

ABSTRACT

This study aims to understand how communication patterns between children and parents influence decision-making in selecting college majors, focusing on students at SMA Negeri 1 Kota Bogor. The research uses a qualitative approach with a phenomenological method. Data were collected through in-depth interviews with informants, including 12th-grade students, alumni, parents, and guidance counseling teachers. The results show that family communication patterns significantly influence children's academic decision-making processes. Based on the Family Communication Patterns (FCP) theory, there are four types of family communication: consensual, pluralistic, protective, and laissez-faire. Consensual and pluralistic patterns encourage open discussions, allowing children to freely express their opinions and interests. In contrast, protective and laissez-faire patterns tend to limit dialogue and emphasize children's obedience to their parents. A lack of open communication can cause children to feel pressured, dissatisfied with their chosen major, lose motivation, or even experience regret in the future. Conversely, healthy and supportive two-way communication can lead to mutual agreement between children and parents, making the selection of a college major more realistic, aligned with the child's interests, and supportive of their development. This study highlights the importance of parents in fostering open communication to achieve optimal educational decisions.

Keywords: *Communication, Family, Study Program, High School Students, Parents.*