



Implementation of communication in building cohesiveness in the Deggung Skateboarding community

Aula Munfazul Adha¹

¹Departement of Communication Studies Faculty of Social and Political Science Yogyakarta, Indonesia

*Corresponding author's email: Aula.m.isip17@mail.umy.ac.id

ABSTRACT

Keywords

Interaction Communication
Deggung Skateboarding
Community Cohesiveness

The research describes the forms of group communication within the Deggung Skateboarding community in building cohesion. According to Vanina Delonelle, a community is a gathering of people with similar interests. Communities are formed by four (4) factors, which are: a desire to share, communicate among members based on shared interests, the area where they typically gather, and the presence of individuals making decisions and determining everything. This research uses a qualitative descriptive approach. The data used in this study are the results of interviews and documentation. The interviewees are the leader and members of Deggung Skateboarding. The results of this research show that the relationship within the Deggung Skateboarding community is cohesive because they involve emotions and consider each other as siblings. The interaction within the community is also intense.

1. Introduction

As social beings, humans are inherently connected to a concept known as communication, whether it is among individuals or groups. Communication is an integral part of human life and plays a significant role in all aspects. According to Vanina Delobelle, a community serves as a gathering place for people with shared interests, and communities are formed based on four key factors: a desire to share, communication among members who share common interests, a basecamp or area where they typically gather, the presence of regular members, and finally, individuals who make decisions and determine everything.

Yogyakarta has a unique history of community development across various fields, including sports communities. One prominent community is skateboarding. Skateboarding itself is not a new phenomenon. This sport became known in Indonesia in the 1990s and is categorized as a street sport (a sport born in the streets). In Indonesia, two street cultures, skateboarding, graffiti, and murals, often face negative stigma from society. Skaters who perform actions in pedestrian zones and public squares frequently receive warnings about skateboarding prohibitions in certain public spaces from both the public and local authorities.

The common wear and tear on street furniture have contributed to the negative perception of skateboarding. However, architectural theory expert Iain Borden, in his book "Skateboarding, Space and Cities: Architecture and Body," argues that skateboarding can be a tool for urban planning. The formation of skateboarding communities in Yogyakarta is driven by a shared interest in extreme sports. There are several well-known skateboarding communities in Yogyakarta, including

Denggung Skateboarding, Gardu Skate, Lippo Skateboarding, and Bantul Skateboarding. Among these communities, the researcher is interested in studying the Denggung Skateboarding community, which is one of the oldest skateboarding communities in Yogyakarta. Members of Denggung Skateboarding feel a sense of unity when skateboarding because they view skateboarding as a passion. The sense of camaraderie and the emergence of a cohesive feeling are referred to as cohesion. Cohesion fundamentally represents the interconnectedness among members within a group, as the level of cohesion significantly influences the interactions among group members.

Research on group cohesion has been conducted previously. One such study was conducted by Iswandi B in 2018, titled "Cohesion of Football Supporters in the Perspective of Group Communication." This research concluded that cohesion built through communication significantly influences the behavior of group members. Higher communication intensity within a group leads to higher solidarity and a sense of ownership among group members. The communication applied by The Macz Man supporter group proved to be one of the most effective ways to build group cohesion.

The purpose of this research conducted by the present researcher is to understand the forms of group communication within the Denggung Skateboarding community in building cohesion, achieved through interviews with the leader and members of Denggung Skateboarding. This research employs a qualitative descriptive approach. The data used in this study are the results of interviews and documentation. Data collection conducted by the researcher consists of informant interviews using a targeted or purposive sampling technique. The main aim of sample selection is to identify key informants or specific social situations rich in information.

2. Method

This research employs a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. The researcher is directly involved in the field and interacts with informants to gather comprehensive information. The data sources used in this study include primary data and secondary data. Primary data is information obtained by the researcher through interviews with the sources, while secondary data in this research is based on supporting journals, articles, and online news. Data collection conducted by the researcher consists of informant interviews using a targeted or purposive sampling technique. The main objective of sample selection is to identify key informants or specific social situations rich in information. In this research, the data validation technique used is data triangulation (often referred to as source triangulation). Patton describes triangulation of sources as comparing and verifying the reliability of information obtained through different qualitative methods at different times.

3. Result and Discussion

A. Implementation of Group Communication in Denggung Skateboarding

Denggung Skateboarding is a skateboarding community in Yogyakarta that was established in 2001 and consists of several individuals from various areas in Sleman and even from outside the city of Yogyakarta. In addition to hailing from different regions, this community also comprises people of various age groups, ranging from teenagers to adults. Furthermore, the community is inclusive and does not discriminate based on gender. With their diverse backgrounds, communication plays a vital role within this skateboarding group, which is based in Denggung Field, Jaban, Tridadi, Sleman, D.I. Yogyakarta.

Communication not only functions as a means of exchanging information among members but is also a middle path to unite and find continuity amid differences. Based on interviews conducted with members of Denggung Skateboard, one member, Riza, shared, *"I joined about 5 years ago, sir, so around 2018 or 2019. I happen to enjoy skateboarding, but I didn't have any friends nearby who shared the same hobby. I found out about the community through stories from friends."* (Riza, a member of Denggung Skateboarding, shared in an interview)

Similarly, Ucup expressed a similar sentiment to Riza. He mentioned that his desire to develop his skateboarding talent was quite high at the time, but he faced limitations in terms of finding friends who shared his passion and in locating suitable places to skate. Additionally, Ucup was a student living away from home.

"If I joined in 2017, it was to find friends, to have someone with the same frequency. I was confused back then about where to skate; I didn't know many areas in Yogyakarta. So, I searched for skateboard locations in Yogyakarta on Google Maps, and I stumbled upon Deggung Skateboarding. I then casually looked up their Instagram," (Ucup, a member of Deggung Skateboarding, shared in an interview).

Communication within a group plays a vital role in maintaining the group's sustainability. Deggung Skateboarding is well aware of the significant impact of communication in this regard. Therefore, every member of the community strives to maintain effective communication patterns to ensure that each member's intentions and goals are well conveyed. Additionally, communication serves the purpose of building connections and preserving the group's integrity. Because this community is a gathering of skateboard enthusiasts and serves as an outlet for pursuing their talents and interests, the recruitment of members is not carried out formally, and the communication patterns between members and their leaders are informal. This is exemplified by Muhammad Fairul, the head of Deggung Skateboarding:

"Anyone can join; there are no limitations. In terms of communication from the leadership to the members, it's relaxed, like among friends, similar to other communities. Since we often gather, it's casual. But it's different when discussing important matters." (Interview with Muhammad Fairul, head of Deggung Skateboarding).

Ucup's confirmation of Fairul's statements reinforces the idea that there are no formal restrictions on interaction between the leadership and members of Deggung Skateboarding. Ucup, as a member, abides by the rules in place. When the leaders announce a gathering at their base to discuss specific matters, Ucup willingly follows their instructions. This illustrates the cooperative and supportive atmosphere within the community, where communication is flexible, and members actively participate in group discussions and activities.

"It's better if you go to the management, sir. Especially because Mr. Fairul often participates in competitions, he has a lot of experience, so there's a kind of 'how to do it' feeling. Just talk casually, like friends, even make fun of each other. What's important is that when there's a meeting or a gathering, just show up, or if they ask for help, try to do it." (Interview excerpt with Ucup, a member of Deggung Skateboarding).

Further explained by Fairul, what is important is that when Deggung Skateboarding holds a meeting before an event, serious discussions and the formation of committees will take place.

"During the meeting, we had a serious discussion. Anyone who has an idea for the event concept can just bring it up directly to the forum. Usually, I'm the one who starts the discussion, like what the main theme of the event should be this year. Then, we'll figure out the rest and delegate tasks to the team members." (Interview excerpt with Muhammad Fairul, the head of Deggung Skateboarding).

Fairul explains that there are several important aspects he pays attention to when delivering a message to his team members. These include conveying the message in a simple, straightforward manner without unnecessary complexity, and staying focused on the topic at hand. He also tries to present the message with humor and jokes to make it more flexible and engaging. Fairul always strives to understand the responses of his team members to gauge the extent to which the message he conveys is well-received.

Kharisma Momon, as the Public Relations Officer of Deggung Skateboarding, mentioned that formal communication typically occurs only during specific events. Apart from skateboarding, this community engages in other activities such as hanging out together, donations, futsal, and gatherings. In these situations, communication flows naturally based on the circumstances and conditions, and there's no distinction between long-standing and new members. In this community, there's no consideration of job status, social standing, education, and the like. When engaging in skateboarding or other activities, some married members often invite their children and spouses to join. The goal is to eliminate any gap or distance between family and friends. On a monthly basis, Deggung Skateboarding consistently organizes activities outside of their regular skateboarding routines. This is done to strengthen the closeness and unity of the team.

B. Group Cohesiveness of Deggung Skateboarding

The comfort and sense of belonging among the members are two fundamental aspects underlying the increasing intensity of communication and interaction within Deggung Skateboarding. Based on an interview with Gilang, in 2022 and 2023, the members of Deggung Skateboarding started gathering more frequently, not only during practice sessions at Deggung Field but also whenever they had free time.

"Since forever, we've been getting together, sir. Especially after the PPKM [COVID-19 restrictions] was lifted, we just went straight back to practicing. Even the newbies, I often encourage them to join practice or attend other activities. When you're close like that, it becomes more comfortable." (Interview excerpt with Gilang Yoganca, Secretary of Deggung Skateboarding).

Since its establishment in 2001, Deggung Skateboarding has participated in several competitions, including the Deputy Mayor's Cup Skateboard Competition and PORDA DIY. The participants representing. The community are chosen based on their skateboarding skills and experience. Other friends show their support by attending these competitions to cheer them on.

"So, the kids come without being asked. They watch, cheer, bring cigarettes or whatever. For me, that's the highest form of support because they're proud when their friends compete. Winning or losing, what matters is being solid." (Interview excerpt with Muhammad Fairul, Head of Deggung Skateboarding).

Similarly, if someone from the community wins a competition, a small celebration is held at Deggung Field, such as a communal meal or just gathering at a coffee shop. Besides Fairul, Riza is another member who won a medal at PORDA XVI DIY in 2022. He acknowledges that his friends are his support system when he feels nervous before a competition.

Acknowledged by Ucup, a member who has been part of Deggung Skateboarding for 5 years, he feels that this community provides him with a space to grow, learn, and find like-minded friends. Therefore, he takes pride when any of them achieves success, and if there's a conflict, he feels the need to be involved in its resolution.

"Because I always ask for their help, from skateboards to things not related to skateboarding, I share everything with the people here. If they win, I consider it my win too. If there's a problem, it's my problem too." (Interview excerpt with Riza, a member of Deggung Skateboarding).

The memories of togetherness created by the Deggung Skateboarding community are documented on Instagram @deggungskate, managed by Fairul and Momon. One of these memories is when they helped repair a damaged skate park.

"We usually inform the group, sir, and the people always show up. No need to specify a time, just say, 'Let's get together this Saturday to fix something.' I guarantee they'll come." (Interview excerpt with Kharisma Momon, Public Relations Officer of Denggung Skateboarding).

4. Conclusion

In this study, it was found that within the Denggung Skateboarding community, members feel a sense of unity, strong bonds with each other, and close relationships within the group. An example of the cohesiveness within the Denggung Skateboarding community is when one of the members participates in a competition, and other members show their support by attending the competition and providing encouragement. Another example of cohesiveness among the members of the Denggung Skateboarding community is their collaborative efforts to repair a damaged skate park. This aligns with the aspects of cohesiveness described by Zanden in Corsha (2021), which include loyalty, such as faithfulness to the group and a desire not to leave the group, solidarity, which involves being loyal to friends, support, and assistance in problem-solving, and cooperation, including the ability to work well together and complete tasks collectively.

In this study, the researcher expresses gratitude to the individuals associated with this research, such as the interviewees (Chairperson and Members of Denggung Skateboarding), who granted permission for the research to be conducted at Denggung Skateboarding, as well as for their time, effort, and the information provided during the interview process. Additionally, the researcher extends appreciation to those who offered references to complement and strengthen this research. The researcher acknowledges that there are still shortcomings in this study and is thankful to those who are willing to provide criticism or suggestions to enhance this research.

5. References

- Arninda, & Safitri. (2012). Hubungan Antara Kohesivitas Dengan Motivasi Kerja Pegawai Kelurahan Di Kecamatan Kasihan Kabupaten Bantul. *Jurnal Psikologi Universitas Mercu Buana*.
- Bungin, B. (2015). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif*. Jakarta: Rajawali Press.
- Bungin, B. (2017). *Sosiologi Komunikasi*. Jakarta: Pranada Media Group.
- Corsha, C. N. (2021). HUBUNGAN ANTARA KOHESIVITAS KELOMPOK DENGAN POLIKULTURALISME STUDI PADA MAHASISWA PERANTAU DI KOTA MALANG. *Jurnal Psikologi Universitas Muhammadiyah Malang*.
- Effendy, O. U. (2017). *Komunikasi Teori dan Praktek*. Bandung: Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Goldberg, A. A., & E.Larson, C. (2011). *Group Communication : Discussions Processes and aplicatuins*. Penerjemah Koedarini S, Gary R. Jusuf. *Komunikasi*. Jakarta: Penerbit Universitas Indonesia (UI Press).
- Irawan, Susilowati, & Silvindari. (2011). Hubungan Kohesivitas Kelompok Dengan Job Involvement Dan Sosial Loafing Pada Anggota Kelompok (Studi Pada Karyawan Kantor Induk PLN UIP VIII, Surabaya). *Jurnal Psikologi Universitas Brawijaya Malang Vol. 2 No. 2*.
- Johnson, D. W., & Johnson, F. P. (2012). *Dinamika Kelompok: Teori dan Keterampilan*, Edisi Sembilan. Jakarta: Indeks.
- Junaedi, F. (2014). *Merayakan Sepak Bola Fans: Identitas dan Media*. Yogyakarta: Buku Litera.
- McShane, S. L., & Glinow, M. A. (2010). *Organizational Behavior:Emerging Knowledge and Practice for the Real World*. New York : The McGraw-Hill Company.
- Miles, M. H., & Saldana, J. (2014). *Qualitative Data Analysis, A Methods Sourcebook*. USA: Sage Publications Terjemahan Tjetjep Rohindi Rohidi, UI-Press.

- Moleong, L. J. (2016). *Metodologi Penelitian Kualitatif Edisi Revisi*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Muliawan, T. (2013). *Komunikasi Kelompok Suporter Bola Dalam Membentuk Kohesivitas (Studi Kasus Pada Jakmania UNJ)*. *Jurnal Komunikasi Universitas Sultan Ageng Tirtayasa*.
- Mulyana, D. (2014). *Ilmu Komunikasi: Suatu Pengantar*. Cetakan ke 18. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya.
- Munandar, A. (2011). *Psikologi Industri dan Organisasi*. Jakarta: UI Press.
- Nazir, M. (2013). *Metode Penelitian*. Bogor: Ghalia Indonesia.
- Pawito. (2007). *Penelitian Komunikasi Kualitatif*. Yogyakarta: LKiS.
- Rakhmat, J. (2015). *Psikologi Komunikasi*. Bandung: PT Remaja Rosdakarya Offset.
- Robbin, S., & Judge. (2015). *Perilaku Organisasi*. Jakarta: Salemba Empat.
- Roudhonah. (2007). *Ilmu Komunikasi*. Jakarta: UIN Press.
- Sugiyono. (2013). *Metode Penelitian Kuantitatif Kualitatif dan R&D*. Bandung: Alfabeta.
- Trihapsari, V., & Nashori, F. (2011). *Kohesivitas Kelompok dan Komitmen Organisasi Pada Financial Advisor Asuransi 'X' Yogyakarta*. *Jurnal Proyeksi Vol. 6 No.2. 12 – 2*. Yogyakarta: Fakultas Psikologi & Ilmu Sosial Budaya UII, dimuat dalam proceeding, ISSN :1907-8455.
- Yuniasanti, R. (2010). *Pelatihan pembentukan tim untuk meningkatkan kohesivitas tim pada tim divisi produksi*. *Insight*, 8 (1), 71-92.
- Yusuf, R. (2020). *KOMUNIKASI KELOMPOK DALAM MEWUJUDKAN KOHESIVITAS ANGGOTA PADA KELOMPOK ONE PIECE (STUDI DESKRIPTIF KUALITATIF DI KELOMPOK “NAKAMA ISTIMEWA YOGYAKARTA”)*. Skripsi thesis, Universitas Mercu Buana Yogyakarta.