

ABSTRACT

Communication barriers between early adolescents and fathers with formal urban work activities present a distinct challenge, particularly in families residing in Depok and working in Jakarta. This study aims to understand the communication dynamics and obstacles within this relationship. The research employs a descriptive qualitative approach, using Murray Bowen's family systems theory as a framework to explore patterns of interaction and communication barriers in the family. The findings indicate that communication between fathers and children often occurs indirectly, with minimal affection, and is dominated by third-party involvement (mothers or siblings), forming a triangulation pattern within the family system. Communication obstacles arise from limited time, physical exhaustion, and high work pressure. These conditions result in closed, rigid, and distant communication processes. Early adolescents tend to respond with withdrawn behavior and feel emotionally misunderstood. This study highlights the importance of open, direct, and consistent communication between fathers and children as the foundation for emotional closeness, identity development, and psychological balance in urban working families.

Keywords: *communication, adolescents, father, barriers, urban.*