




Identifying the Components of Parent–Adolescent Communication Breakdown: A Qualitative Analysis




Chidinma. Chikwe^{1*}, Oriana. Piskorz-Ryn², Haixin. Qiu³

¹ Department of Psychology, University of Toronto, Canada

² Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Caldas, Street 6623b-03, Manizales 170004, Caldas, Colombia

³ Department of Medicine, Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine, Huntington, West Virginia

* Corresponding author email address: chichikwe@mail.utoronto.ca

E d i t o r	R e v i e w e r s
Izet Pehlić  Full professor for Educational sciences, Islamic pedagogical faculty of the University of Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina izet.pehlic@unze.ba	Reviewer 1: Masoud Asadi  Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Counseling, Arak University, Arak, Iran. Email: m-asadi@araku.ac.ir Reviewer 2: Stephen C. L. Lau  Professor (Assistant) at Washington University in St. Louis, United States. Email: lauc@wustl.edu

1. Round 1

1.1. Reviewer 1

Reviewer:

The paragraph states, “Adolescents’ psychosocial development is heavily dependent on open and constructive communication with parents”. While this is valid, it would benefit from referencing foundational theories (e.g., Bronfenbrenner’s ecological systems theory or attachment theory) to provide a stronger theoretical foundation.

The line, “In today’s digital age, communication between parents and adolescents is increasingly mediated—or disrupted—by technology”, is important. However, the examples focus primarily on therapy (Omoboye & Ench, 2024). Consider including evidence from family communication studies directly addressing social media use and household conflict.

The statement, “Studies show that parents may dominate conversations or employ inconsistent communication strategies”, is supported with Waleleng et al. (2023). Please clarify whether this dominance varies by cultural or socioeconomic background, as that distinction would strengthen the cross-contextual argument.

The closing sentence of the introduction states, “The current study contributes to this body of knowledge by qualitatively examining the lived experiences of parents and adolescents in Canada”. Yet, the methods describe participants from Michigan. This discrepancy undermines credibility and must be corrected.

The methods section says, “A total of 26 participants (13 parents and 13 adolescents) took part in the study”. However, in the findings section, the sample is reported as 25 participants from Michigan. This inconsistency in sample size and location requires urgent clarification.

The sentence, “Such dynamics suggest that communication breakdown is not only about failed conversations but also about distorted relational roles”, is strong but underdeveloped. Please expand by citing research on role reversal and developmental outcomes.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

1.2. Reviewer 2

Reviewer:

In the discussion of “self-esteem and body image” related to communication (Artigues-Barberà et al., 2025), the paragraph does not clearly link these findings to communication breakdown. Please strengthen the transition by explicitly stating how body image research informs family communication processes.

The theme “Overuse of Technology” is supported by quotations. However, the subtheme risks redundancy with “Generational Language Gap.” Consider clarifying whether these are distinct barriers (technological distraction vs. linguistic misunderstanding) or overlapping aspects of digital culture.

The discussion notes, “This finding aligns with earlier research indicating that supportive communication contributes significantly to adolescent self-esteem”. This section could be improved by directly linking these results to clinical interventions, such as family therapy approaches.

The sentence, “These results mirror research on the persistence of hierarchical dynamics in parent–child communication across diverse cultural contexts”, is insightful. Yet, the discussion does not address whether hierarchy is inherently negative or whether balanced authority may be beneficial. Please nuance this claim.

The statement, “The overuse of technology emerged as a unique barrier in the Canadian sample”, is overstated. Similar findings exist globally (e.g., Asia, Africa). Consider rephrasing to acknowledge the universality of this issue while noting culturally specific nuances.

Authors revised and uploaded the document.

2. Revised

Editor’s decision after revisions: Accepted.

Editor in Chief’s decision: Accepted.