

# Sustainability of Strengthening Family Communication Post Covid-19 Pandemic

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# ABSTRACT

The Covid-19 pandemic led to a strengthening of family communication aimed at preventing children from contracting the virus. But will this strengthened communication continue in the post-pandemic era? This study aims to explore the sustainability of strengthened family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic. The research focuses on parent-child communication, which includes informative, persuasive, and coercive messages delivered face-to-face or through media to maintain hygiene and health, ultimately preventing various diseases and health disorders in children. This study employs a qualitative approach using a case study method. The findings indicate that parents' habit of reminding their children to maintain hygiene, health, and adhere to health protocols has continued beyond the pandemic. However, the motivation has shifted not to prevent Covid-19 infection, but to protect children from other diseases and health issues caused by food and unhealthy behaviors. The strengthening of family communication has persisted post-pandemic, driven by the habits formed during the Covid-19 crisis. These habits have continued, with parents regularly encouraging their children to maintain cleanliness and health to prevent various illnesses.

**Keywords:** Sustainability, Strengthening, Family Communication, Post-Pandemic, Covid-19.

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Covid-19 pandemic has triggered more intense human behaviors in maintaining hygiene and health, such as washing hands more frequently than usual, wearing masks when leaving the house, practicing social distancing, and keeping the surroundings clean. These behaviors were deliberately adopted to avoid contracting the Covid-19 virus. Additionally, the pandemic also led to more intense family communication. Through family communication, parents conveyed messages to their children regarding the dangers of Covid-19 and the health protocols that needed to be followed to prevent infection.

During the peak of the first Covid-19 wave in Indonesia in January 2021 there was an increase in weekly cases of Covid-19 which increased almost 4 times and then the second wave was at its peak starting in May 2021, there was an increase in weekly cases of Covid-19 which increased more than 7 times (News, 2021). This rapid rise in cases heightened public anxiety, which in turn increased awareness and compliance with government-mandated health protocols. Public compliance with health protocols cannot be separated from the role of family communication carried out by parents to children

Parents (both fathers and mothers) constantly reminded their children to comply with health protocols, such as washing hands, wearing masks, maintaining social distancing, avoiding crowds, and reducing mobility. These reminders reflect the deep concern parents had about the dangers of Covid-19. Various information about the increasing number of Covid-19 victims makes people more serious about protecting themselves and their families from being infected with

Covid-19. This seriousness is quite reasonable because every day more and more people are infected with Covid-19.

Parents' efforts to protect their families can be seen from their habit of reminding children every time to comply with health protocols. This repeated communication shows the strengthening of family communication in the form of increasing communication intensity containing messages about the dangers of Covid-19 and efforts to avoid the Covid-19 outbreak. Strengthening family communication can form a pattern of family communication in protecting children from Covid-19.

As time goes by, the covid-19 pandemic slowly getting down. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, the government decided to revoke the pandemic status (Indonesia, 2023). It is possible that strengthening family communication that has been built during the Covid-19 pandemic has become a routine habit in the family. Will this strengthening of family communication be maintained and continued after the Covid-19 pandemic? Through this study, the author would like to find the answer.

Several studies on the Covid-19 pandemic, especially strengthening family communication during the Covid-19 pandemic, have been conducted by researchers, such as research conducted by Robeet, Thadi, Adisel and Depi Putri. They researched the Role and Function of Family Communication in the Adaptation of Islamic Family Institutions in Covid-19 Pandemic. They found that, family has a big role in successfully suppressing the impact of Covid-19. The function of family communication through the function of affection communication, socialization communication, and health maintenance communication (Robeet Thadi, Adisel, 2021).

Almost the same research was conducted by I Dewa Made Suka entitled Family Function Strengthening Strategy in the Covid-19 Pandemic Era. In his article, it is stated that the family has a primary function to prevent all family members from being infected with Covid-19. Families can synergize with various institutions in preventing infected with Covid-19. (Suka, 2021) Research on strengthening family communication was also conducted by Maulana Rezi Ramadhan, Dewi Kurniasih Soedarso and Retno Setyorini. In their research entitled The Role of Family Communication: Family Health and Welfare During the Covid-19 Pandemic.

The results of the study showed that family communication has an effect on the physical resilience of the family by 40%, this is due to positive and interactive communication directly with family members who protect each other's facilities and family needs. The family must be a safe, comfortable and reassuring place for all family members. (Maulana Rezi Ramadhan, 2022) Based on several studies that have been conducted, the novelty value of this study is related to the sustainability of strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic.

After being investigated, relatively no research has been found that examine the sustainability of strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic. The sustainability of strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic is crucial. This is important because it will have a positive impact on community health. Community health is an important factor in preparing qualified human resources. The sustainability of strengthening family communication can be an antidote for families against various diseases. Therefore, this study needs to be conducted to obtain data on the sustainability of strengthening family communication, whether it really continues or weakens again after the Covid-19 pandemic. If it continues, it is necessary to explain factors cause the sustainability of strengthening family communication.

# 2. LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Communication

Communication is the most important part of human life. No one can survive without communicating with others. Through communication, everyone can convey their hearts and minds, feelings, desires, opinions and others. By communicating, everyone can know and understand the conditions of the environment where they are. Through communication, individuals can build a frame of reference and use it as a guide to interpret the various situations they face. Through communication, a person learns various ways of behavior that are learned through family parenting, friendship with other people (Mulyana, 2015).

There are several elements in every communication process between humans. Laswell put forward a communication model in which there are five elements of communication, namely: communicator, message, media, communicant and feedback/effect (Uchjana Effendy, 2017). The effectiveness of a communication process is always determined by each element of the communication. Communicators who have credibility and appeal, well-arranged messages, use of appropriate media, and a proper understanding of the characteristics of the communicant will be able to create an effective communication process, namely producing the feedback desired by the communicator.

Every activity has certain functions, and so does communication. Laswell suggests that the communication process in society shows three functions, namely:

- a. The Surveillance of The Environment
- b. Correlation of the components of society in making a response to the environment
- c. Transmission of the social inheritance (Uchjana Effendy, 2017) (Cangara, 2018).

Through the function of surveillance, the environment, various information about the situation and conditions and various events that occur in the environment will be obtained. Environmental observations and supervision carried out by individuals/communities and mass media are processed and then conveyed to the community. By knowing the situation and conditions of the environment and existing events, it will greatly help the community in acting and making decisions.

Correlation of community components in responding to the environment (*Correlation of the components of society in making a response to the environment*). This function is to connect the parts that exist in society that are played by the mass media. Charles R. Wright stated that this function interprets messages concerning various events that occur in the environment and various behaviors in responding to these events. Communication that occurs in society carries out the function of translating various events that occur in the community environment so that they know and understand the essence of the event. Understanding various events helps society respond to these events to avoid bad things such as natural disasters, crime or disease outbreaks. This function has been carried out by the mass media, academics, community leaders and heads of families through family communication.

The next function is the Transmission of the social inheritance from generation to generation. This function occupies an important position in ensuring the sustainability of traditions or habit that exist in society and in the family. The inheritance of values is made possible by the communication process that occurs in society. The inheritance of values includes various things, such as customs, knowledge, various traditions, including traditions or habit that are built in the family, such as strengthening family communication that was formed due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Because it has become a habit, this may continue after the Covid-19 pandemic through the function of spreading social heritage through family communication.

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#### 2.2. Family Communication

Family communication occupies a very important position in carrying out the communication function. Since the beginning, the communication function has been carried out in the family. This function is carried out by the head of the family at home. Generally, Fathers and mothers more play roles as communicators in the family communication process. Children more play roles as communication process generally occurs at home in the form of face-to-face communication between parents and children. Sometimes family communication also occurs through media such as telephone or social media.

Fellow family members are inseparable from the existence of communication that results in a certain relationship. Family communication forms a symbiosis, a transactional process that creates and shares meaning in the family (Kathleen M. Galvin, Dawn O. Braithwaite, 2016). Through family communication, a relationship can be built with the same understanding of the things being discussed. This relationship and the same understanding can create a family strength in handling and resolving various things in the family. Through ongoing family communication, it will strengthen the relationship between parents and children (Margolang, Arif Hamdani, Yan Hendra, 2024).

Every family has a certain communication pattern. This communication pattern is sometimes formed intentionally or unintentionally. Communication that takes place in the family generally has a purpose that is more directed towards the educational aspect. Through family communication, there are a number of norms that parents want to instill in their children (Djamarah, 2004). The instillation of various values, norms and behaviors is a function of communication in inheritance various values and norms and behaviors, including certain behaviors to avoid certain dangers such as the Covid-19 pandemic. The repeated process of instilling values and norms into children will be able to form communication patterns. Family communication patterns can be associated with preventive behaviors through various forms of family discussions about COVID-19 (Wanqi Gong, Li Crystal Jiang, 2023).

Family communication carried out by both fathers and mothers can play a role in parenting and educating their children. In the process of family communication, mothers tend to play a more parenting role towards their children than fathers. (Santrock, John W, 2007). Generally, fathers play a role in carrying out the control function over their children (Hendra & Pribadi, 2019). However, many mothers also carry out a control function over their children. It is possible that the control function carried out by mothers over their children's activities outside home is more encourage by the mother's concerns about the various dangers that can affect their children when they are outside home, such as the dangers of crime, disease outbreaks and others.

Through family communication, parents can shape the child's personality. Shaping the child's personality is one of the main tasks of parents in the family (Yusmiar, 2015). Every family has its own way of forming a child's personality. There are several approaches that can be taken in forming a child's personality. These approaches include showing exemplary behavior, discipline, and approaches through habits (Nawawi, 1993). Good habits or good behavior will be easily embedded in a person. By applying communication techniques that are informative, persuasive and coercive, effective family communication can be built.

#### 3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The research was conducted with a qualitative approach, while the research method used the case study method. Case studies contain comprehensive descriptions and explanations of various aspects of an individual, group, organization, a program or a particular social situation (Mulyana, 2001). In this study, the researcher describes some information obtained from sources based on research questions that have been compiled in the interview guidelines to produce descriptive

data to reveal the communication phenomenon carried out by parents as actors in providing communication reinforcement to children after the Covid-19 pandemic. Data collection was taken through a purposive technique based on age criteria and parental experience in providing communication messages and behavior to children to maintain cleanliness and health to gain an in-depth understanding of a phenomenon of strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic.

Primary data was obtained through interviews with seven informants who were parents, both fathers and mothers, who were selected based on their experience in strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic. Secondary data was obtained through a review of literature and articles on previous study results that were relevant to this study published in scientific journals. The data obtained through interviews were then analyzed through qualitative data analysis using the Miles and Huberman model. The analysis stage begins with data collection activities. After the data is collected, data reduction is carried out. Reducing data means summarizing, selecting, sorting the main points, focusing on important things so it provide a clear overview and facilitate further data collection. After the data is reduced, the data is displayed in the form of a narrative/brief description. The final stage of this data analysis is drawing conclusions (Sugiono, 2021). The data analyzed aims to provide an overview of the phenomenon of the sustainability of strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic, including the intensity of communication emphasizing the dangers of Covid-19 and how to prevent it, such as prohibitions and warnings as well as recommendations for children to maintain cleanliness and health.

#### 4. **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

# 4.1 Family Communication During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Information about the existence of the Covid-19 virus was initially still under debate in society. Some people are still not sure about the dangers that can be caused by the Covid-19 virus. When the government first reported Covid-19 victims on March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, the community became more convinced of the existence and presence of Covid-19 in the midst of society lives. Anticipation was immediately carried out by the government by establishing health protocols. The same thing was done by all components in society. The presence of Covid-19 in society indicates the presence of Covid-19 in the midst of the family. This situation makes every family aware, especially the head of family, that Covid-19 can be present in the family at any time. The presence of covid-19 has led to the strengthening of family communication. This strengthening is marked by the increasing intensity of family communication. This communication is dominated by discussions about the dangers of covid-19 and how to avoid covid-19. Through interviews, information was obtained from all informants stating that at the beginning of the covid-19 pandemic, family communication became more intense and discussions in the family discussed about the dangers of the covid-19 pandemic and how to prevent it.

"At the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, family communication was more intense because at that time we saw many horrible events on social media. At that time, children were very obedient to the advice to maintain cleanliness, such as washing hands, washing feet, wearing masks, washing faces when they just arrived home. Maintaining health such as eating vegetables, fruits, drinking honey. Usually my child doesn't drink honey. During the Covid-19 pandemic, he often drank honey. Everything we suggested was obeyed by the children, because they saw for themselves on social media the effects of not complying with health protocols." (Informan A)

"During the pandemic, our family communication became much more frequent. We constantly reminded our children to sunbathe, clean the yard, wear masks, and even air out pillows. It wasn't just about keeping the inside of the house clean—we also

maintained cleanliness outside. The children took care of the yard while getting some exercise. They listened and followed our instructions." (Informan B)

"During Covid-19, communication with my children became more intense. I gave them many warnings, such as avoiding cold drinks, always wearing masks when going out, changing clothes immediately after returning home. We also reminded them to wash their hands, feet, and face." (Informan C)

"I encouraged my children to take better care of their hygiene and health, get enough rest, eat regularly, and strictly follow government health protocols." (Informan D)

"During the Covid-19 pandemic, there was an increase in the intensity of family communication, such as reminding and encouraging children to maintain cleanliness, such as washing hands when they arrive home, changing clothes and so on. While maintaining health such as eating regularly. Not sleeping late at night." (Informan E)

"The beginning of Covid-19 caused an increase in the intensity of family communication. Sometimes family communication occurs indirectly, I always remind children to take care of themselves so as not to get Covid-19 through telephone or social media" (Informan F)

"The intensity of family communication has increased highly during Covid-19. We remind children to eat regularly, remind children to wear masks, comply with health protocols every times. The intensity of communication remains high and this must become our habit to remind children to always maintain cleanliness and health "(Informan G)

The increasing intensity of family communication and the prohibitions, warnings and recommendations to children to maintain cleanliness and health and comply with health protocols during the Covid-19 outbreak indicate that the communication function is running in several aspects, such as the function of environmental supervision. This function occurs when parents remind children about environmental conditions that can infecting the Covid-19 virus. Therefore, parents often remind children to comply with health protocols. Furthermore, carrying out the correlation function. This function is carried out when parents interpret various events caused by Covid-19 so that children understand the various events caused by the presence of Covid-19. When children are in a bad situation, they will be able to avoid dangerous situations. Facts show that people who have good family communication will have good psychological aspects in facing difficulties (Ekmel Gecer, 2023). This understanding helps children avoid various situations and conditions to avoid infected with Covid-19 virus (Ekmel Gecer, 2023). This understanding helps children avoid various situations and conditions to avoid infected with Covid-19 virus.

When parents instill some habits about cleanliness and health in their children, it is the implementation of the communication function in passing on social values, norms, clean and healthy behavior to children. During the Covid-19 pandemic, parents always remind and encourage children to take better care of themselves by maintaining cleanliness and health, complying with health protocols. The communication techniques used are informative, persuasive and coercive. Parents often to be strict and use coercive communication techniques against children who do not comply with health protocols.

#### 4.2 Family Communication Post Covid-19 Pandemic

Post-COVID-19 pandemic, strengthening family communication marked by increased communication intensity is not as strong as during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the routines of family communication in reminding children and other families to maintain cleanliness and health is still exist. This routine is more encouraged because of the habit factors

that emerged during the COVID-19 pandemic. When asked about the intensity of family communication when the COVID-19 pandemic was over, almost all informants said that strengthening family communication still existed, but was not as strong as during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"When children come home from school, they spontaneously take off their shoes and go straight to the sink to wash their hands. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, this habit did not exist. After Covid-19 passed, this habit continued. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, we rarely used tissues at home. This habit is carried out by children. What was reminded during the Covid-19 pandemic, now without being reminded they already hold their own tissues if they don't have time to go to the bathroom when they want to eat." (Informan A)

Even though the Covid-19 pandemic is over, the habits that were built during the Covid-19 pandemic are still carried out by children. When the Covid-19 pandemic took place, children were always reminded and advised by their parents to maintain their health, but after the Covid-19 pandemic over, without being reminded by their parents, children continued to carry out their habits of maintaining cleanliness and health. The following is what the informant said

There is no need to repeatedly remind children to maintain cleanliness and health after the Covid-19 pandemic because they are already aware of the need to maintain cleanliness and health, for example eating on time, drinking lots of water, not sleeping late at night. The habit of washing hands, take a bath at least 2 times a day is still done. After Covid-19, I continue to control the health of children who are studying in other cities" (Informan A)

Although during the Covid-19 pandemic children always maintain cleanliness and health, but after the Covid-19 pandemic they also forget or no longer maintain cleanliness and health. Parents who are used to reminding their children to maintain cleanliness and health still continue to do this. When this was asked to the Informant, they gave answers according to their habits.

After covid 19 passed, the habit of reminding children to maintain cleanliness and health still exists, but not in the same way as when the covid 19 pandemic occurred. After the covid 19 pandemic, children are used to it, when they had flu symptoms, they immediately find and wear their own masks. (Informan B)

After the Covid-19 pandemic, I still remind my children to maintain cleanliness and health, for example, if we leave the house, we remind them to wear sandals, wear a mask if they have flu. The habits that emerged during Covid-19 are still carried out after the Covid-19 pandemic, for example, maintaining cleanliness, washing hands, washing feet when they just arrive home, changing dirty clothes. (Informan C)

When compared to the intensity of family communication in reminding children to maintain cleanliness and health before and after the Covid-19 pandemic, the intensity is likely different. Family communication also always contains various prohibitions for children in choosing food. This is understandable because currently it is often heard that children experience health problems caused by consuming not hygienic food. When this was asked to informants, they gave answers according to their experiences.

"Many health problems in children due to eating dangerous foods make us stricter in supervising children. Reminding children to maintain cleanliness and health after the Covid-19 pandemic is no longer because of fear of contracting the Covid-19 pandemic, but because of the many harmful children's foods is spreading. We remind children not to buy food carelessly." (Informan D)

"After Covid-19 has passed, we will continue to remind children to maintain cleanliness and health. If children go out of the house, we remind them to wear masks. When they arrive home, they must wash their hands and feet, and if they go to school, they must bring hand sanitizer and wet tissues. Before the Covid-19 pandemic, we rarely did this. After the Covid-19 pandemic, we will continue to remind children to do this. The goal now is not to avoid Covid-19, but to maintain health. Even though Covid-19 has passed, I still remind children to eat regularly, drink water, use tissues to maintain cleanliness and health." (Informan E)

"After Covid passed, I still do my habit of reminding my children to maintain cleanliness and health, this is because I am used to doing it when Covid-19 occurred, but the intensity is not like during the Covid-19 pandemic. Reminding children to maintain cleanliness and health is something we do together." (Informan F)

"After Covid passed, we still reminded the children to maintain cleanliness and health, but not like during the Covid-19 pandemic. Compared to before the Covid-19 pandemic, strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic was more intensive than before the Covid-19 pandemic. I reminded the children to exercise and eat regularly. Because of Covid, we still aware. The intensity of communication remains high because we are aware that maintaining cleanliness and health is crucial. Our goal is that prevention is better than cure." (Informan G)

Similar to strengthening family communication during the Covid-19 pandemic, the sustainability of strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic also carries out communication functions in three aspects, namely the function of environmental supervision. This function happen when parents remind children about environmental conditions that can cause various diseases in children. Furthermore, carrying out the correlation function. This function is in the form of interpretation of various events that occur in the environment. This helps children make efforts to avoid getting sick. Furthermore, the function of inheriting socio-cultural values in the form of clean and healthy living behaviors instilled by parents in children through family communication to remind and encourage children to maintain cleanliness and health.

The sustainability of strengthening family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic cannot be separated from parents' concern for their children's health. This strengthening is made possible by the role of parents in communicating various messages that aim to remind and encourage children to maintain cleanliness and health. Related to the delivery of this message, parents, namely fathers and mothers, carry out their roles with their respective intensities. Related to the role in reminding and encouraging children to maintain cleanliness and health after the Covid-19 pandemic, each has its own intensity, as stated by the informant.

"Reminding and encouraging children to remain disciplined in maintaining cleanliness and health is my main task. My husband gives me strong support in communicating this."

(Informan A)

"Communicating various things related to maintaining cleanliness and health has become a habit. My husband also does the same thing, but the intensity is low." (Informan B)

"Supervising children is a common task to remind children to maintain cleanliness and health, whether they are at home, at school or when playing outside." (Informan C)

"Regarding supervision of children in maintaining cleanliness and health, we do this with a balanced role." (Informan D)

"I am more dominant in supervising children related to maintaining cleanliness and health than my wife. Sometimes I even deliberately make video calls with my children to asking about the health of children who are studying in other cities." (Informan G)

After the Covid-19 pandemic, monitoring children's health has become important for both parents. This supervision is carried out through family communication. family communication mediates the relationship between family resilience and family functioning (Aiche Sabah, Musheer A, Aljaberi, Jamel Hajji, Chuan-Yin Fang, 2023). In relation to this, Most of the informants said that the intensity of communication between parents and children in conveying messages about maintaining health remains intense. Parents always ask about their children's health, remind children not to forget to eat breakfast, lunch, dinner, take medicine and get enough rest. The increasing intensity of communication is understandable because currently children often experience health problems. The informant said that currently there are many things that threaten children's health, such as the many types of unhealthy food consumed by children. The Covid-19 pandemic has made the community aware of the importance of family communication that carries out its function in supervising, interpreting/explaining, and passing on values, norms, behaviors, such as clean and healthy living behaviors in children.

The presence of family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic is an important thing for parents to do continuously and repeatedly. This sustainability can be realized in the family and can be seen through the communication habits of parents in the family who always remind their children about the rules of cleanliness and health after the Covid-19 pandemic. Openness in providing information can result in the formation of balanced independence from messages of rules and prohibitions, creating a clean and healthy family environment (Chusnah, 2023). Strengthening this information literacy can form clean and healthy living behaviors such as washing hands with soap, getting enough rest, drinking enough water, and cleaning nails (Asmawati, 2025).

Strengthening communication in the family after the Covid-19 pandemic is based on three aspects, namely First, environmental monitoring, namely providing warnings to children about environmental conditions that can trigger various diseases; Second, correlation by interpreting or providing explanations of various causal events of the dangers of Covid-19 through environmental factors to help children avoid disease and Third, transmission of socio-cultural values in the form of good and clean habits transmitted by parents to their children through communication within the family, to encourage clean and healthy living behavior. Strengthening family communication by prioritizing the principles of openness, democracy and participation has a positive impact on forming independence and responsibility (Tricintiya et al., 2025).

One of the goals of strengthening communication within the family is to increase the child's awareness to be strengthened by the existence of family communication that carries out its function in supervising, interpreting/explaining and passing on values, norms, behaviors, such as clean and healthy living behavior in children. By following social values, you can get a good environmental view for life together in a clean tradition within the family (Khasana & Setyawan, 2024). In the end, this habit is no longer the same during the Covid-19 pandemic, but also always maintains the situation and conditions of the environment that can threaten children's health.

Parental communication by implementing the habit of reminding children about the rules of cleanliness and health is strengthened by the conditions and conditions of the environment that always threaten their health, such as the many food products whose cleanliness and safety are not guaranteed, which need to be considered and supervised by parents. Exposure to education or the practice of reading food labels and their effects on health needs to be done in order to create a healthy and balanced life (Herviana et al., 2024). The relationship between the nutritional information label of food products and children's health has an influence through increasing attitudes and compliance after the Covid-19 pandemic.

### **5. CONCLUSION**

Based on the results of this study, it can be concluded that sustainability of strengthened family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic is closely tied to the reinforcement of family communication during the pandemic itself. This communication served key functions, including environmental surveillance, interpretation of events, and the transmission of social and cultural values. Parents played a crucial role in instilling clean and healthy living habits in their children—habits that were reinforced through family communication both during and after the pandemic.

The sustainability of strengthened family communication after the Covid-19 pandemic continues. This persistence is made possible by the habits formed through family communication, where parents (both fathers and mothers) consistently reminded their children to maintain hygiene and health during the pandemic. Over time, this practice became a routine that continued even after the pandemic ended. Eventually, this habit was no longer reinforced by the presence of Covid-19 itself, but rather by ongoing environmental factors and health concerns. One major concern is the increasing availability of street food with questionable hygiene and safety, which poses a continuous threat to children's health.

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