

The Strategy for Maintaining the Marriage Household with Long-Distance Relationship of State Civil Apparatus at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province

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Abstract

Long-distance marriage is a phenomenon that usually occurs for reasons such as work reasons. This study aims to examine the long-distance marriage of State Civil Apparatus (ASN) at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province. This research is field research that presents a narrative, descriptive description of the informants with a normative, juridical and sociological theological approach. This study used primary data sources and secondary data. Data was collected through observation, in-depth interview, and documentation for further analysis. The research findings show that the long-distance marriage between Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province is maintained with several strategies, including; good communication, open attitude, honesty, trust, setting the intensity of meetings, fulfilling a living (outwardly and spiritually), being responsible, finding solutions to every problem faced and strengthening and understanding religious values. The implication of the finding is that it can be a reference or reference for people who are undergoing long-distance marriage as a solution in maintaining the integrity of the household.

Perkawinan *long distance relationship* merupakan fenomena yang biasa terjadi dengan suatu alasan seperti pekerjaan. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengkaji perkawinan *long distance relationship* Aparatur Sipil Negara (ASN) di Kanwil Kementerian Agama Provinsi Gorontalo. Penelitian ini merupakan penelitian lapangan yang memaparkan secara naratif, deskriptif uraian dari

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informan dengan pendekatan teologis normatif, yuridis dan sosiologis. Penelitian ini menggunakan sumber data primer dan data sekunder. Teknik pengumpulan data melalui observasi, wawancara mendalam dan dokumentasi untuk selanjutnya dianalisis. Temuan penelitian menunjukkan perkawinan *long distance relationship* ASN di Kanwil Kementerian Agama Provinsi Gorontalo dipertahankan dengan beberapa strategi yang dilakukan, di antaranya; Komunikasi yang baik dan lancar, sikap terbuka, kejujuran, kepercayaan, pengaturan intensitas pertemuan, pemenuhan nafkah (lahir batin), bertanggung jawab, mencari solusi disetiap masalah yang dihadapi dan penguatan serta pemahaman nilai-nilai agama. Implikasi dari temuan bahwa dapat menjadi rujukan atau referensi bagi para masyarakat yang sedang menjalani perkawinan *long distance relationship* sebagai solusi dalam mempertahankan keutuhan rumah tangga.

Key words: *strategy; household integrity; marriage; long-distance relationships; state civil apparatus.*

Introduction

The Qur'an has indicated that all living things are created in pairs, matched, including humans. The regulation of humans in matchmaking lives is through the marriage level whose provisions are formulated in separate rules. Marriage is an inner and outer bond between a man and a woman as husband and wife with the aim of forming a happy and eternal family (household) based on the belief in the one and only God.¹ The Compilation of Islamic Law (KHI), explains that marriage according to Islamic law is marriage, which is a very strong contract or *misaqan galidza* to obey Allah's commands and carry it out is worship.²

Marriage by carrying out all the roles and functions of each in full, the purpose of marriage will be achieved. However, not all conditions support this, there are some conditions that are not possible such as the condition of husband and wife who do not live at home, husband and wife who must be separated by place, distance, and time. This phenomenon is commonly known as long-distance marriage. This situation describes a husband and wife being physically separated, that is, one party, either husband or wife, goes to another place for other purposes, while the other party stays at home.

¹Undang Undang Republik Indonesia Nomor 16 Tahun 2019 tentang perubahan atas Undang Undang Nomor 1 Tahun 1974 tentang Perkawinan (Lembaran Negara Republik Indonesia Tahun 2019 Nomor 186, Tambahan Lembaran Negara Republik Indonesia Nomor 6401).

²Kompilasi Hukum Islam di Indonesia, Bab II Pasal 2 (Jakarta: Kementerian Agama RI, Direktorat Bina KUA dan Keluarga Sakinah, 2018), p. 5.

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In a long-distance marriage, husband and wife are faced with problems regarding responsibility for the integrity of the family. The situation of husband and wife who are far apart can certainly create a void of roles that should be carried out by husband and wife like a couple who live under the same roof. The family can be likened to an organization with each family member being likened to complementary parts.³ An organized family is a unified system that is able to carry out its functions properly, that is, each member of the existing family is able to carry out its social role well. As is known in its implementation, the family certainly has several important functions that may not be replaced by anyone, with the existence of these functions it can allow each member to maintain survival and also maintain life, both biologically and psychologically.⁴

The reality that occurs in married couples who undergo long-distance relationships, family functions have changed because husband and wife do not live together under one roof.⁵ This kind of marriage can be the cause of unfulfilled needs because the intensity of togetherness is greatly reduced. In addition, the demands that must be met by each married couple who undergo a long-distance marriage sometimes cannot be fulfilled, such as a married couple who live under the same roof because of the distance factor which makes it difficult to fulfill their needs. As a result of the inability to carry out these demands, it is not uncommon to cause conflicts and disputes between husband and wife who live in this kind of household.

In a long-distance marriage, there are many things that must be a burdensome consideration, one of which is the need for communication which may be neglected and psychological and biological needs that must be met.⁶ There are 118 State Civil Apparatus (Civil Servants) in The Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province and there are 14 people who are undergoing a long-distance marriage, among the reasons for the demands of work.

Having a long-distance marriage requires mental and psychological readiness for the partners. It is undeniable that long-distance marriage carries more risks than benefits. If each partner does not have a definite mental readiness then in its implementation problems will arise. Despite this fact, not a few couples are

³Murniati, *Getar Gender: Perempuan Indonesia dalam Prespektif Agama, Budaya, dan Keluarga* (Edisi Kedua; Magelang: Indonesia Tera, 2004), p. 197.

⁴Soerjono Soekanto, *Sosiologi Suatu Pengantar* (Jakarta: Rajawali Press, 2003), p. 333.

⁵Devi Anjas Primasari, "Kehidupan Keluarga Long-distance Marital in Relationship" (Thesis, Fakultas Ilmu Sosial dan Ilmu Politik Universitas Airlangga Surabaya, 2015), p. 22. <http://repository.unair.ac.id>, accessed on April 17, 2020 at 22.00 (Central Indonesian Time).

⁶Devi Anjas Primasari, *Kehidupan Keluarga Long-distance Marital in Relationship*, p. 22.

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successful in undergoing long-distance marriages and their marriages can actually run harmoniously and last forever.

This is what several Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province have done as explained above. Undergoing a long-distance marriage, their married life actually survived and went well. This issue is certainly very interesting to study in more depth regarding the life of the long-distance relationship that they live. On the one hand, their marriage is very prone to conflict because the roles and functions of husband and wife will not be carried out and fully fulfilled, but on the other hand, the long-distance married life they live actually runs very well and lasts for years.

Discussion

The Concept of Integrity of the Household with Long-distance Relationship

1. Household Integrity

Parrot said that in order to maintain the harmony of households living far apart, it is very important to maintain trust and communication, as well as openness and honesty. Married couples who undergo long-distance relationships, can be said to be a relationship that is prone to divorce and certainly more difficult to maintain, because if trust in communication, openness, honesty, loyalty to commitments, and the rules of agreement (marriage rules) are made if not implemented, it will cause conflict.⁷

Having a long-distance marriage relationship requires mental, psychological readiness for the partners. Because it is undeniable that long-distance marriage contains more risks than benefits. If each partner does not have a definite mental readiness, then in its implementation there will be many problems. Despite this fact, not a few couples are successful in undergoing long-distance marriages and their marriages can last forever.

Integrity of the household is a picture of a situation that is able to be fostered by every family member, especially husband and wife to be able to continue to maintain, maintain and carry out joint commitments when married, therefore the integrity of the household is to stick to the agreed principles, norms, and goals together from the start.⁸

The integrity of the household is created on the basis of harmony between husband and wife. The continuity of the household will be strengthened by the

⁷Devi Anjas Primasari, *Kehidupan Keluarga Long-distance Marital in Relationship*.

⁸Andarus Darahim, *Membina Keharmonisan dan Ketahanan Keluarga*, (Jakarta: Institut Pembelajaran Gelar Hidup, 2015), p. 191.

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firm commitment that is nurtured every time. A commitment that is always maintained in intense intimate communication will result in a harmonious household. The integrity of the household clearly has implications for the success of one's life.⁹

Wholeness means a state that can remain as before or the ability to survive so that it is not easily changed or changed. If the building is not easily damaged or collapsed if the behavior and attitudes are not easy to change the principles and stances in life. Integrity adheres to the rules or principles and values that are adhered to and believed to be useful and meaningful for themselves and their families.

As-Sayyid Muhammad Bin Alawy Al-Maliky the characteristics of wholeness in the household include; (1) A complete family is to have strength in general a strong religious upbringing; (2) The ability to meet with each other among family members to discuss various household issues; (3) A family that is colored by the warmth and tenderness of interaction between the residents of the family, so that in the household there is never a harsh word; (4) The establishment of a sense of affection and love and the achievement of peace of mind.¹⁰

Some of the efforts used by separated families in maintaining family integrity as stated by Muslim women include good behavior and obedience, understanding each other, being honest with each other, respecting each other, trying to please partners, finding solutions together, *qana'ah*, calling with affection, tolerance-solidarity-caring, household sacredness, and establishing good communication.¹¹

2. Long-distance Marriage

Husband and wife living far apart (long-distance relationship) are meant to be couples who are legally married but due to certain situations or conditions that require husband or wife cannot live together in the same house. Living far apart in this case is meant to be at a considerable distance, for example between islands or between countries so that it is not possible for a married couple to meet at the expected times. Long-distances and large costs are indicators of married couples who live far apart. This causes the frequency of meeting or gathering with family to be very limited.¹²

⁹Nanan Abdul Manan, *Bahasa Cinta dalam Rumah Tangga* (Tasikmalaya: Edu Publisher, 2019), p. 206.

¹⁰As-Sayyid Muhammad Bin Alawi Al-Maliky, *Menggapai Bahtera Biru* (Jakarta: Iqra Insan Pres, 2003), p. 10.

¹¹Muslimah, "Strategi Keluarga Jarak Jauh dalam Menjaga Keharmonisan Rumah Tangga di Kalangan TNI-AD." *At-Ta'lim: Kajian Pendidikan Agama Islam* 1.2 (2019): 28-54.

¹²Eka Rahmah Eliyani, "Keterbukaan Komunikasi Interpersonal Pasangan Suami Istri yang Berjauhan Tempat Tinggal." *Jurnal eJournal Ilmu Komunikasi* 1.2 (2013), p. 87.

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Pistole defines long-distance marriage as a situation where a couple physically separates, one partner has to go elsewhere for some reason, while the other partner has to stay at home.¹³ According to Bergen, long-distance marriage is characterized by a married couple living in different locations for a long time for the sake of the spouse's career.¹⁴

A marital relationship can be said as a long-distance marital relationship is when the husband and wife are in different and far apart places. A long-distance marriage is a form of marriage in which the couple: (1) Geographically separated (place, city, region, island, country); (2) cannot always be together; (3) Live separately; (4) Cannot meet for a long time; (5) Time to be together is limited.

A relationship can be called as long-distance marital relationships, if the husband and wife have the following characteristics; (1) They cannot always be together, because they are separated by distance and it is not possible to meet at any time; (2) Living separately as a consequence of the activities carried out by each partner, for example carrying out military or official duties; (3) Have a desire to be together. The limited time and distance apart make this couple have a greater desire to meet and see their partner in person; (4) The duration of the meeting time is limited. This is influenced by vacation time or leave permitted by the relevant organization or agency; (5) Time to be together is limited, so this couple often takes special moments to satisfy their partner and themselves, due to limited opportunities to meet; (6) Geographically separated (cities, islands, countries) up to tens or even hundreds of kilometers (between cities within islands) and even thousands of kilometers (between islands within countries).¹⁵

The reasons why husband and wife have to undergo a long-distance marriage are for reasons of study, assignments, economic demands, even because of polygamy and punishment.¹⁶

Strategies of Maintening Household Integrity in Long-Distance Marriage

Marriage is a sacred bond between a man and a woman with the aim of worship and to obtain peace and tranquillity in living life. Married couples certainly expect their lives to be happier, complement and help each other and provide peace. A marriage bond ideally lives together in one house, but there are some married couples who choose not to live together in one house for various reasons.

¹³Safitri Ramadhini, *Gambaran trust pada wanita dewasa awal yang sedang menjalani long distance marriage*. Diss. Universitas Airlangga, 2015.

¹⁴Safitri Ramadhini, *Gambaran Trust pada Perempuan Dewasa...* p. 18.

¹⁵Gunarsa, *Psikologi Untuk Keluarga* (11th print; Jakarta: BPK Gunung Mulia, 1993), p. 26.

¹⁶Aini Aryanti, *Fiqh LDR Suami Istri* (Jakarta: Setiabudi, 2018), p. 8.

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The same thing happened to several Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who chose to live a separate household life or long-distance marriage.

The Civil Servants at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who are undergoing long-distance marriage as many as 14 people, The marriage age of Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who carry out long-distance relationship marriages is very diverse, based on the results of interviews it is concluded that as many as 10 people with a marriage age of more than 10 years old, while the age of marriage above 5 years is only 1 person and over 1 year there are 3 people. Meanwhile, related to the age of long-distance marriage, 6 people are over 10 years old, 3 people are over 5 years old and 5 people are over one year old.

The phenomenon in which a husband and wife who are married but do not live together are commonly referred to as long-distance marriage. It can be called a long-distance marriage, if the husband and wife have the following characteristics; (1) cannot always be together, because they are separated by distance and it is not possible to meet every time. The results of the study found that in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province there were 14 civil servants who are undergoing long-distance marriages. Can't be together because they are separated by distance that can't meet every time. (2) Living separately as a consequence of the activities carried out by each spouse, for example carrying out military or official duties.¹⁷

Living separately as a consequence of the activities carried out by each partner, the Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who decided to undergo a long-distance marriage for three reasons. *First*, the reasons for the work of both husband and wife. Husband and wife both have jobs so they have to live separately. *Second*, the reason other than the husband's work, the wife must take care of parents who are old and sick. Because of this, husband and wife must be willing to live separately. *Third*, the reason is because they still have toddlers, so the wife needs to live with her parents to help with the care, while the husband works.

Most of the reasons for Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who are undergoing a long-distance marriage are due to the demands of work, which are 12 people and 2 others, to take care of and take care of their parents who are sickly, and because have to take care of their young children.

¹⁷Gunarsa, *Psikologi Untuk Keluarga*, p. 26.

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The limited time and distance apart make this couple have a greater desire to meet and see their partner in person. A husband and wife who undergo a long-distance marriage have a great desire to live together, the limited time and distance apart make this couple have a greater desire to meet and see their partner in person. All Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who are undergoing long-distance marriage, based on the results of the interview, they said that they have a great desire to live together in one house and live a household life like a household in general.

The duration of meeting time is limited due to vacation time or leave permitted by the relevant organization or agency. The consequence of a job is that the time to meet a partner in a long-distance marriage is very limited. This was experienced by 14 Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry who underwent a long-distance marriage. Based on the results of interviews with Civil Servants at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who are undergoing a long-distance marriage, the intensity of their meetings varies. First, there are 6 married couples who have a regular schedule of meetings once a week for a duration of 2 days 2 nights. *Second*, there are 4 married couples who have a meeting schedule once a month, and *third*, 4 married couples who do not determine their meeting schedule. Sometimes once a week, once every two or three weeks, even up to once or twice a month according to the circumstances, whether related to opportunities or financial problems. Likewise, couples who have a schedule once a week or once a month, can change faster or even longer schedule meetings with family, depending on needs and situations and conditions, but this rarely happens.

Time to be together is limited, so this couple often takes special moments to satisfy their partner and themselves, due to limited opportunities to meet. Due to the very limited time to be together, 14 Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry who underwent a long-distance marriage set a strategy by spending time together maximally when their partner was home. Like what was done by MN, MI, IS, and NF, where when the husband comes home, time together is used to the maximum, such as serving optimally in terms of biological fulfillment, traveling with family to tourist attractions, watching movies or just eating out of the house and around town.

Geographically separated (cities, islands, countries) up to tens or even hundreds of kilometers (between cities within islands) and even thousands of kilometers (between islands within countries). Geographically, Civil Servants married couples in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who underwent long-distance marriages were grouped into two

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parts. *First*, there are 9 couples of Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province whose residences are separated between provinces, namely between Gorontalo Province and North Sumatra, West Kalimantan, Central Sulawesi, and North Sulawesi Provinces. *Second*, there are five couples of Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who live separately between regions within the province, namely Boalemo Regency and North Gorontalo Regency.

The results showed that Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who underwent long-distance marriage was categorized as long-distance marriage with the characteristics of not living together, living separately, having the desire to be together, limited time to meet, the duration of the meeting is short, geographically separated that is separated between provinces and regencies/cities.

Marriage, of course, does not always run smoothly as expected, but even so, there are always efforts or strategies to continue to maintain the integrity of the household until death. Likewise, the domestic life of Civil Servant's long-distance relationship in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province. Based on the results of interviews with informants, there are several strategies in maintaining and maintaining family integrity, namely as follows:

1. Communication Strategy

Communication is very important for human life, communication is included as a basic human activity. Communication is one of the pillars of a long-distance husband and wife relationship, as is what the Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province does, who is undergoing a long-distance marriage, communication as a strategy to maintain household integrity.

There are several kinds of communication carried out by Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who underwent a long-distance marriage, namely: communication via telephone, WhatsApp, videocall and social media such as Facebook posts, WhatsApp status and family group WhatsApp.

As Civil Servants, MN and IS have a routine of communicating with their partner every night before going to bed until they fall asleep, telling each other's activities that day. Meanwhile, SB and AL, communicate at certain times when there are important things that must be communicated, there is no need to communicate every day via telephone or videocall, However, communicating also through social media, whether it's posting on Facebook, Instagram and on

WhatsApp, family groups about daily activities. RA and his wife routinely do it every morning after dawn or when they just arrive at work and at night. Even sometimes at every prayer time, to remind you to immediately pray on time.

2. Openness Strategy

In relationships, openness is one of the most important things for the continuity of household divinity. Mutual openness will give birth to trust for the couple. Likewise, RA, U, SM and MN are always open to all things, nothing is hidden from their partner. This makes marital relations run well.

Long-distance marriage households prioritize openness in various matters such as openness in terms of activities carried out, regarding income, problems being faced, problems with children, parents and others. Openness is needed to maintain the integrity of the family without the chaos that leads to the rift of husband and wife relationships and even divorce. If one partner shows a non-committal condition, of course it will cause problems such as being dishonest, not open, often lying and committing acts of fraud. Openness between partners is important in the family because it is used to avoid family rifts because any problems in the family if hidden from partners will raise suspicion and can cause fights that lead to family breakdown. The results of the study indicate that an open honest attitude will give birth to an attitude of mutual trust and loyalty to a partner. This commitment was built by the Civil Servants at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Gorontalo Province who underwent a long-distance marriage.

3. Strategy by Managing Meeting Intensity

The Civil Servants at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Gorontalo Province who underwent a long-distance marriage had a meeting schedule with their family. As done by IS, U and RT couples who have a schedule to meet every week. In contrast with NF, WM, SB couples who arrange a return schedule or meet their family once a month, sometimes it is faster or even longer than the schedule that has been determined according to work conditions.

The results showed that the intensity of Civil Servants meetings at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Gorontalo Province who underwent long-distance marriages was divided into 3, namely: the intensity of meetings every week, the intensity of meetings every month, and the intensity of unscheduled meetings. In general, the intensity of meetings based on interviews is influenced by working conditions and the couple's vacation time. The attitude of mutual acceptance, understanding and understanding of the lack of time together, makes long-distance relationship households can last for years.

4. Sexual Needs Fulfilment Strategy

Sexual ability was created by Allah SWT for humans, both male and female. Therefore, Islam teaches about a place for halal sexual distribution by means of marriage. With marriage, it keeps oneself from the tricks of the devil and becomes the cause of the barrier to sexual needs.

The condition of the household in a long-distance marriage to fulfill biological needs is the most difficult thing. However, this can be overcome by the Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province as BS, SB and MN have done by increasing their activities. This is different from what is experienced by SN couples related to biological needs, namely in addition to increasing activity, sometimes it also speeds up meeting time with partners.

The need to fulfill sexual desires is a basic thing in a household, but the conditions of a long-distance relationship make it impossible to fulfill sexual needs easily. The results of the study show that married couples who undergo long-distance relationships at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province can overcome these problems with strategies to increase activity, speed up meeting schedules and apply a mindset about marital orientation, not just a matter of sex. With these various strategies, Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who undergo long-distance relationships are able to withstand or avoid sexual desires when they are far away from their partners.

5. Problem Solving Strategy

A problem that comes to a person causes that person to at least try to solve the problem he is facing. So, he has to use various ways such as thinking, trying, and asking to solve the problem, even in this case the process of solving the problem from one person to another may be different. The same solution is used to end a problem that must be resolved properly with the best solution.

The Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who underwent a long-distance relationship admitted that in the course of their household they could not be separated from various kinds of problems, but all of them could be resolved so as not to make it a split and even divorce. This was revealed by the Civil Servants at the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who underwent long-distance relationships including SN, MI who often had problems about stubborn children that were difficult to overcome. The solution is to reprimand and advise through communication.

In contrast to the problems faced by MN. As a couple who both have important positions in the government, and have good physical performance, often the problem is third party interference. Solving the problem by directly contacting a third party and making it a deterrent, if a private employee or Civil Servants will be reported to the leadership for a warning. For couples, both fortify themselves by cutting off access to that direction and continuing to communicate.

Meanwhile, for AT as a couple who have only been married for 2 years, the problems that occur are usually due to mediocre economic problems. However, this can be overcome by being patient and trying to live more frugally.

The results showed that the resolution of the Civil Servants family problems in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who underwent a long-distance relationship could be resolved well, although not directly. Problem solving through good communication channels, through a quick response and understanding of family circumstances.

6. Sharing family responsibilities

In conditions of households that are far apart, of course, the obligations of family responsibilities will not be maximally carried out by husband and wife. Meanwhile, the Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who undergo a long-distance relationship has their own way of dividing family responsibilities.

Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who undergo a long-distance relationship has its own way of maximizing the implementation of responsibilities in the family. Based on interviews, 12 Civil Servants in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who undergo a long-distance relationship, the responsibility of taking care of the children is carried out by his wife, all the children live with their wives. In terms of supervision, education and attention is carried out by the wife. It can be said that the wife carries out dual responsibilities as a mother and as a father. Meanwhile, the husband does this through long-distance communication and only when he returns home to gather with his family. Regarding the responsibility for materially supporting the family, it is the husband's main responsibility, while the wife also under certain conditions helps to relieve family responsibilities.

IS and WM do all the household chores including the children, while the husband fully provides for the household needs. Meanwhile, the RA couple had been committed since before marriage that the responsibility for earning a living was the husband and wife only taking care of the household. Unlike the SB and

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MN households in terms of where the children live, they are separated into 2. Some live with their mother and the others live with their father.

The results showed that there were several changes and shifts in the functions and roles in the implementation of family responsibilities. However, these changes can be overcome by a strategy in the division of family responsibilities so that changes in the roles and functions of each partner do not cause problems that can make the household not survive.

Based on the results of the study, in addition to the strategies that have been described, understanding and strengthening religious values in a household is very important as an effort to maintain the integrity of the household in a long-distance marriage. Strengthening and understanding religious values will be able to produce a sense of sincerity and patience and not be easily swayed in the face of household temptations.

Conclusion

Civil Servants marriages in the Regional Office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of Gorontalo Province who undergo long-distance marriage are categorized as long-distance marriages with the characteristics of not living together, living separately, having the desire to be together, limited meeting time, short duration of meeting, separated geographically that is separated between provinces and districts/cities. The integrity of a long-distance marriage is the fruit of fortitude, sincerity and an attitude of acceptance of living in a separate marriage. Strategies in living a long-distance relationship household life by establishing good and smooth communication, being open to each other, being honest and trusting, regulating the intensity of meetings, holding back or avoiding sexual desires when you are far away from your partner by increasing activities, sharing family responsibilities. In addition, strengthening and understanding of religious values is the basic capital in maintaining the integrity of the household in a long-distance marriage.

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