

The Role of Child Maltreatment and Tendency to Juvenile Delinquency in Late Adolescents

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ABSTRACT

Adolescence is a period of transition from children to adults. This period is very vulnerable to the influence of the outside world. One of the problems that often arise in adolescence is delinquency. The term *juvenile delinquency* refers to a wide range of behaviors, ranging from socially unacceptable behavior, offences, to criminal acts. The aim of this study was to determine the effect of child maltreatment in childhood and the tendency of juvenile delinquency during the period of adolescence. Participants in this study were late teens aged 18 to 22 years who experienced child maltreatment. There were 55 participants who were chosen using purposive sampling method. A measurement scale was utilized which was a translation of the Subtypes of Antisocial Behavior Questionnaire (STAB) developed by Burt & Donnellan (2009), consisted of 32 items and the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) by Rahma et al. al., (2018) to measure the experience of child maltreatment. This study utilized a regression quantitative approach with SPSS for windows 26. The results showed that child maltreatment had an effect on juvenile delinquency with t-value of 2.646 $p < 0.05$. A review of developmental psychology, the most related dimensions of child abuse are provided as additional analytical data.

Keywords: Child maltreatment, juvenile delinquency, late adolescence.

1. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a period of transition from children to adults where there are changes in themselves physically, psychologically and socially. At this time, a child who has just experienced puberty often displays various emotional turmoil, withdraws from the family, and experiences many problems, either at home, school, or in his circle of friends. Adolescence is also a period that is vulnerable to the influence of the outside world that is not good. One of the problems that often arise in adolescence is delinquency. The term juvenile delinquency refers to a wide range of behaviors, ranging from socially unacceptable behavior, offences, to criminal acts (Santrock, 2013).

Juvenile delinquency or juvenile delinquency comes from the Latin word *juvenilis* which means children, young people, or the characteristics of teenagers, while delinquency comes from the Latin *delinquere* which means neglected, ignores, which is then expanded to mean being evil, criminal, breaking the rules, making noise, messing up and so on. Juvenile delinquency is defined as malicious or naughty behavior carried out by teenagers who disturb themselves and others (Alfianur, A., Ezalina, E., & Fitriami, E., 2020).

The types of delinquency such as those that inflict physical burdens on others (fighting, robbery and murder), delinquency that incur material burdens (vandalism, theft, pickpocketing and extortion), social delinquency (prostitution and drug abuse), delinquency that is against status (denying the child's status as a student by playing truant and denying the status of parents by leaving home, denying their orders, and so on (Alfianur, A., Ezalina, E., & Fitriami, E., 2020).

Some examples of forms of juvenile delinquency in Indonesia, such as the following, based on a survey from the National Narcotics Agency (BNN) and the Indonesian Institute of Sciences (LIPI) show that 2.3 million students in Indonesia have used narcotics. This figure is equivalent to 3.2 percent of the population of that group (cnnindonesia.com, 22 June 2019). There is also alcohol consumption behavior which can be seen from information excerpts from news.detik.com (17 November 2020) the Ministry of Health's basic health research data states that the number of alcohol drinkers has increased to 14.4 million teenagers this means this means that around 23% of adolescents are alcohol drinkers. In addition, it was also found that there were illegal racing actions carried out by teenagers which

greatly disturbed residents at several locations in Bulukumba Regency, South Sulawesi. In this incident, 26 teenagers were found who were brought and processed to the Bulukumba Police Office because of the illegal racing action (makassar.tribunnews.com, 19 March 2021).

According to Morizot and Kazemian (2014) adolescents show juvenile delinquency, because they experience abuse and neglect. Harassment and neglect in the perspective of developmental psychopathology, is a violation of the environment that should be provided by parents for the growth and development of a child. This can interfere with biological, emotional, social, and cognitive development in children. In the perspective of developmental psychopathology, the need for security gained from the bonding relationship between parents and children is seen as the basis for children to learn in interaction with each other, protecting from the development of criminal and juvenile behavior. (Morizot & Kazemian, 2014).

Abuse and neglect including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. All of these behaviors are also known as child maltreatment behaviors (Haneline & Meeker, 2011). Child maltreatment behavior refers to any type of abuse and/or neglect that occurs to children under the age of 18. The World Health Organization (WHO) defines child abuse as all forms of physical and/or emotional abuse, sexual abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, trafficking or other acts of exploitation, which result in potential or actual harm to the health, survival and development of the child (Haneline & Meeker, 2011).

Kurniasari (2016) said that violence and neglect, or referred to as mistreatment of children, can occur at home or outside the home. Domestic violence begins with parental treatment of children (maltreatment), in the form of physical violence, child neglect, sexual violence and emotional violence. Physical violence is characterized by physical injury due to hitting, kicking, biting, burning or harming a child. Child neglect is characterized by the failure of parents to meet the child's physical, educational or emotional needs. Sexual violence includes playing with the genitals of children, sexual intercourse, rape, exhibitionism, and commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic material. Emotional abuse, as mental injury resulting from psychological or verbal abuse, includes acts of neglect by a parent or caregiver that cause serious behavioral, cognitive or emotional problems. In line with the statement of Haneline & Meeker (2011), Slee et al (2012)

state that child maltreatment refers to intentional or unintentional behavior by parents, caregivers, other adults or older adolescents that is outside the behavioral norms and causes significant risk of causing physical or emotional injury to a child or adolescent.

The statement above is in line with the results of research by Alfianur, A., Ezalina, E., & Fitriami, E. (2020) where adolescents who get emotional violence have a 10.8 times risk of committing severe juvenile delinquency compared to adolescents who do not get emotional violence. Based on the description of several studies regarding child maltreatment and juvenile delinquency, the researchers were interested in examining the relationship between child maltreatment and the tendency of delinquency in late adolescence.

2. RESEARCH METHODS

This research is a quantitative research that collects data using using survey questionnaire as research instrument, the data analysis is statistical in nature with the aim of testing the established hypothesis. Correlational research is a research that involves collecting data to determine whether there is a relationship and the degree of relationship between two or more variables. The purpose of this study was to determine Child Maltreatment on the Tendency of Juvenile Delinquency in Late Adolescents.

2.1. Participants and Procedure

The target population for this study were late teens aged 18 to 22 years who had experienced child maltreatment. The sampling method used in this research is purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a sampling technique of data sources with certain considerations. The reason for using purposive sampling technique is because not all samples have criteria that match the phenomenon under study. Therefore, the researcher chose a purposive sampling technique which determined certain considerations or criteria that must be met by the samples used in this study. The criteria for this study are late teens aged 10 to 22 years who have experienced child maltreatment.

Data collection was carried out by distributing online questionnaires using Google Forms. Researchers also prepared informed consent for the willingness to fill out the questionnaire. The distribution of the questionnaires was carried out from June 4 to June 23, 2021. This study took data from 55 participants, namely teenagers aged 18 to 22 years. The majority of the participants were female, aged 20 years, students, and the main caregivers were parents. For more details, demographic data can be seen in table 1.

Table 1. Participants Demographic Data

	Keterangan	N	Persen (%)
Gender	Male	15	27.3
	Female	40	72.7
Age (years)	18	10	18.2
	19	9	16.4
	20	14	25.5
	21	11	20.0
	22	11	20.0
Occupation	College student	36	65.5
	Online business	2	3.6
	Full-time job	5	9.1
	Part-time job	3	5.5
	Student, Full-time Job	4	7.3
	Student, Part-time Job	2	3.6
	Student, Online Business	2	3.6
	Student, Full-time Job and online business	1	1.8
Main Caregiver	Parent	25	45.5
	Mother	19	34.5
	Household assistant	6	10.9
	Family	5	9.1

2.2. Instrument

This research utilized instruments adopted from two different tools, such as the Subtypes of Antisocial Behavior Questionnaire (STAB) and the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ).

Dependent variable – Juvenile delinquency. The juvenile delinquency variable was measured using the Subtypes of Antisocial Behavior Questionnaire (STAB) developed by Burt & Donnellan (2009). This measuring instrument was adapted by the researcher into Indonesian. This measuring instrument consists of 32 questions, of which all 32 statements are positive items to measure juvenile delinquency. This measuring tool consists of 3 dimensions, namely physical aggression, social aggression and breaking the rules. The respondent's choice represents one of the five Likert scales used to measure this instrument, namely Never, Almost Never, Sometimes, Often and Almost all the time.

Independent variable – Child Maltreatment. Child maltreatment variables were measured using the Childhood Trauma Questionnaire (CTQ) which has been adapted by Rahma et al., (2018) in their research into Indonesian. This measuring tool consists of 6 dimensions including physical, emotional, sexual abuse, physical

neglect, emotional neglect and minimization or denial. This measuring instrument has 28 items with 21 positive items and 7 negative items. The respondent's choice represents one of the three Likert scales used to measure this instrument, namely Totally Not True, Sometimes True, and Very Often True. The higher the score, the greater the severity of abuse for the scale. There are four severity categories for each type of trauma: None (minimum); Low (to Moderate); Moderate (to Severe); and Severe (to Extreme).

3. RESULT

Table 2 presents the effect of child maltreatment on juvenile delinquency. Result showed that child maltreatment has a significant effect on juvenile delinquency (t value 2.646; r square 0.117).

Table 2. Table of Coefficient Effects of Child Maltreatment on Juvenile Delinquency

Model	R Square	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig
Child Maltreatment	.117	.342	2.646	.011

Based on the results of the regression test it can be concluded that Ho is rejected and Ha is accepted. So it can be said that child maltreatment affects juvenile delinquency in late teens. Based on the processing results, it was found that the value of r square was 0.117. This shows that the effect of child maltreatment on juvenile delinquency is 11.7%.

Correlation of the dimension

Descriptive statistics and bivariate correlations for research variables can be seen in Table 4. Juvenile delinquency consists of 3 dimensions, namely physical aggression, social aggression and breaking rules. There are 5 types of maltreatment, namely physical abuse, sexual harassment, emotional abuse, emotional neglect and physical neglect.

Based on table 3, it is found that all dimensions of juvenile behavior are significantly related to each other. The dimensions of social aggression and rule breaking were positively and significantly correlated with emotional abuse and neglect. All types of child maltreatment are significantly related to each other. Physical abuse is positively correlated with sexual harassment and physical neglect. Physical and emotional neglect are interrelated.

Additional Data Analysis

Of the 5 types of child maltreatment, there are physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, emotional neglect and physical neglect. The examiner wanted to see which type of child maltreatment most influenced the

emergence of juvenile delinquency. This test used a simple regression analysis technique. Based on the results of this regression test, it is known that there are 2 types of child maltreatment that affect the emergence of juvenile delinquency, namely emotional abuse and emotional neglect. The complete results can be seen in tables 4 and 5.

Table 4 presents the effect of emotional Abuse on juvenile delinquency. Result showed that emotional abuse has a significant effect on juvenile delinquency (t value 2.743; r square 0.124).

Table 4. Table of Coefficient Effects of Emotional Abuse on Juvenile Delinquency

Model	R Square	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig
Emotional Abuse	.124	.353	2.743	.008

Based on the results of the regression test it can be concluded that Ho is rejected and Ha is accepted. So it can be said that Emotional Abuse affects juvenile delinquency in late teens. Based on the processing results, it was found that the value of r square was 0.124. This shows that the effect of child maltreatment on juvenile delinquency is 12.4%.

Table 5 presents the effect of emotional neglect on juvenile delinquency. Result showed that child maltreatment has a significant effect on juvenile delinquency (t value 2.522; r square 0.107).

Table 5. Table of Effects of Emotional Neglect Coefficient on Juvenile Delinquency

Model	R Square	Standardized Coefficients Beta	t	Sig
Emotional Neglect	.107	.327	2.522	.015

Based on the results of the regression test it can be concluded that Ho is rejected and Ha is accepted. So it can be said that emotional neglect affects juvenile delinquency in late teens. Based on the processing results, it was found that the value of r square was 0.107. This shows that the effect of emotional neglect on juvenile delinquency is 12.4%.

4. DISCUSSION

Based on research conducted by researchers on teenagers as many as 55 people through google form using regression analysis test it was found that t was 2,646. If the p value > 0.05 then Ho is accepted. However, if p < 0.05 then Ho is rejected. The results of

this regression test indicate that the number is 0.011 or means below 0.05, which indicates that Ho is rejected. So based on the results of the regression test it can be concluded that Ho is rejected and Ha is accepted. So it can be said that child maltreatment affects juvenile delinquency in late teens. Based on the processing results, it was found that the value of r square was 0.117. This shows that the effect of child maltreatment on juvenile delinquency is 11.7%.

There are 2 types of child maltreatment that affect the emergence of juvenile delinquency, they are emotional

Table 3. Descriptive bivariate correlation of the variables

No	Dimension	Mean	SD	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Physical Aggression	19.85	4.83	1							
2	Social Aggression	18.10	5.07	.686**	1						
3	Breaking rules	16.47	4.68	.685**	.791**	1					
4	Emotional Abuse	7.83	2.48	.201	.364**	.398**	1				
5	Physical Harassment	6.83	2.48	.198	.245	.227	.622**	1			
6	Sexual Harassment	6.63	2.21	.133	.116	.208	.319*	.556**	1		
7	Emotional neglect	8.10	2.27	.148	.355**	.383**	.606**	.241	.067	1	
8	Physical Neglect	6.36	1.39	-.047	.146	.155	.627**	.455**	.242	.537**	1

Notes: ** significance below 0.01; * significance below 0.05

abuse and emotional neglect. This finding is in line with previous research by Alfianur, A., Ezalina, E., & Fitriami, E. (2020) and Nindya, PN, & Margaretha, R. (2012) juvenile delinquents often experience emotional violence that leads to violence other than naughty teenager. Its might happen due emotional distress. Emotional distress is an act that demeans the child through condemnation of words that continues to neglect the child, isolate the child from the environment and social relationships, blame the child continuously and emotional abuse is usually always followed by other violence. Emotional distress can cause physical and psychological trauma from mild to severe intensity, so that it can lead to misbehavior. Misbehavior is evil or naughty behavior committed by adolescents so that it irritates oneself and others.

Limitations of the research

This study uses only one age range, namely late teens as participants. For further research, researchers can try to select participants with adult age or make a longitudinal study to see more about the effects of child maltreatment on individuals.

The majority of participants in this study were students. For further research, researchers can try to select participants who show more juvenile delinquency behavior.

5. CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Conclusion

The aim of this research is to find out whether child maltreatment plays a role in the emergence of juvenile delinquency in late adolescence. This study used 55 respondents as a sample. Based on the results of data processing, the results obtained t value of 2.646 with a significance (p) of 0.011 (<0.05). This shows that child maltreatment has an effect on juvenile delinquency in late adolescence. It was also found that the value of r square

is 0.117. This shows that the effect of child maltreatment on juvenile behavior is 11.7%. From these results it can be concluded that the two variables have a role and are positively correlated. This means that if individuals experience child maltreatment in childhood, they are more at risk for developing juvenile delinquency behavior in late adolescence.

Suggestions for Further Researchers

This study describes child maltreatment experienced by individuals using valid and reliable measuring instruments, but there is one dimension of this measuring instrument regarding denial of invalid individuals even though this dimension does not affect the results of child maltreatment received by individuals measuring child maltreatment. requires further questions, such as interviews with participants to collect data that better describe the conditions and responses of participants in expressing their experiences about the maltreatment they experienced. Suggestions for further research, researchers can conduct interviews as additional data to participants.

Suggestions for Parents

This study shows the existence of juvenile behavior in adolescents caused by maltreatment behavior received by adolescents in childhood. Therefore, for the welfare of children, it is important for parents and caregivers to understand about maltreatment and how to avoid

maltreatment behavior in children, because maltreatment behavior can occur intentionally or not.

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