In this study, the research location was
in the Bhayangkarari BTN Complex, Sungai Garam Hilir Village, North Singkawang District, precisely in RT.010/RW.003.

In this study, two sources of data are used, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources. Primary data sources are the opinions of individuals or groups obtained from observations of an event in the field. Primary data is personal data of school-age children at the elementary to high school level who have smartphones. In contrast, the secondary data sources were obtained from data in the field and data on the education status of school-age children, which became information for researchers.

The data collection techniques used by the researchers are: 1) Direct observation techniques by going down the field and observing the controls carried out by parents on children in the field using a smartphone at home. 2) Direct interview technique where the researcher directly conducts interviews with 12 informants, the last 3) The researcher's documentation technique is by retrieval of data or events in the form of images that support parental social control of children in using smartphones at home.

There are 3 data collection tools used in this study, namely: 1) Observation guidelines, using observation sheets in descriptive form. 2) Interview guidelines, by making a list of questions and grids arranged systematically to be asked directly to informants. 3) Documentation study, with the observation method using a photographic device and a voice recorder.

Then for data analysis techniques in this study, three techniques are: 1) Data reduction, by summarizing, sorting, focusing, simplifying data, and removing things considered unnecessary in this study. 2) Presentation of data by compiling data information using narrative text to become a statement in research. 3) Conclusion, with data from observations and interviews obtained and then concluded from the object of research in the form of repressive and persuasive parental social control of children in using smartphones.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Results

When conducting observations in the field, researchers observe directly and deeply what is happening at the location. In the research conducted, researchers observed: "how is the form of parental social control towards children in using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic". In this study, the form of control in question is parental social control in a persuasive and repressive manner. Observations in this study were carried out six times, namely on the 14th April 2021, April 23, 2021, May 19, 2021, 21 June 2021, 22 June 2021, and 23 June 2021. The researchers conducted interviews with parents and school-age children at the BTN Bhayangkararia Complex, Sungai Garam Hilir Village, North Singkawang District, where interviews were performed four times, namely on 23 April 2021, May 19, 2021, 22 June 2021, and June 23, 2021.

Presentation of interview data is a process of reducing data. This study carried out various stages, including the approval stage, preparation for implementation, and filtering and presenting data. In the following, the researcher will deliver the results of the research in detail according to the indicators:

1. A form of persuasive parental social control towards children in using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic
   a. Appeal form
      The results of the researchers' observations were found in Mrs. Norita's family on May 19, 2021, at 14.00-15.00 WIB. The researcher saw Mrs. Norita advising her son Raffi by urging Raffi not to use smartphones continuously. The main reason Mrs. Norita forbade that is not to become a habit in his daily life is that if the child gets used to it, it will make the child lazy to study and not good for eye health. The observation results are in line with the results of an interview with Mrs. Norita on April 23, 2021, at 16.00 WIB; namely, Mrs. Norita always supervises her child, especially during this pandemic, the level of smartphone use by Raffi
is growing rapidly. The persuasive control that I give is not optimal because I work outside the home. But when I'm at home, of course, this control I do with pleasure.

b. Invitation Form

The findings from the first observation were carried out on April 14, 2021 at 13.00-14.00 WIB. The researcher does observation to Mrs. Lestari's family to see how to control social persuasive inform the invitation of parents to their children so that no use smartphone exaggerating, the facts on the ground seen Ima'am Sustainable is giving an invitation to Chyka to focus on studying first and no use smartphone at the time of the study. Lestari's mother told her son to save and put the smartphone first. When already finished studying, new allowed use smartphone. In addition, based on the results of observations and interviews that researchers have conducted on Mrs. Lestari that is he always controls social persuasively this to his son though not every day, remembering he always gives directions, guidance, an invitation as well as an appeal to his son to be able to use his smartphone well.

c. Instruction form

Researchers made observations on the family of Mrs. Mahana on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, at 11.00 WIB. Based on the results of observations and interviews, Mrs. Mahana has carried out persuasive social control to direct her child to use a smartphone. The direction given to their child when using a smartphone is to only use a smartphone for positive things, no overuse. Moreover, Mrs. Mahana knows that Brayen's knowledge of smartphones is not very good. Therefore guidance and direction from Mrs. Mahana are very much needed. Based on the results of observations and interviews with other informants, persuasive social control in the form of directives was also carried out by Mrs. Norita, Mrs. Lestari, and Mrs. Satria.

d. Guidance form

Researchers made observations on Mrs. Lestari's family on Wednesday, April 14, 2021, at 20.00 WIB. Based on the observation findings, Mrs Lestari has carried out persuasive social control in the form of guidance to her child, namely by providing advice such as looking at the contents of her child's smartphone whether there are things that are not good or not. While looking at her child's smartphone, Mrs. Lestari guides so that children do not use smartphones excessively and do not neglect their study time at home. This guidance was also carried out to Mrs. Rini on Sunday, June 20, 2021, at 19.20 WIB. The researcher found that Mrs. Rini carried out supervision and guidance to her son Naufal by looking at the contents of her child's smartphone. The goal was to avoid unwanted things.

2. A form of repressive parental social control for children in using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic

a. Reprimand Form

Based on the results of observations on Mrs. Norita's family on April 14, 2021, at 19.00-20.00, it was found that Mrs. Norita practiced social control repressively in the form of a reprimand, namely when his son Raffi plays a smartphone while he is doing his schoolwork. Seeing her son's actions, of course, Mrs. Norita immediately reprimanded her son to focus on completing his schoolwork first before playing online games.

The following observation was carried out on the family of Mrs. Satria on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at 19.00 WIB. Based on the observations, it was found that Mrs. Satria had also carried out repressive control in the form of reprimands, namely when her child used a smartphone while lying down. The results of the observation are in line with the results of the interview, namely Mrs. Satria has rules for using smartphones at home, namely, in using smartphones not continuously, children also need to rest, when doing home activities not while using a smartphone, especially when eating, studying, and hanging out with family. Afterward, the following observation is with Mr. Unggul Setia Budi's family on Saturday, 19 June 2021, at 13.00. It was found that Mr. Unggul's family made a rule that allowed their children to use smartphones only on holidays, so during school days, their children's smartphones were kept by their parents, the goal was for children to be orderly and always
focus on learning and no use smartphones continuously, see their children love to play online games and also open YouTube.

The last observation was carried out on Mrs. Rini’s family on June 23, 2021, at 19.10 WIB. It was found that Rini’s mother would reprimand her child if her child used a smartphone continuously for unimportant things. For example, playing online games until

b. Form of Punishment

Researchers made observations on the family of Mrs. Mahana dated April 14, 2021, and April 23, 2021, at 09.00-10.00 WIB. This observation looks at how repressive social control is in the form of punishment carried out by parents on their children using smartphones, which found that Mrs. Mahana will punish her child if after being given three times warning but his son ignored and Brayen repeated it. The most frequent punishment is if the child uses a smartphone and doesn't remember the time. The punishment given was in the form of confiscation of his son's smartphone. In addition, based on the interviews with other informants, it turns out that Mrs. Norita, Mrs. Rini, and Mrs. Sriwita also did the same thing.

Discussion

Based on the data that has been obtained by researchers regarding parental social control of children in using smartphones at home during the Covid-19 pandemic, namely persuasive and repressive social control. The discussion is as follows:

1. A form of persuasive parental social control towards children in using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic

   Based on data from observations and interviews in the field, there is social control carried out by parents for their children in using smartphones at home. Parents have carried out persuasive control over their children by appropriately providing invitations, appeals, directions, and guidance in using smartphones. Even though parents are not maximal in controlling their children, as is the case with Mrs. Norita, in an interview conducted on April 23, 2021, she said that generally, I had done persuasive control. Still, it has not been optimal because of the demands that I have to work. When I go to work, I always give a message so that my child stays focused on studying and doesn't use a smartphone all the time. Unlike the case with Mrs. Mahana and Mr. Unggul Setia Budi, they exercised persuasive control by always providing advice regarding the positive and negative impacts of using a smartphone, considering that their children are still relatively young and need special supervision.

   Likewise, Mrs. Lestari, Mrs. Sriwita, and Mrs. Rini also provide supervision in the form of invitations, directions, appeals, and guidance, and this is done considering that when their children are not supervised, they will use smartphones excessively, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic, learning is done online so parental supervision, guidance, and direction are needed to support children's learning.

   Based on the results of the observations and interviews above, it is in line with the theory put forward by Herabudin (2015) "persuasive control is the control that is carried out through invitations, directions, appeals, and guidance to community members always to do positive things and in accordance with applicable norms" (p. 98).

   In Aryati's research (2017), parents' social control for toddlers in using gadgets in Desawukirsari Imogiri Bantul is persuasive, namely by always providing supervision by providing time limits before children are bought gadgets and advising children if children misuse gadgets.

2. Forms of persuasive parental social control of children using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic

   Based on the data from observations and interviews in the field, parents have social control towards their children in using smartphones at home. Parents have carried out social control well, namely by reprimanding their children if children use smartphones excessively, mainly when playing online games and other social media, in addition to reprimanding the actions taken, namely by giving punishment if the child is not deterred by the warning that has been provided,
punishment in the form of smartphones confiscation and reduction of internet quota fee. The family of Mrs. Norita, Mrs. Sriwita, and Mrs. Rini gave a reprimand and punishment by confiscating her child's smartphone if her child used a smartphone continuously. For Mrs. Norita, it was added by reducing the amount of internet quota money. For Mrs. Mahana, admonish first by scolding and giving advice regarding the negative impact of using a smartphone excessively. When it is ignored, it is punished with smartphone confiscation. Meanwhile, Mrs. Lestari and Mr. Unggul were only limited to reprimanding them.

What parents do is in accordance with the theory put forward by Herabudin (2015) that "repressive social control is the control that is carried out after a violation occurs, which aims to restore the situation to normal so that life returns to normal". The form of repressive control is reprimand and punishment.

Herabudin (2015) argues that "reprimand is a way of social control through spoken or written words directly, the aim is for the perpetrator to realize the mistakes he made and improve himself". According to Setiadi & Kolip (2011) that "punishments/sanctions are a form of suffering, loss, a heavy burden that social institutions deliberately create to force community members to obey existing norms". According to the theory above, it can be concluded that parental repressive control in children is by giving warnings and punishments to children who misuse smartphones so as not to repeat them. If they repeat eating, they will be sanctioned in the form of confiscation of smartphones and reduction of internet quota fee.

In Aryati's research (2017), parental social control for toddlers in using gadgets in Desawukirsari Imogiri Bantul is repressive by warning children if they use gadgets excessively. This warning is carried out after the child commits a violation. While in Handayani's research (2016), repressive social control has been carried out by parents in adolescents in Petarakkan Village, Pemalang Regency, where parents try to control teenagers in the use of smartphones by giving sanctions to teenagers who violate the rules given by their parents, this control effort is carried out by providing sanctions depending on the severity of the violations committed by teenagers in using smartphones.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusions

Based on the results of the research and discussion that have been described, it can be concluded as follows: 1) The form of repressive parental social control towards children in using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic study at the Bhayangkararia BTN Complex, Sungai Garam Hilir Village, North Singkawang District, namely by reprimanding children when children use smartphones excessively in terms of playing games until they forget the time so that children leave their obligations in learning. Then the parents gave punishment for the child who did not respond to the parent's warning by confiscating his smartphone and reducing the internet quota fee. 2) The form of parental social control towards children in using smartphones at home during the covid-19 pandemic, namely by giving advice such as giving an invitation not to use smartphones continuously, directions to use smartphones in positive things only, persuading not to use smartphones for too long because it is not good for eye health and guidance by always accompanying and supervising children in using smartphones to keep them in line with the existing corridor. This control is carried out by parents every day or when children make mistakes.

Suggestions

Based on the conclusions above, the researchers convey the following suggestions: 1) It is expected that parents should tighten the existing rules, and communication with children must run smoothly so that the supervision process can be carried out effectively. 2) It is expected that parents will provide more supervision and always accompany children when learning to use smartphones. There is so much potential for children to abuse smartphones if there is no parental assistance.

REFERENCES


