



Communication Patterns of the Head of Religious Affairs Office (KUA) in Reducing the Divorce Rate

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ABSTRACT: This study aims to determine the pattern of communication carried out by the Bangko District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) in reducing the divorce rate in Bangko District, Rokan Hilir Regency, Riau Province. The research method employed is qualitative, with a case study approach. The results of this study show that the pattern of communication carried out by the Bangko District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) in reducing the divorce rate in Bangko District uses the Laswell model communication pattern and the stimulus-response (S-R) communication pattern. Where the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) of Bangko Subdistrict is carrying out its activities, it always conducts communication analysis, which includes elements of effective communication and which, in the end, shows whether the response obtained from the stimulus results goes according to purpose or not. Based on the researcher's analysis, it was concluded that the pattern of communication that was carried out had not had a significant impact, meaning that it still increased the divorce rate in Bangko District. However, the pattern of communication that is carried out makes a good contribution to the husband and wife who are going to divorce in the form of consideration in making the decision to divorce.

Keywords: Communication patterns, divorce rate



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INTRODUCTION

The family is an important social unit in the building of society as well as the legacy of mankind, which continues to exist without being timeless to changing times. Marriage must precede the formation of a family ([Butler & Lee, 2015](#); [Chapman et al., 2021](#); [Hanson & Olson, 2018](#); [Ortigueira & Siassi, 2022](#)). Marriage according to hadith experts and Fiqh experts, is the sense of the relationship that exists between husband and wife with ties to Islamic law, by fulfilling the conditions and pillars of marriage, such as guardian, dowry, two witnesses who are fair and legalized with consent and qobul ([Ahmad, 2018](#); [Cappucci, 2016](#); [Omar, 2014](#)). As stated in article concerning marriage, marriage is a physical and spiritual bond between a man and a

woman as husband and wife with the aim of forming an eternally happy household based on belief in one God ([Delprato & Akyeampong, 2017](#); [Hori & Cipta, 2019](#)).

Islam encourages forming a family that invites humans to live under the auspices of the family because the family is like a small picture in a stable life that fulfills human desires without eliminating their needs ([Al-Sharmani, 2018](#); [Surawardi & Maulidi, 2022](#)). George Murdock explained that the family is a social group that has the characteristics of living together; there is economic cooperation; and there is a process of reproduction ([Murdock, 1980](#)). Through his survey of 250 community representatives conducted since 1937, Murdock found three types of families: nuclear families, polygamous families, and extended families. Of these, there were 192 community samples that had proper information, including as many as 47 people who had nuclear family types, 53 people who also had polygamous families, and 92 people who also had nuclear families.

In forming a family that is “*sakinah, mawaddah, and warahmah*” choosing a life partner is the first gate that must be passed ([Ahmad, 2018](#); [Jawad & Elmali-Karakaya, 2020](#); [Omar, 2014](#)). Many married couples face difficulties and even live unhappy lives as a result of choosing the wrong life partner; divorce and changing partners are common ([Mustarsidin & Khisni, 2018](#); [Parker et al., 2016](#)). Today there are many cases of disputes in a house or family, from just conflicts in the form of verbal quarrels to physical abuse and even murder, which are caused by the wrong steps taken in starting a household ([Bone, 2020](#); [Igbo et al., 2015](#); [Schlecht et al., 2013](#)). Economic problems are often one of the main causes of divorce. Religious values are rarely used as criteria for spouse divorce. But often, it's just love that has caused the eyes of the heart to become blind to the good and bad behavior of the person they love ([Brock, 2017](#); [Fenoaltea et al., 2021](#); [Genc et al., 2019](#); [Vora, 2020](#)).

Based on the researchers' initial observations, the researcher was interested in choosing the Bangko sub-district as a research location because, according to the researchers, the Bangko sub-district had uniqueness, such as: the divorce rate data for 2021 had increased to 42%. So that Bangko District, Rokan Hilir Regency, Riau Province requires attention, of course, because with the high divorce rate the negative impacts experienced are very broad, especially for children. The divorce rate among the community is very high. Divorce cases handled by his party are divorces by husbands, but there are also those who are sued for divorce by the wife. The thing that became one of the factors in the occurrence of divorce was due to COVID 19, in which not a few people who had economic difficulties but hundreds of young mothers sued or asked for divorce. Filing for divorce at the Religious Courts by housewives with a relatively young age range has increased dramatically by up to 50%. The emergence of a divorce in a marriage is one of stability, and the factor of youth makes it difficult to control emotions. Religious knowledge is still low.

Based on the results of interviews with the Head of the Bangko District Office of Religious Affairs (KUA), Mr. Drs. Syamsul Taurus (SYT), Several religious fields need serious attention from all levels of the Ministry of Religion, including the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA). In the field of marriage, the divorce rate is increasingly high, based on the estimates of the Central Statistics Agency (BPS) for 2022 ([Yulianto et al., 2022](#)). The number of divorce cases in Indonesia in 2020 reached 291,677 cases, and in 2021 there was an increase of 447,743 cases, so

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that the increase was 53.50%. The divorce rate in Riau Province in 2020 reached 6,252 cases, and in 2021 it increased to 12,722 cases, an increase of 49.1%. At Rokan Hilir Regency in 2020 there were 39 cases, and in 2021 there were 866 cases, an increase of 95.6%. Of the 18 sub-districts in Rokan Hilir District, Bangko District, the highest divorce rate in 2020 reached 74 cases; in 2021, there will be an increase of 129 cases, so that the percentage increase will reach 42%. So, of course, Bangko District, Rokan Hilir Regency, and Riau Province require attention, because the negative consequences of a high divorce rate are extensive, particularly for children.

To reduce the divorce rate, a strategy is required, which can be channeled through the communication patterns established by the KUA to each husband-and-wife pair. If you pay attention, you will notice that the KUA of Bangko Sub-District has communicated with coaching for each prospective husband and wife, as is customary before weddings. However, due to the unpreparedness of the prospective bride and groom, who do not have time to listen to counseling, and vice versa, the KUA is also busy serving correspondence, coaching is not carried out equally for each prospective husband and wife. The various unique nesses discovered by the researchers at the Bangko District KUA prompted the author to select the Bangko District KUA for research.

METHOD

The goal of this study is to gain a thorough understanding of KUA leaders' communication patterns in lowering the divorce rate in Bangko District, Rokan Hilir Regency. The location of this research was determined to be at the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA). Bangko District, Rokan Hilir Regency, Riau Province in October 2022–November 2022. The qualitative research method will be used in this study. This research method is a case study because it employs a qualitative approach and includes research.

This study's findings are based on descriptive analysis in the form of written or spoken words based on observed behavior. The research procedure used in this study consisted of several research steps, namely: *plan, design, prepare, collect, analyze, and share*. The sources of research data are all that are involved with or related to the object of this research ([Bungin, 2017](#); [Moleong, 2018](#)). This research uses a purposive sampling method so that it can take information from sources that are rich in information. Tracing this research with tissue samples (*network sampling-related research steps, namely: plan, design, prepare, collect, analyze, and share*) The sources of research data are all that are involved with or related to the object of this research. This research uses a purposive sampling method so that it can take information from sources that are rich in information. Tracing this research with tissue samples (*network sampling*), which is called a "snowball sample," is done by determining the sample using other participants to complement previous information and participants. Qualitative data is described with audio recordings, field notes, documents, and photographs. The data collection techniques used were interviews and participan ([Creswell, 2009](#); [Creswell & Creswell, 2018](#); [Guba & Lincoln, 1994](#); [Miles & Huberman, 1994](#); [Sugiyono, 2022](#)).

Some data that will be the main point keyword in this study is communication patterns in family, the role of communication patterns by the Head of KUA to Reduce Divorce Rates. Some

factors that contribute to increase the divorce rates, and the last is about that can be used to reduce the divorces rate in Bangko District, Rokan Hilir Regency, Riau Province.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

As explained in the previous point, it is certain that building a household or family life is not an easy thing to do. Therefore, it takes some preparations to be made by the couple and the KUA as a place where they will be provided with supplies regarding proper household life. Below, we will discuss the communication patterns used by the Head of KUA to prevent and reduce the divorce rate in Bangko.

1. Communication Patterns Used by the Head Office of Religious Affairs in (KUA Bangko) to Reduce Divorce Rates

Stanley and Howard, explained in their paper that there are four foundation of safety that allow marriage relationship to thrive: physical, emotional, commitment and community. And the they also said that if we want to protect our individual or couples' relationship a day-to-day or moment-to-moment, we need to make our body work some basis like make our conversation became safe and connect, try to decide but didn't slide and the last we need to stay and do our part in the relationship, as wife or as a husband ([Guetto et al., 2021](#); [Stanley & Markman, 2020](#)).

Some young couples are not able to understand if they need to slowly open up to say and have the courage to communicate with certainty about feelings or complaints that are felt in domestic life. Not a few of the divorce caused by closed communication. This was later brought to the attention of the Head of KUA in Bangko. To prevent high divorce cases, he prioritizes the reconciliation process by using communication procedures that are arranged in such a way in the mediation process.

The Head of the Sub-District KUA Bangko oversees conveying messages, which is done through group communication and interpersonal communication. The group communication is carried out through a process in which messages are conveyed face-to-face to a larger audience, which is often done in seminars, speeches, briefings, and lectures. The Head of KUA also conducts interpersonal communication, where communication is carried out by two or more people. In this communication, the Head of KUA summons the husband and wife simultaneously to be briefed by the Head of KUA. This directive was carried out face-to-face, and after that, the Head of the KUA gave the husband and wife one week to reconsider their decision to divorce. with the hope that the Head of KUA for married couples will not divorce and return to build a sakinah family, mawaddah.

In this study, the researcher obtained an analysis of communication patterns carried out by the Bangko District KUA in reducing the divorce rate in Bangko District in accordance with the results of his interview, where the Head of the Bangko District KUA always prepares the things needed in communication and in the end pays attention to what response occurs.

The communication pattern used is the Lasswell model communication pattern and the Stimulus and Response (SR) communication pattern. The Lasswell communication pattern model deviates

from the statement "who says what in which channel to whom with what effect." These are the elements of communication. And the Head of the KUA, based on the results of the interview, said that he always prepares what he will say, seeing beforehand what type of person to deal with and with what method, and that after speaking, young people always expect a good reciprocal relationship (effect) between him and the husband and wife pair threatened with divorce. And this is often done when he will be a speaker in activities in the form of seminars, counseling, and discussions about the Sakinah Family in front of participants who are married couples who are in a crisis of domestic happiness. The communication pattern of the stimulus-response (SR) model is a simple action-reaction process (Sapientza et al., 2015), where this process is reciprocal and has the effect of changing the next communication action (Wenxiu, 2015). Based on the results of interviews with Mr. The head of the KUA Bangko Subdistrict stated that he issued summons to complaining spouses who were having problems to come to the KUA office to receive counseling, and as a result, the husband and wife who were about to divorce came to meet the head of the KUA Bangko Subdistrict to get advice, proving that there was a response to the stimulus given by the head of the KUA Bangko District.

2. The Role of Communication by the Head of the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA Bangko) in Minimizing Divorce Rates

The process is carried out by writing to the conflicting couple to carry out consultations related to household problems mediated by the headman or extension worker. One of the obstacles faced by KUA in carrying out the mediation process is when a conflicting couple is not cooperative or one of the parties refuses to attend. Furthermore, field findings show that the decision of couples in conflict to come to KUA and complain about problems is often made under complex problem conditions, making it difficult to find common ground between the two. This is what the role of the head of KUA requires in minimizing the divorce rate.

The Head of KUA, namely Drs. Syamsul Taurus, has performed a good communication role in minimizing divorce in the Bangko sub-district. Both in the form of the role of mediation communication, the role of da'wah communication, the role of communication in the election of quality princes, and his role as a figure who can be used as an example. His role is to give a good moral message so that the role of KUA communication can contribute to minimizing the divorce rate in the Bangko sub-district. However, the role of KUA communication must also be conceptualized and prepared carefully so that excellent results are achieved, as expected.

Every communication role carried out by the KUA is very important to reduce the divorce rate, as the Head of the KUA Bangko District has carried out through interviews that he conveyed to researchers, both the role of being an example and being an example, the role of da'wah communication, the role of mediation communication, and the role of da'wah communication in conveying messages according to religious guidance leading to a good path and safety. So while the researcher's analysis of the communication role of the Head of KUA is a good thing to do, of course there are still many shortcomings and obstacles encountered in carrying out this communication role.

Thus, based on all the explanations above, the role that has been played by the head of the KUA Bangko has been appropriate and focused on his role in carrying out objective communication both in counseling and mediation, both of which have a role in reducing the number of divorce

cases. Reporting from regain.us, this is also the right step, because in America itself the role of counselors and mediators in prioritizing their role from the aspect of communication plays an important role in helping couples decide to reconcile.

3. Factors Contributing to Divorce Rates and Strategies Implemented by the Director of Religious Affairs to Reduce Divorce Rates

The results of interviews conducted by researchers in the Bangko District area from November 23 to 25 November 2022, found information that in general, the problems that are the key to divorce are infidelity by one of the partners and gambling by the husband, not providing a living and rude to the family. The communication strategy carried out by Drs. Syamsul Taurus based on the results of interviews with the author is routine communication, either structurally (with the group extension process) or unstructured (with the communication process outside the office if needed). Furthermore, the communication is an open opportunity for divorced married couples to express their family problems with the goal of understanding who and what is being faced by married couples who are about to divorce as extension agents for the KUA Office. Regarding the strategy carried out by the KUA for married couples who are going to divorce so as not to divorce, according to interviews conducted by researchers with the Head of the Office of Religious Affairs (KUA) in Bangko District, the strategy consists of conveying religious messages that are in accordance with the Qur'an and Hadith, messages that contain how religion really is not like divorce even though it is actually not prohibited.

Aside from that, the message strategy conveyed is about government regulations regarding marriage, specifically Law Number 1 of 1974, which states that marriage is a symbol of chastity between men and women in building a household, *sakinah mawaddah warahma*, and that marriage must be based on pure intention, determination, and parental consent. This message was intended to remind husband and wife of their initial promise and the main purpose of their marriage. Furthermore, the KUA President implemented a message delivery strategy to remember children who will be the victims of parental divorce. According to the data the researchers obtained, from 2018 to 2021, the general divorce rate in Rokan Hilir Regency has increased. In 2018, as many as 58 couples divorced; in 2019, as many as 71 couples divorced; in 2020, as many as 74 couples divorced; and in 2021, as many as 129 couples divorced.

Regarding the strategy carried out by KUA in reducing the divorce rate in Bangko District, when seen from the results of the interviews with the Head of the KUA Bangko District and considering the household problems that occur a lot in Bangko District, the researchers analyzed that the strategy carried out by the KUA Bangko District has met the criteria for its role as an extension agent and mediation of household issues.

CONCLUSION

Based on the data that has been presented and analyzed, the authors conclude: The communication patterns formed by the Bangko District KUA to reduce the divorce rate are the Laswell communication pattern and the Stimulus-Response (SR) communication pattern. And this pattern is still in accordance with the conditions faced, even though the results are not yet maximal, but it makes a good contribution to its citizens. The role of communication carried out

by the KUA in Bangko District requires a mature communication role so that each of these roles can achieve success. One of them is reducing the divorce rate, especially in Bangko District. Every role that KUA has can be supported by a dynamic communication strategy that follows the conditions or situation at hand. By carrying out the communication role, KUA can improve its competence. The factors that cause the high number of divorces and household problems that occur in Bangko District are problems that occur a lot in other communities. And this problem is a social problem that has mushroomed in Bangko District. The message delivery strategy conveyed by the KUA in Bangko District is in accordance with its role as marriage counselor and advisor and with its work program in the Sakinah Family sector, namely the welfare of Muslim families and preventing divorce.

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