

PROFILE OF FAMILY FUNCTIONING AMONG EARTHQUAKE SURVIVORS IN PIDIE JAYA REGENCY

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Abstract

One of the important aspects of a healthy family is the apparent division of roles or functions in which the function is embedded in a harmonious hierarchical structure, and there is also a commitment to the implementation of the function. However, effective family functioning can be shaken by a number of factors, including environmental changes, such as natural disasters. Therefore, this study aimed to see the description of family functioning among earthquake survivors in Pidie Jaya Regency. The subjects taken were 30 couples (60 people), consisting of 30 husbands and 30 wives. Data collection technique was done by using Family Functioning Scale developed by Maryam (2007) by referring to Rice's theory (1986). The results showed that most of the family members had instrumental and expressive function with medium category, with amount of 53.3% and 91.7%, respectively. This meant, family functions can run well in complete family typology.

Keywords: earthquake disaster, family functioning, instrumental function, expressive function

A. Introduction

One of the important things in a healthy family is the existence of a clear division or function which patterned in a harmonious hierarchical structure, and there is also a commitment in order to make that function performed well (Maryam, 2007). This is important because the proper functioning of a family is a dream for every child, as the family is the first place for children's socialization. Spencer and Inkeles (1982) and also Macionis (1995) said that the most important socialization place for children is family, where it is expected to provide a warm understanding and intimacy throughout the childhood period. The same thing was also stated by Diener and McGravran (2008) that family is the most important source of life, where it can be the first environment for human life which has a function in it.

According to Moos and Moss (in Stewart, 1998), family functioning is basically related to the interaction quality within family members or also called as family cohesiveness. Epstein, Bishop, and Baldwin (in Zeitlin et al., 1995) mentioned that the families considered as having an effective function if they can solve problems, but are not effective if they cannot solve the problems. Families function efficiently if the members can communicate directly and clearly, have a clear and reasonable role, are able to engage in daily activities with empathy, and have attention to individuals' behaviour.

However, effective family functioning can be disturbed due to several factors, including stress which caused by the environment, such as natural disasters. This is what happened in Pidie Jaya Regency several times ago. At the end of 2016, precisely on December 7th, 2016 there was an earthquake with a

magnitude of 6.5 on the Richter scale. This disaster resulted relatively large numbers of victims and also destroyed basic infrastructure, social, and economic systems.

Based on data obtained from the National Disaster Management Agency (Badan Nasional Penanggulangan Bencana [BNPB], 2016), there were 103 victims who died and wounded 700 people –where 168 of them were seriously injured and 532 were slightly injured. Meanwhile, there were 82,122 refugees in 120 refugee camps. Those refugees scattered in several different places, involving Meureudu as many as 13,965 people, Meurah Dua as many as 11,391 people, Trianggadeng as many as 18,512 people, Bandar Baru as many as 14,209 people, Pante Raja as many as 8,153 people, Bandar Dua as many as 3,170 people, Ulim as many as 9,763 people, and Jangka Buya as many as 2,959 people. In addition, the earthquake also affected a large number of physical buildings –11,668 units of house, 61 units of mosques, 94 units of *meunasah*, 161 units of shop houses, 10 units of government offices, and 16 units of education facilities.

Those conditions occurred after the earthquake have affected family life which was previously normal then suddenly interrupted by various problems, such as lack of food and health services, dysfunction of educational facilities, destruction of houses, loss of assets and jobs that could affect income, and loss of family members. Not only that, the earthquake also had an effect on the functioning of families, for instance, mothers who initially stayed at home and took care of their children, have to work outside the home for fulfilling the needs of their family (Maryam, 2007). With these conditions, family functioning as well as tasks in the family begin to change (Nayana, 2013).

Children may receive lack of attention from their parents, which will cause them to seek others attention outside the home. However, Crounter and McHale (in Santrock, 2002) stated that working parents can create both positive and negative influences on parenting style. The positive thing according to Santrock (2002) is the emergence of a sense of prosperity from parents who work, but then family life does not go smoothly every time. Sometimes there can be some challenges which may cause conflicts between family members. Besides, parents who busy work outside, may reduce their time with their children.

In order to restore family functions, it is necessary to develop a good family strategy towards the formation of family resilience. According to Epstein, Ryan, Bishop, Miller, and Keitner (2003), there are five criteria indicating a good family functioning, namely: (1) the attitude of serving as a noble sign; (2) intimacy between husband and wife towards good marital quality; (3) parents who teach and train their children with creative challenges, give consistent training, and develop productive skills; (4) husband and wife can be a good role model for their children; and (5) children who obey and respect parents. The same thing was also stated by Bloom (1985) that there are three steps in order to create a harmonious family, namely building the basis of family law, regulating the family economy, and maintaining family traditions. Therefore, based on the description above, this research aimed to discover the level of family functioning among earthquake survivors in Pidie Jaya Regency.

B. Method

The research method used was descriptive research with a quantitative approach. Quantitative descriptive data obtained from the categorization of high, medium, and low levels of family functioning which was carried out from the research scale. The subjects recruited were 60 people, consisting of 30 husbands and 30 wives (30 couples). The sampling technique used was purposive sampling by considering several conditions or criteria of research subjects, namely: (1) registered as an earthquake victim in Pidie Jaya Regency; and (2) still have complete families (wife and husband).

The data were collected through Family Functioning Scale developed by Maryam (2007) based on Rice's (1999) theory. In order to obtain primary data, a questionnaire was distributed to the subjects. The data that had been collected were grouped according to the variables, then tabulated and analyzed descriptively. To simplify the statistical calculation process, the overall calculation in this study was carried out by using the SPSS 20.0 for Windows.

C. RESULTS

Table 1. The Description of Research Data

Variable	Hypothetical Data				Empirical Data			
	Xmax	Xmin	Mean	SD	Xmax	Xmin	Mean	SD
Family Functioning	22	0	11	3.67	21	9	15.5	2.83
Expressive Function	17	0	8.5	2.83	17	9	15.37	1.44

Based on the results of statistical analysis, descriptive data hypothetically showed the instrumental function scale consisted of 22 items with the minimum grade of subject answers (X_{\min}) was 0, the maximum grade (X_{\max}) was 22, the average value (Mean) was 11, and the standard deviation (SD) was 3.67. In the hypothetical descriptive data, the expressive function scale consisted of 17 items with the minimum grade of subject answers (X_{\min}) was 0, the maximum grade was (X_{\max}) 17, the average value (Mean) was 8.5, and the standard deviation (SD) was 2.83.

Empirically, the results of the analysis obtained that instrumental function scale consisted of 22 items with the minimum grade of subject answers (X_{\min}) was 9, the maximum grade (X_{\max}) was 21, the average value (Mean) was 15.55, and the standard deviation (SD) was 2.83. While expressive function scale consisted of 17 items with the minimum grade of subject answers (X_{\min}) was 9, the maximum grade (X_{\max}) was 17, the average value (Mean) was 15.37, and the standard deviation (SD) was 1.44.

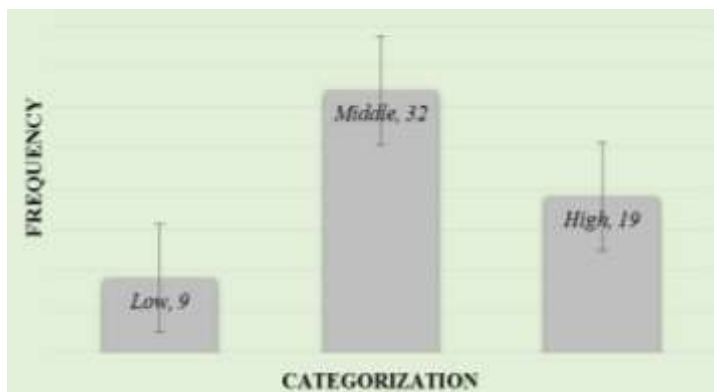
After obtaining the results of empirical analysis, the mean (M) and standard deviation (SD) can be used to obtain categories for each variable, as described follows.

Family Instrumental Function

Table 2. The Categorization of Family Instrumental Function

Category	Interval	Frequency	Percentage
Low	$X < 13$	9	15%
Middle	$13 \leq X < 18$	32	53.3%
High	$18 \leq X$	19	31.7%
Total		60	100%

Based on the table above, it could be seen that as many as 15% (9 people) had a low category of instrumental function, 53.3% (32 people) had a moderate instrumental function category, and 31.7% (19 people) had a high category of instrumental function. The following was a graph illustrated the categorization of family instrumental function among earthquake survivors in Pidie Jaya Regency.



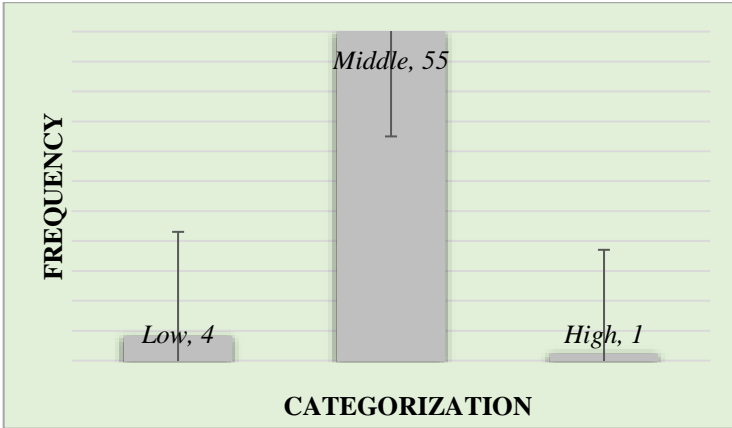
Graph 1. The Categorization of Family Instrumental Function

Family Expressive Function

Table 3. The Categorization of Family Expressive Function

Category	Interval	Frequency	Percentage
Low	$X < 14$	4	6.7%
Middle	$14 \leq X < 17$	55	91.7%
High	$17 \leq X$	1	1.7%
Total		60	100%

Furhermore, based on the table shown above, it could be seen that 6.7% (4 people) had a low category of expressive function, 91.7% (55 people) had a medium category of expressive function, and 1.7% (1 person) had a high category of expressive function. The following was a graph illustrated the categorization of family expressive function among earthquake survivors in Pidie Jaya Regency.



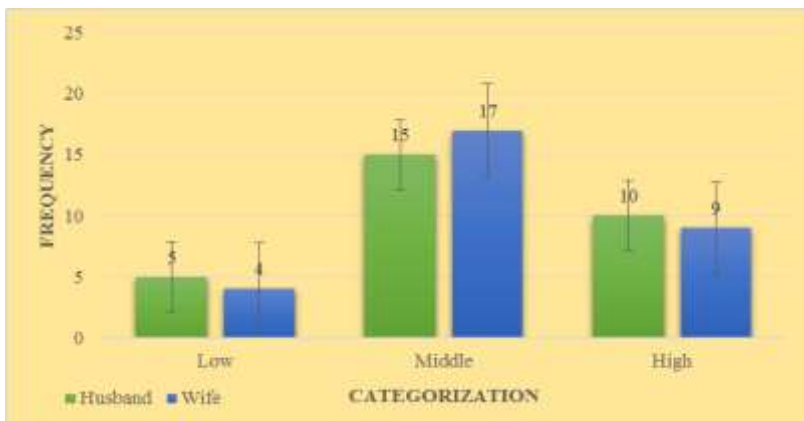
Graph 2. The Categorization of Family Expressive Function

Besides, the crosstabs analysis was also performed in order to classify the type of family function based on status (husband or wife). The classification results in each category could be seen in the following table.

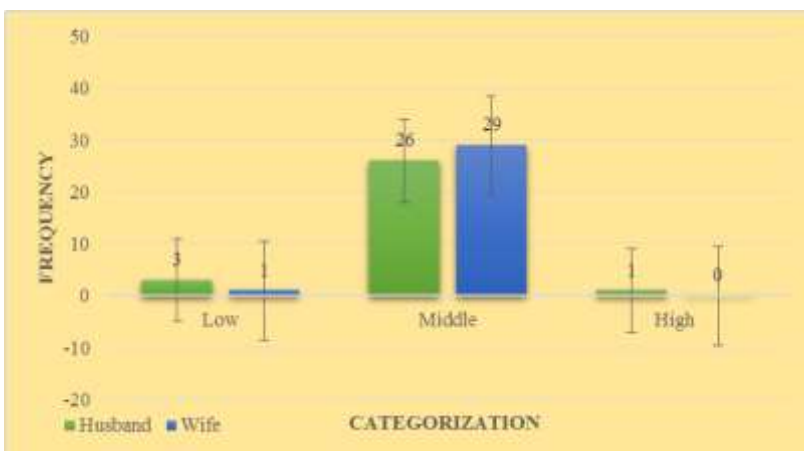
Table 4. The Categorization of Family Expressive Function

Variable	Status	Category	Frequency	Percentage
Instrumental Function	Husband	Low	5	8.3%
		Middle	15	25%
		High	10	16.7%
	Wife	Low	4	6.7%
		Middle	17	28.3%
		High	9	15%
Expressive Function	Husband	Low	3	5%
		Middle	26	43.3%
		High	1	1.7%
	Wife	Low	1	1.7%
		Middle	29	48.3%
		High	0	0%

The following were graphs illustrated the classification of family functioning types based on family status among earthquake survivors in Pidie Jaya Regency.



Graph 3. The Categorization of Family Instrumental Function based on Family Status



Graph 4. The Categorization of Family Expressive Function based on Family Status

Based on the tables and graphs above, the categorization distribution of family functioning was in the medium category, both for wife and husband. In the type of instrumental function and expressive function, the percentages owned by the husband were 25% and 43.3%, while for wife were 28.3% and 48.3%.

D. DISCUSSIONS

Family as a system must maintain its homeostasis. Homeostasis is defined as a state of balance –which is also known as equilibrium. Balance is needed by a system, so all of its components or subsystems may interact, interdependence, and influence each other. Epstein et al. (in Zeitlin et al., 1995) mentioned that the families considered as having an effective function if they can solve problems, but are not effective if they cannot solve problems. Families function efficiently if the members can communicate directly and clearly, have a clear and reasonable role, are able to engage in daily activities with empathy, and have attention to individuals' behaviour.

From the research conducted with a sample of 60 people (30 husbands and 30 wives), the results showed that most of families carried out instrumental and expressive functions in the medium category, with the percentage of 53.3% and 91.7% respectively. In general, there were 15% of the samples had low instrumental function and only 6.7% performed expressive function at a low level. This showed that most families had a good family functioning. In addition, the results from the complete family typology found that by the clear role performed by the fathers and mothers, a good family functioning could be achieved.

Furthermore, Benson (in Bigner, 1979) suggests that good mothers sometime can carry out certain parts of instrumental functions and good fathers can also carry out certain expressive activities. It is clear from the results of the study that both husband and wife have moderate levels of family functioning, either insrumental or expressive function. Parke (1996) explains that nowadays fatherhood ideology and parenting issues are increasingly phenomenal. This marks the rise of an era which recognizes the importance of father role in parenting. This tendency must be understood not in the context of role replacement. Father is still regarded as the main actor of instrumental function, which in certain moments he can also be involved in expressive function.

E. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the results, it was found that the categorization distribution of family functioning in Pidie Jaya District was in the medium category, both for the wife and husband. In the type of instrumental and expressive function, the percentage owned by husbands were 25% and 43.3%, while the wife were 28.3% and 48.3%, respectively. This was in line with previous study conducted by Benson (in Bigner, 1979) that good mothers carry out certain parts of instrumental functions and good fathers also carry out certain expressive activities.

From the results and conclusions above, the authors suggest several recommendations, especially for stakeholders and future researchers. For stakeholders, they need to optimize the family functioning, both instrumental and expressive function through the intervention programs aimed at family

empowerment. Those programs could be carried out by the government and NGOs. And in order to enrich the results, the addition of qualitative data need to be considered. The further studies are also recommended to increase the number of respondents to improve the validity and reliability of the results.

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