

ABSTRACT

Marriage is a relationship that is expected to last forever, but is often faced with conflict and ends in divorce or death of the partner. Couples who are separated, especially with children, will find it difficult to meet their own needs. Remarriage is an alternative to fulfill needs. Children's reactions to stepparents vary, related to negative stigma in society. The presence of stepparents is undesirable for children, often related to negative perceptions of their presence which is considered cruel and unfair. One adjustment to the approach that can be made by children and stepparents is through openness. This research examines the openness of family communication in children's adjustment to stepmothers. This research will use openness theory in understanding the phenomenon of a child's openness towards his adjustment to a stepmother. Researchers will use qualitative methods with a post-positivism paradigm. Data collection was obtained through an interview process with late adolescent children. Researchers found out how important family communication is in children's adjustment to stepmothers. The role of parents greatly influences children's introduction to their stepmother and the formation of bonds. The child's adaptation process from discomfort to closeness reflects changes in family dynamics. Open communication, introduction before marriage, and parental support are important in children's adjustment.

Keywords : *Self-Disclosure, Adjustment, Late Adolescent Children, Stepmother*