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***FAMILY COMMUNICATION AND ITS EFFECT ON THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF HONESTY AMONG JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL  
LEARNERS***

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study aimed to examine the relationship of family communication on the development of honesty among learners. This study utilized a descriptive correlational research design to determine the effect of family communication on the development of honesty among learners. The result revealed that the level of family communication among learners in terms of openness, emotional support and conflict resolution interpreted as high level, and the effect of family communication on the development of honesty among students in terms of classroom behavior interpreted as high level. Another result revealed that there is a significant relationship between the level of family communication in terms of openness, emotional support, conflict resolution and the development of honesty among students. These suggest that families may continue to promote open dialogue and active listening while creating safe spaces for students to share personal concerns without fear of judgment. Workshops or family counseling programs can help parents strengthen emotional support and conflict management strategies. Encouraging inclusive discussion during disagreements further enhance mutual understanding and trust within the family. Families may consistently model honesty and reinforce discussions about ethical behavior both at home and in relation to school expectations. Parents can encourage children to reflect on their decisions and the consequences of dishonesty. Schools and parents could collaborate to integrate family-based ethical discussions, strengthening students' understanding and practice of honesty in all aspects of life. Families may actively nurture all three dimensions of communication

openness, emotional support, and conflict resolution to foster ethical and responsible behavior in adolescents. Parents may participate in training programs on effective communication and moral guidance. Additionally, schools may provide workshops for parents and students together, reinforcing the link between family communication and ethical behavior, ensuring students consistently practice honesty in academic and social settings.

**KEYWORDS:** *Family communication, openness, emotional support, conflict resolution, honesty, classroom behavior.*

## INTRODUCTION

Family communication plays a vital role in shaping the moral and behavioral development of children. Within the family setting, communication serves as the foundation for emotional connection, value transmission, and behavioral modeling. Numerous studies emphasize that open and consistent communication between parents and children fosters trust, empathy, and ethical understanding (Brown & Wright, 2017). As the family is considered the primary socializing agent, the way parents communicate through guidance, discussion, or discipline greatly influences a child's ability to distinguish right from wrong. In today's society, where students are constantly exposed to various social influences, the family remains the first and most influential environment in developing moral values such as honesty.

Despite the recognition of communication as a crucial element in moral upbringing, there remains limited empirical focus on how classroom communication patterns directly affect the development of honesty among students. Most existing studies have centered on academic performance, emotional intelligence, or general teacher–student relationships (Lopez & Gonzales, 2020), leaving a gap in understanding how instructional communication dynamics such as openness, trust, fairness, and emotional support within the classroom shape students' moral virtues, particularly honesty. Furthermore, with the increasing reliance on digital learning platforms, large class sizes, and curriculum pressures, opportunities for meaningful teacher–student and peer communication have declined. These conditions may limit authentic dialogue and ethical modeling in classrooms, potentially influencing students' honesty, integrity, and ethical behavior in academic and social contexts.

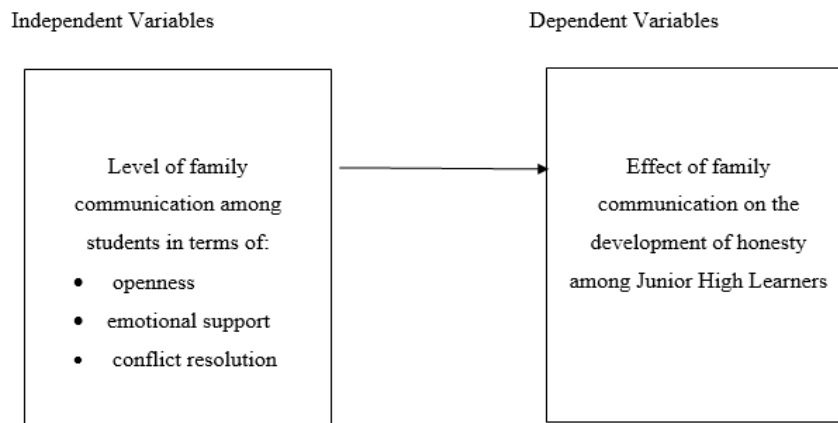
This study aims to examine the effect of family communication on the development of honesty among students. It seeks to determine how the quality, frequency, and style of

communication within the family influence students' honesty in academic and social contexts. By exploring this relationship, the study intends to provide insights that can help parents, educators, and counselors foster moral growth and integrity among students through improved communication practices at home. Ultimately, this research will contribute to a deeper understanding of the family's role in nurturing honesty as a fundamental value in the formation of responsible and ethical individuals.

### ***Theoretical Framework***

The study is grounded in the Family Systems Theory developed by Murray Bowen (1978), which views the family as an interconnected emotional unit where each member's behavior influences others. The theory emphasizes that communication within the family is central to shaping children's attitudes, values, and moral development. Open, supportive, and consistent communication creates a safe environment where children can express themselves freely and learn proper moral reasoning. In such settings, parents act as role models, demonstrating honesty and guiding children to value truthfulness and integrity. Thus, honesty is not simply taught but is developed through continuous interaction, trust, and emotional connection within the family.

The relationship between family communication and students' honesty is evident through openness, emotional support, and effective conflict resolution. Open communication encourages children to be transparent and truthful without fear of judgment, while emotional support builds trust and security, allowing them to admit mistakes honestly. Additionally, when families resolve conflicts through respectful dialogue, children learn that honesty is a positive and constructive tool for problem-solving. These communication patterns collectively foster an environment where honesty becomes a deeply internalized value, influencing students' behavior both at home and in school.



**Figure 1. Schematic Presentation Showing the Relationship Between the Independent and Dependent Variables of the Study.**

### ***Statement of the Problem***

This study aimed to examine the relationship of family communication on the development of honesty among students. Specifically, this study aimed to answer the following questions:

1. What is the level of family communication among students in terms of openness, emotional support and conflict resolution?
2. What is the effect of family communication on the development of honesty among learners?
3. Is there a significant relationship between the level of family communication in terms of openness, emotional support, conflict resolution and the development of honesty among students?

### ***Scope and Limitation of the Study***

This study focused on the relationship of family communication on the development of honesty among Junior High School learners in Cluster 11, Northeast Marilog District. It specifically examines how dimensions of family communication such as openness, emotional support, and conflict resolution contribute to shaping students' honesty both at home and in school. The respondents of the study are limited to Junior High School students enrolled in public schools within Cluster 11 during the school year 2025–2026. Teachers, parents, and students outside this cluster are excluded from the study to maintain focus and relevance to the local context. Moreover, the study is confined to assessing the relationship between family communication and honesty development, without exploring other influencing factors such as peer relationships, media exposure, or socioeconomic status.

## *Review of Related Literature And Studies*

### **Level of Family Communication**

Openness in family communication is a key factor in adolescents' emotional and moral development, as emphasized by Brian Koerner and Mary Anne Fitzpatrick (2017), who noted that open dialogue fosters trust, honesty, and strong emotional bonds. Supporting this, Paul Schrodtt, Paul Witt, and Amy Messersmith (2018) found that openness enhances self-disclosure and emotional regulation, helping adolescents develop moral reasoning. Likewise, Lynne Ritchie and Mary Anne Fitzpatrick (2019) highlighted that open communication reduces misunderstandings and improves conflict management. Qian Zhang and Brian Koerner (2020) further showed that openness promotes honesty and emotional expression across cultures, while John Caughlin and Stephen Ramey (2021) concluded that it enhances psychological well-being, academic motivation, and ethical behavior among students.

Emotional support and conflict resolution also significantly influence adolescents' honesty and development. John Gottman and Lynn Katz (2018) emphasized that emotionally supportive communication fosters empathy, honesty, and emotional security. Similarly, Wendy Manning and Gary Bowen (2019) found that emotional support strengthens resilience, academic engagement, and responsible behavior. David Olson and Douglas Gorall (2020) noted that it helps adolescents manage stress and communicate effectively, while Brian Barber and Heidi Stolz (2020) linked it to moral reasoning and honesty. Jared Tucker and Eli Finkel (2021) further showed its impact on social competence and ethical decision-making. In terms of conflict resolution, Brian Koerner and Mary Anne Fitzpatrick (2020) emphasized respectful dialogue in fostering honesty, while Alan Sillars and Daniel Canary (2019) highlighted its role in emotional control and empathy. Anita Vangelisti and Daniel Perlman (2020) stressed that unresolved conflicts harm trust, whereas Erin Reese-Weber and Jared Kahn (2020) found that constructive conflict builds emotional intelligence and accountability. Finally, E. Mark Cummings and Jesse Schatz (2021) concluded that healthy conflict resolution promotes psychological well-being, family unity, and honest behavior among adolescents.

### **Effect of Family Communication on the Development of Honesty among Learners**

Clear and consistent parental communication provides the foundation for children's moral development by helping them understand why honesty matters in maintaining trust and relationships. Research by Bullo et al. (2022) shows that changes in parental communication

and norms directly influence adolescents' behaviors, including ethical decision-making, reinforcing the idea that what parents communicate—and how consistently they do so—shapes children's values. Similarly, BM Le (2022) highlights that honesty strengthens interpersonal relationships, suggesting that families who model and reward truthful communication help children see honesty as beneficial rather than merely obligatory. When parents explain rules and encourage open dialogue, children experience the relational advantages of honesty, such as trust and effective problem-solving.

The quality of communication also plays a critical role in promoting honesty among adolescents. Zapf et al. (2022) emphasize that communication characterized by openness, clarity, and support is measurable and strongly linked to positive youth outcomes, including moral behavior. Intervention studies, such as those by Grey (2022), demonstrate that improving parent-child and family-school communication through structured strategies can foster environments where honesty is encouraged and practiced. Furthermore, Zhu et al. (2022) found that the overall quality of the parent-child relationship—particularly trust and emotional security—determines whether communication promotes honesty or leads to concealment. Together, these findings suggest that honesty develops not only through frequent communication but through meaningful, supportive, and trust-based interactions within the family.

### **Research Methodology**

This study utilized a descriptive correlational research design to determine the effect of family communication on the development of honesty among learners. Data were gathered using standardized questionnaires administered to junior high school learners, and the results were analyzed using statistical tools such as the Pearson Product-Moment Correlation Coefficient to determine the strength and direction of the relationship between family communication and honesty.

### **Findings**

Presented below are the findings derived from this study.

The level of family communication among learners in terms of openness, emotional support and conflict resolution interpreted as high.

The effect of family communication on the development of honesty among learners interpreted as high.

There is a significant relationship between the level of family communication in terms of openness, emotional support, conflict resolution and the development of honesty among students.

## **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Drawing from the study's findings, the following conclusions can be made:

Learners perceived their families as highly supportive environments where open discussions, active listening, and fair conflict resolution were regularly practiced. This indicates that families play a key role in fostering trust, emotional stability, and constructive interaction skills among adolescents. Even though all indicators were high, slight variations suggest that sensitive topics may still require more encouragement for full disclosure.

High levels of family communication positively influenced learners' ethical behavior, including admitting mistakes, avoiding dishonesty, and completing tasks truthfully. This suggests that open and value-driven family interactions reinforce moral development and ethical decision-making in academic settings. Family modeling of honesty and discussions about responsibility help students internalize integrity as a core behavior.

Openness, emotional support, and conflict resolution within the family were strongly associated with the development of honesty in students. This demonstrates that ethical behavior is not only taught but also learned through consistent communication, modeling, and supportive family interactions. The significant correlations indicate that higher levels of family communication predict higher levels of honesty in classroom behavior.

Derived from the study's conclusions, the following recommendations are proposed:

Families may continue to promote open dialogue and active listening while creating safe spaces for students to share personal concerns without fear of judgment. Workshops or family counseling programs can help parents strengthen emotional support and conflict management strategies. Encouraging inclusive discussion during disagreements will further enhance mutual understanding and trust within the family.

Families may consistently model honesty and reinforce discussions about ethical behavior both at home and in relation to school expectations. Parents can encourage children to reflect

on their decisions and the consequences of dishonesty. Schools and parents could collaborate to integrate family-based ethical discussions, strengthening students' understanding and practice of honesty in all aspects of life.

Families may actively nurture all three dimensions of communication openness, emotional support, and conflict resolution to foster ethical and responsible behavior in adolescents. Parents may participate in training programs on effective communication and moral guidance. Additionally, schools may provide workshops for parents and students together, reinforcing the link between family communication and ethical behavior, ensuring students consistently practice honesty in academic and social settings.

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