Negative Impact of Parental Verbal Abuse on the Formation of Adolescent Self-Concept

Nelly Marhayati1*, Lailatul Badriyah2, Usta Andani3

1,2,3 Fatmawati Sukarno State Islamic University, Bengkulu, Indonesia

ARTICLE INFO
Article history:
Received February 02, 2023
Revised February 13, 2023
Accepted May 18, 2023
Available online May 25, 2023

Kata Kunci:
Remaja, Pola Asuh, Pelecehan Verbal, Konsep Diri

Keywords:
Adolescent, Parenting, Verbal Abuse, Self-Concept

INFO
This is an open access article under the CC BY-SA license. Copyright © 2023 by Author. Published by Universitas Pendidikan Ganesha.

ABSTRACT
Most parents do not realize that calling a child inappropriately and comparing the child with others is verbal violence and greatly affects children's self-concept, especially adolescents. The study aimed to determine the impact of parental verbal violence on adolescent self-concept in Sumber Asri Village. This study used a quantifiable approach to 60 respondents with adolescents aged 13 and 18. Research data was obtained by filling out a questionnaire using a google form. Research instruments are arranged based on three dimensions of self-concept: knowledge, expectations, and assessment. The data were analyzed using a product moment test, where the analysis results showed a weak correlation in a negative direction of -0.205. The result means a significant negative relationship exists between parental verbal abuse and adolescent self-concept. The higher the violent verbal behavior of parents, the more negative adolescents’ self-concepts. The amount of influence of 4.2% of verbal abuse can contribute to adolescent self-concept. Overcoming negative self-concept in adolescents as a result of mistakes in parenting can be done by changing the parenting style from authoritarian to democratic.

1. INTRODUCTION

The best development phase for individuals in forming a self-concept is adolescence (Fitryani et al., 2021; Mishna et al., 2016). The adolescent phase or adolescence is the development phase of individuals undergoing changes from childhood to adulthood; this period lasts between the ages of 13-19 years. Various changes will occur in adolescence, including physical but emotional, intellectual, social, and spiritual changes, including changes in self-concept that will affect the beginning and end of adolescence (Boudreault-Bouchard et al., 2013). Changes during adolescence put them at risk of behavioral disorders, delinquency, and violence as victims or perpetrators of violent acts (Kumalasari & Wijayanti, 2013).

Self-concept in adolescents can be formed, among others, due to puberty factors, cognitive abilities related to thinking patterns, identity development, changes in social rules and changes in the new environment, and of course, parenting patterns. Previous studies have found that good family
relationships affect adolescents’ self-concept (Mishna et al., 2016). Parenting by supporting children will help create children’s self-confidence to improve their prosocial behavior and positive self-concept in children (Bagán et al., 2019; Sangawi et al., 2018). Parenting styles, in general, are very influential in shaping the child’s self-concept since childhood. It was found that differences in parenting styles will have a very important impact on the formation of individual self-concept (Chen et al., 2020). The coercive rules and rejection from parents will form a negative self-concept among adolescents (Boudreauil-Bouchard et al., 2013; Luo et al., 2021).

Self-concept is also influenced by the perception and self-evaluation of the individual, which will ultimately affect the individual’s psychological factors and subsequent behavior (Guerin & Tatlow-Golden, 2019). The results of adolescents’ perceptions and evaluations of parental parenting differ in each culture. Something common in one culture can be unusual in other cultures of society. The practice of parenting in children is between different collective and individualistic cultures and has become an important factor in parenting (Tahmoaresi et al., 2017). While, children and adolescents from collectivist cultures are more inclined to give positive meaning to authoritarian parenting styles and consider parental treatment in a humiliating way, demanding obedience, which emphasizes family honor, is commonplace (Sorkhabi, 2005). On the other hand, adolescents from individualist cultures tend to associate negative meanings with authoritarian parenting styles, considering parental control as dominating and reflecting arbitrary statements of power. Several studies have been described that people with individualistic cultures tend to have parenting that emphasizes their child’s power to build "self-confidence" to give children in this culture the ability to control their lives earlier.

On the contrary, collectivistic societies foster more interdependence between parents and children. This behavior of collectivistic communities is shown in the compliance and obedience to the social obligations of the child (Wang & Leichtman, 2000). Thus, collectivistic societies have authoritarian parenting strategies, whereas individualistic cultures support authoritative parenting (Grusec et al., 1997; Keshavarz & Baharudin, 2009). In authoritarian parenting, strong parental control is considered normal and cared for by parents (Chao, 2001). As for the individualist culture that adheres to an authoritative parenting style with a parenting style as above, it will be considered inappropriate and potentially dangerous. In the upbringing of a collective culture, more emphasis is placed on obedience, respect for authority, and performing obligations towards other people or groups (Sorkhabi, 2012).

Indonesian people who understand collectivity culture adhere to authoritarian parenting because it is considered a form of parental responsibility and obligation towards their children. The child is forced to obey and obey and is forbidden to do rejection of what the parents say. Some of the things that are often done in authoritarian parenting in Indonesia include calling children with inappropriate labels, comparing children with other children, prohibiting and threatening children, and instead of giving praise to children for the achievements that children have done even lower student achievement. According to Bandura’s social learning theory, parents play an important role in shaping children’s social interactions with others, where children follow their parents’ actions. Parents become models for children in behavior (Bandura, 1986). The child’s behavior in observing his parents will be the child’s behavior when interacting with other people outside the home. For example, children who are taken care of by violent parents will have a greater risk of committing acts of violence, aggression, and intimidation when outside (Hong & Espelage, 2012).

There are various forms of bullying, including physical bullying, for example, slapping, kicking and punching. Verbal bullying, e.g. calling names by taunting (labeling), threatening, racially speaking, cursing, and insulting. Psychological bullying includes harassment, bullying, and humiliation. Social bullying for example prohibits a person from being active in social life and social rejection. Sexual bullying e.g., sexual harassment and using profanity that means sexual. Cyberbullying is, for example, when someone uses text, social networks, and hacking to mock or intimidate someone in cyberspace (Ahmed et al., 2022).

Many parents do not realize that the violence they commit verbally or through words has a greater influence than physical violence (Cooper, 2016). Nine behaviors are considered verbal violence that parents unwittingly often engage in, namely: a) Demeaning and humiliation, b) Rejection, c) Blame, d) Exaggerating errors, e) threats, f) condemnation, g) Abuse, h) unfair comparisons and i) Negative predictions (Lilly et al., 2011). The closest people often perpetrate verbal violence, especially parents. In Law No. 23 of 2002 concerning child protection, chapter IV, the obligations and responsibilities of parents contained in article 26 affirm “That the responsibility of parents, government and state community families is a series of activities that are based continuously for the protection of children’s rights
Preliminary research shows that parents' verbal violence results in children's low self-esteem (Mackowicz, 2013) and the child's self-confidence (Vega et al., 2019). Handling the negative consequences caused by verbal abuse in adolescents, not by taking legal action, but by cultivating awareness in more mature people. Another study states that when parents shout to their children, there will be damage to brain structures in children (Teicher, 2000). Based on researchers' observations in Sumber Asri Village, Musi Rawas, Palembang. Researchers found adolescents who experienced unpleasant treatment from their parents and environment. Teenagers are often given negative labels such as lazy, stupid, and unable to work and are always compared between one teenager and another teenager. Although the teenager has behaved well, the parents have not stopped the behavior in the form of unpleasant remarks. Not even a parent would repeat calling a teenager "stupid," "lazy" or "useless." Most parents in Sumber Asri village do not realize that their attitude will have a bad impact on the mental development of adolescents, especially adolescent self-concept. Based on the various bullying above, what is experienced by teenagers in Sumber Asri village is including verbal bullying or verbal abuse.

Therefore, this study explores further the relationship between parental verbal abuse treatment and the formation of adolescent self-concept, especially in Sumber Asri Village, Palembang, Indonesia. The finding is expected to be a solution to overcome verbal violence experienced by adolescents who have felt it since childhood

2. METHOD

This research uses a quantitative approach with a correlational type of research to find the relationship between parental verbal abuse behavior and the formation of adolescent self-concept. The population study was adolescents in Sumber Asri Village, Palembang, Indonesia, with a total sample of 60 adolescents. The age range of adolescents who became a sample was 13-18. According to Arikunto (2012) if the population is less than 100 people, then the total sample is taken as a whole, but if the population is greater than 100 people, then 10-15% or 20-25% of the total population can be taken. Thus the use of the entire population without having to draw a research sample as a unit of observation is referred to as a census technique. The research data was obtained using a Likert scale model questionnaire, then the distribution of the questionnaire through a google form. Indicators of verbal abuse are giving hurtful criticism, humiliating, threatening, condescending, showing negative body language, giving nicknames, physical violence, interfering, blaming. Indicators of self-concept are self-ability, optimistic in dealing with problems, sensitive to criticism, not ashamed to accept praise, pessimistic in competence, aware that parents give value, equal to others. The data analysis method uses product moment tests. In this study, the bullying behavior questionnaire focused more on verbal abuse behavior of 20 items, and a self-concept questionnaire of 25 items. The scale used is the Likert Scale between the Very Often – Never options, scoring 1-4. This study also calculated the validity and reliability of the data.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

Analysis of the results of the questionnaire of 60 respondents on the verbal abuse behavior of parents in Sumber Asri Village, Musi Rawas Regency, there was 10% (6 respondents) in the low category, then 72% (43 respondents) in the medium category, and 18% (11 respondents) in the high category who experienced verbal abuse from parents.

The age difference makes teenagers in Sumber Asri Village have different ways of responding to verbal abuse behavior from their parents. Teenagers still classified as junior high school tend to be uncomfortable at home because if their achievements decrease, their parents take the cellphone facility and fight back, causing quarrels with parents (ZD interview, April 13, 2021). Unlike teenagers who are classified as high school education, they prefer to be quiet and shut themselves in their rooms. Because, in their opinion, his parents do not give credit when the child manages to improve himself. It is because his parents have had the perception that their children are stupid, lazy, and others (SA interview, April 13, 2021).

Meanwhile, the categorization of self-concept scores that the researchers conducted previously on 60 adolescent respondents in Sumber Asri Village, Musi Rawas Regency, South Sumatra Province, found results that adolescents who had low self-concept 3% (2 respondents) tended to have no spirit such as achievement, lack of self-esteem and always thinking pessimistically, then adolescents who had...
moderate self-concept 80% (48 respondents) sometimes their attitudes were capricious and unstable, viewed themselves as irregular due to feelings of instability and wholeness, and in adolescents who had high self-concept 17% (10 respondents) tended to be optimistic in living a life.

In the product-moment correlation test of r count -0.205 with a significant level of 0.115 (p > 0.05), the category is weak with a negative relationship form. So it can be concluded statistically that there is a significant relationship between parental bullying behavior and the negative self-concept of adolescents. The higher the bullying behavior of parents, the lower adolescents’ self-concept. Thus, H1, who stated that there was a significant relationship between Parental Bullying Behavior toward Adolescent Self-Concept in Sumber Asri Village, was accepted, and H0, who said that there was no relationship between Parental Bullying Behavior Towards Adolescent Self-Concept in Sumber Asri Village, was rejected.

Table 1. Model Summary

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>R</th>
<th>R Square</th>
<th>Adjusted R Square</th>
<th>Std. Error of the Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>-0.205</td>
<td>0.042</td>
<td>0.026</td>
<td>15.693</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1 show that there is a significant relationship between verbal abuse and adolescent self-concept of -0.205, which is a negative direction, meaning that with a relationship that is not too strong but shows a negative trend, the more often a child gets verbal abuse, especially from parents, the more they will lower their self-concept. R Square's calculation shows that the relationship of Parental Bullying Behavior to Adolescent Self-Concept in Sumber Asri Village was 4.2%, while the remaining 95.8% was influenced by other factors variables were not studied in this study. Based on the guidelines to provide a correlation coefficient, in the results obtained by 4.2%, it can be concluded that the correlation of variable X (verbal abuse behavior) to variable Y (adolescent self-concept) is weakly correlated with the form of negative relationships. The researchers' guess is that this weak relationship was caused by a small population and a sample of fewer than 100 respondents, which affected the magnitude of the relationship. Therefore, the higher the bullying behavior of parents, the lower (negative) adolescents’ self-concept in Sumber Asri Village. The calculation of the validity of the data shows a factor charge moving between 0.484-0.885 for the verbal abuse bullying scale and the reliability value of the verbal abuse bullying scale is 0.945. The validity of the self-concept scale moves between 0.376-0.625. Therefore, the reliability value of the self-concept scale is 0.954.

Discussion

Self-concept could be structured structurally: compartmentalization and integration (Busch et al., 2021). Compartmentalization describes a self-image composed of various categories that contain positive or negative components of oneself, while integration forms a self-concept consisting of positive and negative information about oneself. Self-concept also includes other things, such as forming good character and friendships. However, when individuals get negative factors that eventually make them, especially teenagers, become inferior children, behave as liars, and lose their self-confidence and independence (Hutchinson & Mueller, 2008). Self-concept is also related to the closeness of the individual to others, especially to life partners.

This research also shows a form of self-acceptance, namely self-acceptance, not as a great pride about himself. However, by being able to understand and accept himself as he is, the evaluation of himself becomes more positive, and able to receive advice from others, believes in self-abilities, and is not easily influenced by negative comments from others, one of which is from their parents. Results of research analysis show that parenting styles have a high role in the formation of adolescent character so that they will be able to improve parenting effectiveness and the psychosocial consequences of adolescent success in adapting to their environment (Farzand et al., 2017).

Parental care has an important role in the formation of self-concept in children. Children who receive positive treatment, such as if the child does something wrong, are directed, given understanding and advice, so that the child can understand to correct their mistakes in the right way, then the child will have a positive self-concept. Different parenting styles will influence the formation of self-concept from childhood. For example, a parenting style based on support for the child helps to create an atmosphere of influence and trust, which is conducive to developing prosocial behavior and self-concept. On the other hand, the coercion and excessive control of the parents can generate a negative self-concept among adolescents (Luo et al., 2021). These findings are supported by previous research who say that self-concept becomes mediating in the relationship between parental variables and adolescent behavior (Huang et al., 2021).
A positive self-concept can be seen from good self-adjustment, not hesitating in acting, daring to try, and making decisions. This kind of parenting is called democratic parenting. On the contrary, children who receive unpleasant treatment from their parents, such as often stigmatized negatively with the words “naughty and stupid” towards their children when they make a mistake or fail in one competition, it will be predicted that the child will have a negative self-concept. A negative self-concept can be seen from the quality of self-adjustment that is not good, doubtful of oneself, afraid of trying and not daring to decide wisely. This kind of parenting is a form of authoritarian parenting. Parental parenting is the most important thing to pay attention to, and know and understand by every parent because it is one of the most important factors that influence the formation of self-concept in a child, even from childhood (Chan & Koo, 2011).

Anthropologist Margaret Mead says that the individual "self" will significantly result in forming a person's self-concept. It is because the understanding of the "self" is derived from social experiences and activities, which are the result of individual relationships and how other individuals perceive the individual, in this case, the closest people and the community in their social group (Luo et al., 2021; Mead et al., 2015). The closest people referred to here are parents. Previous studies have found that good family relationships, including relationships with parents, will affect adolescents' self-concept (Lau, 1992; Mishna et al., 2016). A parenting style based on support for the child helps to create an atmosphere of influence and trust, which is conducive to developing prosocial behavior and adolescent self-concept. Conversely, parents' controllable and coercive parenting style can generate a negative self-concept among adolescents (Boudreault-Bouchard et al., 2013; Luo et al., 2021).

The democratic parenting style has the characteristics of parents who show affection openly, always give explanations, show concern for the child's needs, reprimand the child in a good way, and are open to communicating. The democratic parenting style is full of emotional warmth, tends to develop good social skills, self-control, initiative, motivation, self-esteem, good morals, and a realistic self-concept, and is generally happy, spontaneous, reliable, committed (altruism, solidarity), sociable, both inside and outside the household, tends to be accomplished and is unlikely to cause parent-child conflicts (Erdogdu, 2022; Salavera et al., 2022). However, this opinion still needs to be researched further by referring to one of the parenting style theories, namely the Baumrind parenting style.

4. CONCLUSION

Based on the description above, it can be concluded that there is a significant relationship between verbal abuse and adolescent self-concept of -0.205, which is negative in the direction, meaning that with a relationship that is not too strong but shows a negative trend, the more often a child gets verbal abuse, especially from parents, the more it will decrease the self-concept they have. The amount of influence of 4.2% of verbal abuse can contribute to adolescent self-concept. It requires special attention if adolescents experience continuous verbal abuse. It will have a bad impact on the self-concept that is being built. A person with a bad self-image will also affect his daily life, both personal and social. Research contributions, especially to parents, should be aware that everyday behaviors perceived as reasonable, such as comparing children to other people's children, calling children with inappropriate labels, and often making negative comments without ever praising children, are a form of verbal abuse. Therefore, it is necessary to change the parenting style from authoritarian to democratic. This research is expected to contribute to parental knowledge, especially from a collective culture of parenting that still emphasizes authoritarian parenting. Become a more democratic parenting style. Therefore, to correct the negative self-concept that has been formed in adolescents as a result of experiencing verbal abuse, which is characteristic of authoritarian parenting in a collective society, parents must understand the need to change the authoritative parenting style to a democratic parenting style, by providing full support to adolescents and also foster self-confidence in adolescents without excessive intervention and control over the lives of adolescents.

5. REFERENCES


