



Samarah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga dan Hukum Islam
Volume 5 No. 1. January-June 2021
ISSN: 2549 – 3132; E-ISSN: 2549 – 3167
DOI: 10.22373/sjkh.v5i1.9122

The Family Corner for the Post-COVID 19 Revitalization of Family Function

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Abstract: *The COVID-19 pandemic has reduced family functions. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Indonesian families face three significant problems: distanced-family relations; neglected family education; and unequal socio-economic situation. This paper aims at explaining these three fundamental changes in family institutions. Besides, this paper identifies the factors that lead to family dysfunction. This article also offers concrete solutions to restore the lose of families function due to the COVID-19, i.e. the formation of a Family Corner. This research is a normative study using a critical, descriptive analysis method by presenting data from various literature and document sources. The latest data supported by several recent studies are described in detail in this paper. This research shows that post-pandemic family functions' revitalization can be started by preparing a strong husband and wife's emotional maturity. In addition, it is necessary to assist in communication and financial management of the family. Furthermore, revitalization will be successful if job opportunities are opened as widely as possible with incentive funds from the government and philanthropic institutions. Finally, the resolution and anticipation of natural disasters can be anticipated and resolved as quickly as possible. One of the effective ways for family revitalization is by establishing a family corner at each smallest unit of the society. Further research on this issue can be conducted through interviews*

|| Submitted: March 8, 2021 || Accepted: June 5, 2021 || Published: June 30, 2021

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with some informants who have experienced changes family lifestyle during the COVID-19 pandemic and mapping their hopes post pandemic period.

Keywords: Revitalization, Family Function, COVID-19, Emotional Maturity, Family Corner

Abstrak: *Pandemi COVID-19 telah mengurangi fungsi keluarga. Selama pandemi COVID-19, keluarga Indonesia menghadapi tiga masalah signifikan: hubungan keluarga yang jauh; pendidikan keluarga terabaikan; dan situasi sosial ekonomi yang tidak seimbang. Tulisan ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan ketiga perubahan mendasar dalam institusi keluarga tersebut. Selain itu, makalah ini mengidentifikasi faktor-faktor yang menyebabkan disfungsi keluarga. Artikel ini juga menawarkan solusi konkrit untuk mengembalikan fungsi keluarga yang hilang akibat COVID-19, yaitu pembentukan Family Corner. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian normatif dengan menggunakan metode analisis deskriptif kritis dengan menyajikan data dari berbagai literatur dan sumber dokumen. Data terbaru yang didukung oleh beberapa penelitian terbaru dijelaskan secara rinci dalam makalah ini. Penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa revitalisasi fungsi keluarga pascapandemi dapat dimulai dengan mempersiapkan kematangan emosi suami istri yang kuat. Selain itu, perlu adanya pendampingan dalam komunikasi dan pengelolaan keuangan keluarga. Selanjutnya, revitalisasi akan berhasil jika kesempatan kerja dibuka seluas-luasnya dengan dana insentif dari pemerintah dan lembaga filantropi. Akhirnya, resolusi dan antisipasi bencana alam dapat diantisipasi dan diselesaikan secepat mungkin. Salah satu cara yang efektif untuk revitalisasi keluarga adalah dengan mendirikan Family Corner di setiap unit terkecil masyarakat. Penelitian lebih lanjut mengenai masalah ini dapat dilakukan melalui wawancara dengan beberapa informan yang mengalami perubahan gaya hidup keluarga selama masa pandemi COVID-19 dan memetakan harapan mereka pasca masa pandemi.*

Kata Kunci: *Revitalisasi, fungsi keluarga, COVID-19, kematangan emosi dan pojok keluarga*

Introduction

The COVID-19 pandemic throughout 2020-2021 has significantly reduced family functions. This family dysfunction occurs at least in psychological, educational, and socio-economic aspects. This research shows that dramatic changes in family routines due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 by the end of February 2021, there are more than 36,000 deaths in

Indonesia and 2.5 million worldwide have resulted in distant family relations, neglected family education, and family's unequal socio-economic situation. The non harmonious relationship between husband-wife has resulted in the increase of divorce rate. Divorce cases in the United States experienced a 34% jump during the pandemic. Meanwhile, in Indonesia, religious affairs offices recorded divorce cases in 2020 to have reached 645,824. Violence against children has also increased. In 2020, there have been 3,087 cases of violence against children. Likewise, the crime and suicide rates continued to rise. The COVID-19 has indeed changed family life leading to dysfunction of family roles.

Most studies about the COVID-19 and family have focused on the impact of the COVID-19 on families. A number of studies have shown that the COVID-19 has caused anxiety, such as the work of Abdullah¹ Dhanani dan Franz,² and Doshi et al.³ Abu Bakr and Alya's research shows that the COVID-19 pandemic has restored family functions that have been taken over by the state and the market⁴, in which the pandemic is seen to have reattached family ties. However, this paper is different from those of previous research because in addition to identifying the internal and external factors that cause family dysfunction due to the COVID-19, this paper offers a number of concrete steps to revitalize the family functions post the COVID-19 pandemic, which is the formation of the Family Corner. This is certainly very much needed to ascertain the revitalization of family functions.

This paper aims to fill the gaps of previous studies by explaining the three fundamental changes in the family institutions. In addition, this paper identifies the factors causing family dysfunction. Finally, this paper offers a concrete solution to restore the lost in family functions due to the COVID-19. This study shows that the revitalization of post-pandemic family functions can be started by preparing mentally strong husbands and wives. The steps taken include increasing the maturity of the couple to shape their level of resistance to face big challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also suggested

¹ Irwan Abdullah, "COVID-19: Threat and Fear in Indonesia.," *Psychological Trauma: Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy* 12, no. 5 (2020), p. 488–90.

² Lindsay Y. Dhanani and Berkeley Franz, "Unexpected Public Health Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic: A National Survey Examining Anti-Asian Attitudes in the USA," *International Journal of Public Health* 65, no. 6 (2020), p. 747–54.

³ Dolar Doshi et al., "Assessing Coronavirus Fear in Indian Population Using the Fear of COVID-19 Scale," *International Journal of Mental Health and Addiction*, (2020), p. 1–9.

⁴ Ali Abubakar and Nabila Ulamy Alya, "Refunction Family during Covid-19 Pandemic (Study among Students of Anthropology UGM)," *Samarah: Jurnal Hukum Keluarga dan Hukum Islam* 4, no. 1 (2020), p. 151–78.
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that marriage age should be in accordance with the provisions of Law Number 16 of 2019, which regulates 19 years old as the minimum age limit for marriage couples.

In addition, communication and financial management assistance needs to be carried out so that husbands and wives can regulate their interactions and economic patterns according to their respective situations and financial conditions. Externally, revitalization will be successful if job opportunities are opened as wide as possible with the support of incentives for matching funds from the government and philanthropic institutions. Finally, natural disasters that make families neglected can be anticipated and resolved as soon as possible. One of the effective ways to revitalize the family is to form a Family Corner in every Neighborhood Association and Residents Association. The government indeed hopes that the COVID-19 pandemic could be halted for the family life to return to normal.

This paper is based on the argument that family functions have been degraded due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Families need preparation for the post-pandemic recovery process to enable them navigate a new life. The hope is that most families will survive and return to normal. It is a common phenomenon to find that due to the COVID-19 outbreak, family relations have become distant, family education is neglected, and the socio-economic situation is unequal. Many worrying cases have emerged as a result of this pandemic. Communities need to adapt to the current situation in order to maintain family functions as they should be.

This is a library research, since it collects data from various reliable documents and literature that describe the current situation of the society. The type of data used in assessing the revitalization of family functions is secondary data. This research relies on the use of documents and literature. The documents used are twofold, news and statistical documents. News documents were obtained from online newspaper portals, such as *Republika* and *Kompas* which provide accurate information about data on family problems due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The statistical documents are taken from the information centers of trusted institutions that document family problems, such as the websites of the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection. The data collected were analyzed critically. The in-depth analysis starts from the understanding of the data through interpretation of the literature. Both document and literature data were selected thematically to be quoted before data patterns were built in the process of interpreting the data.

Family and the COVID-19 Pandemic

The family is the main pillar in the formation of the society. If the family is strong, the society tends to be strong as well. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it is undeniable that there have been dramatic changes in the routine of family life.⁵ Measures to control the spread of the virus carried out in many countries have caused disruption of family relationships in many respects. Loss of community, freedom of movement, and decreased income are the losses incurred as a result of quarantine policies.⁶ Social/physical distancing has resulted in almost all children in the world staying at home, rather than spending time learning at schools and with parents who are laid off or working from home. In case the parents are still working, the routine is also disrupted because the children stay at home while the parents go to work which results in the need for alternative childcare arrangements.⁷ Social distancing instructions to stay at home pose a potential risk to health and public relations due to spending too much time indoors. Another problem that arises as a result of this social restriction is the increase in acts of domestic and sexual violence, not only against children and adolescents, but also against married couples.⁸

The worst impact due to the COVID-19 pandemic is the rift of marital relations that may lead to divorce. In China, for example statistical data shows the negative impact of the COVID-19 on husband-wife relationships.⁹ Moreover, Bloomberg reports that an increase in the number of divorces appeared in China in March 2020 due to the lockdown period during the COVID-19.¹⁰ This increase in divorce rate does not only take place in China, the increasing number of divorces due to the pandemic also appeared in various parts of the world,¹¹ including Indonesia, which as stated by Tin Herawati that the COVID-19 triggered the rise of divorce in Indonesia. According to Tin Herawati, the decline in family income due to the COVID-

⁵ Jo Lauren Weaver and Jacqueline M. Swank, "Parents' Lived Experiences With the COVID-19 Pandemic," *The Family Journal*, (2020).

⁶ "The COVID-19 Pandemic: A Family Affair," *Journal of Family Nursing* 26, no. 2 (2020), p. 87–89.

⁷ Heather Prime, Mark Wade, and Dillon T. Browne, "Risk and Resilience in Family Well-Being during the COVID-19 Pandemic," *The American Psychologist* 75, no. 5 (2020), p. 631–43.

⁸ Anna Lips, "The Situation of Young People at Home During COVID-19 Pandemic," *Childhood Vulnerability Journal*, (2021).

⁹ Hongwei Zhang, "The Influence of the Ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Violence in China," *Journal of Family Violence*, (2020).

¹⁰ David Gensler and 2020 at 12:57 PM, "COVID-19 and Its Impact on Divorce and Retirement Plans," *New York Law Journal*, accessed March 21, 2021.

¹¹ Maddy Savage, "Mengapa angka perceraian di berbagai negara melonjak saat pandemi Covid-19?," *BBC News Indonesia*, accessed March 7, 2021. <http://jurnal.arraniry.ac.id/index.php/samarah>

19 was the cause of the emergence of pressure in the family which led to an increase in the divorce rate.¹²

In addition to unequal family relationships, the pandemic also affects family education. The family has an important role in shaping the characters of its members.¹³ Parents in a certain family do not only teach basic knowledge to their children but also socialize them to important values and cultures. This is so because family is the first socialization of all children. Family shapes their children's characters and the process of the internalization takes place within the family, and they also shape children's attitude in their broader social interaction.¹⁴ Currently, the family has an important role in socializing new habits in handling the COVID-19 pandemic. The family plays significant roles in strengthening the psychological conditions of its members in dealing with various problems such as the COVID-19 pandemic¹⁵ and experiencing new patterns of living habits¹⁶ such as getting used to implementing health protocols and shaping the way to return to Allah for He grants help at handling the COVID-19.¹⁷ In addition, there have been changes in the educational process within the family during the COVID-19 pandemic.¹⁸ In pre pandemic, learning process took place face-to-face.¹⁹ In this model, most parents leave their children's education completely to the teacher. Apart from parents' inability to carry out education, parents leave their children in educational institutions so that they can work to meet economic needs. During the

¹² Tin Herawati, "COVID-19 Pandemic Increases Young Couples' Divorce Cases," IPB University, December 4, 2020.

¹³ Uswatun Hasanah and Much Deiniatur, "Character Education in Early Childhood Based on Family," *Early Childhood Research Journal (ECRJ)* 2, no. 1 (2020), p. 29-42

¹⁴ Shirley-Anne S. Paul et al., "Parents' Perspectives on Home-Based Character Education Activities," *Journal of Family Studies* 0, no. 0 (2020), p. 1–23.

¹⁵ Yun Pan et al., "Family Functioning and Mental Health among Secondary Vocational Students during the COVID-19 Epidemic: A Moderated Mediation Model," *Personality and Individual Differences* 171 (2021).

¹⁶ I. Gusti Ngurah Ngurah Santika, "Optimalisasi Peran Keluarga Dalam Menghadapi Persoalan Covid-19: Sebuah Kajian Literatur," *Jurnal Ilmiah Ilmu Sosial* 6, no. 2 (2020), p. 127–37,

¹⁷ Solihin Slamet Kusdi, "Peranan Pola Asuh Orang Tua dalam Pembentukan Karakter Anak," *AL-USWAH: Jurnal Riset dan Kajian Pendidikan Agama Islam* 1, no. 2 (2019), p. 100–111.

¹⁸ Ben Williamson, Rebecca Eynon, and John Potter, "Pandemic Politics, Pedagogies and Practices: Digital Technologies and Distance Education during the Coronavirus Emergency," *Learning, Media and Technology* 45, no. 2 (2020), p. 107–114

¹⁹ Shu-Chen Yen et al., "Learning Online, Offline, and in-between: Comparing Student Academic Outcomes and Course Satisfaction in Face-to-Face, Online, and Blended Teaching Modalities," *Education and Information Technologies* 23, no. 5 (2018), p. 2141–53.

pandemic, the work of parents has increased, namely accompanying children to study at home.²⁰

Finally, the severe impact of the COVID-19 is on the family's socio-economic condition. The government policies and social norms regulate the economic functions, and the pandemic has affected the government's policies regarding the economic activities.²¹ For example, the COVID-19 pandemic results in families' lack of ability to earn sufficient income to meet the need in their daily life. Lockdown policies or restrictions on social activities results in decreasing of the family incomes.²² Lockdown costs a lot and results in inequality of economic distribution in the society. The negative impact of the lockdown is being felt by freelancers and businesses that depend on the daily cash flow. Lockdown slows the pace of the community's economy. Economic recovery policies are needed during the transition and post-lockdown period.²³ The decline in family income also affects children's access to education.²⁴

One way to overcome this problem is to maximize community participation in dealing with the impact of the COVID-19. In the theory of community empowerment, McCharthy and Zald argue that important aspects in mobilizing community resources, especially in the context of revitalizing family functions, are community support, mobilization strategies, and strong relationships with the wider community.²⁵ Strong community support for the transformation of values into real action and close cooperation with all elements of the society is a necessity. This resource mobilization must be able to build open relations with various institutions. Likewise, systematic

²⁰ Agus Purwanto et al., "Studi Eksploratif Dampak Pandemi COVID-19 Terhadap Proses Pembelajaran Online Di Sekolah Dasar," *EduPsyCouns: Journal of Education, Psychology and Counseling* 2, no. 1 (2020), p. 1–12.

²¹ Megan McDonald Way, "Families: Economic Functions and Decision-Making," in *Family Economics and Public Policy, 1800s–Present: How Laws, Incentives, and Social Programs Drive Family Decision-Making and the US Economy*, ed. Megan McDonald Way, Palgrave Studies in American Economic History, New York: Palgrave Macmillan US, 2018, p. 23–44.

²² Kaitano Dube, Godwell Nhamo, and David Chikodzi, "COVID-19 Cripples Global Restaurant and Hospitality Industry," *Current Issues in Tourism* 0, no. 0 (2020), p. 1–4.

²³ K. S. Jomo and Anis Chowdhury, "COVID-19 Pandemic Recession and Recovery," *Development* 63, no. 2 (2020), p. 226–37.

²⁴ Mads Meier Jæger and Ea Hoppe Blaabæk, "Inequality in Learning Opportunities during Covid-19: Evidence from Library Takeout," *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 68 (2020).

²⁵ John D. McCarthy and Mayer N. Zald, "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements: A Partial Theory," *American Journal of Sociology* 82, no. 6 (1977), p. 1212–41. <http://jurnal.arraniry.ac.id/index.php/samarah>

strategies relevant to the characters of the community should be adapted so that the process of social empowerment can be carried out properly.²⁶

Family Relationship Inequality

The prolonged pandemic has adversely affected the family life. Communication destruction due to social restrictions in all aspects results in household disrupted conditions. Therefore, it is reported that many couples tend to be unable to maintain their relationship, and thus the trend of increasing divorce during the pandemic is obvious. The increase in the divorce rate applies to many countries. For example, the UK also experiences the increase in the divorce rate. The UK legal aid office, Stewarts, stated that his agency has handled an increase in divorce cases by 12% from the previous year. The United States has experienced the same trend. A legal contracting service claims that the divorce documents show the increase by 34% during the pandemic. This number includes 20% of newly-wed couples for about five months of marriage. A similar phenomenon occurred in China and Sweden. Divorces are unavoidable due to decreased happiness in the family.²⁷ The Indonesian case also shows a similar trend, the Supreme Court data shows that divorce cases in 2020 reached 645,824, an increase of around 2000 cases compared to 2019 which stayed at the level of 643,691 cases. The data shows that divorce has become a new problem during the pandemic.²⁸ Another negative impact of the pandemic is violence against children.²⁹ The data from the Ministry of Women's Empowerment and Child Protection shows that from January 1 to June 19, 2020 there were 3,087 cases of violence against children consisting of 852 physical violence, 768 cases of psychological violence, and 1,848 cases of sexual violence. Parents' emotional instability due to the pandemic has victimized children.³⁰ For example job loses, income decreases, and depressed mental problems resulted in parents' disappointment, which then influence their interaction with their children.

²⁶ Dewi Karina Sari, "Strategi Mobilisasi Gerakan Masyarakat Dalam Penutupan Industri Pengelolaan Limbah B3 Di Desa Lakardowo Kabupaten Mojokerto," *Jurnal Politik Indonesia* 2, no. 1 (2017), p. 127–34.

²⁷ Savage, "Mengapa angka perceraian di berbagai negara melonjak saat pandemi Covid-19?"

²⁸ Makamah Agung RI, "Direktori Putusan Pengadilan Tingkat I," accessed March 7, 2021, <https://putusan3.mahkamahagung.go.id/direktori/index/tahunjenis/putus/tahun/2020.html>.

²⁹ Khoiruddin Nasution, "Perlindungan Terhadap Anak Dalam Hukum Keluarga Islam Indonesia," *AL-ADALAH* 13, no. 1 (2016), p. 1–10.

³⁰ Kementerian Pemberdayaan Perempuan dan Perlindungan Anak RI, "Angka Kekerasan Terhadap Anak Tinggi Di Masa Pandemi, Kemen PPPA Sosialisasikan Protokol Perlindungan Anak," accessed March 7, 2021, <http://jurnal.arraniry.ac.id/index.php/samarah>

In addition, excessive social suspicion adds to the negative impact of the pandemic. As a matter of fact, all people prevent themselves from having a severe disease, especially the COVID-19. For that reason, people are suspicious to new people in a neighborhood; they get worried, since the COVID-19 is easily transferrable to others. This leads to People's reluctance in receiving guests or people from outside in order to avoid transmission of the disease. For example, the office cannot accept guests from outside the institutions; and in fact the shift system was employed, and thus the number of employees who are present in the office is limited. Teaching and learning activities on campuses and schools have been halted in order to avoid crowds. The handshake a previously habitual practices should be avoided. This fact becomes a burden on the society. Gathering in a large crowd was now avoided. This shift in community practices aggravate social problem, and now humans seem to be isolated in the crowd.

The Decrease of the Education Quality

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the world of education. The face-to-face transfer of knowledge from teachers to students had to be stopped. Campuses and schools are no longer crowded. Learning has changed from offline to online. Online habits are an alternative solution. However, it is undeniable that the quality of learning has greatly decreased. Knowledge transfer is interrupted. Teacher-student interaction becomes very limited, and some of them tend to give assignments and homework *per se*. Many parents complain and are depressed because they have to accompany their children to study while they are struggling with economic problems themselves. The use the internet become necessary, and it is a problem itself, since price of internet credit is unaffordable for many students. Many children seem to be neglected because they do not get adequate learning assistance facilities. According to the Minister of Education and Culture, Nadiem Makarim, the bad consequences of long distance learning are that children will drop out of school because they help their parents at work, unfulfilled learning outcomes, and psycho-social pressure and domestic violence.³¹

The problem that also arises due to the pandemic in the family environment is the promiscuity of children. Being at home for a long period of time, shape children's attitudes toward learning; they become lazier to study and tend to relax. For that reason, most children spend time to access the internet excessively and the use of social media is not controlled. As a result, when parents are busy working to meet the necessities of life, children are too

³¹ Albertus Adit, "Mendikbud: Ini 3 Dampak Negatif Jika Terlalu Lama PJJ," KOMPAS.com, November 20, 2020.
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free to mix with their peers, which can result in drug use, alcohol use, and prewed pregnancy. One of the data shows the case of early marriage in Madiun, which increase by 100%. According to the Head of the Religious Court of Madiun City, Zainal Fanani, the number of applications for the request for the divorce has reached 120 in September 2020. Whereas in 2019, the number of divorce rates was no more than 50 cases.³² This is certainly a concern for all parties so that the future of the child remains secure and does not fall into a difficult situation.

Furthermore, in such a situation, religious teaching should become the guide for all people; they should feel secure when people return to Allah. Religion has been proven to be able to become a pillar of support when people experience problems. Even though one cannot meet physically, online religious studies are widely available. However, physical activity is actually still needed in the community. Moreover, there are a number of religious teachings that suggest Muslims to worship in congregation. Unfortunately, congregational prayer activities are also avoided. In Ramadan 2020, for example, the *tarawih* is recommended to be carried out at home, likewise, *Eid al-Fitr* and *Eid al-Adha* prayers. If the pandemic does not end soon, in 2021, these social issues persist.

Family Socio-Economic Instability

The COVID-19 has decreased family incomes if not lose altogether. Data from the Central Statistics Agency shows that 29.12 million people of working age have been affected by the COVID-19. 2.56 million people became unemployed due to job cut, while unemployed people due to the COVID-19 reached 1.77 million people, 24.03 million people experienced a reduction in working hours.³³ Many unemployed and those who are employed and experience job cut in their working hours have resulted in the economic instability of the family, while food and other needs should be met. It is expected that post the pandemic, family income is expected to recover and all needs can be met again.

When the family economy weakens and most people lose job opportunities, the criminal rate will also increase. Data from the Banten Police office, for example, shows that there has been an increase in crime cases in Banten throughout 2020. The data shows that approximately, 3,323

³² "Miris, Kasus Remaja 'Hamil Dulu' Melonjak Selama Pandemi Covid-19 di Madiun," liputan6.com, September 27, 2020.

³³ Kementerian Tenaga Kerja RI, "Menaker Ida: 29,12 Juta Orang Penduduk Usia Kerja Terdampak Pandemi Covid-19 : Berita : Kementerian Ketenagakerjaan RI," accessed March 7, 2021.

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conventional criminal acts, such as motor vehicle theft and fraud increased by 8%. The increase in crime cases in Banten is so much the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴ Likewise, in the Special Region of Yogyakarta, criminal rate in 2020 increased by 35%. The number reached by 4,694 cases, which were only 3,453 cases in 2019. The perpetrators were motivated to commit crimes due to the economic crush. This data shows that the pandemic has triggered an increase in criminal rates, and this should be a caution for all people.

In addition to layoffs and crime, the COVID-19 costs many lives. Apart from the COVID-19 however, death rate increase due to suicide. In Japan, the suicide rate reached 2153 cases in 2020, up about 70% compared to the 2019. While people died from the COVID-19 throughout 2020 were only 2089 people. Japan and South Korea are known as highly developed countries in Asia. However, the suicide rates in these two countries are among the highest in the world. In Japan, the suicide rate is 18.5 people out of 100,000 populations. As for South Korea, those who commit suicide are 15 people per 100,000 populations. The factors for their suicidal acts are generally due to high life pressures. The demands for good performance at school and the difficulties of life trigger suicide. The pandemic has made things worse because economic conditions declined. As a result, many individuals feel isolated and lonely so that suicide is considered the easiest solution to escape suffering.³⁵

Revitalizing Family Functions through the Family Corner: A Necessity

This research suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic lasted more than a year has disrupted family functions. Although the vaccination program in Indonesia has started since January 13, 2021 by the command of President Jokowi, the spread of the COVID-19 is persistent, and thus negative impacts on the household is unavoidable. Our exploration of the literature reveal that there are three major problems faced by Indonesian families: distancing family relations, negligent of education in the family, and an inequality of family's socio-economic situation. Distant family relationships have led to high divorce rates, child abuse, and a suspicious environment. The weakness of family education has led to the low quality of children's learning, adolescent promiscuity, and the weakening of religious activities. Finally, the unequal socio-economic situation of the family has led to an increase in divorce rates,

³⁴ Rasyid Ridho, "Pandemi Covid-19, Angka Kriminalitas Meningkatkan, Kecelakaan Lalu Lintas Menurun Halaman all," KOMPAS.com, December 23, 2020.

³⁵ Denny JA, "Tingginya Angka Bunuh Diri di Era Pandemi," Republika Online, February 10, 2021.
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crime rates, and suicide rates. This resulted in the inability of family unit to play its significant role as the protector of all its members. For that reason, there should be strategies to revitalize family functions, especially post the COVID-19 pandemic.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused family dysfunction. Lips' research shows that social distancing during the pandemic increases domestic violence rates³⁶. Wu and Xu stated that there is a threat to good parenting of children during the COVID-19 period. The decrease in the healthy family life affects the stability of the household, which in turn drives family members to commit criminal acts that can threaten the safety of their lives and the society³⁷. There are internal and external factors leading to family dysfunction. One of the dominant internal factors is the immaturity of marriage couples. Young marriage couples are particularly vulnerable and are not resilient to family problems. Those who seem to be immature are easily trapped into despair and disappointment. When they are exposed to problem during their marriage life, most of them tend to end their marriage as a way of resolving their problems. This is in accordance with Melnikas' research which states that couples who marry early will most likely end their marriage early.³⁸ and thus they regard that divorce is a quick solution to their problems. In addition, the unstable psychology of parents triggers violence against children. Children were victimized by their parents' weak emotional control. The other internal factor is lack of financial management capabilities and also parents' communication skills. Families who are not able to manage their income and their spending will drive to financial difficulties during the pandemic. The amount of spending is higher than the amount of income during the COVID-19. This leads to their lack of ability to meet the daily need, and that is stressful, which then triggers crime. In addition, the isolation of family members affected by the COVID-19 occurs due to poor communication patterns. Due to excessive worrying, family estrangement can occur. Loneliness in solitude causes a person to finally want to commit suicide.

In addition, the external factor also exacerbates the negative impact of the COVID-19 that weakens family functions is the restriction of community activities. This is in line with the opinion of Paital et al suggesting that this policy result in psychological problems and violence, both verbal and

³⁶ Lips, "The Situation of Young People at Home During COVID-19 Pandemic."

³⁷ Qi Wu and Yanfeng Xu, "Parenting Stress and Risk of Child Maltreatment during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Family Stress Theory-Informed Perspective," *Developmental Child Welfare* 2, no. 3 (2020), p. 180–96.

³⁸ Andrea J. Melnikas et al., "Child Marriage Practices among the Rohingya in Bangladesh," *Conflict and Health* 14, no. 1 (2020), p. 28.
<http://jurnal.arraniry.ac.id/index.php/samarah>

physical.³⁹ Abdullah added that staying at home for long periods of time can lead to depression, lethargy, anxiety and other physical ailments.⁴⁰ Similar statement was also revealed by Dhanani and Franz,⁴¹ and Doshi et al.⁴² Education was closed, religious activities were restricted, even cultural activities which became a very strong community bound and tradition had to be abandoned and everyone had to stay at home. If there are no positive activities to channel unused energy, it will be easy to trigger negative actions, such as unwise use of the internet and social media, promiscuity, and low religious awareness. The choice of Large-Scale Social Restrictions (PSBB) or the Enforcement of Restrictions on Community Activities (PPKM) cannot be avoided. However, a wise solution is needed to avoid negative impacts, since adaptation of new habits does not necessarily reduce these external factors.

Another external factor is natural disasters. This worsens the family situation. Jakarta, for example, experiences major floods every year, followed by the earthquakes in Majene and Mamuju, landslides in Garut and Sumedang, the crash of an airplane in Karawang, and the armed conflict in Papua added to the long list of sufferings of the Indonesian people in early 2021. If this disaster is not dealt with comprehensively, the spread of the COVID-19 remains high and the family institution will continue to degrade.

This study confirms that family's functions need to be revitalized post the COVID-19 pandemic. So far, existing research still mainly discusses the impact of the COVID-19 on families. This study however, emphasizes the need for family readiness before the end of the COVID-19. One way to overcome this family problem is to maximize community participation. In the theory of community empowerment, McCharthy and Zald argue that important aspects in mobilizing community resources, especially in the context of revitalizing family functions, are mobilization strategies, community support, and strong networks with the wider community. If these

³⁹ Biswaranjan Paital, Kabita Das, and Sarat Kumar Parida, "Inter Nation Social Lockdown versus Medical Care against COVID-19, a Mild Environmental Insight with Special Reference to India," *Science of The Total Environment* 728 (2020). Javad Yoosefi Lebni et al., "How the COVID-19 Pandemic Effected Economic, Social, Political, and Cultural Factors: A Lesson from Iran," *International Journal of Social Psychiatry*, July 2, (2020).

⁴⁰ Abdullah, "COVID-19."

⁴¹ Dhanani and Franz, "Unexpected Public Health Consequences of the COVID-19 Pandemic."

⁴² Doshi et al., "Assessing Coronavirus Fear in Indian Population Using the Fear of COVID-19 Scale."

three aspects can be done, then family problems will be easily resolved properly.⁴³

For this reason, the revitalization of family functions needs to be carried out gradually. A number of strategies must be implemented immediately. To address internal factors, three steps are recommended. First, the maturity of the marriage couple should be increased and they should be made mentally and physically ready to face challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. The level of maturity determines the success of revitalizing family functions. Mature couples will more easily adapt to unstable situations and conditions. In addition, for couples who are going to get married, it is necessary to ensure that their age is in accordance with the rules of Law Number 16 of 2019 which regulates the minimum age limit for couples to 19 years old. Second, there should be communication management assistance so that marriage couples can regulate their interaction patterns according to their respective situations and conditions. Smooth communication using various media will make it easier for someone to stay connected with other family members. Intensive discussion to solve problems will be able to mentally strengthen each other among family members. Third, there should be financial management assistance. Careful calculations of income and expenditure will enable families to anticipate dynamic situations in the family so that there is no family budget deficit.

The external factor can be resolved through the revitalization of family functions. This can be done through providing job opportunities with incentives for matching funds from the government and philanthropic institutions. Finally, the resolution and anticipation of natural disasters that make displaced families can be anticipated and resolved. An effective way to provide community assistance is to form a Family Corner in each Rukun Tetangga (RT) and Rukun Warga (RW). The Family Corner can take advantage of the potential of local residents who have the ability to perform various services. This is in line with the thoughts of McCarthy and Zald, that it is necessary to mobilize the role of the community and take advantage of their potencies.⁴⁴ For example, residents who have counseling expertise can function as family counselors. If a member of the community is experiencing family problems, such as marital conflicts or inheritance disputes, he or she can see the counselor for direction and guidance. Likewise, residents who have expertise in health can become health consultants for people in need. The family corner is like a fortress for the family to function optimally post the COVID-19 pandemic.

⁴³ McCarthy and Zald, "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements."

⁴⁴ McCarthy and Zald. "Resource Mobilization and Social Movements."

To get full advantage of the Family Corner, it may take the opportunity to cooperate with the Integrated Health Service Post (*Posyandu*) and the Family Welfare Empowerment Team (*PKK*) which have been active in providing family counseling within the community. The Family Corner can join the *Posyandu* office or the *PKK* office which is usually located at the *Balai Rukun Warga*. To be able to assist the community on communication and financial management, the Family Corner can cooperate with the Community Health Center (*Puskesmas*) and educational institutions in the vicinity. The *Puskesmas* can have regular visits to the Family Corner in every RW to monitor and control public health. If there are patients who need further treatment, the Family Corner can provide recommendations for hospitalization at the *Puskesmas*. Educational institutions, such as Vocational High Schools, also need to be involved to strengthen the Family Corner by holding regular activities on communication and financial management strategies. Campuses can also be involved because campuses have an obligation to serve the community as a form of the *Tridharma* (three obligatory services of Higher Education). Many experts from multi-disciplinary field of studies are willing to volunteer to help the Family Corner.

Finally, the Family Corner may plan to cooperate with the *Amil Zakat* Agency and Institution to ease the burden on people affected by the COVID-19. This is in accordance with the opinion of McCharthy and Zald suggesting that a strong network with external institutions is needed to mobilize community resources.⁴⁵ Many *amil zakat* institutions allocate their funds to alleviate poverty and disasters. The *Dompot Dhuafa* Independence Institute program, for example, can provide skills training to communities affected by the COVID-19 to work independently. Al-Falah Social Fund Foundation (YDSF) has an Independent Village and Village Economy program that can help the community in order to improve the quality of Human Resources for education and health. In addition, YDSF also provides capital assistance to improve the community's economy. Thus, the role of the Family Corner is indispensable so that a normal family life after the COVID-19 pandemic can be realized.

Conclusion

This study found that the revitalization of family functions post the COVID-19 pandemic can be done by increasing the maturity of marriage couples in the family as well as assisting in communication management and family economics. This is so because an immature married couple will be easily affected by severe tests such as the COVID-19. In addition, family

⁴⁵ McCarthy and Zald.

revitalization will be successful if job opportunities are more open and natural disaster management can be carried out properly. Revitalization of family functions will be easily achieved with real policies in an organized and systematic manner. One of which is by forming a Family Corner in every *Rukun Tetangga* and *Rukun Warga*, which is a form of mobilizing community resources as McCharthy and Zald believe. The Family Corner can be a fortress for revitalizing family functions because this institution can collaborate with various parties according to the needs of the community. This research is still limited in observing family situations during the COVID-19 pandemic. Psychological factors become the focus of research. This research could be improved with more in-depth observations by conducting interviews with a number of informants who experienced changes in family life during the COVID-19 pandemic and mapping their hopes post pandemic. Thus, the revitalization of family functions will be more comprehensive and a harmonious family can be realized perfectly.

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