

Prevalence of Dating Violence in Late Adolescence

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ABSTRACT

Dating violence in late adolescence is one of the phenomena which need to get more attention. It is because of prevalence rates are really high and there were negative impacts on the development showed from adolescence who experience it. The impact of dating violence in adolescence can be seen in all aspects of development such as physical, psychological, sexual and social functioning. Dating violence includes physical, sexual, and psychological violence that occurs during dating periods. This study aims to describe an overview of dating violence in late adolescence. This study is using quantitative descriptive as a research method. Participants on this study were 119 participants which 24 males and 95 females. Characteristics of participants aged 18-21 years old and in a relationship. The dating violence was measured using Conflict Tactics Scale-2 (CTS-2). The result of this study showed that 61.3% of participants had experienced dating violence before. Moreover, 42.5% of participants reported that they were sole victims, 15.1% were sole perpetrators, and 42.5% were experienced as a victim and perpetrator.

Keywords: Dating, Dating Violence, Adolescence.

1. INTRODUCTION

Dating violence is one of the serious problems which affect younger people in the world. Dating violence defined as committed violence in the form of physical, sexual, and psychological during the dating period [1]. World Health Organization (WHO) [2] stated 1 in 3 women in the world have experienced dating violence either physically or sexually.

In Indonesia, Ministry of Women Empowerment and Child Protection with Statistics Indonesia conducted National Women's Life Experience Survey in 2016. The results show that 33.4% women aged 15-64 years have experienced physical violence and/or sexual violence during their lifetime, with details of 18.1% experienced physical violence and 24.2% experienced sexual violence. Based on these results, it is also known that the percentage both physically and sexually violence experienced by unmarried women is 42.7%. The high rate of violence become a concern because from 10,847 perpetrators, 2090 perpetrators are dating partner or friends [3].

Behavior examples in dating violence which commonly found among the community are physical violence such as slapping or gripping a partner's body.

For psychological violence the examples are humiliating or threatening the partner. In economic violence we can see people spend or exploiting partner's property. The behavior which portrayed sexual violence are groping or forcing to have sexual relations under threat and violence. Last violence is activity restrictions such as being overly possessive and often suspicious towards partner [3]. One of the incidents which involve adolescence happened in Surabaya on March 2017. The perpetrator is a male student. He raped his girlfriend because she was busy with her campus activities so she was not pay much attention to him. The case about dating violence became more extreme over the time because sometimes it caused death. Back in May 2017 there was a case found in Indonesia. A perpetrator burned his girlfriend to death because of jealousy [4].

All the cases occurred before is in line with the previous research which states that dating violence in adolescence should begin to get more attention because prevalence rates are really high and there were negative impacts on the development showed from adolescence who experience it [5]. High prevalence of dating violence in adolescence is caused by various things, one of the reasons is because adolescence in a transition period from childhood to adulthood. In this developmental age,

adolescence started to decide who they are with all their uniqueness and purpose in life [6].

In this age range, adolescences also tend to interact more with other people outside their families. They begin to seek close relationships with the opposite sex or dating [7], [8]. Hickman [9] said that along with the development of dating relationships in adolescence, the risk of dating violence is also followed. There are indications that adolescences do not yet have extensive knowledge related to romantic relationships and how to do appropriate coping related to conflicts that may arise during dating, thus placing adolescences at a higher risk for experiencing dating violence [10].

Furthermore, the impact of dating violence in adolescence can be seen in all aspects of development such as physical, psychological, sexual and social functioning [9]. Physical dating violence is associated with a greater risk of depression, *posttraumatic stress disorder* (PTSD), suicidal ideation and risky sexual behavior in young adulthood [11]. Murray [10] also stated they who experiencing dating violence also indicate a tendency to have poor school performance, substance abuse, eating disorders, and HIV. Then, in general, experiencing dating violence also related to the quality of future romantic relationships in adulthood. [12], [13]. After all the explanation above, the goal of this study is to have an overview about dating violence in late adolescence.

2. DATING VIOLENCE

2.1. Definition of Dating Violence

Dating violence is the use or threat of physical violence or the existence of restrictive measures carried out with the aim of inflicting pain or injury on the other party in a dating relationship [14]. Straus dan Gelles [15] stated that dating violence is actions that are carried out with the aim or intention to physically harm the partner through verbal aggression, physical aggression, sexual violence, and/or stalking by the current partner or previous partner. Another definition is dating violence includes a pattern of coercive or manipulative behavior by a person against his or her partner with the aim of establishing or maintaining control in a relationship [10]. Based on the three definitions previously mentioned, we conclude that dating violence is a series of behaviors with the aim of hurting and controlling the partner by of verbal aggression, physical aggression, and/or sexual violence during the dating period.

2.2. Type of Dating Violence

Dating violence can be seen in the form of physical, psychological sexual, or economic violence. Based on Poerwandari [16], here is the description: (1) Physical violence. Physical violence is defined as an aggressive

behavior that results in pain, ill, or seriously injured. Behavior examples for this violence such as hitting, kicking, pushing, slapping, punching, strangling, molesting a partner's body parts, and using weapons against a partner [17], (2) Psychological violence. psychological violence it is shown by insulting, threatening, causing fear, making the partner lose confidence, saying harsh words or cursing towards partner, making partner a subject of ridicule situation. Any behavior that intimidates, humiliates, and controls a partner even though there is no physical, included in psychological violence.[18], (3) Sexual violence. Sexual violence occurs when a partner is forced to perform sexual acts like touching, kissing, sexually harassing, forcing sexual intercourse with threats, (4) Economic violence. Economic violence occurs when partner neglected by those who should be responsible, partners are forced to work or are economically exploited.

2.3. Factors which Affect Dating Violence

Sugarman and Hotaling [14] mentions dating violence is caused by several factors including: (1) Family history. It is because individuals who witnessed parental violence were significant predict they are going to be victims in dating violence. Then, individuals who receive violence from their parents also tend to become victims in dating violence. On the other side, adolescences who experience a more positive family climate and have more competent parenting styles tend to show more effective problem-solving skills and exhibit less violent dating behavior, (2) Dating experience. When individuals have experienced dating violence before, these individuals are likely to experience or become perpetrators of violence in the next dating relationships, (3) Family income. Families with lower incomes appear to be more likely to engage in dating violence than individuals from families with higher incomes. This gives the assumption that individuals who come from families with higher incomes tend to have all their basic needs fulfilled so that they have dating relationships as a recreational function, (4) Religion. There is a tendency for individuals who report having certain religious beliefs to have other forms of coping when experiencing conflict with their partners rather than doing violence, (5) Place of origin. Individuals living in urban areas tend to be more involved in dating violence than individuals living in rural areas. This is because individuals who live in urban areas are more easily exposed to aggression and easy to express emotions through violence.

3. METHODS

This study was using quantitative descriptive as a research method. It is also using online questionnaire to collect data. This form used due to the situation of COVID-19 pandemic at the time data was collected.

Table 1. Demographic Data

Data	Total (N= 119)	Significance Test	
		t	F
Sex			
Male	20.2%	.809	
Female	79.8%		
Age			
18 years	26.1 %		
19 years	18.5 %		
20 years	33.6 %		
21 years	21.8 %		
Place of Origin			
Live in Java Island	94.1 %	.700	
Live Outside Island	5.9 %		
Parents Marital Status			
Married	78.2 %		
Divorced	7.6 %		17.556*
Widowed	10.9 %		
Unclear	3.5 %		
Family Outcome (Monthly)			
Less than Rp 532.000	5.0 %		
Rp 532.000 – Rp 1.200.000	21.0 %		2.549
Rp 1.200.000 – Rp 6.000.000	54.6 %		
More than Rp 6.000.000	19.3 %		
Dating Duration			
n = 12 months	47.9 %		

3.1 Participants

Participants were selected based on the criteria aged 18-21 years old and in a relationship. From those criteria, 119 participants were selected which 24 males and 95 females. This study used accidental sampling and snowball sampling. The use of both techniques allows previous participants to provide recommendations about their friends or relatives who met the characteristics of sample. By using snowball sampling allowed researcher to get more data.

3.2 Measures

Dating violence was measured using Conflict Tactics Scale-2 (CTS-2) [18] which has Cronbach’s alphas .917. CTS-2 measured 5 components, which were negotiation, psychological aggression, physical assault, sexual coercion, and injury. But in this study, negotiation component was excluded because: (1) inter-item correlation value is bad, (2) the operationalization of the negotiation didn’t match and tend not to describe dating violence, (3) negotiation component contained high social desirability and tend to encourage participants to choose only certain answers.

In this study, CTS-2 translated into Bahasa Indonesia and had Cronbach’s alphas .989 for 16 items. Each items scored by Likert scale from 1=never to 5=always. The higher score indicates the more often participants had experiences dating violence.

4. RESULTS

Table 1 shows demographic data from the participants. From table 1 we can describe that participant of this study is mostly female. Through table 1, it also can be described that the majority of participants were individuals aged 20 years. Then, the majority of participants in this study live in Java Island. Furthermore, participants in this study were also dominated by adolescence who came from families with parents who had marital status. Participants came from the middle socioeconomic group which was described as having a monthly expense of Rp. 1,200,000 to Rp. 6,000,000.

Researchers divided the characteristics of the dating duration into a range of 12 months of dating. The majority of participants had a relationship that lasted between 1 – 12 months totaling 144 participants. Moreover, most of the participants have experience dating 2 - 3 times during their lifetime.

Table 2. Descriptive Analysis of Dating Violence

Data	Total (n)
Dating Experience	
Have experienced dating violence	61.3 % (46)
Never experienced dating violence	38.7 % (73)
Dating Violence	
Victims	42.5 % (31)
Perpetrator	15.1 % (11)
Both	42.5 % (31)
Type of Dating Violence (Victims)	
Psychological Aggression	53.2 % (33)
Physical Assault	1.6 % (1)
Sexual Coercion	12.9 % (8)
Injury	6.5 % (4)
More than one violence	25.8 % (16)
Type of Dating Violence (Perpetrators)	
Psychological Aggression	43.9 % (18)
Sexual Coercion	7.3 % (3)
Injury	7.3 % (3)
More than one violence	41.5 % (17)
Type of Dating Violence (Both)	
Psychological Aggression	43.8 % (32)
Physical Assault	1.4 % (1)
Sexual Coercion	8.2 % (6)
Injury	6.8 % (5)
More than one violence	39.7 % (29)

Based on the result researchers found from data analysis that there were research variables that had a significant average difference with some demographic data. On the other hand, there are also research variables that do not have a significant average difference with some demographic data. The following will describe the results of the calculations obtained.

First, there was no significant difference in dating violence in terms of sex. This reveals that male and female show an equal experience of dating violence. Second, there was a significant difference in the mean score of dating violence based on parent marital status. These results indicate that the differences in the parent marital status of the participants indicate the different experiences of dating violence. Post-hoc analysis was conducted to see which groups had different means. The group of participants with parents who had marital status showed a significantly different mean of dating violence from the group of participants with parents who had divorced status ($p < 0.05$). The group of participants with parents who have divorced status shows a significant difference in the mean of dating violence compared to the

group of participants with parents who have widowed and unclear status ($p < 0.05$).

Third, there was no significant difference in dating violence based on socioeconomic status. These results show that the socioeconomic status of individuals does not provide a difference in the experience of violence in dating. Fourth, dating violence based on dating duration showed there was no significant difference. In the other words, differences in the length of dating do not show differences in the experience of dating violence that occurs. Last, there is a significant difference in dating violence in terms of dating frequency ($F = 3.992$, with $p < 0.05$). These results illustrate that the difference in the number of individual dating experiences does not show a difference in the experience of violence in dating that occurs. A post-hoc analysis also conducted in this variable. The group of participants with dating frequency more than 5 times showed that they significantly have different dating violence experience from the group of participants with the frequency of dating 1 time, 2-3 times, and 4-5 times.

Based on table 2 the result of this study showed that 61.3% of participants had experienced dating violence. From participants who have experienced dating violence, 42.5% of participants reported that they were sole victims, 15.1% were sole perpetrators, and 42.5% were experienced as a victim and perpetrator. From the victim's perspective, we can interpret that the type of dating violence they experienced was mostly psychological aggression (53.2%), followed by adolescence who experienced more than one type of violence (25.8%), then those who experienced sexual coercion (12.9%), get injured from their partner (6.5%), and were involved in physical assault (1.6%).

Based on the perpetrator's view, dating violence which showed is mostly in the form of psychological aggression (43.9%). The next largest percentage are perpetrators who commit more than one violence (41.5%). Sexual coercion and injury are in the next position (both 7.3%). In this result study, there were no perpetrators who physically assault their partners.

Through table 2, we can also see the types of dating violence based on victim's and perpetrator's views. They mentioned that the most violence they had ever experienced and done was psychological aggression (43.8%). Then, they also stated they were experienced and did more than one violence (39.7%). Next, 8.2% of participants were experience sexual coercion from and towards their partner. 6.8% of participants got injured and had caused injury during their dating period. Last, 1.4% of participants were experience and had done physical assault.

5. DISCUSSION

Most of participants in this study showed a higher experience of dating violence in the form of psychological aggression compared to other forms of violence. This result is in line with previous research which states that the prevalence of violence in dating with psychological forms is more often found than other forms of violence, such as physical and sexual [19]. The study also supports the results of this study, where the least forms of dating violence experienced by participants are sexual violence and physical injury.

Significant differences are seen when tested dating violence based on family status and dating frequency. This situation may be caused by the majority of participants in this study have parents with marital status. Adolescence who experienced a more positive family climate and have more competent parenting styles tend to show more effective problem-solving skills and exhibit less violent dating behavior [14]. The dating experience can be characterized by a history of dating, a history of dating violence, and experiences of sexual behavior. In the history of dating, the frequency of a person having a dating relationship is said to be one of the factors that

increase the risk of individuals experiencing dating violence. This is in accordance with the results of research which shows that there are differences in the experience of violence in dating based on the frequency of a person's previous dating [14].

6. CONCLUSION

This study advanced the knowledge of prevalence of dating violence in late adolescence. The findings from this study indicated that most of late adolescence had experienced dating violence. From participants who have experienced it, we can conclude they could be sole victims, sole perpetrators, or a victim and perpetrator. Psychological aggression is the most common type of dating violence. On the other hand, the least common type of dating violence is physical assault. This study also found there was a significant difference in the average score of dating violence based on family status and dating frequency.

Further study about dating violence in late adolescence should also consider other variables which related to the characteristics of participants like family, peer group or any support systems. Dating violence in late adolescence could affect the development in their future life. For that reason, the preventive actions also need to be developed.

AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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