BLOGGER MOMMIES STORY OF COVID-19: A NARRATIVE OF FAMILY RESISTANCE IN PARENTING BLOGS

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ABSTRACT

Blogs as an alternative medium are now widely used as a medium for telling stories. During the Covid-19 pandemic, many stories were told by the mass media. However, because the mass media cannot be separated from the goals of capitalism, the information provided about Covid-19 often scares the public. Blog writers offer different stories, who present various exciting stories during this pandemic. This research looked at how narratives of family resilience emerged in parenting blogs written by mothers. The research approach was qualitative, and the method was qualitative content analysis. The research objects consisted of articles related to Covid-19 written by ten blogger mothers. The research results showed that their article described three critical processes in family resilience: family belief systems, patterns of family organization, and communication that occurred in families.
INTRODUCTION

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a tremendous impact on various fields in the world. This impact has become one of the factors of the heaviest crisis in many countries in the last two years. Indonesia is also one of the countries experiencing a crisis due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The impact of the crisis is felt in the economic sector. It was begun with the issuance of Government Regulation no. 21 of 2020 concerning implementing Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB). The Government Regulation regulated community activities in public spaces to force them to stay at home (Yamali & Putri, 2020)

The restrictions on community movement space in the PSBB were regulated. Several things were regulated in the Government Regulation, including the closure of schools and workplaces, restrictions on activities in places of worship, restrictions on activities in public places, socio-cultural activities, and restrictions on defence and security activities. PSBB, on the one hand, wants to protect the public from virus transmission. However, on the other hand, this policy "forced" many business places to go out of business due to a decrease in turnover (Yamali & Putri, 2020).

Based on records from the Ministry of Manpower until June 2020, more than three million workers were affected by the pandemic. Workers from the formal and informal sectors must be laid off by March 2020 (Dewi et al., 2020). This figure continued to increase until March 2021, 29.4 million people (Triatmojo, 2021).

Economic problems are only one of the problems that have emerged due to the pandemic. Economic problems are also believed to be the root of other problems that arise in the smallest unit of society, namely the family. Many families have to face various problems and devise new strategies when required to be constantly away from home. Financial problems are the beginning of psychological pressure, which is added to the burden of domestic work and accompanying children when they have to study at home. The burdens and problems faced gradually increase stress on family members, which leads to a crisis (Winurini, 2020).

Various research related to family crises stated that political and economic crises could be a factor in family crises. Wars, economic crises, and natural disasters were the cause of family crises. It led to a worsening of economic conditions. Lipman-Blumean explained that many family heads lost their jobs, which impacted family welfare (Winurini, 2020).
The Covid-19 pandemic in the last two years has also been declared a global disaster. The Covid-19 pandemic has impacted many areas that have implications for family well-being. The pandemic disrupted food security, economic pressure, and family welfare decline (DPIS IPB, 2020). Research by Euis Sunarti in 2020 reported that only 38.7% of respondents had savings to meet family needs for six months during the pandemic. 53.5% of respondents had savings for only two months.

The family crisis caused by the Covid-19 pandemic also impacted women who had an essential role in the family. Women got various pressures from the economic side, violence, and the burden of dual roles as mothers and teachers at home. Furthermore, the economic impact was felt by women when there was a feeling of financial insecurity. Decreased income, perhaps even a spouse who has lost his job, was the cause of women's anxiety and fear. There were also many acts of violence committed by partners against women. National Commission for Women reported 299,911 cases of violence against women throughout 2020. The data was compiled based on reports of 1) District Court/Religious Court, 2) National Commission for Women partner service agency and 3) Service and Referral Unit, and a complaint unit from The National Commission on Violence Against Women (Perempuan, 2021).

Another burden that women felt during the pandemic was the increased role as mothers and teachers. It was found in families with school-age children where women had to accompany their children while studying online. A heavier burden was felt by working women. There were four roles that women must carry out working during a pandemic, namely taking care of the house, accompanying children to study while ensuring the health of all family members, and still earning a living (Sari et al., 2021).

The increasing number of Covid-19 cases has undoubtedly made our society nervous. Reliable information was needed to provide information about Covid-19. Hundreds of information about Covid-19 overflowed like a flood during the rainy season. However, not all of this information could be trusted or could be categorized as a hoax.

Parents also had to continue to seek information related to Covid-19 for the health of their children and other family members. Parents who had good digital literacy skills could sort out right and wrong information. Many parents trusted access to information on parenting blogs they have been following for a long time. Parents, especially mothers, got the information they needed on blogs and could share it with other parents regarding specific topics.
The mass media and online media are now slowly being abandoned by parents because they are institutionalized and one-way. The information provided by the mass media and online media is also widespread. In addition, mass media and online media are very dependent on advertisers. Therefore, the information provided tends to be more for the advertiser's benefit than for the reader's benefit.

Current parents, who are often referred to as digital natives, need information from new media that is not only produced by media companies. The digital native generation is the generation born after 1980. They grew up in an era where learning resources were abundant, where the technological landscape was filled with digital computers and unlimited internet access, video games, smartphones, digital song players, video recorders, cell phones, interactive television, personal digital assistants, and other digital devices (Rachmawati, Devie; Lukmato, Giri; Kesa, 2020).

The presence of a blog brings a breath of fresh air. Even though the information is so abundant now, blogs have some advantages that other mass media and online media do not have. Blogs are managed by those who are experts or pursue the field. Blogs are also not driven by a few people's interests in the mass media or online. The information contained in the blog is purely from the independent people's thoughts who are interested in the world of writing.

A parenting blog in Indonesia has started in recent years. The Urban Mama and the Asia Parent Indonesia are the most visited parenting blogs. Apart from these two blogs, other parenting blogs are pretty famous and trusted by readers because they provide the information they need, especially during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

The presence of information and communication technology is now changing all aspects of humans in producing and consuming information. Nowadays, a person can write about his personal life and publish his writings on the internet. Various platforms in cyberspace, such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, make it easier for someone to share their personal life.

Although now, the digital world has been enlivened with the presence of social media, there is one platform that is still in demand today. These platforms are weblogs or often shortened to blogs. This media is widely used for various purposes. The blog is a site whose content is updated regularly. The content can be in text, images, data, or other audio and audiovisual media. Blogs have a simple look. Their views are displayed in chronological order when the content is uploaded (Brownstein, n.d.).
In this digital era, conventional media must compete with new media that can attract a more varied audience. Media content from various platforms is suspected as one of the audience's considerations in obtaining information. Mass media such as television and newspapers slowly began to be abandoned by the audience. Television and newspapers were built with the working mind of the capitalist. It means that television and newspapers must receive regular income to continue operating. Revenue from advertising is used as one of the pillars of conventional media to survive. Therefore, the information presented by electronic and print media is often weightless and only prioritizes certain people's tastes (Dwivedi, 2018).

Amid the onslaught of mainstream media, blogs are present as an alternative medium. Blogs are said to be a potential challenge for the mass media. In the last 30 years, the information conveyed through blogs has grown rapidly, along with the expansion of the internet (Kenix, 2011).

Parenting, in Indonesian, is referred to as childcare, a word that is now familiar to the ears of millennial generation parents. In various references, parenting is always associated with the relationship between parents and children. The term "parent-child relationship" is more appropriate than "parenting". The term "parenting" is more about the effects that parents have on children. The relationship shown is "top-down" and a one-way process (O'Connor & Scott, 2007). The relationship between parents and children shows that there is something mutual, dynamic, and interactive which illustrates the influence there.

Parenting begins when parents have plans to have children, give birth to them, and provide everything the children need (Chan, 2004). Chan also adds that there are several characteristics of parenting. The first, related to the development of the world of medicine and technology, parenting is a choice in life. Second, parenthood is a lifelong commitment. Third, parenting involves parental responsibilities to children, both physically and psychologically.

In this digital era, parents do not have to worry about being left behind on all information related to child care. Much information and communication technology now makes it easier for parents to meet their information needs and curiosity about parenting patterns.

In the article he wrote, Carter (2007) recounts his experience accessing the word "parenting" on the internet. Around 62.9 million results appear using the keyword "parenting" in 0.06 seconds on the Google search engine. Even Google also provides all the information specific to certain parenting styles, such as "Indian parenting", "Islamic parenting", "smart parenting", "beginner parenting," and many more parenting styles offered there (Carter, 2007).
For parents who do not agree with these various styles and concepts, parenting blogs appear that call them imperfect parents. In these blogs, there is no perfect and brilliant parenting style. Many parents feel more comfortable accessing the information on blogs than in large media such as news portals (Kenix, 2011).

Various sites and online forums related to parenting are also scattered on the internet. Some sites about parenting on the internet have very diverse issues and information. Members of online forums can message each other and exchange stories about their experiences in parenting. Sites and online forums often also place advertisements offering pregnant women and child products. Along with social media, many sites about parenting have social media accounts such as Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter pages to promote content and explore various discussions and reactions from parents (Lupton et al., 2016). Fellow parents also write many blogs about parenting. Again, Lupton, Pardesen, and Thomas (2016) describe that many parents access parenting blogs for information and entertainment.

This research topic was to look at narrative stories about family resilience in Indonesian parenting blogs. All the writers were married Indonesian women. The concept of family resilience was used because the Covid-19 pandemic was a problem faced by almost all families in the world. The pandemic was not just a health problem but also had social consequences that could not be avoided.

This research focused on narrative stories in articles on ten parenting blogs related to Covid-19. The formulation of the problem proposed was "how was the narrative of stories about family resilience that appeared on Indonesian childcare blogs?" The research was articles written and uploaded by bloggers on their blogs.

The specific objective of this research was to see stories about family resilience that emerged from articles written by blogger mothers uploaded from March to September 2020. By looking at these stories, everyone could understand how family resilience was a crucial part of parents, especially mothers. Another research objective focused on the story of how family resilience occurred in the blog writer's family when they had to face the Covid-19 pandemic.

Walsh presented the concept of family resilience in 2012 and then developed it again in 2016. This concept focuses on three key processes: the family's belief system, the family's organizational map, and the communication in the family. The concept of family resilience develops a theory of family development on aspects of family pressure, how to overcome problems, and adapt when problems come.
There are three aspects to the concept of family resilience. The first is belief systems. The second is organizational patterns, and the third is problem solving and communication. In every aspect, some elements are collected in it. Aspects of the belief system include the meaning of the family when facing difficulties, a positive view of the difficulties encountered, and spirituality. Meanwhile, organizational patterns include family flexibility in dealing with problems, connectedness among family members, and family economic and social resources. The last aspect of problem solving and communication includes messages conveyed by family members, expressions of family members' emotions, and collaborative problem solving among family members (Walsh, 2016).

**METHODOLOGY**

The research approach was qualitative. This research departed from a deductive mind who wanted to see narrative stories from articles on Indonesian parenting blogs. The research results showed stories about family resilience that appeared on parenting blogs in Indonesia.

This research used a qualitative content analysis method. The parenting blogs studied were determined from the Google search engine using the keywords "mother blogger" and "blog parenting". One of them was written by a woman who had a husband and children. The bloggers actively published articles containing stories related to Covid-19. After that, all articles on 15 parenting blogs related to Covid-19 were collected. After the articles were collected, the researchers sorted the articles with advertising content. The unit of analysis was articles from 15 blogs owned by mothers who were also active as bloggers.

In each blog, there were one to three articles related to Covid-19. The articles were then categorized based on themes from Walsh's concept of family resilience. The researcher looked at the narrative of family resilience that appeared in these articles by emphasizing the uniqueness of each story.

**FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION**

This research was based on three concepts of family resilience belonging to Walsh (2016), applied to articles related to Covid-19 on eight parenting blogs. The three concepts included belief systems, patterns of family organization, and communication and problem-solving in the family.

The first concept was the belief system, which consisted of three concepts: the meaning of the difficulties or crises being faced, the family's optimistic view of the crisis, and the
transcendence and spirituality of the family. The second concept was the organizational pattern developed in the family. There were three elements in this second concept, namely flexibility, connectedness, and economic and social resources. The third was the concept of communication and problem solving, which consisted of delivering clear messages between family members, conveying emotional expressions, and solving problems.

**Figure 1.**
Header view of parenting blog belongs to AS, a blogger mom who lives in Solo

The **Narrative about the Belief System**

The concept of a belief system is the basis for families who are hit by a crisis or problem. The pandemic caused by the Covid-19 virus has caused many families to be hit by problems. Problems in the family are not only in the economic sector but also in other sectors, such as children's education and concerns about the sustainability of family life. The mothers of parenting blog writers also shared expressions of family life worries.

How can a family be called synergistic well? One of the characteristics is when the family gets a prolonged crisis or difficulty as a challenge (F Walsh, 2012). A successful husband and wife in a family is a couple who can work together as a team. Each has strengths and weaknesses that complement each other when problems arise. One of them is the perspective of husband and wife in seeing the crisis. A positive outlook makes the couple's relationship stronger because they believe they can achieve victory after successfully passing the problem.
Family resilience is built from an awareness of cycles in human life. This cyclical perspective helps family members view that the coming crisis is a transitional period of turning points in people's lives. Therefore, difficulties or crises can be understood, managed, and interpreted as challenges and efforts to get better expectations (F Walsh, 2012). Here is an excerpt from an article written by an AS, one of a blogger moms:

"As a planner, this time, I stopped all agendas. I hope that I have income so I can eat. I just hope that there is no emergency so that the emergency fund can be a shield to keep feeling safe. As an ambitious human being, I also change my dreams and goals. From a long list that we want to achieve, it turns into a shortlist of things that can still be enough. It is the first time we do not ask for too much." (An article in AS blog, blog was accessed on September 10, 2020)

The phrase AS in her blog described how the AS chose to compromise with the situation. After being declared an emergency due to the pandemic, the AS had to limit its movement to protect other family members. The AS strategy in dealing with the pandemic was to stop its plans and agendas. In addition, the AS changed the targets to be achieved, both for herself and for family members.

The second element of a belief system is a positive outlook. The results of previous research showed that there was a health effect if a person had a positive outlook when under stress, crisis, and various obstacles in life. Families in desperate conditions take advantage of existing resources and try to overcome obstacles. In epidemiological research, it was shown that positive illusions were constructive for a person to recover quickly from an illness they were suffering from or going through a big problem.

“There were good things. There must be. What I felt was getting closer to the nanny. Then, we more often joked and laughed together. We were laughing at the boredom together, lol. So, we played together more often, such as UNO stacko, snakes and ladders, guessing, and painting. Sometimes we just watched YouTube together, looked for recipes, then made them. Aiden’s progress was also quite visible after just staying at home. Now he was confident in drawing my pictures. I always asked to be drawn in the past, and he just did the coloring and got excited about writing numbers and letters. Every day, he asked to learn from “Miss Mami” until he said he would go to school at
home and continue with me. Hhhh. I am glad he said that, but no, thank you, hahaha."
(Article in GM's blog, blog was accessed on September 5, 2020)

The third element in the belief system in family resilience was spirituality and transcendence. Many families sought strength, comfort, and guidance in difficult times by drawing closer to God. One way that was often done included praying, meditating, and being active in spiritual activities. However, some chose ways outside of religious activities, such as building a relationship with nature, art, and social activism.

Paradoxical things happen when a person is having problems in his life. When the worst happens, humans also get the best in their lives. They get learning, transformation, and growth for the better.

“The story I made DID NOT talk much about the Coronavirus. Just a glimpse. I thought there were many ebooks, physical books, or other kid-friendly sources of information that explained Covid-19. Thus, I did not go through that matter. Regarding Covid-19, I was a bit confused about how to take care of children's health like this." (Article in GM's blog, blog was accessed on September 5, 2020)

Narrative of Family Organization Pattern

The modern family, which has a variety of structures and resources, must be able to manage the household and relationships between family members when various challenges come. Family resilience was strengthened by a flexible family structure, connectedness, and economic and social resources.

The first element of this process was family space. The release process in this family could be described as how a spring works. When the spring was pressed and then released, it would bounce. It also applies to families who are going through a crisis. After the crisis had passed, family members faced a "new normal" phase. The family must create a new mapping and rearrange the new conditions. Research conducted on families whose parents divorced in the United States showed that children required guarantees of continuity, stability, and security for their future after divorce.

“And we agreed that there would be no new normal if there were no important business. There was no hanging out at the cafe, even with strict health protocols. Since last week, my husband and children have been praying in congregation at the mosque and have
also attended Friday prayers with stringent rules. Our parameter was clear in the Hadith of the Prophet "Stay away from infectious diseases as we stayed away from lions." (Article in SHD's blog; blog was accessed on September 6, 2020)

The second element of the family organizational pattern process was the connectedness between family members. The crisis faced by a family could undoubtedly make the relationship of family members tenuous. Frequently, these stressful times led to conflicts and misunderstandings. Therefore, family resilience could be strengthened by supporting each other, collaborating, and the commitment of family members to be willing to face the crisis together.

“But having a husband who smoked, who did not look like he wanted to quit anytime soon, forced me to compromise. Okay, my husband could smoke, but it could only be done outside the house. Then, when he entered home, he must immediately wash his clothes and brush his teeth. Meanwhile, I had to resist the urge to nag every time I smelled cigarettes on his clothes or body. This rule was hard for him and also not easy for me. Nevertheless, we agreed to make compromises until we finally got used to it.” (Article in WW's blog; blog was accessed on September 8, 2020)

The third element was the family's economic and social resources. Economic resources were the income received by the head of the family as a breadwinner. Financial problems were one of the things that often became factors in the occurrence of crises in the family. In addition to the economy, social resources were also reasonably necessary to realize family resilience. One aspect seen in social resources was the circle of friends and people around the family. Family resilience can be built when supportive friends surround family members.

“It was not that I was afraid to scare you, but we must prepare to face financial conditions during the Covid-19 pandemic. Currently, saving is not enough. People must have other sources of income other than the previous source of income. Everyone must want a safe wallet during a pandemic!” (Article in EN's blog; blog was accessed on September 15, 2020).

Figure 2
A collaboration between GM, a blogger mom and her son

A Narrative about Communication and Problem Solving

The concept of communication and problem solving had three constituent elements. The three elements were delivering a clear message, expressing the expression of the emotions felt by family members, and the last one being the collaboration of family members in solving problems.

Of the fifteen blogs that have been analysed, the element of collaboration of family members to solve problems appeared the most compared to the narrative of delivering messages and expressing the emotions of family members. One blog that talked about the collaborative process for problem-solving was EL's blog.

“Instead of being anxious and sad all the time, my husband said it was better for us to do something more than yesterday because now there was something positive in our area. Finally, we made disinfectant liquid, bought vitamins, and stocked up necessities for a week, so we did not often buy food." (Article in EL's blog, accessed on September 20, 2020).

An article written by EL showed that a couple who had good communication could help the family through the crisis. Not infrequently, a crisis in the family caused the pressure to increase, and husband and wife were prone to quarrels. The ways that could be done to minimize husband and wife quarrels included discussing with partners, discussing the wishes...
and hopes of husband and wife, and learning to accept each other's strengths and weaknesses (Andu, 2021).

Blogs were ways for mothers to express and share stories, especially when facing a crisis in the family. Webb and Lee (2011) revealed several motivations for mothers who wrote blogs, including getting additional income from advertising and sponsorship, creating identity, getting support, and building community. In 15 blogs of mothers who told their families' experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic, the motivation to get support and build community could be seen from the narratives that emerged.

CONCLUSION

This research raised the narrative of stories about family resilience related to Covid-19 on parenting blogs in Indonesia that mothers guided. Narratives about family resilience had three key processes: family belief systems, family organizational patterns, and family communication. Based on articles written by mothers who wrote parenting blogs related to Covid-19, several stories appeared there.

The narratives that appeared most often were stories related to family beliefs, always built by the mothers' views. All articles about the belief process always implied positive messages behind the crisis they faced. The following narrative that most often appeared was about how mothers had to make various changes in their way of life, from food consumption to habits to protect their families from Covid-19. Furthermore, another narrative that most often appeared was a story about how mothers had to compromise with their partners to create a pleasant atmosphere at home.

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