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**USE OF WHATSAPP AS A COMMUNICATION MEDIA FOR LDR (Long
Distance Relationship) MARRIAGE
(Phenomenological Study of Informatics Engineering Study Program
Students)**

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Abstract

Long-distance dating requires an effective communication process between the two to maintain the relationship. There has been a lot of negativity towards long-distance dating relationships. Most people doubt its success due to the limited time to meet and communicate directly. However, with the development of communication technology, distance is not an obstacle in a long-distance relationship.

The results showed that whatsapp is considered helpful for long-distance dating, especially the features of video calls, voice calls, chats, emoticons which play a role in expressing feelings, self-disclosure, building trust, increasing commitment and maintaining communication. Obstacles in using whatsapp include using pirated whatsapp, typing errors, using incorrect punctuation, using emoticons that are different from messages, and network constraints. Solutions to overcome misunderstandings by using whatsapp more wisely, understanding partners and exercising more restraint and continuing to establish communication to minimize misunderstandings so that relationships can be maintained.

Keywords: Long Distance Relationship, Whatsapp Usage, Communication Media

Introduction

Humans are social creatures, which can adapt and must be able to establish good relationships with each other. Humans cannot live without communication, communication is considered the most ideal form between humans and other humans to realize their ego and their ability to interact individually and socially. One of them is through interpersonal communication, interpersonal communication is the key to the effectiveness of interactions in everyday life, and is a way to convey and receive thoughts, information, ideas, feelings, and even emotions of a person, to the point of achieving the same understanding between the communicator and the communicant. In general, the definition of interpersonal communication is a process of conveying thoughts on information from one person to another through a certain way (usually in communication) so that the other person understands what is meant and can convey the desired thoughts or information.

Research Objectives

This study aims to determine how the use of whatsapp as a long-distance communication media and to find out the obstacles and solutions in undergoing long-distance relationships in Informatics Engineering Study Program students. The theory used in the research is social penetration. The method in this research uses the phenomenological method. Data were collected by in-depth interviews and documentation. While data analysis uses the Miles and Huberman interactive analysis model, and the technique of determining informants using purposive sampling technique.

Research Methods

This research uses the phenomenological method. Informants in this study are students who actively use whatsapp as a communication medium for long-distance dating who have been dating for at least six months and or have a meeting intensity of at least once a month. Data collection techniques were conducted with in-depth interviews and documentation. While the data analysis technique used is the Miles and Huberman interactive model data analysis, namely data reduction, data presentation and conclusions.

Results And Discussion

This researcher presents data based on the results of in-depth interviews, which are organized as follows: The views of Informatics Engineering Study Students on the Use of Whatsapp as a Communication Media for Long Distance Dating. The views of informatics engineering study program students in using WhatsApp as a communication medium from one informant interviewed, one informant revealed that the use of the video call feature was considered the most helpful for long-distance dating as expressed by Putra in the interview results (informant February 20, 2023) as follows:

"Video calls and messages. Message because it is faster to send and receive. While video calls because the quality is quite good and very helpful when communication using messages is less effective."

Informants can have different alternative choices in utilizing WhatsApp as a communication medium and this can be seen from the selection of each informant regarding the utilization of features that they use more often to connect remotely with their lovers and become the reason for informants to choose WhatsApp as their communication medium.

Experience of Informatics Engineering Study Program Students in Using Whatsapp as a Communication Medium for Long Distance Dating

The experience of students in undergoing long-distance dating relationships by using whatsapp as a communication medium is in the form of utilizing whatsapp to keep communicating with each other, expressing themselves and feelings and as a medium to increase commitment. This is in accordance with the results of interviews conducted with informants.

Whatsapp as a Communication Medium for Self-Disclosure

Whatsapp is not only used as a medium of communication in long-distance relationships but also as a medium to express feelings and self to partners or vice versa.

Ihsan, who expressed his frequency in using whatsapp as a communication medium, considered that whatsapp, especially video calls, helped him express his feelings to his partner and vice versa. This is in accordance with the interview (informant interview February 20, 2023) as follows:

"Yes, especially the video call feature because even though we are not in the same place, we can still see each other's facial expressions when talking so it feels like we are very close and the feelings expressed are more understandable than just talking via voice calls".

Not only utilizing whatsapp as a medium of communication to express feelings, but this couple of different nationalities who have never met also revealed that whatsapp helps him to reveal himself and his partner, which he revealed in the interview results (informant interview February 20, 2023) as follows:

"Communication between me and my partner from the approach period to dating has always used WhatsApp with various existing features and I feel that these features are quite helpful in the process of self-disclosure or our introduction. Because basically a conversation using whatsapp is not much different from a face-to-face conversation. What may not be revealed is only the real physical appearance, such as body size comparison, skin color, hair texture, and body scent."

Conclusion

Based on the results and the previous discussion, the researcher can put forward several things that are drawn as conclusions that have been described that the selection of whatsapp as a communication medium for long-distance dating is due to the convenience offered by whatsapp

through various features that help in undergoing long-distance relationships and also the cost or quota used is also not much compared to other communication media. Whatsapp, which is used as a medium of communication to express feelings, self-disclosure, build trust, strengthen commitment and also maintain communication between the two, is considered very helpful for long-distance dating, especially the video call feature which helps to look at each other and users can also see their partner's expressions when communicating. Not only do features such as video calls play a role in long-distance dating but other features such as voice calls, chat, emoticons also play a role in helping relationships.

Advice

The suggestion in this study is that future researchers are expected to conduct research on other communication media to find comparisons in the use of media for long-distance dating. The practical suggestion for this research is that for the sake of goodness in a long-distance dating relationship, the selection of communication media needs more attention. There are fundamental differences in each communication media so that it is expected that long-distance couples are able to be more selective in choosing the right media so that communication can run effectively and the conflicts caused can be minimized properly.

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