

Communication Privacy Management in Generation Z Men Who Experienced Fatherless

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ABSTRACT

The research was conducted due to the fatherless phenomenon, which influences the formation of personal information management in interpersonal relationships among Generation Z men. The absence of a father figure causes individuals to have to build personal boundaries independently through personal relationship experiences. This aims to determine how Generation Z men who have lost their father figure manage communication privacy in order to manage personal information in their interpersonal relationships. Descriptive qualitative methods, along with data collection, were used through in-depth interviews with Generation Z male respondents aged 20-25 years who had experienced the loss of a father, located in East Java. Through data analysis using the theory of communication privacy management by Sandra Petronio, the results of the study show that Generation Z men who live without fathers actively apply personal information management as a self-defense strategy independently, without the assistance of a father figure. This management includes personal rules based on trust and intimacy, strict risk considerations, and clear personal boundaries to prevent information leakage. Fatherlessness does not completely determine the management of privacy, but rather the experience of relationships, and the individual's adaptation process to this condition has a greater influence on the formation of communication privacy management.

Keywords: Communication Privacy Management, Generation Z, Fatherless, Men, Interpersonal Relationship.

INTRODUCTION

Family, by definition, is the smallest unit of society, which is a group of individuals who live together in one house and are bound by marriage, blood relations, or adoption (Yulianti et al., 2023). Family becomes the first environment for individuals to internalize values, public norms, and communication patterns (Athifah & Achmad, 2026; Pradipta, 2025). Apart from functioning as a biological unit, the family also carries psychological, social, and communicative functions, which are very important to support the growth of a child. Parents have a role in shaping children's character and emotional development by teaching them to identify, express, and manage healthy emotions (Dwistia et al., 2025). Accompanied by stable support, the family becomes the first place for individuals to learn how to express themselves, build trust, and manage personal information.

Family communication quality serves as an important foundation in creating a harmonious relationship between each family member (Agustina, 2023; Ramadani et al.,

2021). Family communication is a form of information exchange, both verbally and non-verbally used by each family member (Walker, 1978 as cited in Ntoma & Kusmawati, 2024). Effective family communication, in which all family members have their own role respective to its function, will have a positive impact on children's psychosocial growth (Putri et al., 2024). This includes a way to teach the method to express emotions, set personal boundaries, build trust within social relationships, and manage personal information healthily.

If the quality of family communication created by fathers and mothers is less effective, it can cause disruptions to emotional development, character formation, and make it difficult for children to build interpersonal relationships (Putri et al., 2024). The inability to build an effective communication within the family often occurs in Indonesian households, and this is caused by patriarchal culture domination in children's parenting patterns (Mentari, 2024). Moreover, the changes in family situation made a child grow up without a father figure, which could lead to the absence of the role of the father, either physically or psychologically. These factors potentially create a communication gap between father and children within the family environment, resulting in the father's role not being fulfilled in the child's development process.

The absence of a father figure phenomenon within the family is often referred to as fatherlessness. Fundamentally, the condition of the absence of a father's role or fatherless caused by a few factors, ranging from divorce, death, or the physical presence of the father but absence in his emotional role (Cahyani & Sudahri, 2025). Data from UNICEF in 2021 declares that 20,9% children in Indonesia were fatherless (Amalia et al., 2025). Indonesia is even included in the top 10 category of fatherless countries with a low level of psychological father involvement (Iskandar & Kertamuda, 2021). Furthermore, Indonesia ranked 3rd in the world as a fatherless country (Fadhila et al., 2025). Reported by Kompas.id, based on the latest data processed by the National Socioeconomic Micro Survey of the Central Statistics Agency (Susenas BPS) in March 2024, the potential for fatherlessness reached 15.9 million out of a total of 79.4 million children aged under 18 years, consisting of 4.4 million children living without a father at home and 11.5 million children living with a father who works more than 60 hours per week (Krisna et al., 2025).

Father's communication role heavily impacts to children's growth, mainly on boys. Father's involvement is very crucial in informational supporting, becoming conflict management role model, also formation communication pattern emphasizing self-control and responsibility (Nugrahani et al., 2021). Through everyday interaction, the father will teach their son to express themselves, manage emotions, and personal information, and determine boundaries in interpersonal relationship. The father has also become a figure who helps the children, mainly boys, to internalize healthy masculinity values (Pleck, 2010 as cited in Sona & Linsiya, 2025).

However, if the father figure has minimal involvement or is absent, it has the potential to create a vacuum in communication models for boys in teaching masculine values to form their communication patterns. The absence of a father can put a child at risk of experiencing emotional confusion and trigger vulnerabilities in managing privacy and openness to family and social relations (Ramadhan & Deni, 2025). As a result, boys are forced to construct their own communication strategies and manage their personal information without the guidance of a primary masculine role model within the family. This process of self-construction allows boys to develop strategies in the form of a tendency to suppress emotional information and avoid openness as a form of self-defense (Kamila & Dimiyati, 2021).

The condition of fatherlessness has been rooted in several generations, including Generation Z, namely, individuals born in 1997-2012. This generation grew up alongside rapid technological developments and is considered a generation that is more aware of mental health (Laka et al., 2024). Nonetheless, Generation Z men are still exposed to traditional masculinity norms that pressure men to be less expressive of their feelings (Yasa et al., 2023). If the father's role is absent, Generation Z men have the potential to have increasing difficulty in viewing healthy communication. This makes boys potentially develop less than ideal communication strategies, including in negotiating private and open information as a form of self-control due to the absence of a father figure. Without guidance, self-openness will be a carefully considered decision for men experiencing fatherlessness (Riani, 2023).

Nevertheless, the development of boys' communication patterns does not always result in negative forms. The involvement of mother and substitute figures, such as uncles, teachers, grandfathers, and even peers, can support a boy's emotional development and fill the gap left by the father's role in his life (Afriliani et al., 2025; Nabila et al., 2025). However, the effectiveness of substitute figures in fulfilling said needs is very dependent on consistency and relational quality building around both of them.

In a fatherless condition, private rule negotiation processes to manage information become complex without a father figure as a stable masculinity role model. Boys are inclined to develop privacy management strategies independently as a self-protection mechanism by maintaining strict personal boundaries within their social relationships. This finding is consistent with a study that showed the communication openness between father and children has a big impact on interpersonal relationship quality (Sari, 2024). Sandra Petronio (2002) revealed through communication privacy management theory that individuals view personal information as something they own and have the right to control its distribution, thus creating certain boundaries between information that can be shared and that can be hidden (as cited in Sianturi, 2024). In boys who experienced fatherlessness, the loss of the masculine communication model, would widen uncertainty in deciding private boundaries, as self-openness is determined with full consideration. This will affecting the way of individuals in constructing, arranging, and negotiating personal boundaries in interpersonal relationship. Based on the results of the description, this study aims to understand how Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness manage internal conflicts, build control boundaries over their personal information, and negotiate communication boundaries applied to their interpersonal relationships through the perspective of Communication Privacy Management Theory.

LITERATURE REVIEW

a. Communication Privacy Management Theory

Communication Privacy Management Theory is a theory developed by Sandra Petronio (2002) to explain how individuals make decisions to reveal and hide personal information (Petronio & Durham, 2015). This theory not only explains the management of personal information, but also controls and considers the need for disclosure and the need to maintain privacy (Dianiya, 2021). Thus, individual decisions in the process of disclosing or withholding this information require negotiation and coordination in its management (Pramesthi et al., 2020). The theory of communication privacy management also explains three main parts in privacy management, namely privacy ownership, privacy control, and privacy turbulence (Griffin et al., 2019; Petronio, 2002).

There are five basic assumptions in this theory, namely private information, privacy boundaries, control and ownership, rule-based management systems, and

management dialectics (Petronio, 2002). Private information is information that is considered very meaningful and owned by an individual, so that the individual has full control over who can access it. Privacy boundaries are used to separate private and public information, both within personal and collective boundaries (Komalasari, 2024). Control and ownership emphasize that every individual has the right to regulate access to their personal information. Meanwhile, a rules-based management system explains that information management is influenced by privacy rules that are shaped by culture, gender, motivation, context, and risk-benefit considerations (Komalasari, 2024). In this aspect, there is also boundary coordination and the possibility of boundary turbulence if privacy regulations are violated. Finally, the management dialectic focuses on the tension between the desire to disclose and conceal personal information.

This communication privacy management theory views the information that an individual has as information that is considered very important to him as personal or confidential information. The ability to manage this information gives individuals a sense of complete control over the personal data they disclose. This gives individuals the right to determine the limits on others' access to this information, whether to disclose it or keep it private. Combining the need for privacy with the drive to be open, individuals then make decisions about how to manage their privacy boundaries.

b. Online Identity Management

The development of technology and social media provides opportunities for individuals to shape and manage their identities online. Social media is not only a communication tool, but also a space for self-presentation and the formation of personal identity (Fauzan & Harahap, 2025). This process is called online identity management, which is managing identity through selecting and arranging personal information that you want to display or hide on social media (Salsabila & Nur, 2025). The online identity displayed is often not a full representation of the real identity, but rather the result of the individual's control over the information shared (Nurlela et al., 2024).

According to Michael Hect, identities consist of four layers, namely personal identity, enacted identity, relational identity, and communal identity (as cited in Zahra, 2022). Personal identity is one of the ways an individual views themselves, enacted identity associated with an identity they wanted to display through communication on social media, relational identity is formed through interpersonal relationships, and communal identity is formed through an individual's involvement in certain social groups. Thus, online identity management is the process of managing self-image through control of personal information and determining the boundaries between private information and information that can be accessed by the public.

c. Family Communication

Family communication is an important foundation in creating harmonious relationships between family members (Agustina, 2023). Communication within a family not only functions as information delivery, but also as formation interaction patterns, values, norms and self-identification (Desmayanti, 2025). This shows that families are formed through a continuous communication process. Family communication is verbal and nonverbal interaction used to build closeness, maintain relationships, make decisions, and resolve conflicts. The goal is to create openness and a warm atmosphere between family members (Yulianti et al., 2023). Through family communication, the individuals will learn to express themselves, build trust, also comprehend social relational

boundaries. Deddy Mulyana (as cited in Desmayanti, 2025) explains that family communication has informative, affective, social and control functions which play a role in forming emotional closeness and regulating behavior based on family values and norms. This means, family communication quality is heavily influences children's social development and emotions (Putri et al., 2024). However, the absence of one of the parental roles can hinder the child's interaction patterns and emotional development (Zuhdi et al., 2023).

d. Self Disclosure

Self-disclosure is a part of interpersonal communication that explains the process of someone sharing personal information and feelings with other people (Putra et al., 2024). Self-disclosure refers to an individual's actions to reveal information about themselves to others at varying levels, ranging from general to very personal information. This is affected by the individual's comfort in communicating and their consideration of the person they are talking to in order to be open (DeVito, 2015 as cited in Sari, 2024). Self-disclosure is also understood as the process of an individual expressing personal experiences, feelings, ideas, or opinions to create emotional closeness and understanding (Ramadhan & Deni, 2025). Wheeless and Grotz (1976) explain that self-disclosure consists of five aspects, namely breadth, depth, duration and frequency, valence, and accuracy (as cited in Subaihah, 2023).

e. Fatherless

The phenomenon of fatherlessness has become a global issue, and Indonesia ranks third among the countries with the highest number of fatherless children. This reflects the low level of father involvement in childcare, both in terms of quality and quantity of time spent caring for children. Fatherlessness is a condition where a child grows up without the active participation of a father, both physically and psychologically (Nabila et al., 2025). This condition is not only related to the absence of a father in the family, but also the minimal involvement it has in the child's physical and emotional growth process (Pangesti et al., 2024; Yuliana et al., 2023).

Fatherlessness can be caused by death, divorce, or the absence of the father's emotional role (Nabila et al., 2025). The lack of a father's involvement has an impact on the emotional, social, psychological development and formation of children's self-identity (Amalia et al., 2025). Losing a father figure can also lower self-esteem, make it difficult to manage emotions, and cause feelings of shame for being different from other children (Lerner, 2011 as cited in Ntoma & Kusmawati, 2024). Therefore, fatherlessness has a significant impact on emotional management and the formation of interpersonal communication.

f. Generation Z Men

Generation Z is an individual born between 1997 and 2012 and is known as the digital native generation because they grew up amidst rapid technological developments (Syaidah et al., 2024). These developments shape the characteristics of Generation Z males in viewing communication, privacy, and emotional expression. Furthermore, Generation Z is considered to have a higher awareness of mental health issues compared to previous generations (Laka et al., 2024)

However, openness about mental health and emotional vulnerability in Generation Z men remains an internal conflict due to the pressures of traditional masculinity that are still deeply rooted (Aji et al., 2022). This situation makes them more active in digital spaces than in face-to-face communication when discussing sensitive issues.

Furthermore, this is reinforced by the generation gap within families regarding information transparency (Budi, 2021). And as a result, Generation Z men tend to control their openness in social environments.

METHODS

This research uses a qualitative approach with a descriptive qualitative approach. Sugiyono (2023) explains that the descriptive approach aims to describe the social situation being studied, compare various events in different social contexts from one time to another, and identify patterns of relationships between various specific aspects, so that hypotheses and theories can be found. Using this research method will allow researchers to obtain richer data and a deeper understanding of the issues or problems being studied. In this study, researchers will use descriptive methods to describe how Generation Z men manage communication privacy and experience father figure emptiness. The object of this research is the construction of communication privacy management among Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness in interpersonal relationships. The research location was East Java because it is recorded as the province with the second-highest rate of fatherlessness in Indonesia (Maheswara, 2025). In selecting informants, screening questions are also conducted to ensure that the informants meet the research criteria and have relevant experience related to the research focus.

The interview process was conducted semi-structured to adhere to the question guidelines while also allowing informants to explain their experiences in depth. Interviews with informants were conducted online, lasting approximately 45-60 minutes for each informant. The entire interview process was recorded with the informants' consent and then transcribed to facilitate data analysis. The data collection method will be carried out through in-depth interviews with six informants, namely Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness. Subjects were selected using purposive sampling based on certain criteria, namely early adulthood (20-25 years), experiencing fatherlessness, being active on social media, and managing self-disclosure in interpersonal relationship. The collected data will be analyzed based on the techniques by Miles and Huberman which consist of data reduction, data presentation, and drawing conclusions or verification (Adam et al., 2022). In addition, data validity testing was also conducted through data triangulation. This process was carried out through source triangulation, which involves comparing the obtained data with several other data sources (Sugiyono, 2019). The responses from different informants will be compared to identify consistent patterns or differences in experiences related to the management of personal information among fatherless Generation Z men. In this way, data can be presented and interpreted in a coherent manner based on the theory used, making it easier to draw conclusions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

a. Private Information

Private information is understood as personal information that needs to be managed selectively and control who has the right to know it (Prameshti et al., 2020). In Generation Z men who are fatherless, the experience of losing a father figure also influences how individuals manage personal information in self-disclosure. This condition can lead to difficulties in managing emotions, low self-esteem, and feelings of shame due to feeling different from other children (Lerner, 2011 as cited in Ntoma &

Kusmawati, 2024). Based on the results of the research data presentation, the types of information considered private by informants include family topics, economic conditions, and personal circumstances. This information is considered sensitive because it relates to personal identity, family background, and potential social judgment.

If I'm sensitive, it's related to the economy, but I can still discuss it with people I trust ... (informant 2).

... things I don't like are more or less people who like to mention family, insult my family, uh uhhh or myself like that. (informant 5).

This statement shows that information that is considered private information is something that is considered very meaningful to individuals, is sensitive and private. Thus, individual decisions in sharing and storing information are not made haphazardly, but individuals will consider who is allowed to access the information to achieve certain goals (Komalasari, 2024).

On the other hand, the experience of fatherlessness itself was not always interpreted the same by every informant. Some informants considered the condition not information that should be hidden, while others considered the experience sensitive and dependent on close relationships and self-acceptance.

In my opinion, it's not a sensitive topic about fatherless discourse, yeah. (informant 2).

In my opinion, actually, yes, if we just met, it would be a sensitive issue, but for me personally, if it were like that, I think I would discuss it with my children as if it were normal because I don't have any problems with that issue or I've made peace. But, if I were to bring it up to other people, I would consider it a sensitive issue. (informant 3).

In using social media, informants tend to share information that is safe, general, and has positive value.

... So, maybe uhm, the things or movements that can be shared on my first account on social media are things that are more towards encouraging and motivating people. (informant 6).

This shows that individuals consciously manage their identities on social media through various regulatory strategies in sharing personal information (Salsabila & Nur, 2025). This means that social media is not only a communication space, but also a space for self-image, self-presentation, and the formation of personal identity (Fauzan & Harahap, 2025). Furthermore, in forming an identity online, individuals are required to be more careful in managing personal information to carry out self-disclosure on social media.

Based on these results, it can be concluded that Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness actively manage and categorize personal information as part of a strategy for self-disclosure in interpersonal relationships. Overall, the findings of this study indicate that the private information of Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness is not only determined by the content of the information, but is the result of a self-construction process involving personal experiences, interpersonal relationships, and risk considerations. Thus, managing private information is the initial part of the entire

communication privacy management process to become the basis for determining boundaries, controlling access, and negotiating one's openness in interpersonal relationships.

b. Private Boundaries

Based on interviews, Generation Z men experiencing fatherlessness selectively set privacy boundaries to determine who can access their personal information. Privacy boundaries are used to separate private and public information (Petronio, 2002). Informants indicated that self-disclosure is influenced by the closeness of the relationship, the level of trust, the sensitivity of the information, and the willingness to share it. The more sensitive the information, the stricter the privacy restrictions, and it should only be shared with those considered closest and most trusted.

... sometimes it takes time to tell what happened to a certain person... (informant 1).

For me, for example, maybe it's just friends who aren't very close, I tend to just talk about everyday events that aren't really important or too sensitive to talk about, but when it comes to things that are sensitive, I only tell them to my partner, even to friends, there are still some things that I filter out, so it's like for those who really don't, I mean those who are really open, it's more to my partner. (informant 3).

This illustrates that self-disclosure among fatherless Generation Z men demonstrates a level of depth in sharing information with their interpersonal relationships. This means that self-disclosure emphasizes the sensitive, intimate, and highly personal nature of the information, requiring management and control to be shared only with those considered close and trusted (Wheless & Grotz, 1976 as cited in Subaihah, 2023).

Furthermore, informants also consider the suitability and response of the recipient before disclosing.

... So ummm what I assess is what I filter is whether this person ummm when I give information is it suitable or not ummm appropriate or not, I'm afraid that when I convey information, he will immediately perceive me as ummm I'm bad and ummm the people around me are bad too ... (informant 5).

These findings show that as the owner of information, privacy boundaries are not only determined by the type of information, but also by who the recipient of the information is to avoid the potential for unwanted responses.

The absence of a father figure in an individual's life can put him at risk of facing emotional confusion and trigger vulnerability in managing privacy and openness to his family and social (Ramadhan & Deni, 2025). This makes Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness have a tendency to be more careful in opening up, so that they build privacy boundaries that are stricter and more selective.

c. Control and Ownership

Control and ownership are tied to managing and controlling who can access private information (Petronio, 2002). Based on interviews, Generation Z men experiencing fatherlessness have strong control over their personal information. This

control and ownership are achieved through filtering information recipients, gradually building trust, considering the comfort and closeness of relationships, and regulating access to social media.

... If, for example, tomorrow the story I tell is sensitive but he doesn't tell anyone else, I will keep telling him about it (informant 3).

... when we first met, we had already entered the screening stage, so I could already read his character and what was not suitable for my friend ... (informant 2).

These findings indicate that information control occurs through the stages of evaluating the character and responses of the interlocutor. This activity serves as an individual regulatory mechanism for determining when to disclose personal information and when to restrict or deny access to it (Griffin et al., 2019). This strategy shows that individuals will consider the possible risks that arise when personal information is disclosed (Komalasari, 2024).

Information control is also carried out on social media through second accounts and close friend features to limit access to private information.

... if it is information that I think is still acceptable to the people on my second account or maybe the issue is very sensitive but can still be shared, maybe I will tell the story on the second account and there are only six close friends. (informant 6).

The use of second accounts and close friends demonstrates online identity management and efforts to limit the dissemination of information to only certain relationships deemed safe and trusted. This demonstrates that social media is not used as a space for full openness, but remains under the control of the information owner. This activity suggests that fatherless Generation Z men utilize social media features as a strategy to protect their privacy and control access to personal information.

d. Rule Based Management System

1. Private Rule Characteristics

The characteristics of privacy rules in Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness are formed through five criteria, namely culture, gender, motivational, contextual, and risk-benefit ratio (Petronio, 2002). Privacy rules are not formed by a father figure, but rather through self-construction based on relationship experiences and social adaptation. Culturally, privacy rules are strongly influenced by family communication patterns as the fundamental environment for an individual's growth and development.

... Umm, it's become like this, um, because since I was little, has had a lot of stories like that ... (informant 1).

... when it comes to family, I'm just open, just because there wasn't enough closeness from the start, so it's like we rarely talk deep ... (informant 3).

This is because communication within the family is not only limited to conveying information, but also a means to learn interaction patterns, values, norms, and determine self-identity (Desmayanti, 2025). Informants with open families tend to be more flexible, while rigid families make informants more closed and withhold information as a form of self-protection.

Meanwhile, masculine norms no longer completely limit self-disclosure because Generation Z is more open to diversity and gender equality (Sunaryanto & Idrus, 2025). However, some informants still suppress emotions due to the influence of masculine norms.

... as a man, I also feel more like I don't want to make a big deal out of it and I'm afraid that the things that come out of my mouth will have repercussions ... (informant 4).

This is because the minimal role of the father in an individual's life can create a void in communication models for boys in teaching masculine values to form their communication patterns (Ramadhan & Deni, 2025). Furthermore, Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness must independently internalize diverse forms of masculinity to form privacy rules that apply to the management of personal information through limited and risky relationship experiences.

If it's possible to say that gender is a determining factor, yes, but that's like a secondary factor, more towards if I tell someone about bringing this case out to someone else, maybe my main factor is more about closeness ... (informant 6).

Moreover, gender is not the primary consideration influencing privacy rules when sharing information. The more dominant factors are comfort and closeness of the relationship. This suggests that the privacy rules formed by fatherless Generation Z men are more influenced by the quality of the relationship between the individual and the person they are talking to than by gender differences.

Meanwhile, the motivational criteria indicate that self-disclosure is carried out as an emotional need, such as sharing stories, seeking solutions, wanting to develop, and releasing mental burdens. This condition aligns with the concept of self-disclosure, which aims to create emotional closeness and understanding (Ramadhan & Deni, 2025). In fatherless men, self-disclosure also becomes a form of compensation for the lack of emotional support from a father figure.

Based on contextual criteria, fatherless Generation Z men consider the situation, conditions, timing, and readiness of the other person before disclosing. This condition indicates that in contextual privacy rules when sharing information, fatherless Generation Z men not only consider themselves but also consider the potential impact on others, so that self-disclosure is the result of a deliberation process undertaken by fatherless men.

In the risk-benefit ratio criteria, the consideration process in sharing information will focus on the potential profits and losses obtained by the information owner (Komalasari, 2024). Some informants were more cautious about the risks of disclosure, while others focused more on benefits such as moral support and stress release.

Relatively, the privacy policies of fatherless Generation Z men are formed through a complex and thoughtful process. These policies are influenced by family communication patterns, social norms, emotional needs, the quality of interpersonal relationships, and considerations of risks and benefits. The absence of a father figure forces fatherless men to develop their own privacy policies, making self-disclosure a selective, deliberate, and evolving decision based on individual experience.

2. Boundary coordination

Coordination boundaries are the management of private information that has been shared with other people to ensure its confidentiality is maintained (Petronio, 2002). Among Generation Z men experiencing fatherlessness, coordinated boundaries were established to ensure co-owners understood the privacy rules surrounding shared information. Most informants communicated boundaries directly when sharing sensitive information, such as through disclaimers, requests for confidentiality, and even explaining the consequences if the information were to be shared. Furthermore, some informants chose to communicate risks first so that recipients understood the sensitivity of the story. This shows that fatherless men still maintain control over personal information even though it is shared collectively.

... umm I will convey the risks first... so I prefer if I am more intimidating at the beginning if I really want to convey a very sensitive story ... (informant 5).

Meanwhile, indirect coordination is also carried out without always explicitly stating boundaries, but rather built through trust, relationship selection, and shared experiences or conditions shared by the informant. This is done by the informant after a lengthy selection process, so the informant can ensure the boundaries are understood by the co-owner and the informant can comfortably share their information. Therefore, the coordination boundaries implemented by Generation Z men experiencing fatherlessness do not completely relinquish control, but rather maintain privacy through various strategies.

This situation is a form of self-management of privacy due to the limitations of masculine communication models within the family. The absence of a father can trigger vulnerabilities in managing privacy and self-disclosure (Ramadhan & Deni, 2025). So, fatherless men tend to be more selective in building trust and setting privacy boundaries.

3. Boundary Turbulence

Turbulence boundaries are conditions when privacy rules are violated, so that personal information is spread without permission (Petronio, 2002). These violations can affect privacy rules, information ownership rights, control mechanisms, and the quality of interpersonal relationships (Griffin et al., 2019; Komalasari, 2024). In Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness, turbulence occurs even in trusted relationships, such as friends and partners.

*“Yes, it happened, it was with my partner and also with my best friends”
(informant 3).*

This confirms that trust in someone does not preclude the possibility of privacy violations. This situation illustrates a failure to understand the boundaries of coordination, where the co-owner violates the mutually agreed-upon rules (Komalasari, 2024). In contrast, informants 4 and 5 felt they had never experienced turbulence because they had rigorously selected relationships before self-disclosure. This suggests that the tighter the privacy boundaries established, the less likely a breach is to occur.

When turbulence occurs, fatherless Generation Z men tend to reevaluate their privacy management strategies. This will encourage fatherless Generation Z men to be more selective in developing strategies to determine the limits of self-disclosure. Thus, turbulence is not only seen as a failure in privacy management, but also as a form of

evaluation of the privacy management system of fatherless Generation Z men in setting the limits of self-disclosure in their interpersonal relationships.

e. Management Dialectics

The management dialectic is a dilemma between the desire for openness and the need to maintain privacy (Petronio, 2002). All informants admitted to experiencing this tension, primarily due to fear of being judged negatively or oversharing.

“... I'm afraid I'll be thought of as oversharing or something like that ...”
(informant 1).

“... uh, my consideration isn't whether I need to share the story to feel relieved or not, but rather how other people will perceive me if I share it ...” (informant 3).

This demonstrates that the dialectic based on the desire for openness and concealment of private information is something that is constantly negotiated during privacy management. Furthermore, consideration of others' judgments also means that Generation Z men who experience fatherlessness in managing their privacy are striving to maintain their self-image in their interpersonal relationships.

Besides direct communication, dialectics also occur on social media, such as the fear of causing misperceptions or differences between public identity and real conditions.

“.. maybe the dilemma is more ummm because my branding on social media doesn't match what's actually happening ...” (informan 6).

This shows that there is tension between public identity and private identity, which requires individuals to manage the identity they want to display on social media with the conditions they actually experience.

When faced with dilemmas, informants employed different strategies, such as choosing to withhold information when the situation was inappropriate, delaying disclosure, and waiting for the conversation to deepen before revealing themselves. These conditions demonstrate that privacy management is also influenced by the conditions, atmosphere, and appropriate setting for disclosing private information (Komalasari, 2024). Thus, the dialectic of management is also an important aspect in understanding how individuals manage personal information in disclosing themselves and protecting privacy in their interpersonal relationships.

CONCLUSION

Personal information management among fatherless Generation Z men demonstrates complex dynamics in regulating self-disclosure in interpersonal relationships. This study demonstrates that the experience of fatherlessness impacts individuals' lives in how they perceive, filter, and manage their private information. In response to this situation, fatherless Generation Z men must independently construct communication strategies aimed at balancing individual needs in managing the boundaries of self-disclosure in their interpersonal relationships.

Communication privacy management among fatherless Generation Z men results in diverse and non-uniform forms of personal information management. These constructs

are not solely the result of each individual's fatherless experience, but rather are acquired through subjective experiences adapting to the circumstances. Furthermore, individuals also exhibit a tendency to be more reflective, selective, and protective of personal information. The absence of a primary masculine communication model leads fatherless Generation Z men to establish stricter boundaries, a more lengthy relationship selection process, and a heightened sensitivity to the risks of disclosure.

This research can expand the study of Communication Privacy Management by showing that the experience of being fatherless also influences the construction of privacy rules, coordination boundaries, privacy turbulence, and decision-making regarding self-disclosure in interpersonal relationship. The absence of a father figure also affects how individuals manage control over their private information. Additionally, this study can contribute to interpersonal communication research by reinforcing that the experience of being fatherless within the family shapes how individuals build trust, manage self-disclosure, and control personal information in their interpersonal relationship.

This research could be expanded with other approaches that could delve deeper into the phenomenon of fatherlessness, which may not have been fully captured by this descriptive qualitative method. Furthermore, findings related to the role of social media in managing personal information, which is also used as a privacy control tool, could be further explored in future research. Thus, further research could strengthen and complement the findings obtained in this study.

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