

ABSTRACT

The high divorce rate in West Java in 2024 reached 88,842 cases, resulting in many children experiencing the absence of a father figure, both physically and emotionally. This condition significantly affected emotional development and interpersonal communication skills, especially among late adolescent girls who were in a critical phase of identity formation. This study aimed to explore and understand the dynamics of interpersonal communication among late adolescent girls aged 18–21 in West Java who experienced father absence. The study employed Edmund Husserl's phenomenological approach (1938) to trace the subjective meaning of the informants' experiences through the stages of phenomena, epoche, constitution, consciousness, and reduction. Data analysis referred to Joseph A. DeVito's theory of interpersonal communication (2016), which includes five key aspects: openness, empathy, supportive behavior, positive attitude, and equality. The findings revealed that the informants faced challenges in the aspects of openness and equality when communicating with both family and social environments. However, empathy and support were more frequently found in their friendships. This study provided a comprehensive understanding of how late adolescent girls built and maintained interpersonal communication in the context of father absence, and served as a foundation for developing more empathetic and supportive communication approaches for individuals with similar backgrounds.

Keywords: *interpersonal communication, father figure, late adolescent girls, phenomenology.*