

The Effects of Peer Attachment on Delinquent Behavior (A Meta-analysis Study)

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This meta-analytic study was conducted through an analysis of 13 studies correlating peer attachment to delinquency. Subjects ($N = 9823$) were respondents aged 10 to 18 years. Result shows a positive and significant correlation between delinquency and peer attachment ($\rho = .4834$ on a 95% degrees of significance and interval of standard deviation = $.02787$). This study supports previous studies, which reveal correlation between peer attachment and delinquency.

Keyword: peer attachment, delinquency

Penelitian dengan menggunakan metaanalisis ini dilakukan dengan analisis terhadap 20 studi yang mengaitkan kelekatan sebaya dan perilaku delinkuen. Subjek penelitian melibatkan 9823 responden yang berusia antara 10 hingga 18 tahun. Hasil yang diperoleh menunjukkan adanya korelasi positif dan signifikan antara kenakalan dan kelekatan sebaya ($\rho = .4834$; dengan taraf kepercayaan 95% dan interval $SD = .02787$). Penelitian ini mendukung hasil penelitian sebelumnya yang mengungkapkan hubungan antara kelekatan sebaya dan kenakalan.

Kata kunci: kelekatan sebaya, kenakalan

Juvenile delinquency is a classic issue found from time to time. Narcotics issues, crime, or aggressive behavior involving teenagers increases in number. Problems related with narcotics, aggressive behavior, stress, and other psychiatric disturbances increase a lot. This disturbance happens in productive age. According to Indonesian National Narcotics Agency (Badan Narkotika Nasional Republik Indonesia, 2009), there was a significant increase of narcotics abuse in 1997-2008 with 50.1% increase in all ages. Users of 19 years of age and less showed 7% increase very year.

Delinquent behavior in teenagers was affected by peers. Studies conducted by Duncan, Biglan, dan Ary (1998), Elliott, Huizinga, and Morse (1985), Erickson, Crosnoe, dan Dornbusch (2000), Fergusson, Lynskey & Horwood (1997), and Moffitt (1993) revealed the effects of maladaptive friends on the increase in narcotics abuse. Law breaking affected by peer was found in studies by Farrington (1995), Fergusson, Lynskey & Horwood (1996), Hoge, Andrews, and

Leschied (1996), Moffitt (1993), Woodward, Fergusson, and Horwood (2002).

Peer influence is very significant. The role of peer is more powerful than parents, teachers, or the media. Relation with peer has a strong and unique characteristic patterns. Closeness of relation and entanglement with peers is part of the social competency process. Relation with friend of the same age is needed to develop social skills. On the other side, peer relation also has risk of possibility of delinquent behavior (Bradley & Wildman, 2002).

Parents' worries about children social relation is logical because some studies found the role of peers in developing delinquent behavior. Closeness and harmonious relation with family did not guarantee that children did not do delinquency (Ladd & Parke, 1992 ; Cloward & Ohlin, 1960). Coles, Corley, Falek, Lynch (2003) stated that peers gave significant effects on the tendency to consume alcohol.

Since peer is a significant factor in contributing teenage development, it is very important to know the relation pattern that gives the foundation the relation closeness and influence process that happens in teenagers. This study was to give a picture of peer influence in developing delinquent behavior.

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