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**Related Factors To The Social Interactions Of School-Age Children During The Covid 19 Pandemic**

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**ABSTRACT**

Corona's disease (Covid 19) has become a global pandemic. Social distancing is recommended to prevent transmission. Countries have made policies to dismiss schools to prevent transmission to children. The situation will have an impact on children's social interactions. The purpose of this study is to identify the factors that influence social interaction in school age children during the Covid 19 pandemic. The design of this study uses correlation. The sample in this study was 73 respondents taken by accidental sampling technique. Online data collection method with structured interviews via videocall. This research was conducted in June 2020. The results showed that there was a relationship between children's social interactions with smartphone using intensity (P value = 0,000) and parents' work (P value = 0.034), while the gender were unrelated. Data analysis uses multiple logistic regression. The covid 19 pandemic this has changed the pattern of communication into online, so that even though it is enacted psychically distancing pre-school age children can still do social interactions by using smart phones. So parents are required to spend time accompanying children in using the smartphone in social interaction.

**Keywords:** School Age Children, Social Interaction, Covid 19

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**BACKGROUND**

Corona disease (Covid 19) has become a global pandemic since the beginning of 2020. Social Distancing is one that is recommended to prevent transmission of Covid-19. Social distancing means maintaining social distancing by minimizing direct meetings and avoiding crowds (Azis, 2020). The Indonesian government has urged the public to limit non-essential activities and limit religious events that involve large numbers of people, even closing offices and schools, prevent transmission to children. Closing schools and urging schools to implement online learning is one of the government's efforts to minimize the transmission of Covid 19 to children. These conditions will have an impact on children's social interactions.

Social interaction is a relationship between individuals and other individuals or groups that can influence, change, or improve behavior (Sunaryo, 2014). Two conditions for social interaction, namely social contact and social communication. Online learning by utilizing certain internet-networked media as a means of communication for school-age children during the Covid 19 pandemic will increase the duration of using certain internet-networked media, such as smartphones. The conditions like this will change the pattern of communication from direct communication to indirect communication (Monica, 2020). Indirect communication using certain internet-networked media has an impact on social interactions in children. Children who frequently use certain internet networked media often do not care about their surroundings. According to mothers in China, the use of smartphones interferes with communication and interaction with their children, either directly or indirectly (Chen et al., 2017). Other factors that influence social interaction in children include motivation, gender, environment, values and background (Twistiandayani & Umah, 2017).

The results of research conducted by Supriatno & Romadhon (2017) show that there is an effect of smartphone use on social interaction. Whereas from the results of a preliminary study conducted by researchers in the Kembangan hamlet, Sumberjo Village, Sanankulon District, through interviews with parents of school-age children, it was found that 6 out of 8 children used certain internet-networked media as a means of communication during the Covid 19 pandemic more than 6 hours per day. Of the 6 children, they rarely play with peers in their environment and don't care about their surroundings and other people. Based on the background and problems above, the researchers are interested in conducting research "Related Factors to the Social Interactions of School-Age Children During the Covid 19 Pandemic".

**METHODS**

This research design uses correlation with cross sectional approach. Data collection was carried out by structured interviews through video calls. Social interaction assessment is based on the child's ability to communicate, understand the environment, openness, the ability to motivate others and the ability to work together. While the factors identified in this study include the intensity of using certain internet-networked media (smartphones), the work of parents and gender. The sample in this study was 73 respondents who were taken using the convenience sampling technique. This research was conducted in May 2020. Data analyzed with multiple logistic regression.

**RESULT**

Table 1 Respondents' characteristics (n=73)

Respondents' characteristics	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	22	30%
Female	51	70%
<b>Parents Educational level</b>		
Elementary School	1	1,4%
Junior High School	8	11%
Senior High School	47	64,4%
Bachelor Degree	17	23,3%
<b>Perents Profession</b>		
Government Officials	2	2,7%
Private career	25	34,2%
Entrepreneur	21	28, 8%
Other	25	34,2%
<b>Intensity of smartphone use</b>		
Low intensity (< 1 hours of the day)	41	56,2%
Medium intensity (>1-3 hours of the day)	2	2,7%
High intensity (> 3 hours of the day)	30	41,1%

Based on table 1 above, it is found that 70% of the respondents are female. 64.4% of the respondents' parents had a high school education and 23.3% had a bachelor's degree. 34.2% of respondents have parents who work as private career and 34,2% have parents who work as farmers, driver, construction workers and daily laborers. Respondents used of smartphone < 1 hours of the day during this pandemic and 41.1% used a smartphone for more than 3 hours of the day.

Tabel 2 Results of data analysis on the relationship between intensity of using a smartphone and social interactions of school age children during the covid 19 pandemic.

The intensity of using a smartphone	Social interactions of school age children				Total	
	Adaptif		Maladaptif		Σ	%
	Σ	%	Σ	%		
Low Intensity	40	54,8	1	1,36	41	56,2
Medium Intensity	2	2,73	0	0	2	2,7
High Intensity	7	9,6	23	31,5	30	41,1
<b>Total</b>	49	67,1	24	32,9	73	100
Correlation test with Multiple Linear Regression analysis, significance value P=0,000						

Based on table 10 above, it is found that the results of the significance value ( $\rho$ ) of  $P = 0.000$ , indicates that there is a significant relationship between the intensity of smartphone use and social interactions during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Table 3 Results of data analysis on the relationship between parents profession and social interactions of school age children during the covid 19 pandemic.

Parents Profession	Social interactions of school age children				Total	
	adaptif		maladaptif			
	Σ	%	Σ	%	Σ	%
Government Officials	2	3	0	0	2	3
Private career	19	26	6	8	25	51
Entrepreneur	16	22	5	7	21	43
Other	12	16	13	18	25	34
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>
Correlation test with Multiple Linear Regression analysis, significance value P=0,034						

Based on table 3 above, it is found that the results of the significance value ( $\rho$ ) of  $P = 0.034$  indicate that there is a significant relationship between the variables of parents' work and social interactions during the Covid 19 pandemic.

Table 4 Results of data analysis on the relationship between gender and social interactions of school age children during the covid 19 pandemic.

Gender	Social interactions of school age children				Total	
	adaptif		maladaptif			
	Σ	%	Σ	%	Σ	%
Male	12	16	10	14	26	30
Female	37	51	14	19	51	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>100</b>
Correlation test with Multiple Linear Regression analysis, significance value P=0,506						

Based on table 4 above, it is found that the results of the significance value ( $\rho$ ) of  $P = 0,506$  indicate that there is no significant relationship between gender variables and social interactions during the Covid 19 pandemic.

## DISCUSSION

The relationship between the intensity of using certain internet-networked media (smartphones) and the social interactions of school-age children during the Covid 19 pandemic

From the results of data analysis using the multiple linear regression correlation test, the results obtained were  $\rho = 0.000$  with a value of  $\alpha < 0,05$  so that it can be interpreted that there is a relationship between the intensity of the use of certain internet-networked media (smartphones) with social interactions among school-aged children (6-12 years). during the covid pandemic 19.

that the use of smartphones for elementary students is more fun than playing with peers. This is inseparable from the various applications found on smartphones owned by

children, which of course attract the attention of these children more than the games in the surrounding environment. Dependence on smartphones in children is caused by the long duration of using a smartphone (Rahmadani et al., 2019). During the Covid 19 pandemic, the government tried to prevent transmission by imposing social distancing and study from home, this changed the pattern of direct communication to indirect communication. Indirect communication is carried out using certain internet-networked media, for example computers and smartphones. So it can be concluded that during the current Covid 19 pandemic, the intensity of smartphone use is higher to meet social needs. However, this can have an impact on children's development towards anti-social. The impact of this actually is that it can make children more individualistic because over time it causes them to forget to communicate and interact with the surrounding environment (Simamora et al., 2016).

Based on the results of this study, it was obtained from 30 respondents who used smartphones with high intensity, 77% had maladaptive social interactions, while 41 respondents used smartphones with low intensity, 98% had adaptive social interactions. This is in accordance with the opinion of (Sujiati, 2018) which states that most children who experience maladaptive social interactions are children who tend to have the habit of playing smartphones more than once a day with usage time of more than 60 minutes. It can be concluded that not all school-age children use smartphones with high intensity during the Covid 19 pandemic, even though they carry out studies from home, they can still interact directly with relatives and neighbors around the house. Some parents said that their children increased the intensity of their use of technology during the Covid 19 pandemic. According to them, this is not surprising, given the potential that social media can be used as a source of information and social support (Drouin et al., 2020). parents do not realize that the high intensity of smartphone use among school-age children will have an impact on their social interaction skills.

#### **The relationship between Parents profession and social interactions children during the Covid 19 pandemic..**

From the results of data analysis using the multiple linear regression correlation test, it was found that the results of the significance value ( $p$ ) of  $P = 0.034$  indicated that there was a significant relationship between the variables of parents professions and social interaction during the Covid 19 pandemic. Covid 19 disease changes family life, in times of crisis, parents can also use it to build stronger relationships with their children. managing parenting stress during this pandemic by staying positive in mentoring and stimulating children's development to protect their future, because we all don't know when the covid 19 pandemic will end (Cluver et al., 2020).

Based on the results of this study, of the 49 respondents who have adaptive interactions, 39% have parents who work as private career and 33% are self-employed. Direct parental involvement can have 49 responden yang memiliki interaksi adaptif, 39% mempunyai a positive impact on children's development such as cognitive, emotional and social development of children. The role of parents in the family regularly and actively can reduce behavior problems in children (Lismanda, 2017). The implementation of work from home as an effort to suppress the spread of Covid 19 has a positive impact on parents, especially private jobs working in offices. With work from home, they have a lot of free time with their family and can carry out their role as parents to the fullest. Although the communication pattern of school age children has now changed to indirect communication with their schoolmates and teachers, the presence of parents at home for a long time will increase the interaction with their children. Likewise, older people who work as

entrepreneurs tend to have longer hours of work at home so they have more time to interact with children.

Of the 24 respondents who have maladaptive social interactions, 54% of them have parents who work as drivers, construction workers and farmers. Even though during the pandemic, some jobs could not be done with work from home, so they still left home while adhering to the protocol for preventing the transmission of covid 19. Of the 24 respondents who had maladaptive social interactions, 54% of them had parents who worked as drivers, construction workers, and farmers. These jobs require them to continue working outside the home even during the Covid 19 pandemic. Some of these jobs have irregular working hours, from the results of interviews it is known that fathers who work as drivers often do not return home because they have to travel out of town, while fathers who work as drivers often do not return home because they have to travel outside the city. Work as farm laborers and farmers also have erratic working hours because they have to go to the fields very early in the morning, then at night sometimes have to go to the fields to look after their crops. There are two conditions for social interaction, namely social contact and communication (Monica, 2020). With a job that has erratic working hours, it will reduce direct contact and communication with children, so that parents cannot stimulate their children to the maximum.

### **The relationship between gender and social interactions of school-age children during the Covid 19 pandemic**

Based on table 4 above, it is found that the results of the significance value ( $p$ ) of  $P = 0,506$  indicate that there is no significant relationship between gender variables and social interactions during the Covid 19 pandemic. The factor that affects the ability of social interaction is gender, the tendency of men to interact with people around is greater than that of women (Rahmadani et al., 2019). However, the results of this study do not support this statement, both women and men have adaptive social interactions. This is because during the Covid 19 pandemic there were many social media applications that supported social interaction.

### **CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of the study, it can be concluded that the factors related to social interactions of school age children are the intensity of smartphone use and the parents Profession. So the researchers suggest that parents can spend the time to supervise when children use smartphones and stimulate children's social interactions by improving communication with children during the Covid 19 pandemic.

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