THE IMPACT OF FAMILY ATMOSPHERE TOWARDS THE ADOLESCENTS DEVIANT BEHAVIOR

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Abstract

The main purpose of the present study is to examine the relationship between family atmosphere including parenting style, parental love, family behavior and religion affiliation and adolescent deviant behavior. Respondents (N=210) from secondary schools in Pontian District, Johor were chosen to participated in this study. The results show there a significant between the traits of family behavior, parenting style and parental love towards adolescent deviant behaviour.

Keywords: family behavior, parenting style and parental love, adolescent deviant

INTRODUCTION

Adolescent is a time of conflict and confusion (Hall, 1904); given this educators, parents and community need to pay attention on their future. Previous studies show that adolescents are easily influenced toward negative and risky behavior. The problems with adolescents nowadays not only limited to Malaysia but also it is a trend around the world with the social malaise increases and passing day (Snyder, H. Dan Sickmund, M., 1995). Negative behavior committed by adolescents such as offensive behavior (e.g. doing crime act, mobbing, gangsters, smoking etc.) not only caused trouble to the family but also to the society and nation. With regards to this phenomenon, various questions were raised. For example, does school failed to address the problem? Do parents and families partly to be blamed due to the negative behavior committed by adolescents? What are the factors that influence the occurrence of this negative behavior among
adolecents? These questions need to be answered to make sure that the negative behavior will be minimized.

With the increasing rate of social problems and behavior committed by adolescent also affected the credibility of schools that act as an institution to instill formation of positive morality among adolescents. Regardless of the guidelines and regulations enforced by the school with the aim that students obliged to it, the rate of negative and truant behavior was increased irrespective of location -be it urban or rural (Farrington, D. 1989). Previous studies revealed that environment play a role in the adolescent developments; with their family is the important immediate environmental factor. The personality of adolescent will be shaped particularly within the adolescent's family that can also influence the formation of behavior, attitude and cognitive styles until adulthood Hoffman, (1996). This is also evidenced from past studies by Fatanah (1997) that demonstrated that adolescent's well-being was influence by their family functionality. Thus, family should also to be blamed if their children gone rogue. For example, Jacobvitz et al., (1996) suggested that the predictor of anti-social behavior among adolescent was due to the inappropriate, lacking and inconsistent disciplining during childhood. Further, Jacobvitz et al., (1996) and Vuchinich (1992)

One of the important aspects of family environment is family atmosphere that has been shown to play significant role during adolescent socialization process such like attitude, and the belief system Hoffman, L. (1996). In addition, family atmosphere also has been shown to offers the stage of emotional, cognitive and social development of adolescents. Given this, there is should be an effort to consolidate family institution as the solution in resolving adolescents’ negative behavior. This is due to the findings from studies by Dishion et al., (1991), Rutter (1985) and Vuchinich, (1992) that found most of the problems affect adolescents will be traced to their family situation in which family that was dysfunctional lead to negative impacts on adolescents. Based on the above issue, the present study aimed to examine the relationship between family atmosphere and adolescent deviant behavior in Pontian District, Johor.

RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This research aim is to study the relations between family, atmosphere and deviant behaviors among adolescent school students in a few secondary schools at one of district in Malaysia

1. To examine the relationship between family atmosphere Including parenting style, parental love, family behaviour and religion affiliation and adolescent deviant behaviour

METHODOLOGY

This research has shown a cross-sectional design that focusing on the relationship between the family situation and its effect on the adolescents deviant behavior. Approximately 210 respondent from few schools in one of the district in Malaysia took part in the study.

INSTRUMENT

Part B is a questionnaire about the characteristics of a parent's behavior that becomes a daily practice. The Parental Behavior Inventory (PBI) questionnaire was based on a questionnaire that was developed by Schaefer (1968). The questionnaire was modified based on the context of Malaysian society and culture. PBI contains twenty statements to identify the characteristics of a parent's behavior that is daily practice.

Part C is a questionnaire of parents’ level of adherence to religious instruction. This questionnaire is based on a questionnaire that has been established by researchers based on discussions with experts in this field. The questionnaire was modified based on the context of Malaysian society and culture. This questionnaire was used to find out whether the practice and religion of parents influence the behavior of adolescents. This questionnaire contains 20 items that are divided into 2 subclasses, namely parent's compliance with religious instruction and parental behavior as opposed to religious instruction.

Part D is a questionnaire related to parents' style of adolescence. This questionnaire was adapted from the Paulson's Perception of Parenting Scale developed by Paulson (1994). This questionnaire aims to determine the parenting style of the parents, authoritative, authoritative and permissive influencing behavior of adolescents.

Part E is a questionnaire related to the level of parental affection towards adolescents. This questionnaire was created by Benda (1995) and has been used in many studies. This questionnaire aims to find out the level of affection between parents and adolescents. This questionnaire consists of 20 items divided into two parts, namely showing affection and rejection.
The questionnaire that contained 129 items which have been modified from previous studies was used for data collection. A pilot study was conducted to obtain the questionnaire reliability in which the reliability of 0.70 was found for family atmosphere factor and 0.92 for the deviant behavior factor (Durkheim, G.D. (1987)).

**FINDINGS**

The results in Table 1 shows that multiple regression analysis of factors contribute to family behaviour, parenting style, parental love, religious affiliation with deviant behaviour

Table 1: Results of Multiple Regression Analysis of Factors Contribute to Family Behaviour, Parenting Style, Parental Love, Religious affiliation with Deviant behaviour

<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>
<th>Change Statistics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>R Square Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>.329a</td>
<td>.109</td>
<td>.104</td>
<td>.47786</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>.394b</td>
<td>.155</td>
<td>.147</td>
<td>.46635</td>
<td>.047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>.418c</td>
<td>.175</td>
<td>.163</td>
<td>.46203</td>
<td>.020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Predictors: (Constant), Family behaviour

b. Predictors: (Constant), Family behaviour, parenting style

c. Predictors: (Constant), Family behaviour, parenting style, parental love

Based on Table 1, the analysis of the model 1 R² (Family behaviour) is 0.109 or 10.9%, to explain the dependent variables (deviant), F (1,208) = 25.3, P = 0.000 <0.05. The family behaviour factor shows Beta = 0.364, t = 5.564, Sig = 0.001 and R² = 0.109. This means that the proposed model fit the data in the percentage is only 10.9 per cent only. The conclusion is also supported by analysis of variance is significant that the value of 0.000 is significantly lower than the specified significance level of 0.05. This finding means that the first predictor of family behaviour as shown by the first model accounted for 10.9 per cent increase in change criterion (deviant).

Value R² analysis of model 2 (parenting style) is 0.155 R² Smaller, the R² 15.5 % (parenting style) to explain the dependent variables (deviant), F (2,207) = 18.996, P = 0.000 <0.05. While the Beta, parenting style factors (Beta = -0.209, t = -3.182, Sig = 0.002 and R² = 0.155). This means that the proposed model fit the data in the percentage is only 15.5 per cent only. The conclusion is also supported by analysis of variance is significant that the value of 0.000 is significantly lower than the specified significance level of 0.05. This finding means that the second predictor of parenting style as shown by the model accounted for 15.5 per cent increase in change criterion (deviant).

Through the analysis of the model 3 R² (parental love) is 0.175. R² Smaller, less capable, the independent variable to explain the dependent variables (deviant), F (3,206) = 14.532, P = 0.000 <0.05. The Beta, parental factor factor (Beta = -0.142, t = 2.212, Sig = 0.028 and R² = 0.175). This means that the proposed model fit the data in the percentage is only 17.5 per cent only. The conclusion is also supported by analysis of variance is significant that the value of 0.028 is significantly lower than the specified significance level of 0.05. This finding means that the three predictors is shown by the three models accounted for 17.5 per cent increase in change criterion (deviant).
Table 2: ANOVA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Model</th>
<th>Sum of Squares</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Mean Square</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.784</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5.784</td>
<td>25.329</td>
<td>.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>47.497</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>.228</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53.281</td>
<td>209</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>8.262</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4.131</td>
<td>18.996</td>
<td>.000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Residual</td>
<td>45.019</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>.217</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53.281</td>
<td>209</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.306</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3.102</td>
<td>14.532</td>
<td>.000</td>
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<tr>
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<td>206</td>
<td>.213</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>53.281</td>
<td>209</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Dependent Variable: deviant
b. Predictors: (Constant), Family behaviour
c. Predictors: (Constant), Family behaviour, parenting style
d. Predictors: (Constant), Family behaviour, parenting style, parental love

Table 3: Results of Multiple Regression Analysis of Factors Contribute to to Family Behaviour, Parenting Style, Parental Love, Religious affiliation with Deviant behavior

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variabel</th>
<th>Multiple R</th>
<th>( \beta )</th>
<th>Standard error ( b )</th>
<th>Beta</th>
<th>t</th>
<th>Significance of t</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family behaviour</td>
<td>0.329</td>
<td>0.380</td>
<td>0.069</td>
<td>0.354</td>
<td>5.524</td>
<td>0.000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parenting style</td>
<td>0.394</td>
<td>-0.181</td>
<td>0.057</td>
<td>-0.209</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>0.318</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parental love</td>
<td>0.418</td>
<td>0.117</td>
<td>0.053</td>
<td>0.412</td>
<td>22.1</td>
<td>0.028</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

a. Dependent Variable: deviant

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

Family's overall behavior traits of the respondents surveyed in the present study was at the lower level that suggested the effects of family behavior traits towards adolescents deviant behaviors was very low. However, in term of parental physical behavior; it was found that verbal, physical behavior and anti social clearly contributed to the occurrence of deviant behavior among adolescents.

The adolescents have the propensity to be involved in deviant behavior. However, it will be suggested that only little of them were involved with serious deviant behavior problem; whilst mostly might be involve in a less or may be serious deviant behaviors like breaking the rules at school, not telling the true and neglecting their homework. In general, it is hoped that responsible parties such as family, teachers and school administration to consider this aspect of family atmosphere in relation to the development of deviant behavior among adolescent. With regards to that, it is possible to devise an intervention to minimize negative behavior among adolescents.

REFERENCE LIST


