

The Influence of Peer Conformity to Delinquency Behavior in Adolescents

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Abstract— This research has the objective to analyze the influence of peer conformity on delinquent behavior in adolescents. This research using a cluster random sampling technique with 399 respondents aged 15-18 years and students in Medan. The measurement tools used are delinquent behavior scale and peer conformity scale. The research analysis used is multiple regression statistical analysis. The results of the data analysis showed that peer conformity had a positive and significantly influenced on delinquent behavior in adolescents.

Keywords— Delinquency behavior, peer conformity, adolescents.

I. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a period of transition from childhood to adulthood, which includes changes in physical, cognitive, social and emotional (Santrock, 2003). Monks, Knoers and Haditono (2006) stated that during their adolescence, they tend try to break away from parental ties with the aim to find their identity by finding and joining peers. Peers very important people in life. So that peer influence, having peers who commit delinquency increase the risk of becoming delinquent doer (Santrock, 2003).

Juvenile delinquency does not only include serious crimes. However, include crimes that include a variety of other non-criminal behavior such as running away from home, skipping school, and breaking orders from parents or legal guardians called offense status. While the index offense is a criminal act including theft, violence and persecution (Shoemaker, 2009). In cases of abuse of drugs and narcotics, one of the concerns, especially among adolescents. Based on data from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) data and information research center, the number of drug abuse among students in 2018 nationally reached 2.29 million. In 2019, Narcotics abuse among adolescents increased by 24-28% or around 240 thousand to 260 thousand people from 2018.

Data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) notes that the total number of complaints about pornography and online crimes that ensnare children in 2014 was 322 cases, 2015 around 463 cases, 2016 increased to 587 cases, 2017 to 608 cases and in 2018 increased to 679 cases (Maradewa, 2019). Furthermore, when traced from various mass media, cases of juvenile delinquency also occur frequently in Medan City. Various cases have occurred, such as cases of gang fight, skipping school, motorcycle gangs and other cases.

Santrock (2003) states that one of the factors that can influence delinquent behavior is peers. This is because adolescents often get strong peer pressure so that adolescents conform to social behavior in the group. Peer pressure can

change individual behavior to suit internal habits and desires (Sears, 2009). In a study by Walters (2018) identified that peer influence plays an important role in juvenile delinquency. This is because adolescents get strong peer pressure to conform to social behavior in the group.

Peer conformity can have a negative impact, namely encouraging adolescents to take actions that violate rules and other negative behavior and also have an impact on the loss of self-belief and identity (Monks, 2006). The research by Dewi, Budiatri, Humaedi and Wibhawa (2017) that juvenile delinquency can occur from the influence of groups. The existence of a bond between members in the form of participation in every activity can have a negative impact if the activity is classified as deviant behavior. Based on the description above, the researcher is interested in examining whether there is a positive effect of peer conformity on delinquent behavior in adolescents.

Delinquent behavior

Bynum and Thompson (2017) define delinquent behavior as a broad form of behavior, ranging from socially unacceptable behavior to unlawful behavior or criminal acts committed by children and adolescents. There are two forms of delinquent behavior, namely offense status and index offense.

Peer conformity

Sears (2009) defines that conformity is a behavior that is displayed or carried out by someone because other people also display or perform that behavior. Peer conformity is a behavior that is followed and carried out by individuals because the individual tries to adjust to peers in order to be accepted in the group. There are three aspects of peer conformity, namely cohesiveness, agreement and obedience.

II. OBJECTIVES & METHODS

This research has the objective to investigate whether there is an influence of peer conformity to delinquent behavior in adolescents. This research uses a scale in gathering data, namely the scale of delinquent behavior and the scale of peer conformity. Participants in this study were 399 adolescents in Medan City.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Result

The hypothesis in this research is that there is an influence of peer conformity to delinquency behavior in adolescents. The result of data processing using regression analysis of the

variable peer conformity towards delinquency behavior obtained a correlation coefficient (r) .642 sig value .000 ($p < .05$) and effective contribution by 41.2% while the remaining 58.8% was caused by the other factors outside this research.

TABLE 1. Regression Analysis

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	F	Sig.
1	.642	.412	.410	278.123	0.000

Further analysis will look at the similiarity of the regression line between peer conformity and delinquent behavior, which can be seen from the following table:

TABLE 2. Coefficient Correlation

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	B		
(Constant)	12.674	1.740		7.285	0.00
Peer Conformity	.698	.042	.642	16.677	0.00

Based on the above table, beta peer conformity is obtained of .698 with t of 16.677 and a significance value .000 $< .005$. This shows that peer conformity has a significant effect on delinquency behavior. The influence that peer conformity has on delinquency behavior is a positive direction. This shows that peer conformity tends to increase delinquency behavior.

Discussion

The results showed that there was a positive influence between peer conformity and delinquent behavior, with a significance value of $p < .000$. This shows that peer conformity tends to increase delinquent behavior. The effective contribution of peer conformity variables in influencing delinquent behavior was 41.2%, while the remaining 58.8% was caused by other factors outside of this study.

These results are in line with the results of research conducted by Zhang, Day and Chao (2012) which show that peers are a direct influence on juvenile delinquency behavior. Monks (2006) revealed that the greater conformity that appears, the greater the pressure experienced, which causes a negative impact in the form of delinquent behavior.

Invitations from friends significantly influence behavior, so that in order to be in line with the culture of the group, individuals must also follow it. Conformity cannot be adjusted to a habit that is normatively good or bad, because basically conformity is an imitation of group behavior. Therefore the habits of the group members are a determining factor for good or bad conformity (Kosasi, 2018). Individuals who experience

a bad attachment to friends are more likely to produce negative results such as behavioral problems and delinquency (Hoeve, 2012).

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the research that has been done, it can be concluded that the results obtained are as follows:

- a. There is a significant influence between peer conformity to delinquency behavior in adolescents.
- b. Peer conformity made an effective contribution in influencing delinquency behavior by 41.2%, while the remaining 58.8% was caused by other factors outside this research.

V. SUGGESTION

The school can provide education to students about the dangers of delinquent behavior by increasing the role of counseling teachers in this regard. The school can also make positive programs such as training and positive environmental outreach. Adolescents are expected to be able to choose peer groups that can lead to better behaviors, such as groups of friends to study or discuss, youth groups in religion and knowing the bad effects of peer influence.

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