



Correlation Between Stress Level And Juvenile Delinquency Level in Students of Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan 1 Kuripan, West Lombok

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ABSTRACT

Juvenile delinquency is a kind of behavior that deviates from the norms prevailing in society. One factor that can affect the level of juvenile delinquency is stress. This study aimed to investigate the correlation between stress level and juvenile delinquency level in students of Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan (SMK) 1 Kuripan, West Lombok. This was cross-sectional involving 51 students of second and third-grade at Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan (SMK) 1 Kuripan, West Lombok. The data collected in this study were age, gender, stress level, and juvenile delinquency level. Stress level was measured using DASS-42 instrument, while juvenile delinquency level was measured using ASRDS instrument. The correlation between stress level and juvenile delinquency level was analyzed using Gamma correlation test and the correlation was significant if $p < 0.05$. Most of the subjects showed mild stress levels (62%) and normal delinquency levels (78%). There was no significant correlation between stress levels and juvenile delinquency levels ($p = 0.076$). In conclusion, stress level in students of SMK 1 Kuripan did not correlate to juvenile delinquency level.

Keywords: Stress level, juvenile delinquency level, DASS-42 instrument, ASRDS instrument.

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INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is the period of transition between childhood and adulthood where delinquent behavior tends to occur. In 2008, the number of crime cases in Indonesia was about 346,000 cases, 4.3% higher compared to those in 2007. According to The Indonesian National Police Report, 3,280 adolescents committed to crimes and 2,797 of them were male (KEMENPORA, 2009).

Previous studies had shown that the cause of juvenile delinquency were multifactorial and vary in different population studies. A study conducted by Riskinayasari (2015) showed that poor self-esteem caused juvenile delinquency. Poor communication between parents and their children

was also a predisposing factor for the occurrence of poor self-esteem as well as juvenile delinquency (Pratiwi, 2016).

Juvenile delinquency can also be caused by external factors, such as the influence of family and school environments and peer groups. Family and school environment facilitates adolescents to control their behavior and respect others. Adolescent who raised in supportive, affectionate, and accepting home are less likely to become delinquent. Based on social learning theory, peer groups may affect behavior of these members. A study conducted by Paternoster et.al (2013) showed that 38% of adolescent had peer group-related delinquent behavior. However, negative effect of peer group behavior may trigger stress that lead to delinquent behavior in adolescents (Masood & Ali, 2018).

Stress in adolescents can be caused by internal and external stressors. Internal stressors can arise from an individual perception caused by internal conflict, and fears of inadequacy and nonspecific fears. External stressors identified are environmental stressor that consists of family, school, and general public environments. There are many aspects of life that can cause external stressors, such as excessive responsibilities and lack of opportunity for advancement. All of these stressors may induce biological and psychological responses of the body that lead to behavioral changes with subsequent the generation of either positive or negative behavior. Stress-induced negative behavior will lead to juvenile delinquency (Larue & Herman 2008; Papathanasiou, et.al., 2015).

This was the first study aimed to investigate the correlation between stress level and juvenile delinquency level in students of Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan (SMK) 1 Kuripan, West Lombok. Sekolah Menengah Kejuruan is a vocational high school which has same grade but different program with senior high school.

METHODS

This was cross-sectional study involving students of SMK 1 Kuripan, West Lombok that fulfilled the inclusion but not exclusion criteria. The inclusion criteria were students in the 2nd and 3rd grade at SMK 1 Kuripan, aged 15-19 years old, has signed informed consent and willing to fill the questionnaire voluntarily. The exclusion criteria were students who have been diagnosed with psychiatric disorder (schizophrenia and affective bipolar disorder). This study was conducted in the period of June-December 2019. This study had been approved by Komisi Etik Penelitian Kesehatan of Universitas Mataram with number 325/UN18.F7/ETIK/2019.

The data collected in this study were age, gender, grade of students, stress level, and juvenile delinquency level. The age was divided into 4 groups, i.e 15, 16, 17, and 18 years old. Grade of students in SMK was divided into 2 categories, 2nd and 3rd grades. Stress level was assessed using a Depression, Anxiety and stress Scale (DASS-42) instruments. The total score of DASS-42

instruments for stress category(0-42) was graded into 5 levels representing the level of stress, i.e normal (score of 0-14), mild (15-18), moderate (19-25), severe (26-33), and extremely severe (≥ 34) respectively. Juvenile delinquency level was assessed using The Adoption Delinquency Self Report Scale (ASRDS) instrument. The total score of ASRDS instrument (0-105) was then graded into 5 levels representing the juvenile delinquency level of the subjects, i.e normal (score of 35-49), mild (50-64), moderate (65-79), severe (80-94), and extremely severe (≥ 95), respectively.

The characteristics data collected in this study were presented in frequency table. The correlation between stress level and juvenile delinquency level was analyzed using Gamma correlation test, and so the correlation between grade of students and juvenile delinquency level. The correlation between gender and juvenile delinquency level was analyzed using Coefficient contingency test. The correlation between age of students and juvenile delinquency level was analyzed using Gamma correlation test. The correlation test were significant if $p < 0.05$.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The eligible subjects participated in this study were 51 students. Most of the subjects were in 2nd grade (72.5%) and aged 16 to 17 years. The proportion of female subjects were slightly higher compared to male (52.9% vs 47.1%). Most of the subjects showed mild stress (62.7%) and normal delinquency level (78.4%) (table 1).

Table 1. Characteristics of the subjects

Category	Sub-category	Total, n(%)
Age in years	15	2(3.9)
	16	23(45.1)
	17	22(43.1)
	18	4(7.8)
Gender	Male	24(47.1)
	Female	27(52.9)
Grade of students	2 nd	37(72.5)
	3 rd	14(27.5)
Stress levels	Normal	0(0)
	Mild	32(62.7)
	Moderate	18(35.3)
	Severe	1(1.9)

	Extremely severe	0(0)
Juvenile delinquency levels	Normal	40(78.4)
	Mild	9(17.6)
	Moderate	2(3.9)
	Severe	0(0)
	Extremely severe	0(0)

The present study showed that the proportion of subjects with mild stress level (62.7%) was higher compared to those with moderate stress level (35.3%). The previous study on stress levels of students in the third grade at senior high school conducted by Wulandari (2009) showed that 36.26% had mild category, while 63.74% had moderate category. The present study also showed that 1.9% of subjects had severe stress level, a finding that did not exist in the previous study. The different results between the present study and previous study conducted by Wulandari (2009) might be due to different either internal and external stressors of population studied. The different stimuli will give rise to different perception as well as varying stress levels (Larue & Herman, 2008).

Some conditions that may affect delinquent behavior are age, educational stage, and gender (Sumara, et.al, 2017; Hyland, 2018). In the present study, the subjects were the students of second and third grades in vocational high school aged 15 – 18 years old. The differences in the characteristics of subjects might cause the level of delinquency found to vary. Most subjects had normal juvenile delinquency level (78.4%), while those with mild and moderate level were (17.6% and 3.9%) respectively.

The present study showed no significant correlation between stress level and juvenile delinquency level ($p > 0.05$) (table 2). Previous study conducted by Luluk et al (2015) showed different results, there was significant correlation between stress level and juvenile delinquency level. This different result is attributed to the difference in characteristics of the subjects, in terms of age, educational stage, environment, or the type of juvenile delinquency itself. Subjects in the previous study were students of 3rd grade at Sekolah Menengah Pertama (SMP) 13 Yogyakarta, while subjects in the present study were students in the second and third grade at SMK 1 Kuripan, West Lombok. The type of juvenile delinquency is vary, ranged from norm prevailing to unlawful act. The stress level is only representing one of identifiable predisposing factors that can affect the level of delinquency. Other predisposing factors for juvenile delinquency were also identified in this study, namely gender, age and grade of students. The present study showed that gender and grade but not age of subjects were significantly correlated to juvenile delinquency level (table 2).

Table 2. Correlation between stress levels, gender, age, and education with juvenile delinquency

Characteristics	Juvenile Delinquency levels					r	p-value
	Normal	Mild	Moderate	Severe	Extremely severe		
Stress level							
Normal	0	0	0	0	0		
Mild	23	7	2	0	0		
Moderate	16	2	0	0	0	-	0.076*
Severe	1	0	0	0	0		
Extremely severe	0	0	0	0	0		
Gender							
Male	13	9	2	0	0	0.486	0.000**
Female	27	0	0	0	0		
Age in years							
15	2	0	0	0	0		
16	15	6	2	0	0		
17	20	2	0	0	0	-	0.161*
18	3	1	0	0	0		
Grade of students							
2 nd	26	9	2	0	0	-1.000	0.001*
3 rd	14	0	0	0	0		

*Gamma correlation test, significant if $p < 0.05$ ** Coefficient contingency test, significant if $p < 0.05$

Significant correlation between gender and juvenile delinquency can be explained by feminist theory in which the rate of delinquency in female is lower compared to those in male. The most silent variable that may lead female delinquency tends to be low are history of victimization, stress, and supervision. Research suggests that females had higher risk of being victims than being a delinquent. Feminist researchers found that stress is correlated with negative behavior like delinquency. Females had higher levels of stress than males, but females delinquency tend to lead to self-harm such as mood swing and suicide. That is different from delinquency committed by male which tend to harm other peoples. Research generally finds that females are supervised more closely than males. However, criminologists proposed that role of gender in the generation of juvenile delinquency is also influenced by the strength of their social relationship, emphasize the interaction between gender and environmental factor. Male adolescences have stronger social relations with their family (family environment) as well as their friends (school environment) (Daigle et al, 2007; Sumara et al, 2017).

Criminologists stated that the occurrence of delinquency is increased with age, started from 14 years until next few years. Since subjects in the period of adolescence is also characterized by emotional condition that are easily challenged, they are vulnerable to experiencing episodes of juvenile delinquency. However, this study showed that age of subjects did not have significant correlation with juvenile delinquency level, but grade of students did. This insignificant correlation between age of subjects and juvenile delinquency level might be due to narrow range of subjects, which were 15-18 years old. The period of adolescence are divided into three stages, i.e early stage adolescence (12-15 years), middle stage (15-18 years old), and late stage (18-21 years) in which all three have certain characteristics based on their self-control ability (Nasution, 2007; Batubara, 2010; Rocque, et.al., 2015). This might explain those insignificant correlation.

However, self-control ability in each stage of adolescence is also determined by educational level. Subjects who have higher educational level will have better self-control ability. Since self-control ability might also influence juvenile delinquency level, their vulnerability of experiencing juvenile delinquency are lower compared to those with lower educational level (Barseliet.al., 2017). The present study showed that stage of students had significant correlation with juvenile delinquency. A study conducted by Mahmudin (2016) and the theory about association between self-control ability and educational described above support the result of this study.

CONCLUSION

The stress level was did not significantly correlated to juvenile delinquency level in students of SMK 1 Kuripan. However, other factors, gender and grade of students showed significant correlation with juvenile delinquency. Most of students had mild stress and normal juvenile delinquency level.

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