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## **Divorced Parents: Communication Privacy Management of Family Issues Among Generation Z**

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### **Abstract**

The divorce cases, giving psychological impacts on children, significantly increase year. This study explores the complex process of information disclosure and privacy management among Generation Z individuals as they share sensitive information about family breakups with significant others. By employing a case study method of qualitative approach, this study gathered the data through in-depth interviews with five Generation Z participants from families that have experienced divorce and it was deductively analyzed. The study reveals that Generation Z individuals perceive a strong sense of ownership of information over the details of their parent's divorce, emphasizing the need to control the information and assessing the risk-benefit ratio of disclosing divorced parents. Participants also demonstrate the use of privacy rules to guide their disclosure decisions, highlighting their desire to protect both their privacy and their relationships with significant others. These privacy rules are employed repeatedly, shaping their basic orientations toward privacy choices and reflecting the dynamic interplay between the need for privacy and the desire for social connection. The study underscores the importance of understanding these privacy management strategies when developing interventions aimed at supporting Generation Z individuals in sharing difficult family news. By acknowledging the nuanced ways in which they navigate disclosure, mental health professionals, educators, and policymakers can better support Generation Z individuals in maintaining their well-being while managing the challenges of sharing personal information in an interconnected world.

**Keywords:** communication privacy management; divorced parents; disclosure, Generation Z

### **INTRODUCTION**

The family is the fundamental unit of society (Townsend, 2023), traditionally seen as a supportive environment for physical, spiritual, social, and emotional development

(Narbaeva & Musurmanova, 2021). Within this unit, strong familial bonds are formed through blood ties or marriage, providing individuals with a sense of security and belonging. However, not all families remain intact; some experience breakdowns, resulting in what is commonly referred to as a "broken home," characterized by the absence of one or both parents due to divorce (Ibrahim, 2015). This study focuses specifically on families disrupted by divorce, an increasingly prevalent issue in Indonesia, with divorce cases rising each year. Central Bureau of Statistics in 2022 released the data where there were 516,344 reported cases of divorce, a significant increase from the previous year's 447,743 cases (Rahmah, 2023).

Divorce can have profound psychological impacts on family members, particularly children, who may suffer from the absence of a parent they once saw daily. Children from divorced families face numerous negative consequences, including academic decline (Agnafors et al., 2019), susceptibility to negative influences (Weaver & Schofield, 2015), lower quality of life (Sorek, 2016), increased risk of abuse, obesity, eating disorders, psychological stress, disinterest in relationships (Adriana, 2024), and a higher likelihood of engaging in risky behaviors (Gustavsen et al., 2016).

Generation Z, born between 1997 and 2012, comprises a significant portion of Indonesia's population, totaling approximately 74.93 million individuals or 27.94% of the population (Rainer, 2023). Often referred to as "digital natives," Gen Z has grown up with the internet as an integral part of their lives, influencing their social interactions, learning habits, and communication styles (Zis et al., 2021). Unlike previous generations, Gen Z is characterized by a unique set of traits, including a lack of long-term commitment, a desire for immediate gratification, and a pragmatic approach to life (Hastini et al., 2020). Despite their openness to dialogue and interaction, they are cautious about potential risks, often turning to digital platforms for information and learning (Sakitri, 2021).

Given Gen Z's distinctive characteristics, this study seeks to explore how individuals from this generation, particularly those from divorced families, manage the disclosure of personal information. The study is guided by the Communication Privacy Management (CPM) theory, which suggests that individuals establish boundaries between private and public information in their relationships (Petronio et al., 2021). For Generation Z, who are known for their openness and interaction through digital platforms, navigating privacy management becomes even more crucial. As digital natives, they may be more inclined to share personal information online, yet they must also be vigilant about privacy ownership and control to prevent privacy turbulence. Additionally, this CPM theory provides a framework for understanding the privacy rules Gen Z employs when deciding to share or withhold personal information about their family's circumstances.

Previous studies have employed CPM to understand disclosures in the workplace (Helens-Hart, 2017; Smith & Brunner, 2017), health and risk messaging (Petronio & Venetis, 2017; Xiao et al., 2015), and LGBTQ (McKenna-Buchanan et al., 2015). Few studies use CPM to understand the process of information disclosure and privacy as Generation Z individuals share their news of broken families with significant others. By understanding how Gen Z navigates the challenges of sharing personal information, this research provides insights into the privacy management

strategies employed by this generation and the implications for their social interactions. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for developing effective interventions and support systems that address the unique needs of Gen Z as they navigate the complexities of family strife in a digital age.

The family plays a crucial role as a nurturing environment for an individual's physical, spiritual, social, and emotional development. A complete family consists of a father, a mother, and their children, providing a stable foundation for growth and well-being (Newland, 2015). However, not all families maintain this traditional structure; some experience disruptions that result in a broken home, characterized by the absence of one or both parents. A broken home is a situation where a family lacks harmony, often leading to separation or divorce (Mistiani, 2018).

The term "broken home" derives from the words "broken," meaning fractured or destroyed, and "home," signifying a place of familial residence and connection. Together, these words describe a family environment that has experienced significant disruption. This condition can arise from various factors, such as the death of a parent, divorce, or ongoing family discord. A broken home represents a chaotic family situation, signifying a rupture or severed relationships within the family unit (Abuzar, 2023). Divorce and poor marriage derive a conflict between parents, poor parent-child relationships, a family atmosphere marked by high tension and low warmth, and psychological disorders affecting one or both parents. Each of these factors contributes to the overall dysfunction and disintegration of the family unit, resulting in a broken home (Massa et al., 2020) provide a detailed explanation of the various criteria for identifying a broken home. These include the death of one or both parents.

There are several causes of broken homes. Communication breakdowns occur when trust and understanding are lacking, leading to ineffective family communication. Egocentrism, or self-centered behavior, exacerbates familial tensions, as individuals prioritize their own needs and view themselves as always correct in family matters (Habibi et al., 2015). Economic hardship can also lead to conflicts and disputes, as financial strain often heightens stress within the household (Drewianka & Meder, 2020). Additionally, busy family members who focus on their concerns may neglect relationships, resulting in a lack of closeness and difficult communication (Damota, 2019). A lack of education and understanding about family roles and responsibilities can also contribute to misunderstanding and conflict (Caputo et al., 2018). Lastly, interference from third parties, whether intentional or unintentional, can disrupt familial harmony (Adebayo et al., 2024).

The impact of a broken home extends beyond the immediate family, affecting children and continuing into adulthood. Children from broken homes often experience a decline in academic performance due to parental neglect of their educational needs (Sarnoto et al., 2024). They may exhibit aggressive behavior stemming from feelings of loneliness and a desire for attention that is not provided at home. The lack of parental supervision and moral guidance can lead to deviant behavior and delinquency, especially if children are not taught appropriate religious or ethical values (Murfid et al., 2021). Furthermore, the absence of strong relationships between children and their parents can result in emotional and social challenges, leaving lasting effects on their development and future interactions (Fegert et al., 2020).

Divorce and broken families affect the psychological and emotional conditions of younger generations. Studies have shown that Generation Z from divorced or broken homes often face a range of emotional, behavioral, and social challenges that can have long-lasting implications on their development and well-being (Abuzar, 2023). They may struggle with feelings of abandonment, insecurity, and difficulty forming healthy attachments and experience increased stress, anger, and resentment toward their parents (Abuzar, 2023).

Generation Z, commonly known as Gen Z was born into an era marked by rapid technological advancement, making technology and the internet integral to their daily lives (Zis et al., 2021). From a young age, Gen Z has been exposed to digital technology and gadgets, which have significantly influenced their personalities and social behaviors (Zis et al., 2021). Gen Z is characterized by its high level of internet engagement, spending considerable time online, whether in urban or rural settings. This extensive use of digital media is evident across economic strata, encompassing both affluent and economically disadvantaged individuals (Hastini et al., 2020). The generation's familiarity with technology enables them to quickly learn and adapt to new gadgets and platforms, a skill developed from their early exposure to digital environments (Zis et al., 2021).

However, Gen Z also faces challenges that are unique to their upbringing. They are often described as lacking a sense of commitment, being dissatisfied with their current circumstances, and focusing on the present rather than planning for the future (Hastini et al., 2020). Gen Z is known as the "generation of truth-seekers," whose behaviors can be categorized into four key elements. They embrace the concept of the "undefined ID," respecting individual expression without imposing labels, leading to an open-minded understanding of diverse perspectives. They are "communaholics," who are highly inclusive and use advanced technology to engage with a variety of communities, amplifying the impact of their contributions. As "dialoguers," they value communication as a means of resolving conflicts and fostering change, showing a willingness to interact with different ideas and groups. Lastly, they are "realistic," being more analytical and independent in decision-making compared to previous generations, recognizing the importance of financial security and self-reliance in learning and information gathering (Francis & Hoefel, 2018).

The characteristics of Gen Z, such as open-mindedness, a proclivity for interaction, and independence in learning, are shaped by their digital environment. Despite their strengths, they are also noted for being cautious and even apprehensive about potential risks. Their digital nativity encourages continuous learning from the internet and social media, reflecting a generation that adapts quickly to new information and technologies (Sakitri, 2021).

In exploring the complex process of information disclosure and privacy management among Generation Z individuals as they share sensitive information about family breakups, the theory of Communication Privacy Management, developed by Sandra Petronio, is used. This theory helps explain everyday issues that arise when individuals encounter others whose lives differ from their own. During these interactions, individuals undergo a complex negotiation process to decide what information to disclose and what to withhold from others. This theory

is based on prior research related to self-disclosure and openness (Littlejohn et al., 2017; Petronio et al., 2021).

The Communication Privacy Management Theory presents a more complex view of the tension between openness and the sharing of private information. It aims to delineate what information is considered public and what remains private (Littlejohn et al., 2017; Petronio et al., 2021). Decisions regarding the sharing of private information are not made lightly, as they require the development and maintenance of interpersonal relationships and trust to ensure privacy protection. The importance of individuals carefully considering the disclosure of personal information about themselves (Petronio et al., 2021). When sharing private information, certain boundaries must be observed. These boundaries serve as guidelines for individuals before they share private information. One of the key considerations for individuals is the depth of their relationship with the person to whom they are disclosing information. However, these boundaries are not static and can change over time. Different situations can lead to adjustments in these boundaries (Petronio et al., 2021).

There are three key elements of Communication Privacy Management: privacy ownership, privacy control, and privacy turbulence (Petronio et al., 2021). Privacy ownership refers to the idea that an individual is the sole owner of their private information. When a person decides to share private information with someone else, the recipient of this information also becomes a co-owner of that private information. As co-owners, they have the rights and responsibilities to negotiate how, when, and to whom the private information is disclosed. This means that both parties must manage and regulate the private information they now share (Petronio et al., 2021).

Privacy control involves the decision-making process regarding the disclosure of private information. It is not merely about deciding whether or not to share private information but also involves negotiating how that information is managed and protected. Privacy control involves assessing the risk-benefit ratio of disclosing private information, considering the potential advantages of sharing the information and evaluating the risks involved. Other factors that influence these decisions include cultural expectations, gender differences, and situational demands. When individuals decide to share private information with another party, they agree to keep that information confidential (Petronio et al., 2021).

Privacy turbulence occurs when the boundaries for sharing private information become unclear or are violated. This often happens when established rules are not mutually agreed upon, and the recipient of the private information breaches the set boundaries, either intentionally or unintentionally. Such violations and the ensuing conflicts make the original owner of the private information more cautious about future disclosures. As a result of experiencing boundary violations, individuals may choose to revise the rules for sharing their private information or decide to withhold information altogether (Petronio et al., 2021).

The Communication Privacy Management Theory is especially relevant to explore Generation Z Individuals from broken home environments facing unique challenges in managing privacy and disclosure. The absence of stable family structures can lead to ambiguity in understanding what information is private and what can be shared. This can complicate the process of negotiating privacy

boundaries, making it difficult for individuals to establish trust and open communication. The lack of clear guidelines and the fear of privacy turbulence may cause individuals from broken homes to be more guarded with their personal information. Therefore, understanding the complex process of information disclosure and privacy management of Generation Z individuals in sharing their sensitive information of broken families with significant others is crucial to be investigated.

## METHODS

This study employs a descriptive qualitative research design to provide a detailed understanding and explanation of the phenomena related to Communication Privacy management among Generation Z individuals from broken-home families. Descriptive qualitative research is used to explore and interpret a situation or phenomenon in depth, relying on appropriate interpretation. Qualitative research is particularly effective for understanding complex issues or phenomena (Aspers & Corte, 2019). Descriptive research involves a detailed examination and description of a specific issue or problem (Kim et al., 2017). In this study, the focus is on exploring the complex process of information disclosure and privacy management among Generation Z individuals as they share sensitive information about family breakups with significant others.

The study utilizes a case study research method. A case study method is employed to explain, describe, or explore a specific event or phenomenon (Vanderstoep & Johnston, 2009). The case study approach allows for the investigation of new insights related to the research topic (Flyvbjerg, 2011). By using a case study, researchers can uncover new perspectives that can be used to explore and explain the complex process of information disclosure and privacy management among Generation Z individuals as they share sensitive information about family breakups with significant others.

Research participants are individuals who meet the criteria relevant to the research problem and can provide insights into the issue being studied (Guillemin et al., 2018). The participants in this study have specific social backgrounds related to particular cases. In this research, five informants or participants were selected based on the following criteria: 1) male or female, 2) belonging to Generation Z (ages 12-27), 3) from a broken home family due to parental divorce, and 4) agreeing to participate in the study voluntarily without any coercion.

Table 1. Participants' Profile

Informant Initial	Sex	Age	City	Parents' Reasons of Divorce
Informant 1	Female	23	Yogyakarta	Third-party
Informant 2	Female	20	Yogyakarta	Third-party
Informant 3	Female	21	Yogyakarta	Third-party
Informant 4	Male	22	Jombang	Third-party
Informant 5	Female	23	Solo	Egocentrism

Source: (Interview, 2024)

Data for this research will be collected using in-depth interviews. In-depth interviews involve direct questioning of participants by the researcher on topics related to the research (Osborne & Grant-Smith, 2021). This method enables researchers to gain deep insights into participants' opinions and experiences regarding the research topic. Interviews can be conducted either online or offline using the latest communication technologies (Shapka et al., 2016). The in-depth interview method was chosen to obtain direct and relevant data from participants who meet the study criteria.

The data analysis for this study is conducted in three stages. After interviewing, the researchers reread and relistened the interview transcriptions. Then, the researchers simplified, summarized, selected, and focused the data to aid in data analysis. This data reduction helps researchers manage the data more effectively. Relevant data is extracted and used to assist researchers in concluding the collected information. This stage facilitates the identification of patterns and trends in the data. This final stage of data analysis involves drawing conclusions based on the findings. This step provides a clear explanation or depiction of the research object, which may not have been clear before the analysis (Lester et al., 2020).

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

### **Ownership Information: Divorced Parents**

Parental divorce can occur due to various issues within the family. Several indicators can be used to understand the causes of divorce, including communication breakdown, egocentrism, busy schedules, lack of mutual understanding between spouses, and interference from third parties. In the context of communication breakdown, Generation Z individuals often report that communication between their parents encounters obstacles. While communication is still present, it lacks the intensity it once had. Although their parents communicate with each other, there are barriers caused by each parent's commitments and busy schedules. Even though their parents were busy, some members of Generation Z believe that their parents prioritize family matters over personal issues. This prioritization occurs because their parents have agreed to dedicate one specific day to family activities. On this designated day, their parents clear their schedules to ensure that they are not interrupted by personal commitments or work obligations.

*"In the past, our family time wasn't very intense, but there were certainly obstacles. These obstacles were mainly due to everyone's busy schedules. However, we were still able to communicate." (Interview with KMN, 6 June 2024)*

*"If something was really urgent or came up suddenly, it was challenging because both of my parents were entrepreneurs. However, they had an agreement to be together at a certain time each day. They tried their best to honor that commitment. It's like, when they had their professional work scheduled at a certain time, they couldn't be disturbed. So, they made sure to have no appointments with anyone else at that time, but if necessary, they would reschedule." (Interview with Informant 1, 6 June 2024).*

Some members of Generation Z observe that disagreements frequently arise between their parents. Their parents rarely spend quality time with the family or engage in meaningful conversations. These disagreements often lead to arguments, as both parents have different ways of addressing problems. Each parent relies on their own methods to resolve issues, and they do not make an effort to communicate effectively, which results in misunderstandings.

*"In the past, my parents often had differences of opinion, and they would frequently argue, sometimes even in front of me or other family members. It seemed like they spent more time arguing than having quality family time or genuinely talking with each other. They argued more than they connected as a family." (Interview with Informant 3, 8 June 2024)*

Not only communication issues, busyness, and differences in understanding between parents, but a third party also becomes another primary indicator leading to their parent's divorce. Four out of five Generation Z individuals interviewed for this study believe that the main reason for their parent's divorce was the disruption caused by a third party, which ultimately led to their parents deciding to separate.

*"Yes, there was someone else in the relationship at that time. That's actually one of the reasons why my parents divorced. My father had an affair, and he was involved with someone else. So, my mom decided it was best for them to just separate." (Interview with Informant 3, 8 June 2024)*

Some members of Generation Z express that there is no specific division of responsibilities between their parents. Both parents are employed, which means there is not a traditional arrangement where the father works while the mother stays at home to manage the household. As a result of both parents being busy with their careers, some Generation Z individuals report that they have been raised by their grandparents from a young age.

*"Back then, both my mom and dad worked, so I was often left at home by myself. It wasn't like my dad worked and my mom stayed home to take care of things; they both had jobs." (Interview with Informant 5, 10 June 2024)*

*"There wasn't any because I used to live with my grandmother and older sibling, so the household chores were handled by my grandfather, grandmother, and aunt. My mom had a job, and my dad worked out of town." (Interview with Informant 3, 8 June 2028)*

Generation Z individuals also perceive that there are significant communication barriers between their parents. They observe that their parents' ways of thinking have diverged, leading to difficulties in maintaining smooth communication within the family. These differences often result in disagreements, particularly when making joint decisions, which in turn leads to frequent small arguments.

*"There were internal obstacles because each person had their own personality, which made it difficult for the two of them to come together. This affected their communication and decision-making since they had different ways of thinking and couldn't unite anymore. There were also frequent arguments, not major fights but small debates and disagreements over various things." (Interview with Informant 5, 10 June 2024)*

Regarding the understanding between husband and wife, some Generation Z individuals observe that their mothers feel neglected by their husbands. The mothers often feel that their needs are not adequately met by their partners. On the other hand, their fathers feel that their responsibilities extend beyond just their wives to include their entire family, which also requires their attention and care.

*"It seems that was the beginning of their relationship becoming strained. My mom said she felt like she wasn't getting enough attention from my dad because he was too focused on his own family. They often argued about this at the time. My mom felt like her needs weren't being met, while my dad believed his responsibilities extended beyond just his wife and included his family as well. That was the start of all their arguments." (Interview with Informant 2, 8 June 2024)*

When it comes to differences of opinion, some Generation Z individuals observe that disagreements are a common occurrence among their parents. They believe that every family inevitably experiences differences of opinion. This is often due to the stubbornness of both the father and the mother, with each parent being equally headstrong and unwilling to compromise.

*"Yes, of course. In any family, there are differences in opinion. For example, we often disagree because we can both be quite stubborn." (Interview with Informant 4, 9 June 2024)*

One out of five Generation Z individuals interviewed for this study believes that the primary reason for their parent's separation was the ego of their parents. Regardless of whether the circumstances were good or bad, their parents did not respect one another. The interviewee expressed that if their parents had respected each other, the current situation might have been different.

*"Definitely. Even if you're tired, mutual respect can make a difference. Without respect, even when you're not tired, people tend to disregard each other." (Interview with Informant 5, 10 June 2024)*

### **Controlling in Sharing the Information of Divorced Parents**

Generation Z holds the authority to decide whether or not to disclose information about their parents' divorce. They can choose who is allowed to know about their family situation. Some members of Generation Z believe that they will only share information about their parents' divorce with trusted friends and their partners. They are willing to share information about their parents' divorce only with their close friends. They are cautious about doing so because they fear being perceived as someone seeking sympathy or trying to gain attention by sharing their sad story.

*"I have friends that I trust, but I don't tell them everything. I also share things with my partner." (Interview with Informant 4, June 9, 2024)*

*"I tend to share things only with people who are close to me. I'm afraid that if I talk to everyone, it might get spread around, and people might think I'm just seeking attention, especially when sharing sad stories or difficult experiences." (Interview with Informant 1, June 6, 2024)*

Generation Z individuals feel comfortable discussing their parents' divorce with close friends, valuing the trust and understanding that those relationships provide. However, some prioritize privacy and therefore only share the basic details

of their parents' divorce. When they encounter a friend whose parents have recently separated, they are more likely to share memories of their own parents' divorce, carefully considering the circumstances and ensuring their friend feels supported.

*"Like I mentioned earlier, if I'm already close with someone, then I'll share my experiences. Sharing my story can motivate others, but it doesn't have to be just for those whose families are no longer together." (Interview with Informant 1, June 6, 2024).*

*"I'm very protective of my family's privacy, so I only share the broad details. However, if a friend is going through a similar situation, like their parents recently divorced, and they want to talk about it, I'll share my past experiences. It's important to be mindful of how much you share and to gauge the situation carefully. You can't just dive into deep conversations right away." (Interview with Informant 3, June 8, 2024)*

Generation Z chooses to share details about their parents' divorce in hopes of receiving something in return, such as emotional relief or support. They reveal this information to seek comfort and find motivation during difficult times. In these situations, they look for someone to talk to who can provide understanding and help them navigate their challenges. In addition, they believe that sharing their parents' divorce is a way to motivate others. They do not do this to seek personal encouragement but rather to find someone who can listen to their story. By sharing their experiences, they hope to achieve a sense of relief and emotional comfort from having their narrative heard.

*"It helps calm me down when something bad happens. It also provides motivation and I just want to have someone to talk to." (Interview with Informant 2, June 8, 2024)*

*"I prefer to share and motivate others rather than seeking anything for myself. When I talk about my experiences, it's more about sharing than needing encouragement or motivation from others. I just want to be heard and also help others who might be going through similar situations. I don't actively seek motivation from others; what matters to me is the relief I get from sharing my story." (Interview with Informant 3, June 8, 2024)*

If someone else is experiencing a similar situation where their parents are divorced, Generation Z members often express a willingness to share details about their own parents' divorce with that person. They believe that when others have gone through the same experience of parental separation, there is a mutual understanding and empathy that allows them to be more open about their family situation. However, when deciding to share with people who do not have the same family background, they typically only discuss the broad outlines of their parents' divorce, keeping the details more private.

*"I openly share that my parents are divorced and that I come from a broken home, but I don't go into too much detail about the issues. By sharing that, I hope others who have divorced parents or come from a broken home feel comfortable talking to me. It helps them know that we have something in common, so they should feel free to talk and share their stories with me." (Interview with Informant 2, June 8, 2024).*

## **Creating Inappropriate Assumptions Based on Limited Information of Divorced Parents**

Participants described how privacy turbulence occurs when sharing information about their parents' divorce. Generation Z individuals often withhold certain details to maintain privacy. They are selective about whom they choose to confide in regarding their family situation. They prepare themselves before discussing their parents' divorce with friends, carefully deciding what information to share to avoid creating inappropriate assumptions based on limited information.

*"I do have close friends, but I'm really selective about who I share things with. When it comes to talking about my daily life or things about my mom and dad, I set boundaries. There are only a few people I feel comfortable talking to, so I don't share with everyone." (Interview with Informant 2, June 8, 2024).*

*"I don't share everything when I'm talking to someone. It depends on what I feel like sharing at the time, and I usually filter it beforehand. So, if I plan to meet a friend to talk or catch up, I've already thought about and decided what I'm going to discuss." (Interview with Informant 3, June 8, 2024)*

The finding found that there are cases where information shared by Generation Z individuals with close friends was spread to others without their consent. This breach of trust makes Generation Z more cautious about whom they trust, even among their closest friends. If there is a risk that such incidents could happen again, they may turn to online media like Google to seek new perspectives.

*"I find it hard to trust people. I've had a bad experience where a friend shared one of my secrets, although it wasn't about this particular issue. So, I've learned not to trust people easily. It's difficult for me." (Interview with Informant 5, June 10, 2024)*

## **Discussion**

This study explores the communication privacy management strategies employed by Generation Z individuals from broken homes, specifically focusing on those with divorced parents. The research involved five participants, all belonging to Generation Z and having divorced parents, hailing from Yogyakarta, Solo, and Jombang. Various factors contribute to these broken home situations, such as communication breakdowns, egocentrism, economic difficulties, busy lifestyles, low education levels, and interference from third parties (Adebayo et al., 2024; Caputo et al., 2018; Damota, 2019; Drewianka & Meder, 2020; Habibi et al., 2015). The study highlights that the primary causes of parental divorce among Generation Z are external interference and the egos of their parents.

The research utilizes Communication Privacy Management Theory (CPM), developed by Petronio et al (2021), to elucidate the complex negotiation process that Generation Z individuals engage in when deciding what private information to disclose and what to keep confidential. The CPM theory offers a valuable framework for understanding how these individuals navigate privacy in a cultural context where divorce, while increasingly common, remains a sensitive topic.

In the context of privacy ownership, Generation Z individuals have complete ownership of their private information and the authority to decide how it is managed. They establish rules and boundaries regarding the sharing of this information (Littlejohn et al., 2017; Petronio et al., 2021). This study finds that

Generation Z individuals often choose to share information about their parents' divorce with trusted friends and partners. This decision is influenced by the strength and quality of their interpersonal relationships, as well-maintained relationships foster trust, enabling participants to believe that their confidants will safeguard their privacy. The sense of ownership over their private information empowers Generation Z individuals to control the narrative around their familial circumstances, allowing them to present their stories in a manner that aligns with their self-perception and desired social identity.

Privacy control focuses on the criteria used to determine whether to share private information, such as the risk-benefit ratio, cultural expectations, gender differences, and situational demands (Littlejohn et al., 2017; Petronio et al., 2021). Participants in this study evaluate the risk-benefit criterion by weighing the relief gained from sharing their parents' divorce against potential risks. Benefits include a sense of relief and having someone to listen to their concerns. Additionally, participants may seek to motivate others or find motivation themselves.

The risk-benefit analysis is particularly pertinent for Generation Z, given their characteristic openness to dialogue and authenticity, as identified in the literature review. While they value transparency and open communication, they remain cautious of potential negative perceptions, such as being seen as attention-seeking when discussing their personal challenges.

In practice, participants disclose private information based on the boundaries they have established, often relaxing these boundaries when interacting with individuals they trust and imposing stricter boundaries with those they do not. This demonstrates their ability to navigate social dynamics and assess trustworthiness within their networks.

Careful consideration of private information sharing and boundary establishment helps prevent privacy turbulence, which occurs when agreed-upon privacy rules are violated, either intentionally or unintentionally. Privacy turbulence can also result from unclear privacy rules set by the information owner. Participants experience privacy turbulence when friends with whom they have strong relationships share their private information without consent, often due to assumed rather than explicitly communicated privacy rules. This finding underscores the importance of clear communication and explicit rule-setting in managing privacy boundaries, particularly for Generation Z individuals who may assume shared understandings based on relational closeness.

Privacy turbulence may also arise when there is a change in the interpersonal relationship between the information owner and the recipient. Participants encounter privacy turbulence when their relationships deteriorate, causing former friends to share private information without consent. This highlights that privacy rules can change or become obsolete as relationships evolve.

Experiencing privacy turbulence prompts information owners to modify their privacy rules and boundaries (Littlejohn et al., 2017; Petronio et al., 2021). In response to such turbulence, participants revise their rules and boundaries, opting not to share information about their parents' divorce with certain friends and restricting sharing with individuals lacking strong interpersonal relationships.

This study underscores the nuanced processes Generation Z individuals navigate when managing privacy in the context of familial divorce, highlighting the

importance of interpersonal trust and the adaptability of privacy boundaries. Their approach to privacy management reflects their broader generational characteristics, such as open-mindedness, a proclivity for interaction, and independence in learning.

As digital natives, Generation Z individuals are accustomed to managing their online presence and privacy, which translates into their offline interactions. Their familiarity with digital communication tools may influence their ability to set and maintain privacy boundaries, as well as their expectation of privacy within personal relationships. In addition, the study reveals that Generation Z individuals possess a keen awareness of social dynamics and the potential consequences of disclosure. Their ability to evaluate relational contexts and adjust their privacy boundaries accordingly highlights their analytical and independent decision-making skills.

Despite the increasing prevalence of divorce in Indonesia, the cultural stigma associated with it persists, shaping the privacy management strategies of Generation Z individuals. This cultural context necessitates a careful balance between authenticity and self-protection, as participants navigate the tension between societal expectations and personal needs.

## **CONCLUSION**

The intricate communication privacy management strategies of Generation Z individuals from broken homes reveal a deeper understanding of how these young people navigate complex social landscapes shaped by their family experiences. Beyond mere privacy concerns, the process of managing sensitive information about parental divorce reflects broader societal trends and personal identity formation.

In a rapidly changing world, where traditional norms around family and privacy are evolving, Generation Z individuals find themselves at the crossroads of old and new paradigms. Divorce, once a taboo topic, is now a common aspect of many families' lives. Yet, the privacy surrounding such matters remains deeply personal, shaped by cultural, social, and relational factors. The ability of these individuals to control and adapt their privacy boundaries is a testament to their resilience and adaptability. Moreover, this study highlights the crucial role of empathy and shared experiences in shaping privacy decisions. As Generation Z navigates its relationships, the shared understanding of familial challenges fosters a unique bond, allowing for a more open exchange of personal information. This dynamic illustrates the transformative power of empathy in breaking down barriers and creating a supportive community among peers who face similar life circumstances.

The present study sought to describe the accounts of the complex process of information disclosure and privacy management of Generation Z individuals in sharing sensitive information about family breakups with significant others. Future studies with more participants are needed to better capture the communication privacy management of Generation Z individuals of divorced parents. Future researchers may wish to recruit parents to understand a communication process parents' disclosure of their marital status to their children.

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