

The Impact of Neuroticism Trait toward Delinquency Behavior in Adolescents

Kurnia J. P. Lumbanbatu, Zulkarnain, Debby A. Daulay

Faculty of Psychology, University of Sumatera Utara, Indonesia

Abstract—The purpose of this study was to examine impact of neuroticism trait toward delinquency behavior in adolescents. Sampling technique was purposive sampling, with 399 subjects range from 15-18 years old. Data were collected using delinquency behavior scale, and neuroticism trait scale. The statistical analysis using regression analysis techniques. The result of analysis showed that delinquency behavior was positively influenced by neuroticism. The implication of this study is that the role of personality especially is important to delinquency behavior in adolescents.

Keywords— Delinquency behavior, neuroticism trait.

I. INTRODUCTION

Adolescence is a transition from childhood to adulthood. Adolescents generally experience many changes both biologically, cognitively and socio-emotionally during this transition period (Santrock, 2011). Although adolescence is a time of many changes, many adolescents are able to adapt well to the changes that occur in themselves and to the expectations of the surrounding community. It's just that not all adolescents are able to adapt well to the changes that they face. When looking at the reality that exists among adolescents there are many influences that are not good for adolescents, such as adolescents' morals which are getting worse, getting impolite, trying new things that are out of bounds such as drinking alcohol, drug abuse and doing free sex (Papalia, Olds, & Feldman, 2008).

Adolescents who are affected by these negative influences will do actions that violate the rules or often referred to as delinquency behavior. Delinquency behavior is a behavior problem in a broad concept, with violations starting from socially unacceptable behaviors such as ditching school, fights with friends, speeding up on the streets to criminal acts such as theft (Santrock, 2003). Bynum and Thompsom (1996) define delinquency behavior as illegal behavior and serious violations in which the violation is considered a very serious deviation by the community. Delinquency behavior displayed by adolescents seems not just to look for their identity but has led to criminal acts (Brandt, 2006).

Delinquency behavior in adolescents in Indonesia is quite alarming. According to data from the Central Statistics Agency in 2010, delinquency behavior in adolescents was one of the main problems for most Indonesian people. Initially adolescents' delinquency behavior was only in the form of brawls and fights between adolescents. It's just that, the current delinquency behavior of adolescents began to lead to criminal acts, such as theft, rape, and murder (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2010).

Throughout 2011 to 2017, the Indonesian Child Protection Commission recorded 9,266 cases involving criminal acts committed by adolescents in Indonesia (Setyawan, 2017). Based on data from the Indonesian Child Protection Commission (KPAI) revealed that the number of children as perpetrators in criminal cases was increasing. Cases of children who became perpetrators of violence during the period 2014-2015 tended to increase where from 67 cases rose to 79 cases. The violence was in the form of physical violence such as persecution, beatings and fights and psychological violence such as threats and intimidation. In addition, children as brawlers experienced an increase from 46 cases in 2014 to 103 cases in 2015 (Ayu & Nurcaya, 2016). Likewise in 2016, children as perpetrators of violence both physical violence and psychological violence increased to 120 cases. Children as abortionists also increased from 2015 as many as 19 cases to 33 cases in 2016 (Komisi Perlindungan Anak, 2016). Based on the number of crimes at the provincial or regional police level, during 2015 the Jakarta Metropolitan Police recorded the highest number of crimes (44,461 cases), followed by the East Java Regional Police (35,437 cases) and North Sumatra (35,248 cases) (Badan Pusat Statistik, 2016).

Delinquency behavior in adolescents can be caused by internal factors of adolescents themselves and environmental factors (Brandt, 2006). Internally, delinquency behavior can be influenced by various personal traits of the individual. This is supported by the research of Kausar, Nadeem, Rasheed, Amin, Fahd, Usman, Khurram and Saleem (2012) who say that personality trait was the main determinant of delinquency behavior in adolescents. In addition, study by Eaton, Krueger, Johnson, McGue and Lacono (2009) showed that there was a significant relationship between personality trait and delinquency behavior in adolescents.

Neuroticism is a trait personality that has the characteristics of adjusting emotional stability, tendency to distress, anxiety and moods that tend to change (Pervin, Cervone, & John, 2005). The results of research by Damn, Bruynn and Janssens (2007) which showed a significant relationship between neuroticism trait and delinquency behavior in adolescents. Adolescents with neuroticism trait generally experience emotional stress, and tend to have maladaptive coping strategies such as abuse of illegal drugs (Gungea, Jaunky, & Ramesh, 2017).

Based on the description above, the proposed hypothesis was that there were the impact of neuroticism trait toward delinquency behavior in adolescents.

II. OBJECTIVES AND METHODS

The main objective of this study was to examine the impact of neuroticism trait toward delinquency behavior in adolescents. Sampling technique was purposive sampling, with 399 people range from 15-18 years old. Data were collected using delinquency behavior scale, and neuroticism trait scale.

Delinquency behavior scale was based on the forms of delinquency behavior proposed by Bynum and Thompson (1996), that were status offenses and index offenses. This scale used Likert model with five answer choices, that were almost never, rarely, sometimes, often and almost always. The assessment for each item moved from 1 to 5 with a score of 1 for almost never choices up to a score of 5 for almost always choices. Reliability test results is .820.

Neuroticism trait scale was based on dimension of neuroticism trait proposed by Costa and McCrae (2003), that were anxiety, self-consciousness, depression, vulnerability, impulsiveness, and angry hostility. This scale used a Likert model with five answer choices, that were very inappropriate, inappropriate, neutral, appropriate, and very appropriate. Rating for favorable items is a score of 1 for very inappropriate choices up to a score of 5 for a very appropriate choice.

III. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The results of this study indicate that there was impact of neuroticism trait toward delinquency behavior in adolescents. The results of this study are in line with the results of research by Tenibajje (2010) that personality trait was an important factor in the tendency to behave criminally. This was in line with the study of Kausar, Nadeem, Rasheed, Amin, Fahd, Usman, Khurram, and Saleem (2012) that one of the factors that the influence of delinquency behavior was the trait of the adolescent personality itself.

Neuroticism trait refers to the vulnerability to experience negative emotions such as anxiety, irritability, depression, impulsivity, and vulnerability to stress. People with this trait are often depicted by individual tendencies for distress, unrealistic ideas, low frustration tolerance, and poor and maladaptive coping strategies (Costa & McCrae, 1992; Pervin, Cervone, & John, 2005). Research by Laak, Goede, Aleva, Brugman, Leuven, and Hussman (2003) and research by Khan (2014) showed a positive relationship between neuroticism trait and delinquency behavior in adolescents. In addition, research conducted by Gungea, Jaunky, and Ramesh (2017) showed a positive relationship between the neuroticism trait and delinquency behavior. Where the higher the one's neuroticism trait, the higher the delinquency behavior displayed by the individual. Adolescents with neuroticism trait experience anxiety, emotional distress, maladaptive coping strategies such as drug abuse related to delinquency behavior (Gungea, Jaunky, & Ramesh, 2017).

The results of research by Mak, Heaven, & Rummery (2010) showed that delinquency behavior was significantly related to high dimensions of neuroticism trait. Study of Anderson, Tapert, Moadab, Crowley, and Brown (2007) was a

positive relationship between neuroticism personality and conduct disorder and use of illegal drugs related to delinquency behavior problems. Adolescents with dimensions of neuroticism personality experience emotional stress, anxiety, funding problems, maladaptive coping strategies using illegal drugs.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the results of the study, it was concluded that there is impact of neuroticism trait toward delinquency behavior in adolescents. The implication of this research is the role of personality especially neuroticism trait to delinquency behavior in adolescents.

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