

## EXPLORING MOTHER-IN-LAW AND DAUGHTER-IN-LAW CONFLICTS IN CONTEMPORARY FAMILY STRUCTURES



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### Abstract

Conflicts between mothers – in – law and daughters – in – law are common phenomena in family dynamics, especially within the context of increasingly diverse and complex contemporary family structures. This study aims to explore the factors influencing conflicts between mothers – in – law and daughters – in – law and how such conflicts can be managed in family relationships today. Using a qualitative approach, this research gathers data through in – depth interviews and observations of families experiencing conflicts in mother – in – law and daughter – in – law relationships. The findings show that various factors, such as differences in values and expectations between mothers – in – law and daughters – in – law, gender roles still influenced by traditional norms, as well as social and economic pressures, play a significant role in triggering conflicts. Furthermore, ineffective communication and a lack of understanding of each other's roles within the family also contribute to exacerbating the situation. The study also found that there are differences in how mothers – in – law and daughters – in – law handle conflicts, depending on their educational background, culture, and age. To address these conflicts, it is important to build open communication and mutual understanding, as well as prioritize empathy among family members. This study suggests the need for a more inclusive and socially sensitive approach in order to create harmonious relationships between mothers – in – law and daughters – in – law, and emphasizes the importance of family education that can help manage intergenerational conflicts in the modern era.

### Abstrak

Konflik antara mertua dan menantu perempuan adalah salah satu fenomena yang sering terjadi dalam dinamika keluarga, terutama dalam konteks struktur keluarga kontemporer yang semakin beragam dan kompleks. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi faktor-faktor yang mempengaruhi konflik antara mertua dan menantu perempuan serta bagaimana konflik tersebut dapat dikelola dalam hubungan keluarga saat ini. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif, penelitian ini mengumpulkan data melalui wawancara mendalam dan observasi terhadap keluarga-keluarga yang mengalami konflik dalam hubungan mertua dan menantu perempuan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa berbagai faktor seperti perbedaan nilai dan harapan antara mertua dan menantu perempuan, peran gender yang masih dipengaruhi oleh norma-norma tradisional, serta tekanan sosial dan ekonomi berperan besar dalam memicu konflik. Selain itu, faktor komunikasi yang kurang efektif serta ketidakpahaman terhadap peran masing-masing dalam keluarga juga turut memperburuk situasi. Penelitian ini juga menemukan bahwa terdapat perbedaan dalam cara mertua dan menantu perempuan menghadapi konflik, tergantung pada latar belakang pendidikan, budaya, dan usia mereka. Untuk mengatasi konflik ini, penting untuk membangun komunikasi yang terbuka dan saling memahami, serta mengedepankan empati antar anggota keluarga. Penelitian ini menyarankan perlunya pendekatan yang lebih inklusif dan sensitif terhadap perubahan sosial dalam rangka menciptakan hubungan yang harmonis antara mertua dan menantu perempuan, serta pentingnya pendidikan keluarga yang dapat membantu mengelola konflik antar generasi di era modern.



## INTRODUCTION

Marriage is not only about the union between a man and a woman, but marriage is also about the union between the families of the married man and woman. For this reason, family harmony is also determined by the good relationships that exist between families. But in fact, not all daughters – in – law can live in harmony with their mother – in – law, especially if they live in the same house (Salman et al., 2021). Many conflicts that occur between daughters – in – law and mother – in – law are caused by several factors including household chores, economic conditions, different mindsets, differences in values and attitudes and lack of communication which cause misunderstandings between daughters – in – law and mother – in – law (Suciati & Sofyan, 2020). Conflicts usually start when the two begin to intersect in terms of daily habits, for example in terms of cooking. The decision to cook for the husband or just to order food online can usually lead to conflicts that can make the relationship between the mother – in – law and daughter – in – law strained. The mother – in – law is used to cooking for her son, while the wife of her son only orders food from an online motorcycle taxi. The mother – in – law considers this habit to be a bad habit and is considered wasteful, making the mother – in – law interfere in her son's household affairs, and dislike her daughter – in – law (Hasyim & Hidayah, 2019).

When viewed from previous research, Salman's research, Arini Safitri, Desi Erawati, in 2021, which discusses the identification of conflicts between daughters – in – law and in – laws who live in the same house in Palangka Raya City shows that conflict analysis in the relationship of daughters – in – law who live with in – laws in Palangka Raya City can be classified based on intrapersonal conflicts, interpersonal conflicts, and causal factors. In the intrapersonal aspect, approach – avoidance was identified in two daughters – in – law, while the element of avoidance appeared in three daughters – in – law. At the interpersonal level, the conflict involved escalation, invalidation, withdrawal and avoidance, as well as negative interpretation, experienced by five daughters – in – law living with in – laws. By taking a sample of five daughters – in – law in Palangka Raya City, some of the factors causing conflict in this study include five aspects. First, lack of communication was seen in three of the daughters – in – law. Second, egocentric attitudes were found in three sons – in – law. Third, economic problems affected one of the sons – in – law. Fourth, differences of opinion were found among the five sons – in – law. Lastly, misunderstandings also occurred in all five sons – in – law (Salman et al., 2021).

In Rani Mutmainah Hasyim and Nur Hidayah's research that discusses the conflict between daughters – in – law and mother – in – law who live in the same house (Study on Families in Bojong Village, Mungkid District, Magelang Regency), the results of this study indicate that the factors that influence the decision of a married couple to live in the parents' house, based on patrilocal patterns, can be divided into two categories, namely internal factors and external factors. Conflicts between daughters – in – law and mothers – in – law are caused by several factors, including household chores, economic conditions, differences in mindset, differences in parenting, as well as misunderstandings and lack of communication (Hasyim & Hidayah, 2019). The difference in interests between the two, coupled with domination or coercion exercised by the mother – in – law towards the daughter – in – law, become the core issues that trigger conflicts. The impact of the conflict between the daughter – in – law and mother – in – law involved an uncomfortable home atmosphere, poor communication between the two, and frequent disagreements with the husband. The conflict management strategies used involve mediation, avoiding confrontation, and resolving issues informally.

When viewed from the aspect of household harmony of husband and wife who live in the in – laws' house, Trian Asminatun, Noviekayati, and Aliffia Ananta's research in 2023, which discusses family harmony in women who live in the in – laws' house, focuses on the role of emotional maturity and self – adjustment of daughters – in – law who live with mothers – in – law. This study shows the results that based on the results of data analysis, it can be seen that there is a positive relationship between emotional maturity and self – adjustment with family harmony in daughters – in – law who live with mothers –

in-law. This proves that the hypothesis proposed by the researcher is accepted (Asminatun et al., 2023). According to research by Febrian Saputra, Niken Hartati, Yolivia Irna Aviani in 2017, the conflict between mother-in-law and daughter-in-law is sometimes also a factor in divorce. The phenomenon of many divorce cases that occur due to spousal dissatisfaction due to interference from parents or in-laws is the background of this study, which then draws conclusions about differences in satisfaction. The difference in marital satisfaction between couples who are at home and separated from parents / in-laws.

The difference in marital satisfaction between couples who live at home and are separated from parents / in-laws. This study is a descriptive quantitative study using a Likert scale with 38 items. The results of the t-test analysis are (r) of 0.870 with  $p = 0.001$  ( $p < 0.05$ ). So it is recommended for married couples to live separately from parents / in-laws in order to get marital satisfaction (Saputra et al., 2017). The dissatisfaction in this survey of married couples living in the in-laws' house then requires further identification of the existing problems. From the above studies, it can be concluded that a very dominant factor in the conflict between daughter-in-law and mother-in-law is the communication factor. For this reason, it is necessary to have a communication strategy for daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law in dealing with conflicts between the two, as in the research of Astri Dwi Andriani, Destiana Husnul Chotimah, and Ahmad Fauzi Yuzillah in 2023, which analyzed the communication strategies used and the causes of conflict between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law in Cianjur District. The method used in this research is a case study with Relational Dialectic theory. This research reveals that daughters-in-law use several communication strategies to resolve conflicts with mothers-in-law. These strategies involve the actions of leaving the conflict situation, keeping silent, and being patient. A thorough analysis shows that conflicts arising between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law can be grouped into two main categories: differences in views on housekeeping and parenting, and biological factors (Andriani et al., 2023a).

Abandonment strategies are a response to conflict. Daughters-in-law tended to leave situations that triggered tension, perhaps in an attempt to avoid direct confrontation that could lead to excessive emotions or to give themselves time to reflect. In situations where differences in views occur, this is considered possible as a method of avoiding conflict escalation and maintaining a more harmonious relationship. In addition, silence was found to be a common response to conflict. Daughters-in-law may choose to maintain silence in an effort to avoid a showdown with the mother-in-law or to make space for the other party to express their opinions. This illustrates a recognition that disagreements can be overcome by easing tensions through a calmer approach. Being patient also emerged as a strategy adopted by daughters-in-law. This involves patience in dealing with conflict situations, where daughters-in-law may choose not to respond immediately or respond patiently to differences of opinion. This strategy reflects a desire to maintain a good relationship with the daughter-in-law without creating a more intense confrontation. As for the causes of conflict, this study identified two main aspects. First, different views on household management and child rearing are the main sources of conflict. Differences in values, norms or expectations regarding these tasks can cause friction between daughters-in-law and daughters-in-law. Secondly, biological factors also contribute to the onset of conflict. Differences in understanding or experience when it comes to biological factors, such as health or reproduction, can create disagreements and trigger conflict within the household they share. Therefore, a deeper understanding of these dynamics can help create more effective conflict management strategies.

This research seeks to delve into the complex dynamics of familial relationships, particularly the often-tense interactions between daughters-in-law and mothers-in-law, which can significantly impact the overall harmony of a family. By examining the underlying causes of these tensions, such as differing expectations, cultural traditions, and generational gaps, the study aims to uncover the factors that frequently lead to misunderstandings or conflicts. The research emphasizes the importance of effective communication as a key strategy for mitigating these tensions, focusing on how open

dialogue and mutual respect can bridge the gap between these two pivotal family roles. It also explores various forms of compromise, highlighting the necessity of empathy and the recognition of shared goals, such as the well-being of the family as a whole. This approach not only fosters a sense of collaboration but also aligns with the principles of *muamalah* in Islam, which stress fairness, kindness, and maintaining good relations among family members. Through in-depth analysis, the study aims to provide practical recommendations for families, including strategies for building trust, establishing clear boundaries, and fostering a culture of appreciation and support. Ultimately, this research aspires to contribute to the realization of harmonious familial relationships, offering insights that are both deeply rooted in Islamic teachings and applicable to the diverse realities of modern family life.

## METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with a case study design to explore the dynamics of conflicts between mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law in contemporary families in Yogyakarta, Riau, and Sulawesi Selatan. The qualitative approach was chosen as it allows for a more flexible understanding of the perspectives of the individuals involved in conflicts in a deep and contextual manner. Data was collected through in-depth interviews with 20 pairs of mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law, purposively selected from diverse social, economic, and cultural backgrounds across the three regions. Informants were chosen based on variations in family life experiences, age, education, and employment status to obtain a broader view of the factors influencing their relationships. Additionally, participatory observations were conducted during relevant family interactions to capture communication dynamics and behaviors that might not have been revealed in interviews. Data collection took place over a period of three months, with interviews conducted in comfortable and non-intrusive settings, allowing informants to freely discuss their personal experiences of dealing with conflicts with their mothers-in-law or daughters-in-law.

After data collection, analysis was performed using a thematic analysis approach, where the researcher reviewed the recorded data to identify key themes related to the causes of conflict and the resolution methods employed by mothers-in-law and daughters-in-law. The analysis process involved systematically coding the data, categorizing information based on common issues or experiences that emerged from the interviews and observations. The researcher also used data triangulation by comparing interview results with observations to ensure the validity and reliability of the findings. Furthermore, to enrich the understanding, theories on family conflict, interpersonal communication, and gender roles were applied as analytical lenses to interpret the data. The results of this analysis are expected to provide deeper insights into the dynamics of mother-in-law and daughter-in-law conflicts and offer recommendations for fostering more harmonious and constructive relationships between both parties.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Husband and Wife Rights and Obligations

Marriage between a man and a woman creates new rights and responsibilities for both parties. By understanding how husband and wives should interact, they can achieve the goal of marriage, which is to form a family based on love, compassion, and mercy. It is important for both parties to be aware of the requirements for marriage, especially for a man, as he will become the leader of his family after the marriage and will be held accountable for his leadership within the family (Nurani, 2021). Husband and wives share rights, such as the right to fulfill their sexual needs as a halal pair, and the right to inherit and own property jointly. The husband rights over his wife include the right to be obeyed, served, and have his property and dignity protected as a husband. The wife's rights over her husband include the right to receive a dowry, financial support, religious education, good treatment, and the right to have her dignity and reputation protected as a wife (Afifah, 2017). One of the most important rights of a wife that needs to be understood by

her husband is the provision of sustenance, including clothing, food, shelter, and other necessities. In this discussion, comfortable housing is a form of sustenance that should be provided by the husband. Therefore, if a husband wishes to invite his wife to reside together with his parents, he must discuss this matter with his wife. It is important to understand that if a wife refuses to live with her parents – in – law, then the husband must provide alternate living arrangements (Demak, 2018). A wife should not be considered disobedient for residing with her in – laws, as she is entitled to a proper, comfortable, and secure living environment within her spouse's financial capabilities. It is vital to understand that Islam requires potential spouses to have the financial means to fulfill their duties to their partner (Ridwan, 2015).

It should be understood that "nusyuz" is traditionally addressed towards wives and perceived as an act of rebellion committed by them. However, in this case, the wife is only demanding her right to a place to live and does not intend to neglect her responsibilities as a spouse. Therefore, the wife's refusal to live with her mother – in – law can be understood as a protest against her husband due to her unmet rights. Rather, the husband should apologize to his wife for failing to fulfill her rights. If the husband instead behaves as if it is a form of rebellion against him and treats his wife poorly, then it can be said that the husband is being oppressive (Harahap, 2018). As a couple, husband and wife are partners who should maintain a good relationship, assist each other, and complement each other, in accordance with the principles of marriage. Conceptually, the relationship between a husband and wife is in a balanced position in carrying out household tasks (Mahirotul Khusna, 2017). However, the concept of balance often becomes patriarchal due to the intervention of mother – in – laws whose outdated thinking entails assigning all household tasks to wives and forbidding them from working. Such situations are difficult to manage due to differences in thinking patterns, experiences, and education levels between the wives and mother – in – laws. This often leads to a strain in the relationship between wives and mother – in – laws. After learning the proper ways for spouses to interact, it is also important for them to understand how to interact with their in – laws, particularly for wives. The mother – in – law is often regarded as the most intimidating figure for a wife, from demands to following the rules that have been set by the mother – in – law, such as raising children and kitchen affairs. If the mother – in – law and wife live together, there is a high intensity to meet, especially if they do not work outside the home. Therefore, it is necessary to discuss and understand how to have good relationships between husband, wife, and mother – in – law (Hasyim & Hidayah, 2019).

### **Conflict Factors between Mother-in-Law and Wife**

According to Sumarto, the dynamics in a family are related to problems and solutions, how we find solutions when experiencing problems. Problems that arise usually include financial problems, children's absence, infidelity, sexual life, wife's lack of household skills, education, differences in views, communication, and even in – laws' interference in household affairs (Sumarto, 2019). In marriage, the presence of parents or in – laws who interfere too much in our family affairs will cause various problems. In this problem must be prevented by our calmness and maturity, not to get angry directly at the in – laws. The most important solution is to communicate well with your partner and parents. Or if you are already prepared to live alone, you can immediately move and have your own house so that you can be more private and calm (Sumarto, 2019). The frequency of interactions between a wife and mother – in – law will typically increase when they live together. These daily encounters can often lead to conflicts between them. Presented below are common conflicts as well as potential resolutions. The phenomenon of awkwardness arises when conflict or discomfort at the mother – in – law's residence gives rise to uncomfortable feelings. This results in the wife becoming disoriented and sensitive while performing tasks at her husband family's home. This results in the wife becoming disoriented and sensitive while performing tasks at her husband family's home. This results in the wife becoming disoriented and sensitive while performing tasks at her husband family's home. The husband must take an active role in resolving this awkwardness to ensure his wife's comfort and successful integration with his family.

The disharmonious relationship between a wife and mother-in-law is often caused by their reliance on emotions. Conflict arises when the mother-in-law gives unsolicited advice or comments on the wife's actions or work. This misunderstanding often leads to grudges held by both parties (Saputra et al., 2017). The aging mother-in-law is concerned about losing her child's attention and feels taken advantage of. Psychologically, she tends to display childlike behavior, seeking attention. There is competition between the wife and the in-laws, necessitating that the husband act as a mediator, proficient at dividing his time between spouse and mother. Husband and wives should communicate their positive motives to their mother-in-law, taking into consideration her psychological well-being. The wife's apprehension regarding her mother-in-law's involvement in household affairs stems from criticisms and commentary regarding domestic matters. For instance, the mother-in-law has traditionally completed household duties such as laundrette, while the wife is a working professional who is unable to do so and instead opts for laundry services. Especially true if the wife is focusing on her career and postponing parenthood or has yet to conceive. Avoid making comments or frequently comparing one daughter-in-law to another without fully comprehending the situation and circumstances (Husniyati, 2021).

Being unfamiliar with one's mother-in-law's house is a familiar experience for wives who have recently moved or visited. Some of the frequent reasons behind such an experience are lack of familiarity with the husband family, cultural differences, and traditions, along with the apprehension of not being accepted. However, a wife may overcome this situation by fostering emotional maturity (Asminatun et al., 2023), by communicating with her husband to learn about the social conditions of his residence, seeking to establish closer ties with his family, and recognizing that building communication and forging closer bonds also entails a process, the wife should persist in displaying a positive attitude even if she feels unfamiliar. In the usual scenario, the mother-in-law will apply the same parenting style that she used to raise her own children. Parenting Differences Between Mother-in-law and Wife. This often leads to disagreements with the wife, who may have her own parenting style, influenced by her own parents' approach, which might differ from that of her mother-in-law. Changes in social and cultural conditions can also impact differences in parenting. For instance, contemporary societal changes, such as the complete reliance on technology to provide education to children or gender role shifts in family dynamics, have implications.

One way to resolve conflicts regarding child education is to compromise and communicate with the husband while slowly informing the mother-in-law through discussion. This conversation should explain appropriate generational changes and parenting techniques for child education amidst technological advances, which, if approached incorrectly, can harm a child's personality and mental wellbeing (Wigunawati, 2019). Living away from a mother-in-law is a different situation for wives. Such wives gain more freedom in managing household affairs and maintaining a career. Fulfilling multiple roles, displaying varied talents, and performing numerous functions are the expectations imposed on a wife. Despite working daily, she dutifully maintains her role as both a homemaker and a child companion regardless of the circumstances. To effectively balance her personal and professional responsibilities, the wife will assume the role of a homemaker while at home and a career-oriented professional when outside of the home. It is common for women in the workforce to successfully manage both household and professional duties, indicating that many career-focused women are adept at maintaining this balance.

There is nothing inherently wrong with a spouse delegating laundry duties to a professional service or opting to purchase food from an external source to manage time and conserve energy. However, such decisions should be made jointly and with the spouse's consent. The husband responsibility to provide financial support and safeguard his wife's wellbeing is a crucial factor in ensuring her comfort. Furthermore, given that the wife currently resides with her parents and has a comfortable lifestyle, the husband ought to be capable of providing a level of maintenance and affection equivalent to that which her parents provide prior to their marriage. It is worth noting that Islam does not

outline a specific amount of maintenance a husband must provide to his wife (Nilhakim, 2023). Then the mother – in – law should provide unconditional support for her children's decisions. This promotes independence and allows them to establish their own family without relying on their parents. Furthermore, it may be advantageous to assign the task of educating her grandchildren to her son – in – law and children. The parenting style utilized by them could potentially be better suited to adapting to the current social changes. In the event of a conflict, communication should be conducted effectively, without the necessity of comparing the parenting styles employed by both parties (Lestari et al., 2023). Everyone desires to establish a harmonious family, but it requires different struggles and sacrifices from everyone. Family members must trust, support, and express gratitude towards each other to solve all problems. Collaborating with one's spouse and children to create a comfortable atmosphere by exchanging ideas and communicating in a relaxed manner can promote family openness, leading to a stronger bond and familial harmony. One issue that working women may encounter is the carryover of negative emotions from work to home. Consequently, females who pursue their career path must maintain professional demeanor and exercise proper time and emotional management.

### **Husband Role in Conflict between Wife and Mother-in-Law**

The husband role in mediating conflicts between his wife and mother – in – law is to be a good intermediary or mediator to unite the relationship between his wife and mother, for example by inviting both of them to tell the existing problems. It can be started with the husband inviting the wife to tell the story and inviting the mother to tell the story first. Then after listening to both parties, both are invited to sit together to discuss. As a mediator, the husband must not take sides between the wife or mother – in – law (Nisa, 2020). In addition to serving as the mediator, the husband holds the position of household leader, responsible for exhibiting a wise attitude and protecting his wife. According to the hadith, the Prophet emphasized the importance of good communication within the household. For instance, he invited his wives to discuss before bedtime, setting an example that can be emulated by modern couples. Therefore, it is suggested that the husband invites his wife to discuss and share stories before bed regarding the events of the day. This is where the husband should be attentive to the conflict his wife is experiencing, and assist her in finding a resolution to the conflict. (Nisa, 2020, p. 91)

The husband plays a crucial role in maintaining the balance of the relationship between his wife and mother, especially during conflicts that may threaten family harmony. In such situations, the husband does not only act as a partner but also as a mediator responsible for creating a conducive atmosphere for healthy communication. The support provided to the wife should reflect love and commitment without neglecting respect for his mother as a parent. By siding with the wife in rightful matters, the husband can provide a sense of security and emotional support, which are essential in facing pressures from the extended family. At the same time, he must ensure that his mother feels respected and retains her special place within the family. To achieve this, the husband can initiate discussions involving both his wife and mother on neutral or shared – interest topics, such as family memories or enjoyable past experiences. In this way, interactions initially filled with tension can transform into moments of mutual understanding and appreciation (Andriani et al., 2023b). The husband role as a communication facilitator requires active listening skills and the ability to steer conversations constructively, not only resolving immediate issues but also preventing similar conflicts in the future (Wardhani & Pujiono, 2023).

The husband must recognize and understand the fundamental differences between his wife and mother that often become sources of conflict, such as differing values, perspectives, or daily habits. With this understanding, he can help both parties find common ground that allows them to appreciate each other's roles and contributions to family life. For instance, the husband can explain to his mother the importance of giving his wife the space to fulfill her role as a homemaker without undue pressure from the extended family while encouraging his wife to continue respecting his mother as a parent with wisdom and experience. Additionally, the husband must set clear boundaries between

the nuclear and extended families, ensuring that household matters are not easily influenced by external interference. These boundaries are not intended to sever ties but to ensure that the couple has the autonomy to make decisions that suit their needs. When conflicts arise, the husband can also act as a mediator, conveying advice from his mother to his wife in a thoughtful manner so that the advice is received as constructive input rather than criticism. Through these steps, the husband not only serves as a mediator but also as a family leader who can maintain balance, create harmony, and ensure that every family member feels valued and respected.

### **Harmonious Relationship Between In-Laws and Daughters-in-Law Based on Islamic Law**

Understanding and empathy are essential foundations for building a harmonious relationship between in-laws and daughters-in-law (Andu, 2021). Islam teaches that marriage is not merely a bond between two individuals but also a union of two families with their own values, cultures, and habits. When a woman marries, she often leaves her family to start a new life with her husband, which frequently involves emotional, social, and even physical adjustments that require support from her husband family, especially her in-laws. In this context, in-laws are expected to understand that the daughter-in-law may need time to adapt to her new environment. The Qur'an, in Surah Ar-Rum: 21, emphasizes the importance of *sakinah* (tranquility), *mawaddah* (love), and *rahmah* (compassion) in family relationships. Therefore, in-laws should not only accept the daughter-in-law as part of the family but also give her the space and time to adjust without pressure. Recognizing the struggles and sacrifices made by a daughter-in-law, including leaving her biological parents, can help in-laws develop deep empathy. This attitude fosters a conducive atmosphere for a better relationship, where the daughter-in-law's happiness is regarded as an integral part of the son's and the family's overall happiness.

Respect and trust are key elements in an Islamic relationship between in-laws and daughters-in-law. Islam teaches that every individual deserves respect and trust, including within the family context. In-laws are expected to respect their daughter-in-law as an individual with her own identity, thoughts, and way of life. Surah Al-Hujurat: 12 advises against judging others hastily or interfering in matters beyond one's authority. In the context of in-law relationships, this means refraining from frequently giving unsolicited advice or criticizing how the daughter-in-law manages her household. Instead, trust that she is capable of making the best decisions for her family based on her experiences and needs. This respect should also manifest as not imposing certain expectations on the daughter-in-law, such as demanding that she always conform to the in-laws' ideals. Moreover, respecting the privacy of the married couple is a vital principle in Islam, as taught in Surah An-Nur: 27–28. By giving the couple space to live their own lives, in-laws demonstrate profound trust and respect. A relationship built on respect and trust not only creates peace within the family but also strengthens bonds rooted in love and shared responsibility.

Collaboration and communication are vital in maintaining harmony between in-laws and daughters-in-law. In Islam, family relationships are built on mutual support, cooperation, and understanding, as emphasized in Surah Asy-Syura: 38, which highlights the importance of consultation in resolving matters. Open and non-judgmental communication enables both parties to understand each other's perspectives, cultural differences, and expectations. In-laws should approach conversations with the intent to listen and empathize rather than to criticize or impose their views. This collaborative approach fosters an environment of respect and shared responsibility, where conflicts can be resolved constructively. Collaboration between in-laws and daughters-in-law should extend to practical matters such as managing household responsibilities or addressing financial issues. Offering help when needed, without interfering in the couple's autonomy, demonstrates respect for their independence. Effective communication also involves recognizing generational differences and adapting advice to suit the couple's unique circumstances. By focusing on mutual goals—such as family well-being and

unity—both parties can navigate challenges together and build a supportive, loving relationship that benefits the entire family (Annisa, 2023).

Sharia provides a comprehensive framework for fostering harmonious relationships within families (Husni et al., 2024). In-laws and daughters-in-law are encouraged to uphold principles of justice, fairness, and compassion, as stated in Surah An-Nisa: 34. For in-laws, this means acknowledging the daughter-in-law's rights and treating her with the same kindness and respect they would expect for themselves. It is crucial to avoid behaviors that could strain relationships, such as favoritism or excessive control over household decisions. Instead, in-laws should act as mentors, offering guidance rooted in Islamic values while respecting the daughter-in-law's autonomy. Reconciliation is another important aspect of Sharia that fosters harmony in familial disputes. Islam encourages resolving conflicts through peaceful dialogue and mutual understanding. If disagreements arise, in-laws and daughters-in-law should strive to address them in ways that preserve dignity and avoid resentment. It is also essential to maintain balance—ensuring that the daughter-in-law fulfills her obligations toward her in-laws while the in-laws respect her boundaries. By adhering to Sharia principles, such as patience, forgiveness, and fairness, families can strengthen their bonds and create a home environment filled with tranquility, love, and compassion.

## CONCLUSIONS

The conclusion of this research indicates that family relationships, as the foundation of a harmonious household, inevitably face challenges involving differences in perspectives, values, and expectations among family members. These issues, whether small or large, are natural and require a wise approach to resolve them. In this context, family law plays an important role in identifying the root causes of these conflicts, classifying their forms, and providing resolution strategies that promote mutual respect and understanding. One of the most effective strategies is good communication. Open and honest communication between partners creates a culture of trust and understanding, reducing the potential for misunderstandings. By prioritizing dialogue and transparency, couples can navigate challenges with patience and empathy, ensuring their relationship remains strong despite inevitable obstacles.

Furthermore, it is essential to understand and respect the rights and roles of each family member when managing conflicts. For example, a husband should recognize his wife's right to refuse living with her in-laws if it compromises her comfort and safety and ensure that they have a suitable place to live. On the other hand, both the wife and the mother-in-law should respect each other's rights and responsibilities: the wife, as a life partner, deserves appreciation and support, and the mother-in-law, as a parent, should be respected. The husband plays a crucial role as a mediator in disputes, bridging the gap between his wife and mother by facilitating constructive dialogue and fostering mutual understanding. By adopting a balanced and fair approach, family members can strengthen their bonds and create an environment that nurtures harmony and cooperation. Moving forward, further research could explore specific communication techniques and cultural contexts that support conflict resolution strategies, offering practical guidance for families facing similar challenges.

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