

Gender ideology, family communication, and mother-worker relationships with children

Fairuza Arindra

Department of Communication, Universitas Negeri Malang

5 Semarang Avenue, Lowokwaru, Malang

Email: fairuza.arindra.fis@um.ac.id, Phone: +62341 551312

How to Cite This Article: Arindra, F.. (2025) Gender ideology, family communication, and mother-worker relationships with children. *Jurnal Studi Komunikasi*, 9(1). doi: 10.25139/jsk.v9i1.8856

Received: 25-08-2024, Revision: 06-02-2025, Acceptance: 13-02-2025, Published: 26-03-2025

Abstract The quality of the mother-child relationship is shaped by perceptions of closeness and satisfaction in family life. In recent times, many working mothers have faced challenges in maintaining effective family communication patterns, often leading to gender ideology disagreements about maternal roles and hindering relational quality. This study examines (1) the influence of family communication patterns on the relational quality of working mothers and children, (2) the impact of family communication patterns on gender ideology, and (3) the mediating role of gender ideology in shaping mother and child relational quality. Using a quantitative approach, survey data were collected from 157 working mothers through purposive sampling. Key measures included the Family Communication Patterns Instrument (FCPI) and the Gender Ideology Scale (GIS), analysed using Structural Equation Modelling (SEM). Results indicate that only conversational family communication patterns, mediated by gender ideology, significantly influence mother-child relational quality. These findings highlight the critical role of gender ideology in fostering positive mother-child relationships and suggest the need for family communication strategies that address gender role expectations to support working mothers.

Keywords: family communication patterns; gender ideology; relational maintenance; working mother

INTRODUCTION

The relationship between parents and children in the family can be healthy if individual perceptions of closeness and satisfaction characterise it (Kemp, 2024; Kevers, 2024; Satyanarayana, 2024; Zanetti, 2024). The primary sources of social support are personal relationships (Ledbetter et al., 2011a). For example, family communication patterns (FCPs) are often associated with parent and child relationships. Relationship maintenance behaviours mediate the influence of FCP on parent-child relationships (Ledbetter & Beck, 2014). Koerner (2002) states that communication stemming from the parental relationship promotes cognitive skills necessary for future social relationships. To create a good relationship between parents and children, a sense of closeness and satisfaction is required, especially for parents (Susilo, 2022). They play a role in creating a friendly family atmosphere (Cheng, 2024).

The challenges faced by working mothers in achieving quality family relationships are a critical issue, as they reflect broader societal inequalities rooted in gender-based social and cultural constructions. Women often experience gender inequality in both professional and domestic spheres, which can strain their ability to balance work and family responsibilities effectively. These challenges not only impact the well-being of mothers but also have far-reaching implications for child development and family dynamics. Understanding how gender ideology and family communication patterns influence these relationships is essential for developing strategies to support working mothers, promote gender equity, and foster healthier family environments. Building on these details, this study addresses a significant gap in the literature by exploring these interconnected factors, offering insights that can inform policies and practices aimed at improving the quality of life for working mothers and their families. This is based on the

fact that women socially experience gender inequality caused by social and cultural constructions of their gender. According to Samsidar, working women are often burdened with multiple roles because they are not only responsible as wives or mothers but are also responsible in actively taking part in public and economic roles. Because of this situation, women have to carry a double load of doing affairs at home and working professionally, which may burden the mother. Mothers often have difficulty managing their time for family and work due to the dual expectations of their social environment, so it is not uncommon for various personal and work conflicts to become severe pressure on mothers (Arindra, Wulandari, Antoni, 2023).

The relationship between parents and children has much to do with how they interact and communicate daily. Thus, family communication patterns (FCP) are better known in the study of communication science. To achieve mutual agreement between parents and children, L. David Ritchie and Mary Anne Fitzpatrick developed the Revised Family Communication Patterns (RFCP) by paying more attention to the importance of family communication patterns. There are two (2) dimensions in analysing family communication patterns: conversation orientation and conformity orientation. Conversation orientation is the extent to which family communication can encourage its members to interact intensely on various topics. Individuals with a high conversation orientation can freely engage in discussions to share ideas and concerns and involvement in decision-making (Koerner, 2002). Conformity orientation emphasises a state where all values, attitudes, and beliefs are the same. High-conformity families tend to share the same beliefs, pay attention to hierarchical structures, and prioritise family interests over personal interests (Koerner, 2002). Gender ideology can influence interactions and conflicts related to housework, which in turn impacts the level of satisfaction of couples (Atwood, 2024). This is because gender ideology is how families view relationships and conflicts (Greenstein, 1995; 1996). Professional work done by men is considered normal in families that adhere to traditional gender ideology, while women's participation in the same professional work tends to be considered harmful (Davis & Greenstein, 2009; Deutsch & Saxon, 1998). This puts mothers in the dual childcare role, which can reduce relationship satisfaction (Vannoy & Philliber, 1992). In contrast, families with an egalitarian gender ideology see benefits in the involvement of both men and women in professional work (Voydanoff, 2014).

Gender ideology can influence interactions and conflicts related to housework, impacting satisfaction levels (Unal, 2024; Susilo, 2021). This is due to gender ideology being the way families view relationships and conflicts (Greenstein, 1995; 1996). As for traditional gender ideology, it views professional work carried out by men as natural in the family, while women's participation in the same professional work tends to be considered negative (Davis & Greenstein, 2009; Deutsch & Saxon, 1998). This condition puts mothers in a dual caregiving role which can reduce relationship satisfaction (Vannoy & Philliber, 1992; Begall, 2023). In contrast, families with an egalitarian gender ideology see benefits in the involvement of both men and women in professional work (Voydanoff, 2014; Kleinschrot, 2023) this causes everyone to agree that conflicts in families where both parents work are normal, so the negative impact is minimal (Marta, 2023; Wilhelm, 2023).

A healthy relationship between parents and children depends on the environment they create. Empirical research reveals that depressed parents are not emotionally available to their children (Khawaja et al., 2017; Kaufman, 2024; Ma, 2024; Taraszow, 2024), which means parents will use a more conforming way of communication. Conformity parents emphasise compliance with socio-cultural rules, harmony, and respect for elders (Koerner, 2002; Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 2004; Ledbetter & Beck, 2014). Family relationships remain useful despite difficult situations by sharing and communicating (Khawaja et al., 2017).

The challenges faced by working mothers in achieving quality family relationships are a critical issue, as they reflect broader societal inequalities rooted in gender-based social and cultural constructions (See Figure 1). Women often experience gender inequality in both professional and domestic spheres, which can strain their ability to balance work and family responsibilities effectively. While existing research has explored family communication patterns and gender ideology separately, this study introduces a novel approach by examining their interplay as mediating factors in shaping the relational quality between working mothers and their children. By integrating these dimensions, the research provides a more comprehensive understanding of how gender ideology influences family dynamics, offering new insights into the mechanisms that either hinder or enhance mother-child relationships. This innovative

perspective not only advances academic discourse but also has practical implications for developing targeted interventions and policies to support working mothers and promote equitable family structures.

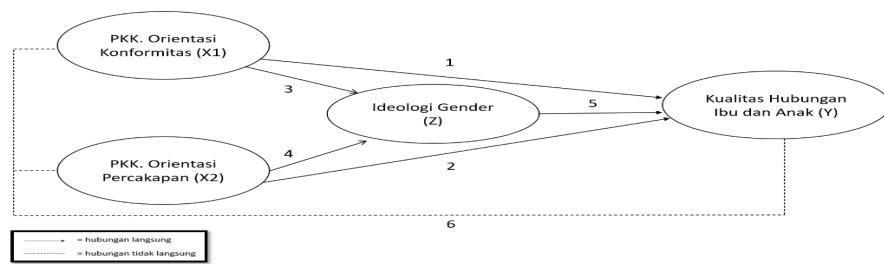


Figure 1. Conceptual Framework
Source: Author (2024)

METHODOLOGY

This research uses the positivism paradigm with quantitative methods. Quantitative research can explain the problems so that the results can be generalised (Kriyantono, 2006). The population of this study were all working mothers who work as lecturers at PGRI Adi Buana University Surabaya (UNIPA).

The non-probability sampling technique used in this study is a non-random sample that uses various methods to reach a particular population that tends to be challenging to reach (Neuman, 2017). The population of female lecturers at UNIPA is 223 professionals. Samples were taken with the criteria of being married and having children, totalling 204 people. After distributing the questionnaires, the returned questionnaires were 157 respondents.

The analysis technique used in this research is the Structural Equation Models-Partial Least Square (SEM PLS) statistical technique. SEM was chosen because this technique is one type of multivariate statistical analysis that can handle the relationship of several explanatory variables despite multicollinearity. The advantages of this method include being immune or strong, not requiring various assumptions or conditions, suitable for all types of data scales, and not requiring a large number of samples (Hair et al., 2010).

In families with high levels of conformity, parents typically have almost unilateral control in shaping family connectedness. The family system becomes less flexible and cohesive without give-and-take and trust talks. This influences children to distance themselves and withdraw from their parents (Ledbetter et al., (2011a); Ledbetter & Beck (2014); Schrodt et al., (2007). Based on the above description, the first hypothesis can be developed (H1): Conformity orientation significantly affects the mother-child relationship quality.

The relationship between parents and children is a fundamental part of the family that determines whether the family relationship is healthy or not. Several studies mention that the conversation orientation in FCP has a positive effect on family relationships, such as parenting style (Hamon dan Schrodt, 2012; Koerner and Schrodt, 2014), parental conflict style (Beck dan Ledbetter, 2013), and individual privacy orientation (Bridge dan Schrodt, 2013), resulting in children who are more open in expressing their emotions in front of their parents (Schrodt, 2020). Some researchers suggest the importance of conversation orientation in families to foster healthy behaviours and interpersonal skills (Koesten & Anderson, 2004). Based on the description above, the second hypothesis can be developed (H2): Conversation orientation has a significant effect on the quality of mother-child relationships.

A high conformity orientation without balance makes the atmosphere in the family less warm (Gawel, 2024). Individuals from high conformity families have higher privacy preferences that make them prefer to be alone and lack self-disclosure. Families with high conformity tend not to emphasise commitment to relationships because commitment is not expressed to each other (Dorrance Hall & McNallie, 2016). Gender ideology will not be created if the family climate does not support its members to exchange agreements on gender ideology. Based on the description above, the third hypothesis can be developed (H3) Conformity orientation has a significant effect on gender ideology (Off, 2024).

Viewed from the perspective and empirical studies of family communication patterns, conversation orientation can affect couples' relationship satisfaction, parent and child

relationships, sibling relationships, and children's interpersonal skills in social relationships (Dorrance Hall & McNallie, 2016) (Ledbetter & Beck, 2014). Through conversation, mothers and children can skilfully discuss gender ideology together. Based on the description above, the fourth hypothesis (H4) is that conversation orientation significantly affects gender ideology.

Several studies have found that gender ideology affects relationship quality; for example, (Amato, 1995), (Mickelson et al., 2006), Wilcox & Nock (2006) prove that gender ideology is related to three indicators of marital quality and relationship intimacy (Marshall, 2008). In addition, some impacts on relationship quality are moderated by gender ideology conducted in American research (Greenstain, 1996). Based on the above description, the fifth hypothesis can be developed (H5) that gender ideology significantly affects the quality of mother-child relationships.

Hochschild & Machung (1989) claim that gender ideology, behaviour, and emotional responses of working women lead to individual gender strategies in their interactions (Davis & Greenstein, 2009). That is, interactions between mother and child are believed to encourage the realisation of an equal understanding of gender ideology between mother and child. Based on the above description, the sixth hypothesis can be developed, such as (H6) gender ideology can mediate the influence of family communication patterns (conversation orientation and conformity orientation) on the quality of mother-child relationships.

Family communication patterns emphasise the interaction between parents and children to reach agreement among family members. Two approaches to agreement are conformity orientation and conversation orientation (Fitzpatrick dan Koerner, 2006), using a Likert scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree.

Gender ideology acts as a lens through which individuals view the social world and as a basis for decision-making. Gender ideology has been measured using a variety of individual items that can be organised into six categories: primacy of the breadwinner role, belief in a gendered environment, working women and relationship quality, wife/motherhood, housework, and acceptance of male privilege (Davis & Greenstein, 2009) using a Likert scale of 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree. Parent-child relationships can be good if individuals' perceptions of closeness and satisfaction mark it. Parent-child relationship quality was measured using 15 statement items from Driscoll dan Pianta (2011) indicators using a Likert scale from 1 = strongly disagree to 5 = strongly agree.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Measurement model (outer model), Validity Test, and Reliability Test

This study used the measurement model to test variable validity and instrument reliability. Construct validity is how well the results (scores) obtained to define a construct are tested with convergent and discriminant validity. Four variables are included in the test model in question: Family Communication Sub pattern, Conformity Orientation (X1), Conversation Orientation (X2), Gender Ideology (Z), and Quality of mother-child relationship (Y).

Each model indicator must have convergent validity with a filler factor value of more than 0.5. If the filler factor value is more than 0.5, then the indicator can be used for further analysis. The total AVE value of the variables is more than 0.5, as shown in Table 1. This means that after the convergent validity test is completed, each latent variable can be considered to represent an indicator.

After the convergent validity test, the discriminant validity test stage follows. This process checks the correlation value between latent variables and provides information about the correlation between indicators and additional latent variables (outside the block). The evaluation process forms the final path analysis model.

Composite Reliability is used to test reliability. The composite reliability value is considered reliable if the value is more than 0.7. The results of the reliability test can be seen in the column of Table 2. Table 2 shows that the composite reliability value of each variable in this study is more than 0.7. Therefore, it can be concluded that all variables in this study are reliable.

The test begins by evaluating the direct effect between variables seen in the path coefficient based on the coefficient value and t-statistic or p-value. The coefficient value is used as a reference to see whether the relationship of the hypothesis being built is positive or negative. Conversely, the t-statistic or p-value is used to determine the estimated value of the effect of the independent variable on the dependent variable (See Table 3).

Table 1. Convergent validity test results

Variable	Average Variance Extracted (AVE)
Family Communication Patterns (O. Conformity)	0,510
Family Communication Patterns (O. Conversation)	0,526
Gender Ideology	0,581
Quality of Mother-Child Relationship	0,544

Source: Author (2024)

Table 2. Reliability test results

Variable	Composite Reliability
Family Communication Patterns (O. Conformity)	0,801
Family Communication Patterns (O. Conversation)	0,957
Gender Ideology	0,972
Quality of Mother-Child Relationship	0,964

Source: Author (2024)

Table 3. Direct effect results

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (O/STDEV)	P Values	Remarks
PKK1 -> KHO	0,004	0,003	0,041	0,053	0,935	Not Significant
PKK2 -> KHO	0,161	0,149	0,077	1,989	0,046	Significant
PKK1 -> IG	-0,002	0,004	0,038	0,019	0,963	Not Significant
PKK2 -> IG	0,641	0,639	0,048	13,526	0,000	Significant
IG -> KHO	0,662	0,658	0,081	8,533	0,000	Significant

(Description: PKK1: Conformity Orientation; PKK2: Conversation Orientation; IG: Gender Ideology; KHO: Quality of Mother and Child Relationship)

Source: Author (2024)

The results of the H1 test prove that conformity orientation has no effect on the quality of mother-child relationships. The coefficient value is 0.004, the t-statistic is 0.053, and the significance value is 0.935. The significance value indicates that there is no effect of both. Thus, the first hypothesis stating that conformity orientation affects the quality of mother-child relationships is rejected.

The results of the H2 test prove that conversation orientation has a positive effect on the quality of parent-child relationships, with a coefficient value of 0.161, a t-statistic of 1.989, and a significance of 0.046. The positive coefficient value of 0.161 indicates that the effect of both is unidirectional, and it can be said that the higher the conversation orientation, the higher the quality of the relationship between mother and child. The second hypothesis stating that conversation orientation has a positive and significant effect on the quality of mother-child relationships is accepted.

The results of the H3 test prove that conformity orientation does not affect gender ideology. The coefficient value is -0.002, the t-statistic is 0.019, and the significance is 0.963. The significance value indicates that both have no effect. Therefore, the third hypothesis stating that conformity orientation affects gender ideology is rejected.

The results of the H4 test prove that conversation orientation has a positive effect on gender ideology, with a coefficient value of 0.641, a t-statistic of 13.526, and a significance of 0.000. The positive coefficient value of 0.641 indicates that the influence of the two is unidirectional, and it can be said that the higher the conversation orientation, the higher the gender ideology. The fourth hypothesis states that conversation orientation has a positive and significant effect on gender ideology is accepted.

The test results of H5 prove that gender ideology positively affects the quality of mother-child relationships, with a coefficient value of 0.662, a t-statistic of 8.533, and a significance of 0.000. The positive coefficient value of 0.662 indicates that both influence is unidirectional, and it can be said that the higher the gender ideology, the higher the quality of the relationship between mother and child. The fifth hypothesis, stating that gender ideology has a positive and significant effect on the quality of mother-child relationships, is accepted.

The results of the H6 test prove that gender ideology mediates the effect of family communication patterns (Sub. Conversation orientation) on the quality of mother-child relationships, with a coefficient value of 0.417, a t-statistic of 6.837, and a significance of 0.000. The sixth hypothesis, which states that gender ideology mediates the effect of family communication patterns on the quality of mother-child relationships, is accepted (See Table 4).

Table. 4. Mediation test results

	Original Sample (O)	Sample Mean (M)	Standard Deviation (STDEV)	T Statistics (O/STDEV)	P Values	Description
MEDPKK1 -> IG-> KHO	0,000	0,002	0,025	0,016	0,987	Not Significant
MEDPKK2 -> IG -> KHO	0,417	0,414	0,063	6,837	0,000	Significant

(notes: PKK1: Conformity Orientation; PKK2: Conversation Orientation; IG: Gender Ideology; KHO: Quality of Mother-Child Relationship)
Source: Author (2024)

The effect of conformity orientation and conversation orientation on the quality of mother-child relationships

This study proves that conformity orientation does not significantly affect the quality of working mothers' relationships with their children. This finding suggests that family harmony does not make mothers perceive relationship quality as better or worse. This study supports the claim of empirical findings that high conformity parents have almost unilateral control so that children distance themselves and withdraw from their parents (Ledbetter et al., (2011b); Ledbetter & Beck, (2014); Schrodtt et al., (2007)). Thus, the higher the conformity orientation mothers adopt, the further they distance themselves from quality parent-child relationships. This suggests that an inflexible family conformity climate makes children unwilling to get closer to their mothers (Cruz, 2024)

The highest score was reported by respondents on the parental power indicator, meaning that mothers expect their children to always obey them. This power shows a lack of openness between mothers and children in the home. It is possible that working mothers still adhere to the family hierarchy, where children still have to obey their parents. Indirectly, the mother applies limits in interacting and arguing to impose rules that children must obey. This ultimately causes children to have no freedom of expression in the family and continue to depend on the words and orders of their parents. Implementing this system ultimately causes the family atmosphere to be less warm because there is no give-and-take interaction, the mother's time at home is limited, and trust is minimal. This makes it more difficult for children to interpret messages, and they tend to ignore their mother's presence.

This study shows that conversation orientation positively and significantly affects the quality of mother-child relationships. Respondents considered that high conversation can improve the quality of parent-child relationships, characterised by closer closeness between mothers and children. The findings of this study support several empirical studies on the relationship between family communication patterns and relationship quality. A quality mother-child relationship can be realised if the mother can build family interactions through conversation and openness. This is in line with research findings which say that children will continue to learn and imitate communication behaviour from parents (Ledbetter & Beck, 2014). This indicates that if mothers apply communication patterns from an early age by prioritising conversations at home, children will automatically imitate and be encouraged to convey everything through open discussions with their mothers.

The findings of this study prove that working mothers with high levels of conversation can get children involved in family relationships, making them fonder of their mothers and family members. In line with Avtgis' (1999, cited in High and Scharp, 2015) findings, individuals from

highly conversation-oriented families consider interaction a considerable value. Despite having limited time at work, mothers and children still have the potential to talk about personal issues (Huang, 1999, High & Scharp, 2015) and tend to avoid conflict (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 1997). This is what causes mothers and children to have a higher closeness because all elements of the family consider the interaction process in the relationship as something that must be prioritised and maintained together.

This study provides evidence that conversation orientation improves the quality of the mother-child relationship. These findings support the idea that conversation can reduce depression, increase relationship satisfaction, and improve self-esteem (Guilamo-Ramos, Jaccard, Turrisi, & Johansson, 2005; Robertson, Kutcher, Bird, & Grasswick, 2001). Individuals with high conversation orientation are often skilled at maintaining relationships (Koesten & Anderson, 2004) and are motivated to manage conflict (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 1997) (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 1997; High & Scharp, 2015). Working mothers who encourage high conversation may have high self-confidence to build conversations with their children. Armed with high self-confidence, mothers are provided with extensive knowledge on how to implement healthy and interactive conversations with children regardless of the amount of time they have.

This study shows that conversation orientation influences the quality of the mother-child relationship. This finding supports empirical research that children from families prioritising conversation will be skilled at communicating in any context (Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 1997) (Huang, 1999; Koerner & Fitzpatrick, 1997; High & Scharp, 2015). This is what makes children more expressive and honest in conveying things to mothers through conversations built in the family. In the interaction between mother and child with conversation, the mother communicates one-way, and the child is encouraged to provide two-way communication to the mother so that the relationship dynamics become closer.

The effect of conformity, conversation orientation and gender ideology

This study proves that maternal conformity orientation does not affect egalitarian gender ideology. This finding is in line with empirical research that states that families with high conformity express less family affection (Ledbetter & Beck, 2014), and children tend to experience decreased behaviour in maintaining relationships (Koesten & Anderson, 2004). Conformity in the family inhibits mothers and children from dialoguing and exchanging ideas about gender ideology because the family structure restricts their behaviour from discussing any topic. This means that children cannot understand the true gender ideology because the mother's culture in the home never provides opportunities for two-way communication with children. In line with empirical claims that high conformity causes commitment in relationships to fade because children are restricted in communicating so that the contents of the mind between mother and child are not mutually expressed (Dorrance Hall & McNallie, 2016). In other words, the family conformity climate encourages the mother to dominate her relationship with the child because she feels it is necessary to obey as a parent. This causes communication only to go one way so that children cannot fully understand the values of egalitarian gender ideology.

Children cannot give the same reciprocal response because there is no aligned understanding of gender ideology. Meanwhile, families with different gender ideologies will find it more difficult to find solutions to resolve conflicts (Minnotte et al., 2010). Children can have different views on the role of mothers when working. Still, the uniformity of forced conformity makes children unable to communicate their thoughts and do not understand the concept of gender ideology as a whole.

This study proves that conversation orientation positively and significantly affects egalitarian gender ideology. Empirical research claims that high conversation has higher mutual dependence because it creates a communal bond in the relationship due to mutual communication; parents and children have specific ways to maintain the bond (Ledbetter et al., 2011a; Ledbetter & Beck, 2014). This research shows that a conversational orientation encourages mothers to engage in discussions with their children about gender ideology. A high communication climate demonstrated through conversations creates optimistic and in-depth interactions on gender topics. Conversations do not limit children from expressing everything they think, even on specialised topics such as gender roles. Regular communication intensity makes mothers and children value quality time together.

This study shows that gender ideology has a positive and significant effect on the quality of mother-child relationships. This finding is consistent with empirical research that there is a correlation between gender ideology and relationship quality, as revealed by Amato and Booth (1995), (Mickelson et al., 2006), (Wilcox & Nock, 2006) prove that gender ideology is related to three indicators of marital quality and relationship intimacy (Marshall, 2008). Working mothers who have an egalitarian gender ideology improve their perceived relationship quality. It is claimed that the freedom embraced by mothers in this ideology about their participation in the world of work can increase confidence about financial independence and being able to negotiate family roles (Klein, 1984).

Furthermore, egalitarian gender ideology promotes gender equality, benefiting individual interests (Barnett & Rosalind C, 2004). Mothers with gender ideology may be more able to let go of the burden of responsibilities related to dual roles in their minds because egalitarian gender ideology encourages mothers to be more confident to have the freedom to pursue something (Masala, 2024). This causes them to no longer view limited time with their children as a problem but rather a risk so that even though their quantity of time is not much, mothers can still feel a quality relationship with their children (Savenkov, 2024).

The influence of family communication patterns on the quality of mother and child relationships through gender ideology

This study proves that gender ideology can mediate the effect of family communication patterns with the sub-variable of conversation orientation but does not mediate the sub-variable of conformity orientation on the quality of mother and child relationships. The findings of this study prove that conformity cannot involve mothers and children in the understanding of gender ideology. This supports the empirical claim that children in conformity-oriented families tend to experience decreased relationship behaviours (Koesten & Anderson, 2004; Ledbetter & Beck, 2014; Schrodtt et al., 2009). This means that a mother-dominated, rigid climate of conformity may prevent mothers and children from having serious ideological discussions. Gender ideology that should be mutually agreed upon becomes difficult for mothers and children to understand because children are faced with limited attitudes due to the hierarchical system of obedience to parents. Meanwhile, women are often faced with family pressure in the traditional role of taking care of the household (Mendoza et al., 2024). It is believed that this can burden the mother's mind because, indirectly, the mother is required to think about her dual role alone, so the mother finds it difficult to feel the quality of the relationship.

Conversely, conversational orientation can encourage the realization of relationship quality because gender ideology can be communicated together as Hochschild & Machung (1989) state that gender ideology, behaviour, and emotional responses of working women lead to individual gender strategies in their interactions (Davis & Greenstein, 2009). This suggests that gender ideology discussed openly through conversation will encourage mutual agreement between mothers and children regarding the consequences of working mothers so that openness leads mothers to quality relationships.

CONCLUSION

Carrying out the role of a working mother ultimately requires mothers to apply family communication patterns appropriately so that the understanding of gender ideology can be interpreted together with children so that the relationship quality can be felt. Mothers need to create comfort in interacting with children through high conversations in the family so that children can reflect on gender roles that should be so that the agreed gender ideology can encourage quality mother and child relationships. Research conducted on working mothers in Surabaya proves that 1) conformity orientation has no effect on the quality of mother and child relationships, 2) conversation orientation has a significant effect on the quality of mother and child relationships, 3) conversation orientation has a significant effect on gender ideology 4) conformity orientation has no effect on gender ideology 5) gender ideology has a significant effect on the quality of mother and child relationships, 6) gender ideology can mediate the effect of family communication patterns on the quality of mother and child relationships.

The study highlights critical intersections among maternal authority, gender ideology, and familial communication. Minuchin's structural family theory illustrates how inflexible roles hinder open communication and emphasises the stringent, mother-centric hierarchy that

positions children as passive recipients of ideology instead of active negotiators. This pattern corroborates gender schema theory, which posits that women, under the compulsion to maintain conventional caregiving norms, inadvertently perpetuate intergenerational cycles of gendered expectations. Hierarchical obedience models prioritise conformity over cooperation. Therefore, the resulting suppression of children's autonomy not only suppresses active participation in altering gender roles but also strengthens power imbalances. Furthermore, the psychological cost of dual-role conflicts is highlighted by mothers trapped between internalised egalitarian ideals and imposed traditional duties as they experience cognitive dissonance. Festinger's theory of cognitive dissonance helps to underline how mother stresses, and poorer relationship quality follows from unfulfilled tensions between societal expectations and personal agency, therefore highlighting how structural inequities in caring responsibilities manifest at both individual and psychological levels.

Future studies should prioritise intersectional and cross-cultural research in order to untangle how cultural norms, socioeconomic status, and institutional regulations shape maternal authority and ideological discourse. Comparative research of family structures—mother-dominated, father-dominated, and egalitarian—could clarify how power distribution affects children's ability to question or internalise gender norms. While mixed-method studies could find resistance tactics used by children in patriarchal settings, longitudinal designs following children's ideological development into adulthood would show the lasting effects of severe conformity environments. Interventions encouraging dialogic communication and role flexibility could also help reduce hierarchical obstacles, supporting co-constructed understandings of gender. Parallel studies on mothers' mental health using biomarkers such as cortisol levels could measure stress effects and provide structural remedies, including workplace regulations reducing dual-role responsibilities. Future work can promote fair frameworks for family communication by focusing on children's agency and systematic injustices, thus enabling moms and children to overcome conventional limits.

REFERENCES

- Atwood, S., Morgenroth, T., & Olson, K. R. (2024). Gender essentialism and benevolent sexism in anti-trans rhetoric. *Social Issues and Policy Review*, 18(1), 171-193.
- Arindra, F., Wulandari, M. P., & Antoni, A. (2023). The link between communication competence and family communication patterns. *Jurnal Studi Komunikasi*, 7(1), 085-104.
- Amato, (1995). Changes in Gender Role Attitudes and Perceived Marital Quality. *American Sociological Review*, 60, 58-66.
- Barnett, & Rosalind C. (2004). Same difference: how gender myths are hurting our relationships, our children, and our jobs. Basic Books.
- Begall, K., Grunow, D., & Buchler, S. (2023). Multidimensional gender ideologies across Europe: Evidence from 36 countries. *Gender & society*, 37(2), 177-207.b.
- Cheng, C., Yang, S., Li, C., & Yao, Y. (2024). Macro-level gender inequality and child health outcomes in China. *Chinese Sociological Review*, 1-28.
- Cruz, A. M., Laible, D., & Carlo, G. (2024). The moderating role of gender and acculturative status in the socialisation of cultural values in US Mexican families. *Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology*.
- Davis, S. N., & Greenstein, T. N. (2009). Gender Ideology: Components, Predictors, and Consequences. *Annual Review of Sociology*, 35(1), 87-105. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-soc-070308-115920>
- Deutsch, F. M., & Saxon, S. E. (1998). Traditional Ideologies, Nontraditional Lives. *Sex Roles*, 38(5/6), 331-362.
- Dorrance Hall, E., & McNallie, J. (2016). The Mediating Role of Sibling Maintenance Behavior Expectations and Perceptions in the Relationship Between Family Communication Patterns and Relationship Satisfaction. *Journal of Family Communication*, 16(4), 386-402. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2016.1215316>
- Driscoll, K., & Pianta, R. C. (2011). Mothers' and fathers' perceptions of conflict and closeness in parent-child relationships during early childhood. *Journal of Early Childhood and Infant Psychology*, 7, 1-24.
- Gawel, A., Mroczek-Dąbrowska, K., & Bartosik-Purgat, M. (2024). Female empowerment and masculinity—a cultural trait? Evidence from the CEE countries. *Gender in Management: An International Journal*, 39(4), 534-551.
- Greenstein, T. N. (1995). Gender Ideology, Marital Disruption, and the Employment of Married Women. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 57(1), 31. <https://doi.org/10.2307/353814>
- Greenstein, T. N. (1996). Gender Ideology and Perceptions of the Fairness of the Division of Household Labor: Effects on Marital Quality. *Social Forces*, 74(3), 1029. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2580391>
- Hair, J. F., Black, W. C., Babin, B. J., & Anderson, R. E. (2010). *Multivariate Data Analysis* (7th ed.). Pearson Prentice Hall.
- K Kaufman, G., Petts, R. J., Mize, T. D., & Wield, T. (2024). Gender egalitarianism and attitudes toward parental leave. *Social Currents*, 11(2), 181-199
- Kemp, D., Mackert, M., Li, S., Table, B., Yang, J., Kirtz, S., & Hughes Wagner, J. (2024). Talking about prescription opioid misuse: The effect of family communication patterns and messages advocating direct and indirect communication. *Health Communication*, 39(1), 83-95.
- Kevers, R., de Smet, S., Rober, P., Rousseau, C., & De Haene, L. (2024). Silencing or silent transmission? An exploratory study on trauma communication in Kurdish refugee families. *Family Process*.

- Khawaja, N. G., Hebbani, A., Obijiofor, L., & Gallois, C. (2017). Refugee Parents' Communication and Relations With Their Children: Development and Application of the Refugee Parent-Child Relational Communication Scale. *Journal of Family Communication*, 17(4), 372-385. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2017.1362409>
- Klein, E. (1984). *Gender Politics*. Harvard University Press. <https://doi.org/10.4159/harvard.9780674864016>
- Kleinschrot, L., Berth, F., & Bujard, M. (2023). Varieties of egalitarianism: gender ideologies in the late socialism of the German Democratic Republic. *The History of the Family*, 28(4), 688-710.
- Koerner, A. F. (2002). Toward a Theory of Family Communication. *Communication Theory*, 12(1), 70-91.
- Koerner, A. F., & Fitzpatrick, M. A. (1997). Family type and conflict: The impact of conversation orientation and conformity orientation on conflict in the family. *Communication Studies*, 48(1), 59-75.
- Koerner, A. F., & Fitzpatrick, M. A. (2004). Communication in intact families. In A. L. Vangelisti (Ed.). Lawrence Erlbaum Associates Publishers.
- Koesten, J., & Anderson, K. (2004). Exploring the Influence of Family Communication Patterns, Cognitive Complexity, and Interpersonal Competence on Adolescent Risk Behaviors. *Journal of Family Communication*, 4(2), 99-121. https://doi.org/10.1207/s15327698jfc0402_2
- Kriyantono, R. (2006). *Teknis Praktis Riset Komunikasi*. Prenada Media Grup.
- Ledbetter, A. M., & Beck, S. J. (2014). A Theoretical Comparison of Relational Maintenance and Closeness as Mediators of Family Communication Patterns in Parent-Child Relationships. *Journal of Family Communication*, 14(3), 230-252. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2014.908196>
- Ledbetter, A. M., Mazer, J. P., DeGroot, J. M., Meyer, K. R., Yuping Mao, & Swafford, B. (2011a). Attitudes Toward Online Social Connection and Self-Disclosure as Predictors of Facebook Communication and Relational Closeness. *Communication Research*, 38(1), 27-53. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650210365537>
- Ledbetter, A. M., Mazer, J. P., DeGroot, J. M., Meyer, K. R., Yuping Mao, & Swafford, B. (2011b). Attitudes Toward Online Social Connection and Self-Disclosure as Predictors of Facebook Communication and Relational Closeness. *Communication Research*, 38(1), 27-53. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0093650210365537>
- Ma, T., Tellegen, C. L., & Sanders, M. R. (2024). The role of parenting self-efficacy on teacher-child relationships and parent-teacher communication: Evidence from an Australian national longitudinal study. *Journal of School Psychology*, 103, 101296.
- Marta, R. F., Panggabean, H., & Amanda, M. (2023). Family communication dynamics: equilibrium with dialectical tension in "Turning Red" film. *Jurnal Studi Komunikasi*, 7(1), 049-064.
- Masala, B., Love, A., Carmichael, P., & Masic, U. (2024). Demographics of referrals to a specialist gender identity service in the UK between 2017 and 2020. *Clinical child psychology and psychiatry*, 29(2), 624-636.
- Mendoza, B., Bertran, M., & Pàmies, J. (2024). Feminism, Islam and higher education: towards new roles and family relationships for young Spanish-Moroccan Muslim women in Spain. *Race Ethnicity and Education*, 27(2), 173-192.
- Mickelson, K. D., Claffey, S. T., & Williams, S. L. (2006). The Moderating Role of Gender and Gender Role Attitudes on the Link Between Spousal Support and Marital Quality. *Sex Roles*, 55(1-2), 73-82.
- Minnotte, K. L., Minnotte, M. C., Pedersen, D. E., Mannon, S. E., & Kiger, G. (2010). His and Her Perspectives: Gender Ideology, Work-to-Family Conflict, and Marital Satisfaction. *Sex Roles*, 63(5-6), 425-438.
- Neuman, W. L. (2017). *Metodologi Penelitian Sosial: Pendekatan Kualitatif dan Kuantitatif*. Indeks.
- Samsidar. (2019). Peran Ganda Wanita dalam Rumah Tangga. *Jurnal Studi Gender Dan Anak*, 656-664.
- Satyanarayana, V. A., Das, A., & Shah, A. (2024). Psychotherapy for families with adolescent children: clinical practice guidelines. *Journal of Indian Association for Child and Adolescent Mental Health*, 09731342241237074.
- Savenkov, O. (2024). Urgent need for CACAP position statement on psychotherapy for gender dysphoria. *Journal of the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 33(3), 162.
- Schrodt, P. (2020). Emotion Labor with Parents as a Mediator of Family Communication Patterns and Young Adult Children's Mental Well-being. *Journal of Family Communication*, 20(1), 66-81. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267431.2019.1661250>
- Schrodt, P., Ledbetter, A. M., Jernberg, K. A., Larson, L., Brown, N., & Glonek, K. (2009). Family communication patterns as mediators of communication competence in the parent-child relationship. *Journal of Social and Personal Relationships*, 26(6-7), 853-874. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0265407509345649>
- Schrodt, P., Ledbetter, A. M., & Ohrt, J. K. (2007). Parental Confirmation and Affection as Mediators of Family Communication Patterns and Children's Mental Well-Being. *Journal of Family Communication*, 7(1), 23-46. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15267430709336667>
- Struckmann, C. (2018). A postcolonial feminist critique of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: A South African application. *Agenda*, 32(1), 12-24. <https://doi.org/10.1080/10130950.2018.1433362>
- Susilo, D. (2021). Aksi-aksi warganet pada berita daring: Cabaran pada Studi Posfeminisme dan Politik.
- Susilo, D. (2022). *Teori-teori Komunikasi Manusia*. Jakarta: Gramedia.
- Taraszw, T., Gentrup, S., & Heppt, B. (2024). Egalitarian gender role attitudes give girls the edge: Exploring the role of students' gender role attitudes in reading and math. *Social Psychology of Education*, 1-28.
- Off, G. (2024). Multidimensional and intersectional cultural grievances over gender, sexuality and immigration. *European Journal of Political Research*.
- Unal, D. (2024). The variety of anti-gender alliances and democratic backsliding in Turkey: fault lines around opposition to "gender ideology" and their political implications. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 26(1), 6-30.
- Vannoy, D., & Philliber, W. W. (1992). Wife's Employment and Quality of Marriage. *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 54(2), 387. <https://doi.org/10.2307/353070>
- Voydanoff, P. (2014). *Work, Family, and Community*. Psychology Press. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315820903>
- Wilcox, W. B., & Nock, S. L. (2006). What's Love Got To Do With It? Equality, Equity, Commitment and Women's Marital Quality. *Social Forces*, 84(3), 1321-1345. <https://doi.org/10.1353/sof.2006.0076>
- Wilhelm, J., Schober, P. S., & Guerrero, L. S. (2023). Gender ideologies across the transition to adulthood in Germany: How early romantic relationships slow down the egalitarian trend. *Advances in Life Course Research*, 58, 100574
- Zanetti, M. A., Trombetta, T., Rollè, L., & Marinoni, C. (2024). Family Functioning and Internalizing and Externalizing Problems in Gifted Children. *European Journal of Investigation in Health, Psychology and Education*, 14(5).