

The Relationship between Attachment (Mother, Father, Caregiver and Friendship) and Self Concept of Juvenile Delinquency

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Abstract: *This study aimed to empirically test the relationship between attachment and self-concept of Adolescent Delinquents. There were 78 subjects consisting of 73 boys and 5 girls with vulnerable children aged 13 to 18 years. The measuring tool used was the scale IPPA (Inventory Parent and Peer Attachment) developed by Armsden & Greenberg (1987) and self-concept scale by Piers and Harris (1969), namely The Piers - Harris Children's Self Concept Scale, entitled "The Way I Feel About Myself". The results showed no association between maternal attachment and self-concept $p = 0.082$ ($p > 0.005$), there was no relationship between father attachment and self-concept $p = 0.304$ ($p > 0.005$) there was no relationship between the caregiver attachment and self-concept $p = 0.447$ ($p > 0.005$) and there was a negative relationship between peer attachment and self-concept $p = 0.011$ ($p < 0.05$) in juvenile delinquent. This shows that the hypothesis is accepted.*

Keywords: Attachment, Self Concept, Juvenile Delinquency

1. Introduction

Adolescence is a transitional development period between childhood and adulthood in which there are biological, cognitive social emotional changes starting from the age of 10 to 13 years old and ending at the age of 18 to 22 years old (Santrock, 2006). Similarly, according to Hurlock (2004), adolescence is a transitional period from childhood to adulthood in which there are many changes, whether physically, psychologically and socially. In changes during adolescence, sometimes it becomes a problem if an adolescent can't adapt well. Adolescent's inability in making good social adaptation ads to deviant behaviors commonly known as juvenile delinquency (Maharani, 2003).

Juvenile delinquency is associated with violations which can harm themselves or others. Sudarsono (2004) states that juvenile delinquency is a behavior which violates norms in a society where one lives, or an anti-social behavior which contains anti-normative elements which often causes unrest in community, school or family. Various juvenile delinquencies continue to spread across the society, as reported in printed media and visual media, e.g. student fight, skipping school, smoking, theft, promiscuity, free sex, drug use, murder, rape, etc.

In Malaysia, juvenile delinquency cases keep increasing since 2002. In 2009, there were twice more cases than 2002, totaling in 2394 cases, including crime, rape, abuse and armed robbery. In 2011, there were 5547 cases consisting of 5270 cases committed by male and 277 cases committed by female (Department of Social Welfare, 2013).

In Indonesia, one of the juvenile delinquencies is drug abuse. National Narcotics Agency (BNN) finds that 50–60 % of drug users in Indonesia are school students and college students. Moreover, promiscuity is also an issue which contributes significantly to juvenile delinquency cases. Many surveys show that over 40% of Indonesian adolescents

have had sex. Moreover, in 2013 in Samarinda there were 37 types of criminal cases, 12 of them were committed by adolescents. Those crimes included rapes, premarital sex, mild and severe abuse, theft with violence, motor vehicle theft and kidnap of girls (<http://edukasi.kompasiana.com/2014/12/29/peningkatan-kenakalan-remaja-dampak-dari-pertumbuhan-penduduk-713358.html>).

Based on the interview conducted by the researchers, Jodi (pseudonym,) 16 years old, was one of the children in PSMP Handayani Bambu Apus, East Jakarta. Initially, Jodi felt ignored by his parents because they were busy with work. Jodi's father is a father, while his mother is a factory worker. Jodi admitted that lack of attention from his parents made him uncomfortable at home. Then, Jodi decided to leave his home. When he met his new friends, he felt comfortable with them. He learned many new things from his friends, including drug use.

Jodi also left school and sold kebab to support himself. However, at work, Jodi owed his boss a lot of money, so that he was fired. Life demands forced Jodi to steal a car. As a result, Jodi must deal with the police. Due to his young age, the police sent him to Marsudi Putra Social Home (PSMP) Handayani Bambu Apus, East Jakarta. The phenomenon above is a real example of juvenile delinquency today. Peers have great effect on adolescent's behaviors. This is consistent with the theory (Piaget, 1932) that the relationship between parent and child is very different from the relationship between peer and child. In the relationship between parent and child, the parent tends to have greater knowledge or authority than the child, so that the child must learn to obey orders and rules. Meanwhile, relationship with peers tend to be participatory, i.e. having relatively similar knowledge and authority, so that the child learns a democratic relationship and can state their own opinions, appreciate others' opinions, and negotiate problem solving

in disagreement because the relationship is voluntary and didn't have any demanded obligation.

Another example is a 12 years old who left home with her BBM friend. She claimed to go to her dance lesson but never went there (http://news.metrotvnews.com/read/2015/06/06/133591/sisw-i-smp-hilang-dibawa-kabur-teman-bbm). This was due to lack of communication and interaction with parents (father and mother,) so that a child decides on something which endangers them without their parents knowing (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987).

Another phenomenon found based on the interview by the researchers was a subject left the social home because he was bored. This was because the caregivers' supervision wasn't conducive and caregivers didn't only supervise the children.

Interactions between child and people around them are a part of attachment. The interaction sare developed from trust, communication and isolation between adolescent and their attachment figure (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987). The interactions are factors which could affect the behaviors and perception of adolescent or known as self-concept (Baldwin and Holmes, 1987).

Baron & Byrne (2004) state that self-concept is an organized set of beliefs and self-perception on oneself. Self-concept provides a mindset which determines how one processes information on oneself, including motivation, emotional state, self-evaluation, ability, etc. (Klein, Loftus & Burton, 1989). Self-concept is formed and developed from experience and environment, other people's assessment, attribute, and behavior. Similarly, Shavelson & Roger (1982) state that the development of self-concept affects displayed behaviors, so that how other people treat and what other people say about someone becomes a reference to assess that that person themselves.

Self-concept becomes important because it will affect adolescents in interacting with their environment. Adolescents who have positive self-concept will be more confident in facing problems, while adolescents with negative self-concept have difficulty in accepting themselves and solving problems in their lives (Montana, 2001). Moreover, self-concept is also important because it will help individual recognize themselves, whether positively or negatively, and what they may or may not do. In other words, appropriate self-concept is a positive means to control one's attitudes and behaviors. This is similar to the statement by Beane & Lipka that self-concept becomes important because adolescents who have positive self-concepts will be able to handle themselves, pay attention to the outside world and have an ability to interact socially (Maria, 2007).

Based on the problem above, the researchers were interested in discussing the issue of the relation between attachment (mother, father, caregiver and self-concept) and self-concept among adolescent delinquents. Regarding attachment, if an attachment figure or replacement always gives positive response at necessary times, a child will have self-

confidence or mental model as a person who is reliable, caring, and appreciated, and views themselves positively, so that they will have mature self-concept.

2. Research Method

Research Subject

The research subjects were all children in Marsudi Putra Social Home (PSMP) Handayani, Bambu Apus, East Jakarta Timur, both female and male, aged 13 to 18 years old.

Data Collection Method

1) Attachment scale

The attachment measurement used in the present study was an adaptation and modification of IPPA (Armsden & Greenberg, 1987). The researchers modified the language in the question items to adjust to the research subjects and changed some questions without removing the substance of the attachment aspect and added a scale for caregiver. The number of items in the present study was 10 items for maternal attachment scale, 17 items for paternal scale, 16 items for caregiver scale, 18 items for peer scale from 25 items in each scale. The range of likert scale was 1-5, i.e. Almost Never (HTP), Hardly Ever (TP), Rarely (J), Often (SR), Almost Always (HSL).

2) Self-Concept Scale

The scale used in the present study was prepared through adaptation and modification of the self-concept measurement by Piers and Haris (1969) i.e. The Piers-Harris Children's Self Concept Scale, and referred to self-concept aspect (Piers-Harris 1969). The number of items in the present study was 41 items. The range of the scale was 1-2, i.e. Yes and No.

Data Analysis Method

The data analysis method in the present study was statistical analysis using SPSS version 16.0 which performed a number of statistical tests, i.e.: (a) Question item reliability test, (b) Scale reliability test, (c) normality test, (d) linearity test, and (e) hypothesis test. In hypothesis test, hypothesis is accepted if $p > 0.05$.

3. Research Result

The hypothesis test in the present study used nonparametric rank spearman technique. The correlation test produced the following result:

Table1: The Relation between Attachment & Self-Concept

Variable	R	r ²	P	Description
Self-concept and Maternal Attachment	-0.231	0.053	0.082	No Correlation
Self-concept and Paternal Attachment	-0.086	0.007	0.304	No Correlation
Self-concept and Caregiver Attachment	0.022	0.000	0.447	No Correlation
Self-concept and Peer Attachment	-0.372	0.138	0.011	Correlation

Based on the table above, there was negative relation between attachment and self-concept with correlation coefficient of $r = -0.372$ and $p=0.011$ ($p<0.05$). It meant the

higher the attachment, the lower the self-concept, and vice versa.

4. Discussion

The present study was aimed to determine the relation between attachment (mother, father, caregiver, and peer) and self-concept among juvenile delinquents. The subjects in the present study were female and male juvenile delinquents who stayed in social home for rehabilitation, with age range from 13 to 18 years old.

Data on attachment (mother, father, caregiver, and peer) and self-concept had normal and nonlinear data distribution on maternal attachment and self-concept which had significant value, abnormal and non-linear data on paternal attachment and self-concept, normal and nonlinear data distribution on caregiver attachment, normal and linear data on peer attachment and self-concept. This could be analyzed using Spearman rho correlation statistical analysis. Based on the analysis, there was no relation between maternal attachment and self-concept ($p = 0.082$ with correlation coefficient ($r = -0.231$)), there was no relation between paternal attachment and self-concept (0.304 with correlation coefficient ($r = -0.806$)), there was no relation between caregiver attachment and self-concept ($p = 0.447$ with correlation coefficient ($r = 0.022$)), but there was relation between peer attachment and self-concept ($p = 0.011$ ($p < 0.05$) with correlation coefficient ($r = -0.372$)).

In the present study, there was no relation between parental attachment (mother and father) and self-concept in juvenile delinquents. Based on this analysis, the hypothesis on parental attachment (mother and father) was rejected. This was in line with the theory by Ballensky and Cook that most parents claim to lack ability and efficiency in parenting adolescents because parents at this stage give limitations and guidance in determining adolescents' self-identity (Respati, et al. 2004). Moreover, sometimes parents were busy with their own businesses, resulting in lack of caregiver responsibility to their children or isolation, as stated by Armsden & Greenberg (1987). Ideal self-concept follows the paths set by parents, teachers and other people around them. Due to expanding horizon or social relation, the self-concept doesn't only follow the paths or figures, instead children develop ideal ego which covers traits admired in the group (Hurlock, 1980).

This was supported by an interview result with a subject who comes from an upper middle class family with caring parents and adequate facilities. He went to an internet café with a friend and was introduced to drugs. He tried it out of curiosity and became addicted.

The present study also found no relation between caregiver attachment and self-concept. It meant the hypothesis was rejected. This was in line with the theory by Ainsworth that the attachment formed by child on the attachment subject couldn't be replaced by any other figure (Choon, 2013). Moreover, according to Hurlock (1980), adolescents adopted when they're over 10 years old will have difficulty in adjusting their behaviors. It means someone who provides

physical care but isn't responsive may not be an attachment figure.

The present study found that there was relation between peer attachment and self-concept. The result of the study by Hoeve (2012) shows that during adolescence, attachment could be transferred to another figure who isn't the caregiver or known as peers.

The present study found negative relation between peer attachment and self-concept in juvenile delinquents, meaning there was negative relation which caused the adolescents to be delinquents. Another research result by Telhaj and Pugh (2006) states that peers strongly affect student quality, meaning student's low ability and high ability at school is affected by their peers.

Adolescence is a growth period into adulthood. During this period, adolescents interact more with their friends. The theory proposed by Mönks, Knoers, and Haditono (2002) states that social development stage has two types of moves, i.e. separating from parents and moving toward peers. Identity makes someone unique and important in life. The basic natures developing in this period are virtue of identity, sense of belonging with loved ones (Papalia, 1995), so adolescents look for peers to find their identity to help clarify their identity (Atwater, 1983).

According to Baldwin and Holmes (1987), one of the affecting factors is peers. It's undeniable that in adolescence, the influence of peers is higher than in childhood, which is dominated by family influence. However, in adolescence, conformity can be considered an existence in interaction, although the behaviors performed by the group are negative (Indrayana and Hendrati, 2013). This was supported by an interview result in which a subject felt neglected by his parents, especially his father, who was busy working and didn't give him any attention. The subject left his home and met new friends who were several years older than him. He felt he learned many new things and more comfortable than at home. Because he had ran away from home, there was no parental supervision, so he was free and did anything without considering the negative and positive impacts on him as long as he was happy. In the end, he was influenced by his friends to use drugs and drink alcohol.

The research data showed that 6 subjects had very high self-concept (15.789%), 13 subjects had high self-concept (34.211%), 13 subjects had moderate self-concept (34.211%), 6 subjects had low self-concept (15.789%) and no subject had very low self-concept (0%).

The effective contribution to attachment and self-concept in juvenile delinquents has R squared of 0.184. It meant 18.4% of communication affected attachment and self-concept in juvenile delinquents. Meanwhile, the remaining 81.6 % was affected by other factors.

This was in line with the study by Agustini Kardawati, et al. (2008) that interaction or communication with peers has significant effect. Interaction with peers is the beginning of friendship which specifically refers to a friend group which

has known each other and becomes a sources of information or comparison with one another (Wolman, 1982).

According to the research result of Choon, et al. (2013), there is relation between delinquency among men and women. The present study also found a distinct relation between attachment and self-concept and gender. Based on the analysis on the variables, the female gender had strong relation between attachment and self-concept with p value = 0.019 ($p < 0.05$). This was in line with Baker (2006) who states that in adolescence, women's involvement has increased rapidly in the past few years decreasing gender gap in delinquency because usually girls are more restricted than boys.

Moreover, the present study also found a relation between maternal attachment and self-concept based on age. Adolescents at the vulnerable age of 13-14 years old had significant relation of $p = 0.020$, meaning ($p < 0.05$). The research result was in line with the theory by Gunarsa and Gunarsa (2001) that early teens aged 12-15 years old are in developmental stage who has higher reasoning ability and whose identity is determined by dependency to their parents, especially their mothers.

Adolescents at the vulnerable age of 15-16 years old also had significant relation of $p = 0.021$, meaning ($p < 0.05$). Meanwhile, adolescents at the vulnerable age of 17-18 years old had no relation between $p > 0.05$. The present study was in line with the theory of Monks and Knoers (2006) that in adolescence, adolescents start to leave their role as children and try to develop themselves as unique individual and don't depend on their parents. This stage is acceptance to physical shape and condition, as well as strong conformity with peers. Moreover, developing new thinking ability makes individual feel more able to direct them selves (self-directed).

Overall, the present study went well. However, it had some limitations, including research scale which has 180 items before tryout and repeated sentences in the attachment scale, boring the subjects and opening possibility that the responses are faking good or biases. Moreover, questionnaire distribution was performed simultaneously so that the researchers couldn't observe carefully and specifically each subject. It also didn't include religion which may affect juvenile delinquency

5. Conclusion

Based on the research result, it's concluded that there is no relation between maternal attachment and self-concept, there is no relation between paternal attachment and self-concept, there is no relation between caregiver attachment and self-concept, but there is a negative relation between peer attachment and self-concept in juvenile delinquents ($p = 0.011$ ($p < 0.05$) and $r = -0.372$). It means the higher one's attachment, the lower their self-concept. Conversely, the lower one's attachment, the higher their self-concept.

6. Suggestion

1) For Parents

Parents should pay attention to their children's growth and development in education, interaction, etc., and kept supporting their children so that they reach their dreams to be productive in the future.

2) For Caregivers

Caregivers should keep controlling and paying attention to the children's growth and development and being a good caregiver because they replace parental obligations and roles to guide children to be better people.

3) For Juvenile Delinquents

The researchers suggest keep trying to reach their dreams in the future. They can still be extraordinary people who help those in needs.

4) For Researchers

Future researchers who are interested in studying the self-concept of juvenile delinquents should pay closer attention to their subjects to avoid faking good or bias.

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